

# **System Identification and Control: a fruitful cooperation over half a century, and more**



**Focus:**  
**System Identification**  
**evolution in the realm of**  
**Control Science**



# Paradigm problem: parameter estimation



# Outline



## 1) Foreword

Milano identification & control connections

- Beijing
- Laxenburg
- Moscow

## 2) The parameter estimation problem

## 3) Available estimation tools (50 years of research)

- PE
- KF

## 4) Proposal of a new method

- Two stage TS

## 5) Conclusion



**1) Foreword:**  
**Identification and control connection**  
**between Milano and ...**  
**- Beeijing - Laxenburg - Moscow**



Beijing ➡ Milano



Beijing → Milano



# Laxenburg 1977



(after Düsseldorf 1957 – 1975  
and Helsinki, 1975-1977)





# Laxenburg ➡ Milano



IFAC headquarters in Laxenburg



Brera building in Milano

# Laxenburg ➡ Milano



IFAC headquarters in Laxenburg



Brera building in Milano

control library

# Control library in Laxenburg





# Library in Brera building in Milano

Istituto Lombardo –  
Milano Academy of Science and Literature





# The IFAC - Khane donation



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- donation of Steve Kahne (pres. 93-96)



# The Khane donation to Lombardo



# The Khane donation to Lombardo





# Visiting Lombardo (IFAC 2011, 1<sup>st</sup> Sept.)



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1<sup>st</sup> World Congress

2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress

...

# Call for books...

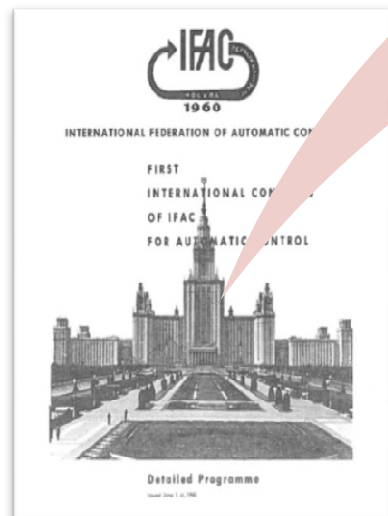


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# Moscow ➡ Milano



1960  
IFAC World Congress  
(Moscow)

2011  
IFAC World  
Congress (Milan)



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**7140 authors**  
**73 nations**

**Website**  
**ifac2011.org**  
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2011 – 18<sup>th</sup> IFAC World Congress – Milan: *Historical Session*

S. Kahne, R.E. Kalman, M. Thoma, T. Vamos, J. Westcott  
(A. Kurzhanski chair)



2011 – 18<sup>th</sup> IFAC World Congress – Milan: *Historical Session*

*“In any engineering application the success of control is determined by the accuracy with which the model represents data, and this leads to the realm of Identification”*

*Rudolph Kalman*

# 1960 – 1<sup>st</sup> IFAC World Congress - Moscow

## On the General Theory of Control Systems

R. E. KALMAN

### Introduction

In no small measure, the great technological progress in automatic control and communication systems during the past two decades has depended on advances and refinements in the mathematical study of such systems. Conversely, the growth of technology brought forth many new problems (such as those related to using digital computers in control, etc.) to challenge the ingenuity and competence of research workers concerned with theoretical questions.

Despite the appearance and effective resolution of many new problems, our understanding of fundamental aspects of control has remained superficial. The only basic advance so far appears to be the *theory of information* created by Shannon<sup>1</sup>. The chief significance of his work in our present interpretation is the discovery of general 'laws' underlying the process of information transmission, which are quite independent of the particular models being considered or even the methods used for the description and analysis of these models. These results could be compared with the 'laws' of physics, with the crucial difference that the 'laws' governing man-made objects cannot be discovered by straightforward experimentation but only by a purely abstract analysis guided by intuition gained in observing present-day examples of technology and economic organization. We may thus classify Shannon's result as belonging to the *pure theory* of communication and control, while everything else can be labelled as the *applied theory*; this terminology reflects the well-known distinctions between pure and applied physics or mathematics. For reasons pointed out above, in its methodology the pure theory of communication and control closely resembles mathematics, rather than physics; however, it is not a branch of mathematics because at present we cannot (yet?) disregard questions of physical realizability in the study of mathematical models.

This paper initiates study of the pure theory of control, imitating the spirit of Shannon's investigations but otherwise using entirely different techniques. Our ultimate objective is to answer questions of the following type: What kind and how much information is needed to achieve a desired type of control? What intrinsic properties characterize a given unalterable plant as far as control is concerned?

At present only superficial answers are available to these questions, and even then only in special cases.

Initial results presented in this Note are far from the degree of generality of Shannon's work. By contrast, however, only *constructive* methods are employed here, giving some hope of being able to avoid the well-known difficulty of Shannon's theory: methods of proof which are impractical for actually constructing practical solutions. In fact, this paper arose from the need for a better understanding of some recently discovered computation methods of control-system synthesis<sup>2-5</sup>. Another by-product of the paper is a new computation method for the solution of the classical Wiener filtering problem<sup>7</sup>.

The organization of the paper is as follows:

In Section 3 we introduce the models for which a fairly complete theory is available: dynamic systems with a finite dimensional state space and linear transition functions (i.e. systems obeying linear differential or difference equations). The class of random processes considered consists of such dynamic systems excited by an uncorrelated gaussian random process. Other assumptions, such as stationarity, discretization, single input/single output, etc., are made only to facilitate the presentation and will be absent in detailed future accounts of the theory.

In Section 4 we define the concept of *controllability* and show that this is the 'natural' generalization of the so-called 'dead-beat' control scheme discovered by Oldenbourg and Sartorius<sup>2,3</sup> and later redervied independently by Tsypkin<sup>4</sup> and the author<sup>5</sup>.

We then show in Section 5 that the general problem of optimal regulation is solvable if and only if the plant is completely controllable.

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We formalize the similarities between controllability and observability in Section 7 by means of the *Principle of Duality* and show that the Wiener filtering problem is the natural dual of the problem of optimal regulation.

Section 8 is a brief discussion of possible generalizations and currently unsolved problems of the pure theory of control.

### Notation and Terminology

The reader is assumed to be familiar with elements of linear algebra, as discussed, for instance, by Halmos<sup>6</sup>.

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For purposes of numerical computation, a vector may be considered a matrix with one column and a covector a matrix

- Paradigm Shift
- Control science & technology becomes more and more a model based discipline

# 1960 – 1<sup>st</sup> IFAC World Congress - Moscow

## The Parameter Estimation Problem

J. H. WESTCOTT

### Introduction

The establishment of causal relationships between variables forms the fundamental basis of the scientific method. It could be described as the task of devising mathematical models to predict, to known accuracy, the results of given actions or environments. In this paper systems of interacting quantities are considered where it is required to establish a mathematical expression for the interaction between variables. From observations of the variables over a period of time it is required to specify the values of parameters that best account for the observed behaviour or that will best serve to predict the system behaviour at future times.

The theory of control systems is essentially the theory of interacting quantities, but in addition they have the distinctive feature of a closed sequence of control resulting from the use of feedback associated with the possibilities of self-excitation and oscillation. The closed loop nature of such systems somewhat complicates the problem of distinguishing 'cause' from 'effect' in the records of the system variables which is of vital importance in a realistic identification of causal relationships. In many engineering control systems this problem does not arise since the system can be taken apart and the action of one quantity on another accurately determined in isolation from the rest of the system, but this is by no means always the case and in many interesting cases, such as in an automatically controlled chemical plant or an aircraft in flight, it may be technically difficult or economically impossible to measure experimentally the separate dependencies that constitute the system.

When using deterministic inputs as engineers are accustomed to doing, the input is specified with absolute precision and so it is permissible to construct an impressive edifice of precise logical operations on the original signal; but in the realm of probability theory facts are not so precisely defined and one must be satisfied with a more humble statement of conclusions consonant with the uncertainties concerning the input. It is insufficient to draw conclusions under these circumstances without also accompanying them with a statement as to their accuracy in the light of the statistical nature of the inputs.

### Parameter Estimation

It is necessary to distinguish clearly between two distinct approaches to the parameter estimation problem. In the first approach, which is the simpler of the two, a causal relationship is assumed to exist between input and output quantities, in which the relationship is obscured by the presence of a random disturbance. The problem is then treated as a data-fitting one in which parameters are chosen, which for the particular input and output given attributes minimum effect to the disturbance.

The procedure is one that will be familiar as least-squares fitting of data<sup>1</sup> and involves the reduction of a redundant set of equations to a set of simultaneous equations in which sums of products of pairs of variables replace particular values of

the variables. The method can be extended to deal with data expressed as continuous time functions in which case the sums of products become integrals of products taken over the duration of the records. These integrals have a superficial resemblance to the following expression for the correlation function:

$$\phi_{ff}(\tau) = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f(t) \cdot f(t + \tau) \cdot dt \quad (1)$$

The important difference is that they do not extend to the limit as time approaches infinity, and there is no reference to the properties of the hypothetical population of records from which the parameter records may be regarded as selected.

The second method of parameter estimation involves taking a broader statistical view of the same problem, that is to say it is assumed that stochastic terms have statistical regularity that is governed by a fixed set of statistical parameters and probability distributions. This means that the variables in the system will be statistically fluctuating time series, and any measured record may be considered to be one of many possible ones. In general, a further record taken from the system will give different sets of parameter values. Thus what is required is to calculate from the given record the best approximation to the underlying statistical parameters by means of which the variance of estimates of the parameter values may be deduced.

Much work has been done by engineers which is referred to in the next section and can be utilized to discover causal relationships between variables when one of the variables is assumed to be associated with a random disturbance, but this work has been based on the assumption of an infinitely long record. While this is valuable there is still a problem of allowing for the uncertainty that exists when conclusions must be drawn from a record of finite duration, as the outcome of a practical experiment. In general, the longer the duration of the experiment the more accurate will be the statements that can be made concerning the relationships, but these statements will also be influenced by the degree to which the system concerned has discernible stationary statistical parameters.

The existence of statistical regularity in the records makes it possible to make statements concerning the probable behaviour of the system in a future experiment. In some cases it is possible to attach confidence limits to such predictions. This is the crux of the problem of drawing conclusions from short records.

The brevity of a record in this context is not decided by its actual duration. It is decided by the minimum period for which the underlying statistical parameters may be considered as stationary. Thus if a record is defined as short within our present meaning we are asserting our belief that this minimum period is comparable with its duration and that we consider it appropriate to make statistical inference from the record. If the purpose for which the analysis is being made is the design of a model for the system from which the records were derived, then the model is required to give the best possible representation of the system under conditions which are statistically

## □ John Westcott: The Parameter Estimation Problem



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- Control Systems
- Parameter estimation
- Identification and control cooperating since long time

# 1960 – 1<sup>st</sup> IFAC World Congress - Moscow

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- Control Systems
- Parameter estimation
- Probing the progresses of estimation

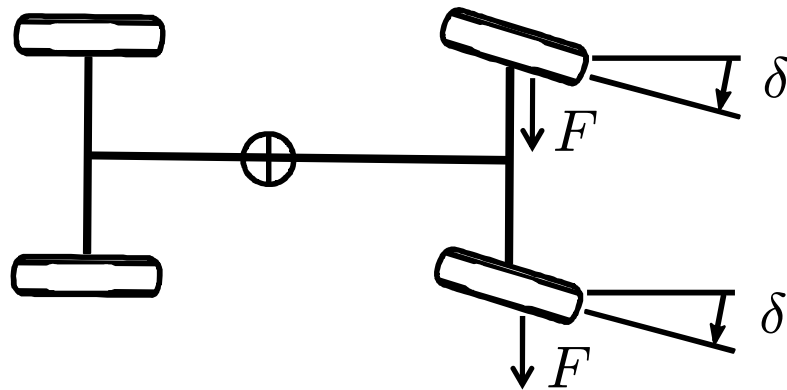
## 2) The parameter estimation problem





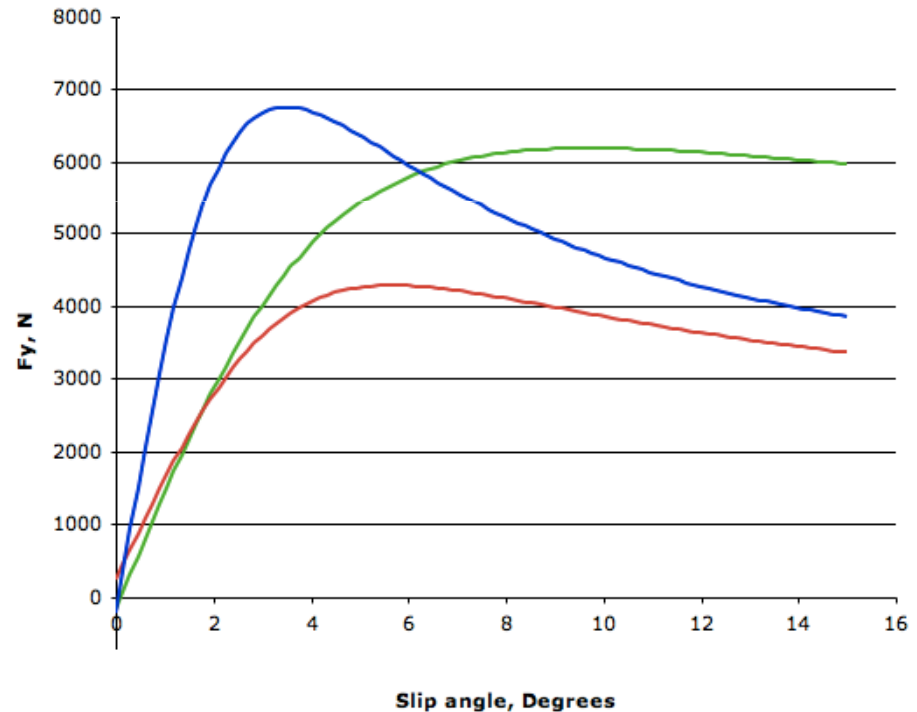
# Parameter estimation in physical models

## □ Example: Tire



$\delta$  = steering angle

$F$  = lateral force at the tires



# Parameter estimation in physical models

## Pacejka's magic formula

$$F = D \sin \{ C \arctan [ B \bar{\alpha} - E ( B \bar{\alpha} - \arctan ( B \bar{\alpha} ) ) ] \} + S_V$$

$$S_H = p_{H1} + p_{H2} f_z + p_{H3} \gamma$$

$$S_V = Q [ (p_{V1} + p_{V2} f_z) + (p_{V3} + p_{V4} f_z) \gamma ]$$

$$\bar{\alpha} = \alpha(\delta) + S_H$$

$$C = p_{C1}$$

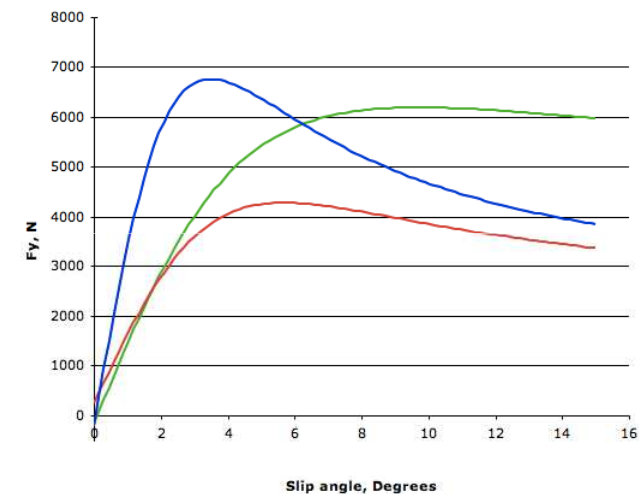
$$\mu = (p_{D1} + p_{D2} f_z) (1 - p_{D3} \gamma^2)$$

$$D = \mu Q$$

$$E = (p_{E1} + p_{E2} f_z) [1 - (p_{E3} + p_{E4} \gamma) \text{sign}(\bar{\alpha})]$$

$$K = p_{K1} F_z \sin [2 \arctan (Q / (p_{K2} \cdot F_z))] (1 - p_{K3} |\gamma|)$$

$$B = K / (C \cdot D).$$



**Pacejka's parameters to be estimated**

# Parameter estimation in physical models

- Example: Induction motor
- Critical Parameter: *rotor resistance*  $R_r$

$$\frac{d\omega}{dt} = \frac{M}{JL_r}(\psi_a i_b - \psi_b i_a) - \frac{T_l}{J}$$

$$\frac{d\psi_a}{dt} = -\frac{R_r}{L_r}\psi_a - \omega\psi_b + \frac{R_r}{L_r}Mi_a$$

$$\frac{d\psi_b}{dt} = -\frac{R_r}{L_r}\psi_b + \omega\psi_a + \frac{R_r}{L_r}Mi_b$$

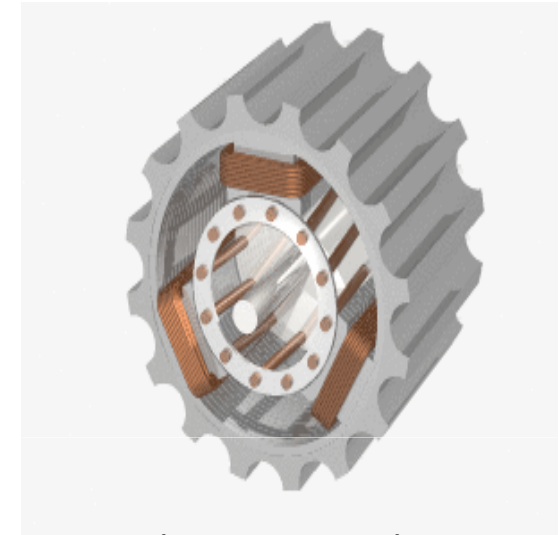
$$\frac{di_a}{dt} = -\left(\frac{R_s}{\sigma} + \frac{M}{\sigma L_r} \frac{R_r}{L_r} M\right)i_a + \frac{1}{\sigma}u_a + \frac{M}{\sigma L_r} \frac{R_r}{L_r}\psi_a + \frac{M}{\sigma L_r}\omega\psi_b$$

$$\frac{di_b}{dt} = -\left(\frac{R_s}{\sigma} + \frac{M}{\sigma L_r} \frac{R_r}{L_r} M\right)i_b + \frac{1}{\sigma}u_b + \frac{M}{\sigma L_r} \frac{R_r}{L_r}\psi_b - \frac{M}{\sigma L_r}\omega\psi_a$$

Input:  $u_a, u_b$ , stator voltages

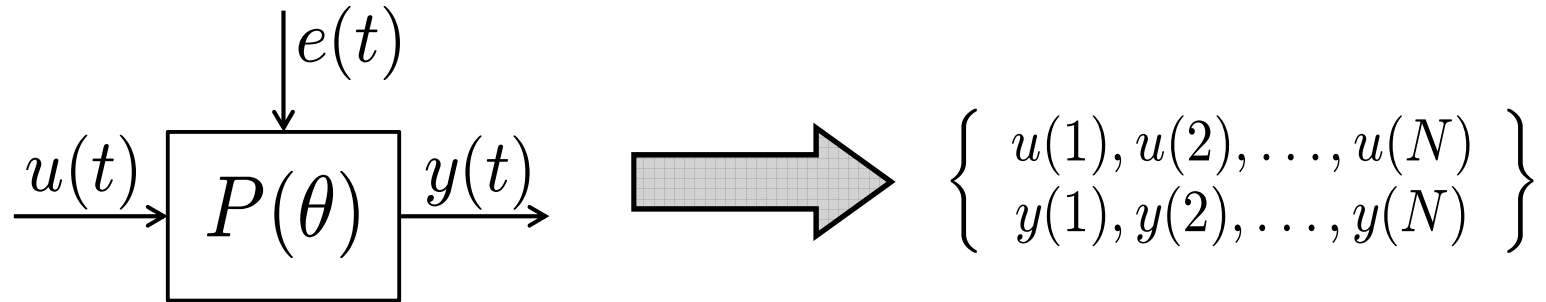
Output:  $i_a, i_b$ , stator currents

Exogenous disturbance: load torque  $T_l$



Induction Motor Scheme

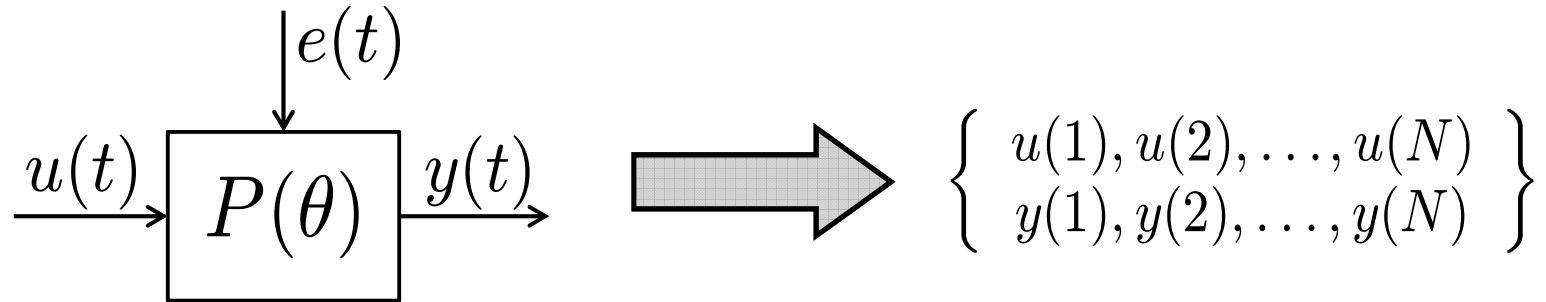
# The parameter estimation problem



$$\hat{f} : \mathbb{R}^{2N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^q$$
$$\{u(1), y(1), \dots, u(N), y(N)\} \rightarrow \hat{\theta}$$

The **estimator** is the map between available data and the parameter estimate

# The parameter estimation problem



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The **estimator** is the map between available data and the parameter estimate

Estimator must be evaluated based on:

1. **Consistency**: estimate close enough to the actual parameter value for all values of  $\theta$  in admissible set
2. **Computational effort**: time required for returning the parameter estimate

### **3) Available estimation tools**

**3.1) Prediction error methods**

**3.2) Kalman filtering methods**



# System id tools



- ▣ PE

- Prediction error methods (LS, ML, ...)

# System id tools: PE

---

- PE - Prediction error methods:
  - a) data
  - b) class of models
  - c) predictive criterion
- basic idea: a model is good if prediction error small
- widely used for black-box modeling, but also for parameter estimation in white-box models.



# System id tools: PE



- PE - Prediction Error methods
  - Back to the origins

# System id tools: PE

- 1940
  - ▣ Andrej Kolmogorov
  - ▣ Norbert Wiener



- 1605
  - ▣ Galileo Galilei:  
la pietra lavagna è la pietra  
del paragone delli ingegni  
(the blackboard is  
the test bed of all skills)

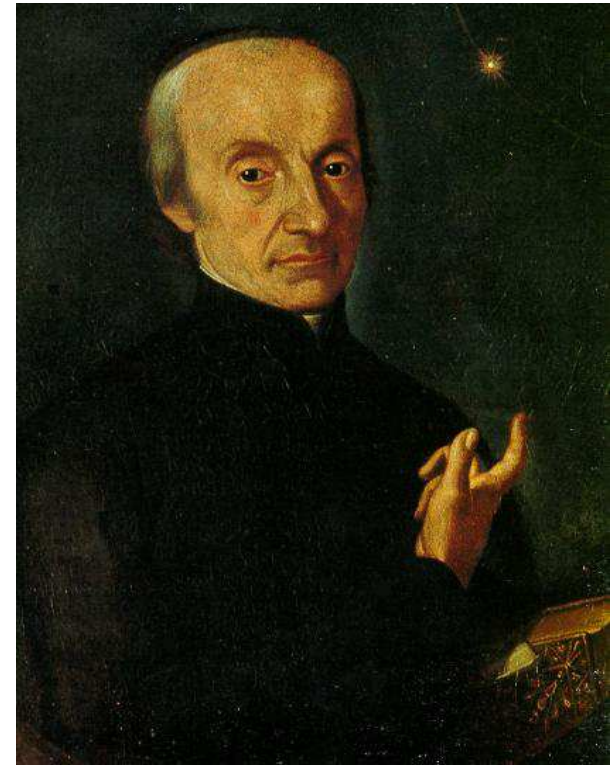
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  - Back again to the origins

# System id tools: PE

- PE - Prediction Error methods
  - ▣ 1801, Giuseppe Piazzi, astronomer in Palermo (Italy)



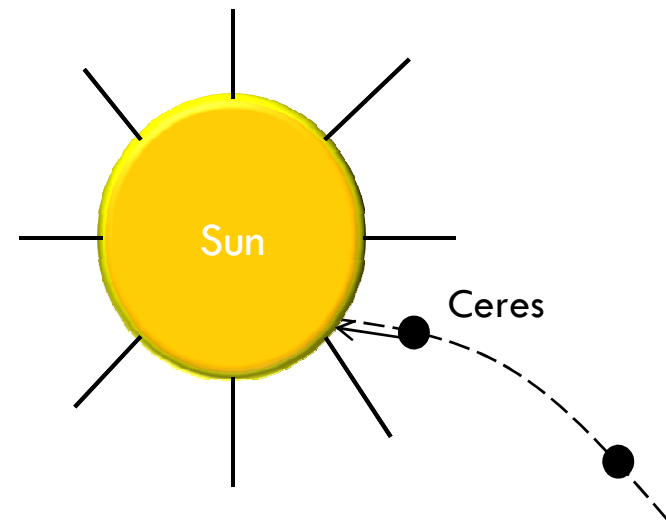
# System id tools: PE

- PE - Prediction Error methods
  - 1 January 1801
    - Piazzi sees a new celestial body and calls it Ceres
  - asteroid (dwarf planet)
    - located in the position of the “missing planet”
    - between Mars and Jupiter
  - popular emotional event



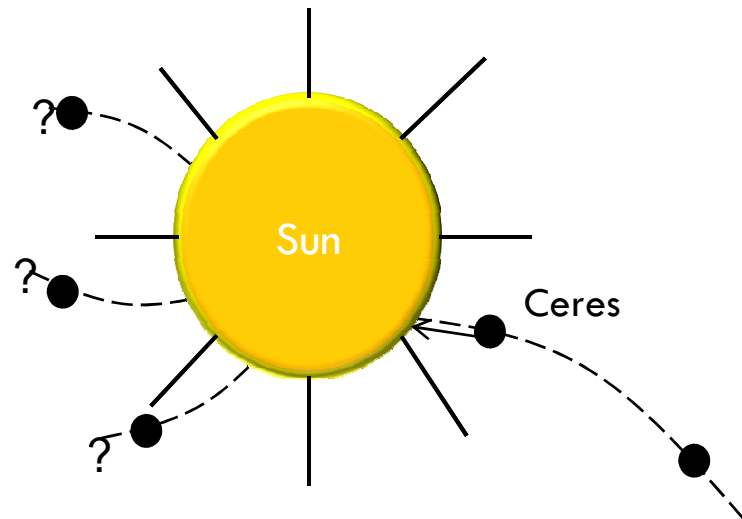
# System id tools: PE

- PE - Prediction Error methods
  - ▣ after two months Ceres disappeared behind the Sun



# System id tools: PE

- PE - Prediction Error methods
  - ▣ question:  
where had to re-appear ?
  - ▣ trajectory prediction



# System id tools: PE

- PE – Prediction Error methods
  - ▣ trajectory Prediction
  - ▣ Carl Gauss (23)  
solves this  
prediction problem  
via Least Squares



nice reading

Mobius and his band:

Mathematics and Astronomy in Nineteenth-Century Germany

John Fauvel (ed)



# System id tools: PE

- PE - Prediction Error methods

- ▣ Least Squares



concept of prediction error  
enters the realm of science



# System id tools: PE

- PE - Prediction Error methods

- ▣ Least Squares



concept of prediction error  
enters the realm of science



all models are wrong



# System id tools: PE

- PE - Prediction Error methods

- ▣ Least Squares



concept of prediction error  
enters the realm of science



all models are wrong  
some are useful



# Test-bed problem

$$x_1(t+1) = \frac{1}{2}x_1(t) + u(t) + v_{11}(t)$$

$$x_2(t+1) = (1 - \theta^2) \sin(50 \theta^2) \cdot x_1(t) - \theta \cdot x_2(t) + \frac{\theta}{1 + \theta^2} \cdot u(t) + v_{12}(t)$$

$$y(t) = x_2(t) + v_2(t)$$

$$u(t) \sim WGN(0, 1)$$

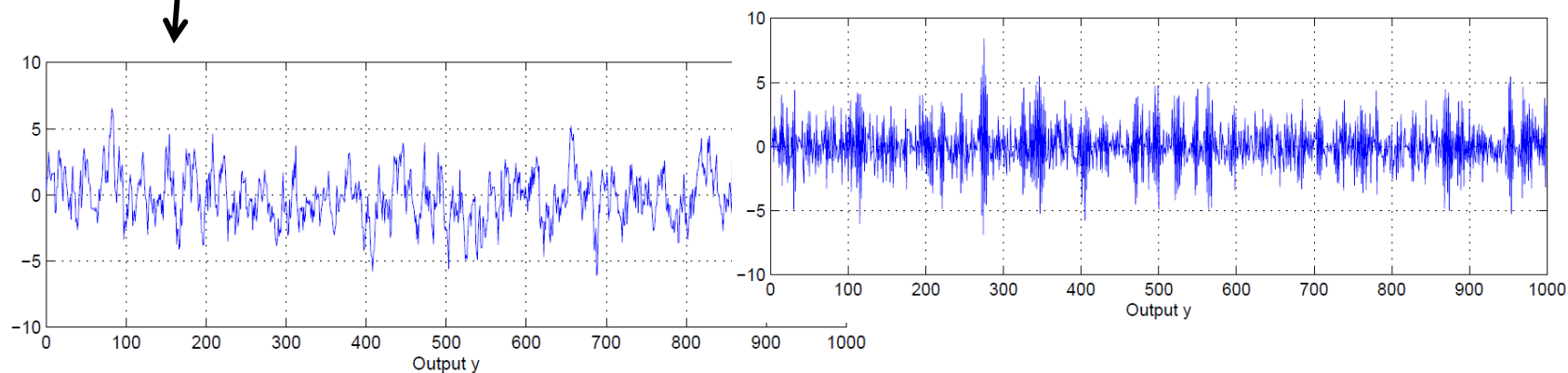
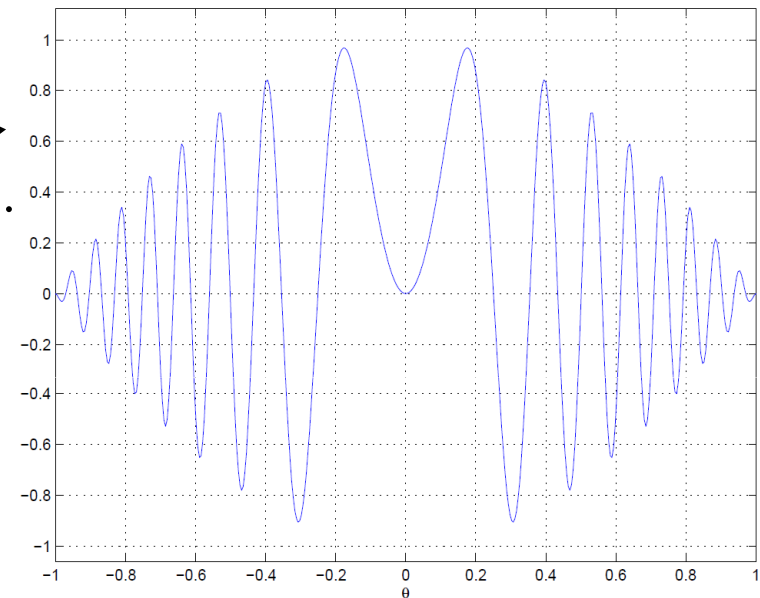
$\theta$  = uncertain parameter in  $[-0.9, 0.9]$

# Test-bed problem

$$\begin{aligned}x_1(t+1) &= \frac{1}{2}x_1(t) + u(t) + v_{11}(t) \\x_2(t+1) &= (1 - \theta^2) \sin(50\theta^2) x_1(t) - \theta \cdot \\y(t) &= x_2(t) + v_2(t)\end{aligned}$$

$u(t) \sim WGN(0, 1)$

$\theta = \text{uncertain parameter in } [-0.9, 0.9]$





# Test-bed problem

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**Data:** 200 experiments:

200 values for  $\theta$

200 data sequences of length  $N=1000$  for each  $\theta$

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**Objective:**  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} u(1), u(2), \dots, u(N) \\ y(1), y(2), \dots, y(N) \end{array} \right\} \longrightarrow \hat{\theta}$

# Prediction Error methods



Output predictor based on the plant model:  $\hat{y}(i, \theta)$

$\hat{\theta} = \arg \min \sum_{i=1}^N (y(i) - \hat{y}(i, \theta))^2$  Estimator **implicitly** defined by the minimization process

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Estimator **implicitly** defined by the minimization process

## Drawbacks:

1. Computation of gradient not easy (nonlinear, infinite dimensional model)

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**local minima** – multiple initializations

# Prediction Error Methods

Output predictor based on the plant model:  $\hat{y}(i, \theta)$

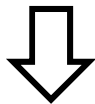
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Estimator **implicitly** defined by the minimization process

## Drawbacks:

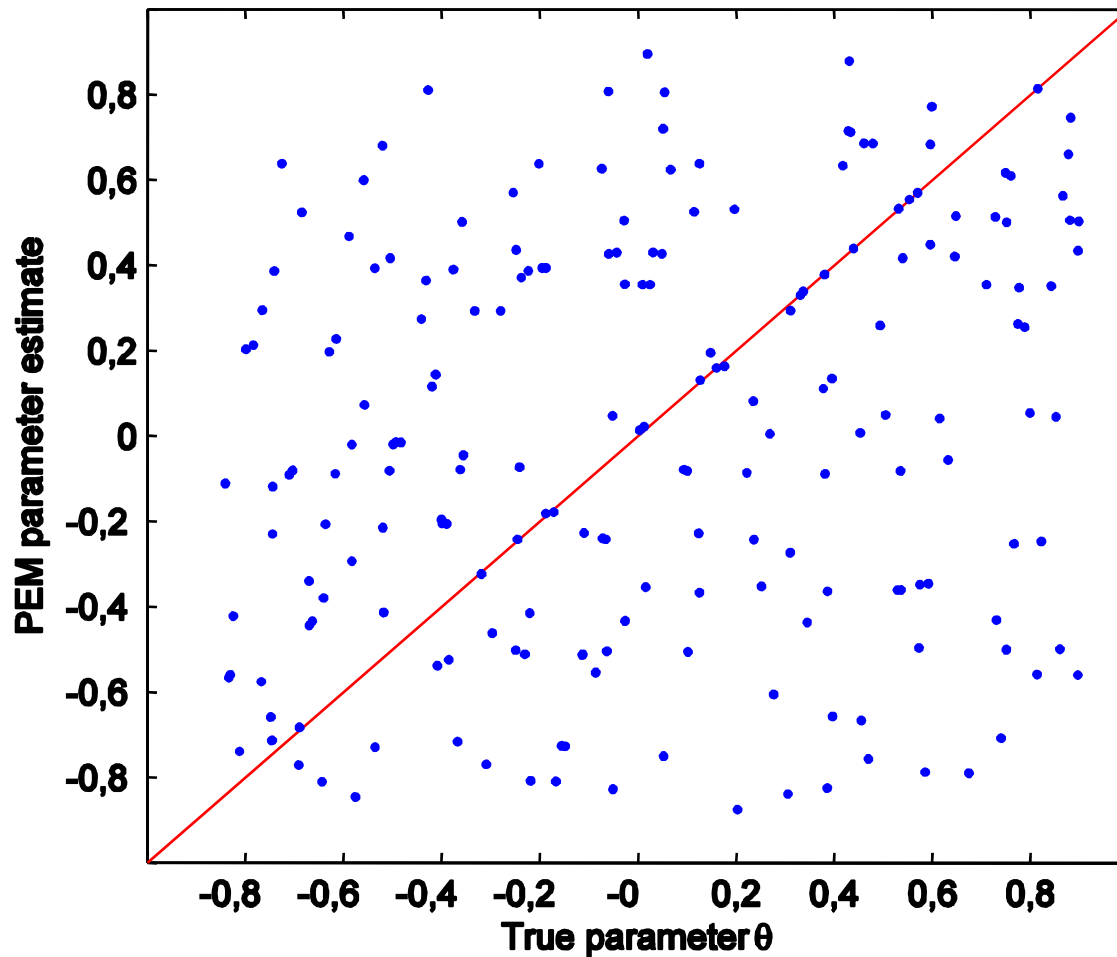
1. Computation of gradient not easy (nonlinear, infinite dimensional model)
2. Minimization is nontrivial

**local minima – multiple initializations**



3. High **computational burden** required to work out  $\hat{\theta}$

# Test-bed problem – PE



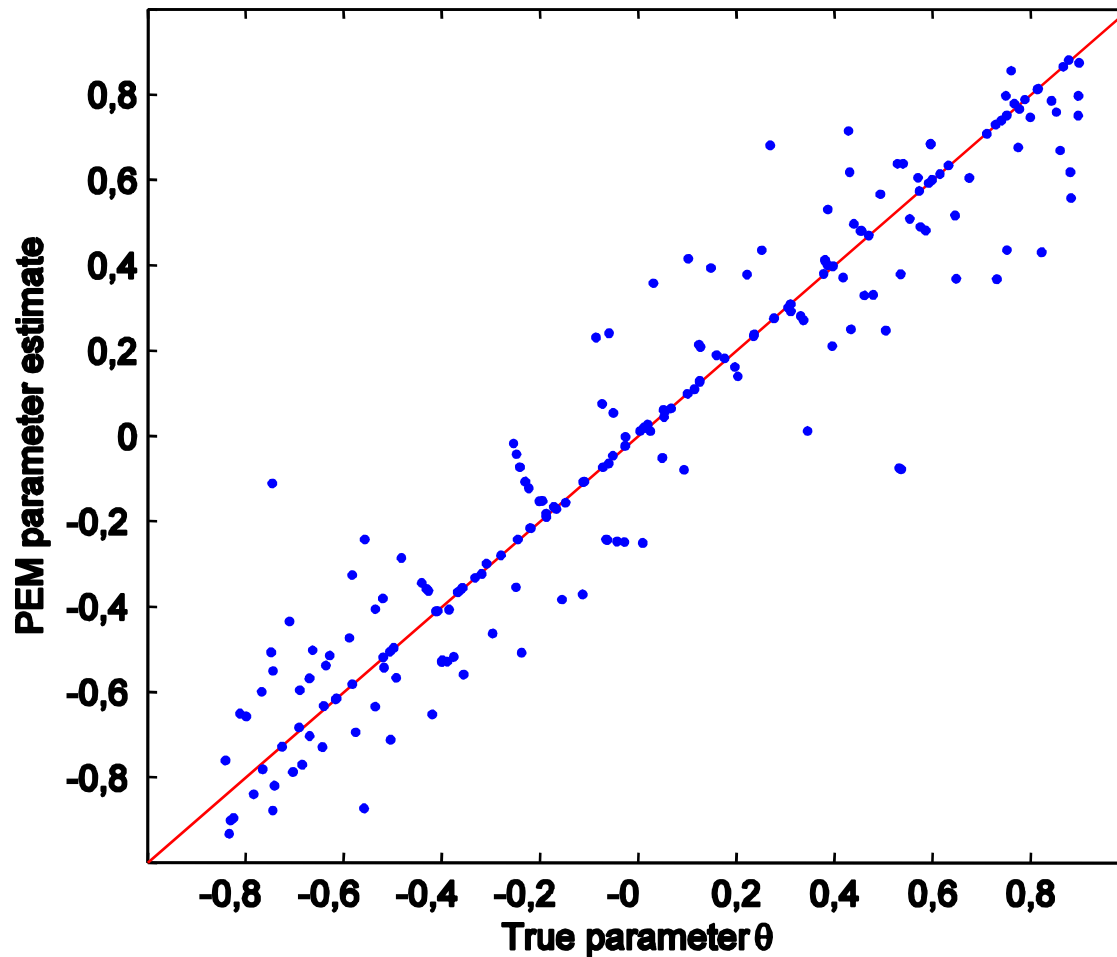
1 initialization at  
random

**Computational time:**

18.23 seconds  
(0.09 seconds per  
estimate)

Matlab, standard 2.40 GHz  
dual-processor computer.

# Test-bed problem – PE



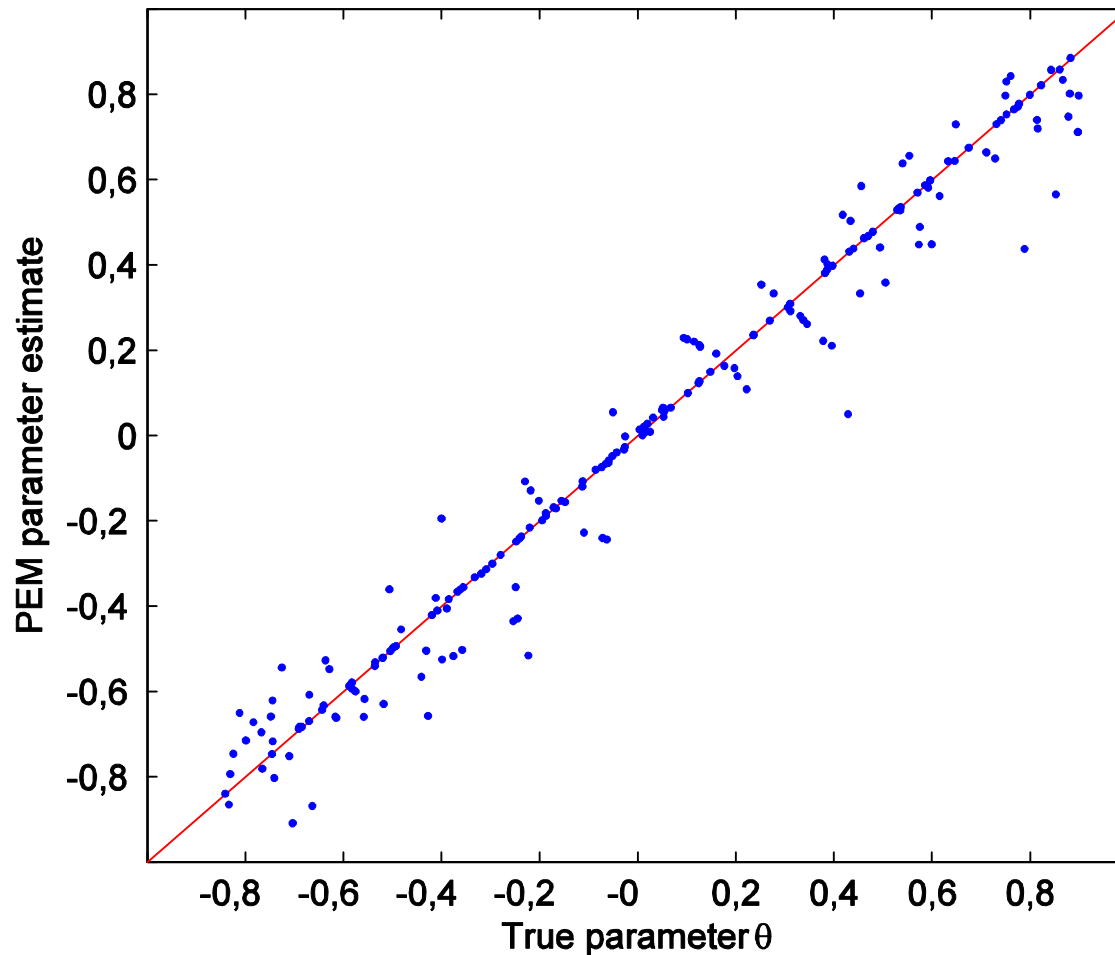
5 initializations  
at random

Computational time:

94.28 seconds  
(0.47 seconds per  
estimate)

Matlab, standard 2.40 GHz  
dual-processor computer.

# Test-bed problem – PE



10 initializations  
at random

**Computational time:**

179.14 seconds  
(0.89 seconds per  
estimate)

Matlab, standard 2.40 GHz  
dual-processor computer.



# System id tools: KF

- 1960
  - ▣ Rudolph R. Kalman
  - ▣ State space approach:  
estimate the state  
from  
input-output data



# Kalman Filtering Methods

---

- *State space models*

- unknown parameter transformed into a state variable:

$$\theta(t + 1) = \theta(t)$$

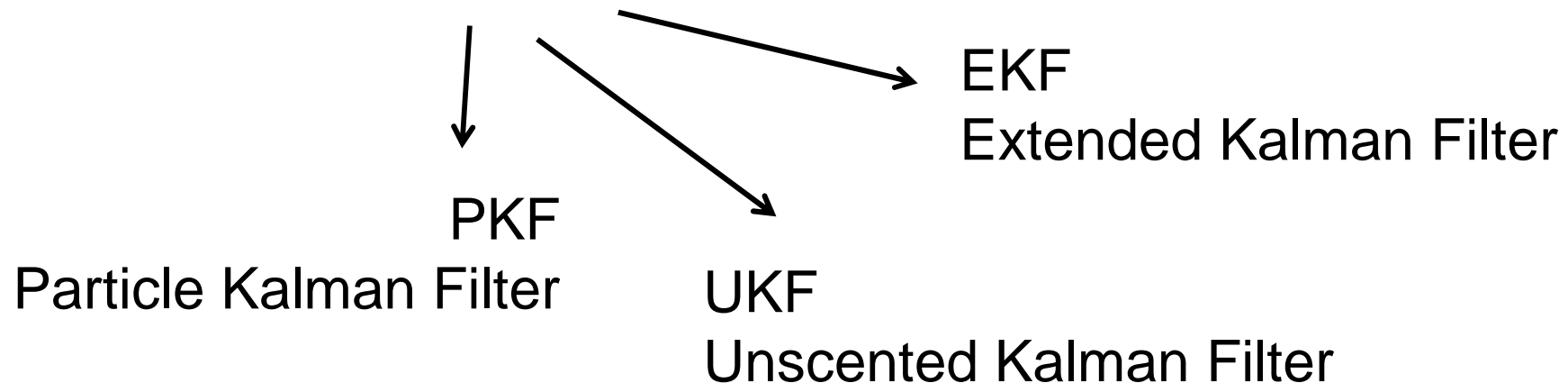
- non-linear realm

# Kalman Filtering Methods

- unknown parameter transformed into a state variable:

$$\theta(t + 1) = \theta(t)$$

- non-linear realm



# Kalman Filtering Methods

- EKF

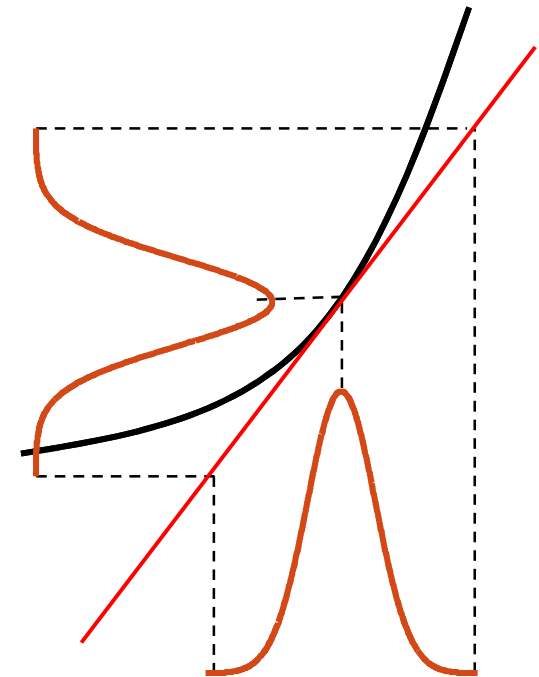
- ▣ System linearization around the last obtained state estimate

- UKF

- ▣ A few representative particles ( $\sigma$ -points).

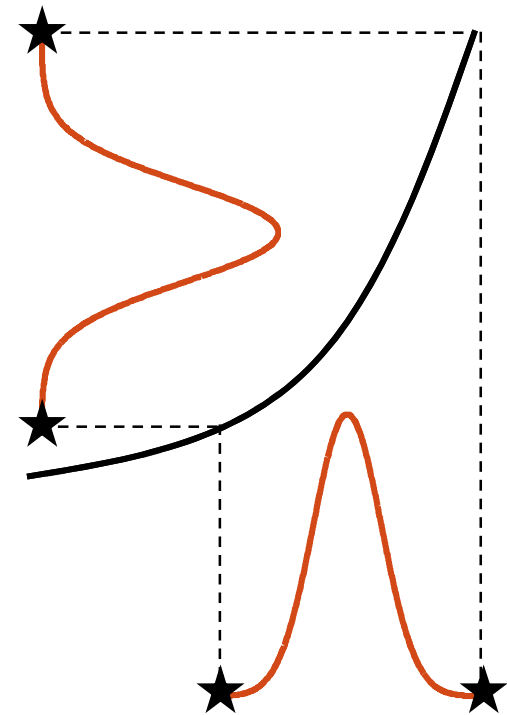
- PKF

- ▣ A whole set of particles representative of the whole state distribution



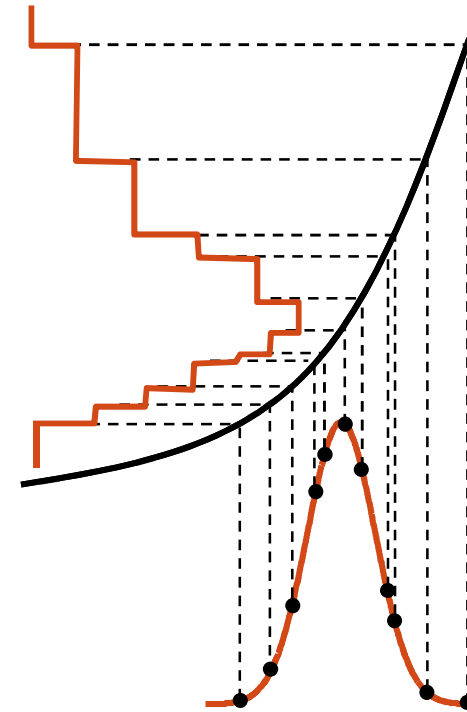
# Kalman Filtering Methods

- EKF
  - ▣ System linearization around the last obtained state estimate
- UKF
  - ▣ A few representative particles ( $\sigma$ -points).
- PKF
  - ▣ A whole set of particles representative of the whole state distribution



# Kalman Filtering Methods

- EKF
  - ▣ System linearization around the last obtained state estimate
- UKF
  - ▣ A few representative particles ( $\sigma$ -points).
- PKF
  - ▣ A whole set of particles representative of the whole state distribution



# Kalman Filtering Methods

Additional state variable:  $\theta(t+1) = \theta(t)$

$$\hat{\theta}(t|t) = \mathbf{KF}(u(1), y(1), \dots, u(t), y(t))$$

$$\hat{\theta} = \hat{\theta}(N|N)$$

EKF, UKF, PKF



$\hat{\theta}$



# Kalman Filtering Methods

Additional state variable:  $\theta(t+1) = \theta(t)$

$$\hat{\theta}(t|t) = \mathbf{KF}(u(1), y(1), \dots, u(t), y(t))$$

$$\hat{\theta} = \hat{\theta}(N|N)$$

EKF, UKF, PKF



**Remark:**

In practice the parameter equation is:  $\vartheta(t+1) = \vartheta(t) + (\text{fake noise})$

**question:** variance of fake noise ?

**question:** variance of  $\vartheta(0)$  ?

# Kalman Filtering Methods

Additional state variable:  $\theta(t+1) = \theta(t)$

$$\hat{\theta}(t|t) = \mathbf{KF}(u(1), y(1), \dots, u(t), y(t))$$

$$\hat{\theta} = \hat{\theta}(N|N)$$

EKF, UKF, PKF



## Drawbacks:

1. Derivation of the filter equations may be not easy (nonlinear, infinite dimensional model)
2. Serious **convergence problems** (EKF & UKF)
3. High **computational burden** required to work out  $\hat{\theta}$  (PKF)

# Test-bed problem – (cont'd)

$$x_1(t+1) = \frac{1}{2}x_1(t) + u(t) + v_{11}(t)$$

$$x_2(t+1) = (1 - \theta^2) \sin(50 \theta^2) \cdot x_1(t) - \theta \cdot x_2(t) + \frac{\theta}{1 + \theta^2} \cdot u(t) + v_{12}(t)$$

$$y(t) = x_2(t) + v_2(t)$$

$$u(t) \sim WGN(0, 1)$$

$\theta$  = uncertain parameter in  $[-0.9, 0.9]$

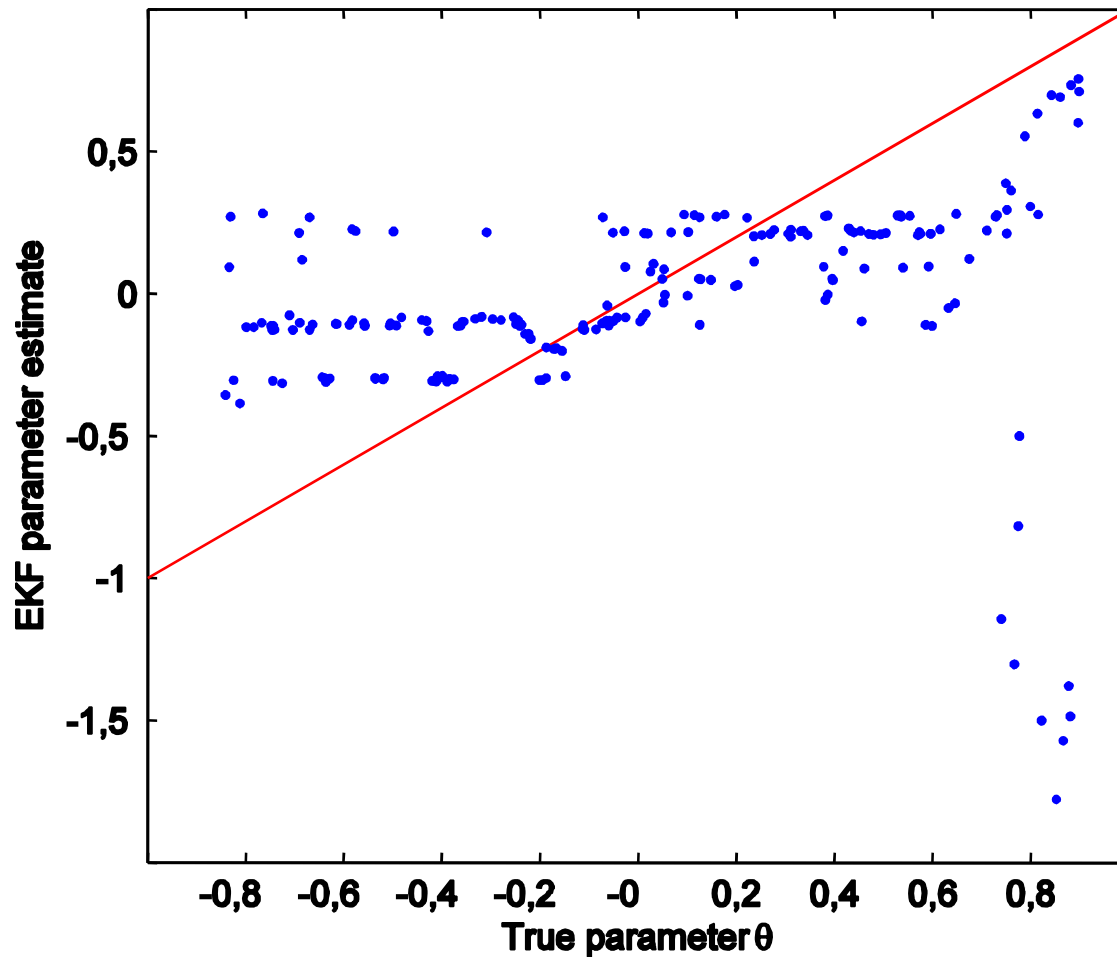
**Data:** 200 experiments:

200 values for  $\theta$

200 data sequences of length  $N=1000$  for each  $\theta$

**Objective:**  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} u(1), u(2), \dots, u(N) \\ y(1), y(2), \dots, y(N) \end{array} \right\} \longrightarrow \hat{\theta}$

# Test-bed problem – EKF



Initialization

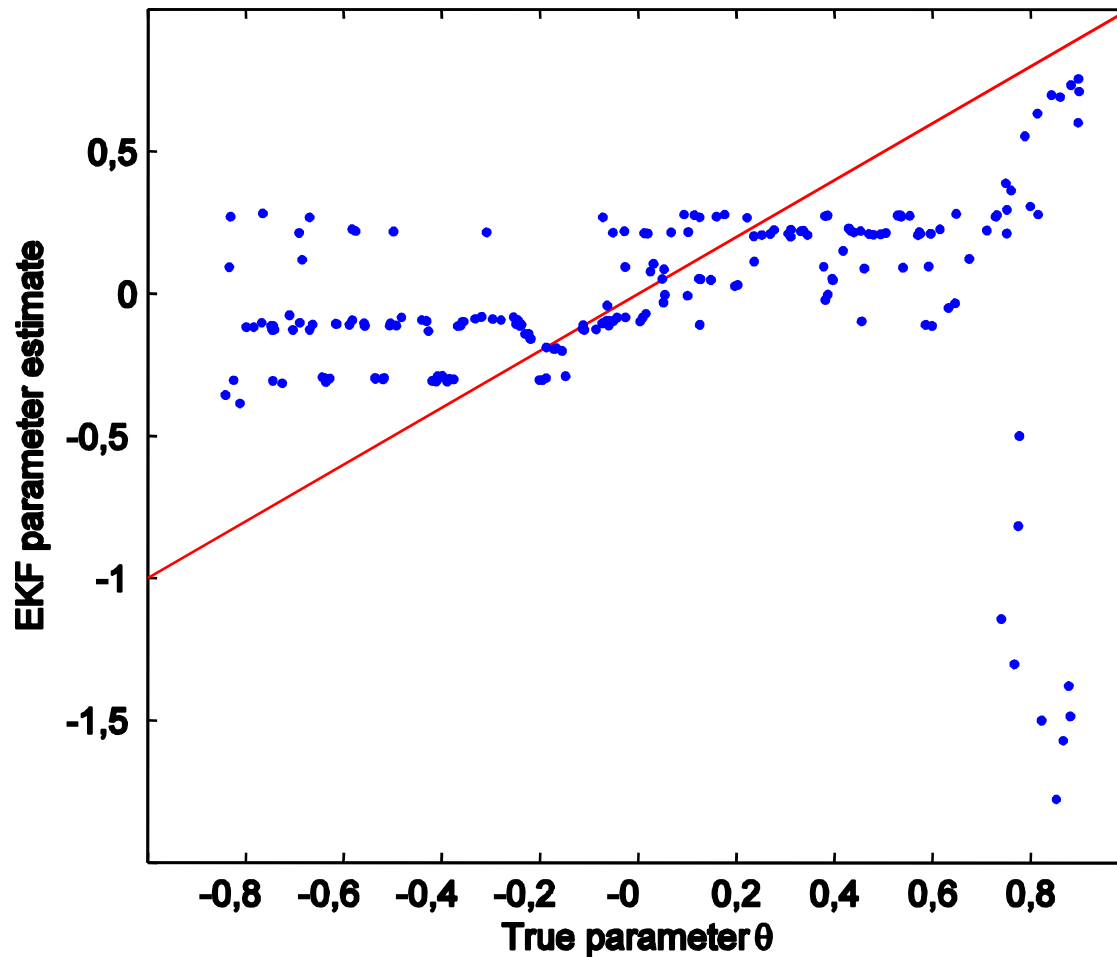
$$P_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0.1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 10^{-2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Computational time:

11.01 seconds  
(0.055 seconds per  
estimate)

Matlab, standard 2.40 GHz  
dual-processor computer.

# Test-bed problem – EKF



Initialization

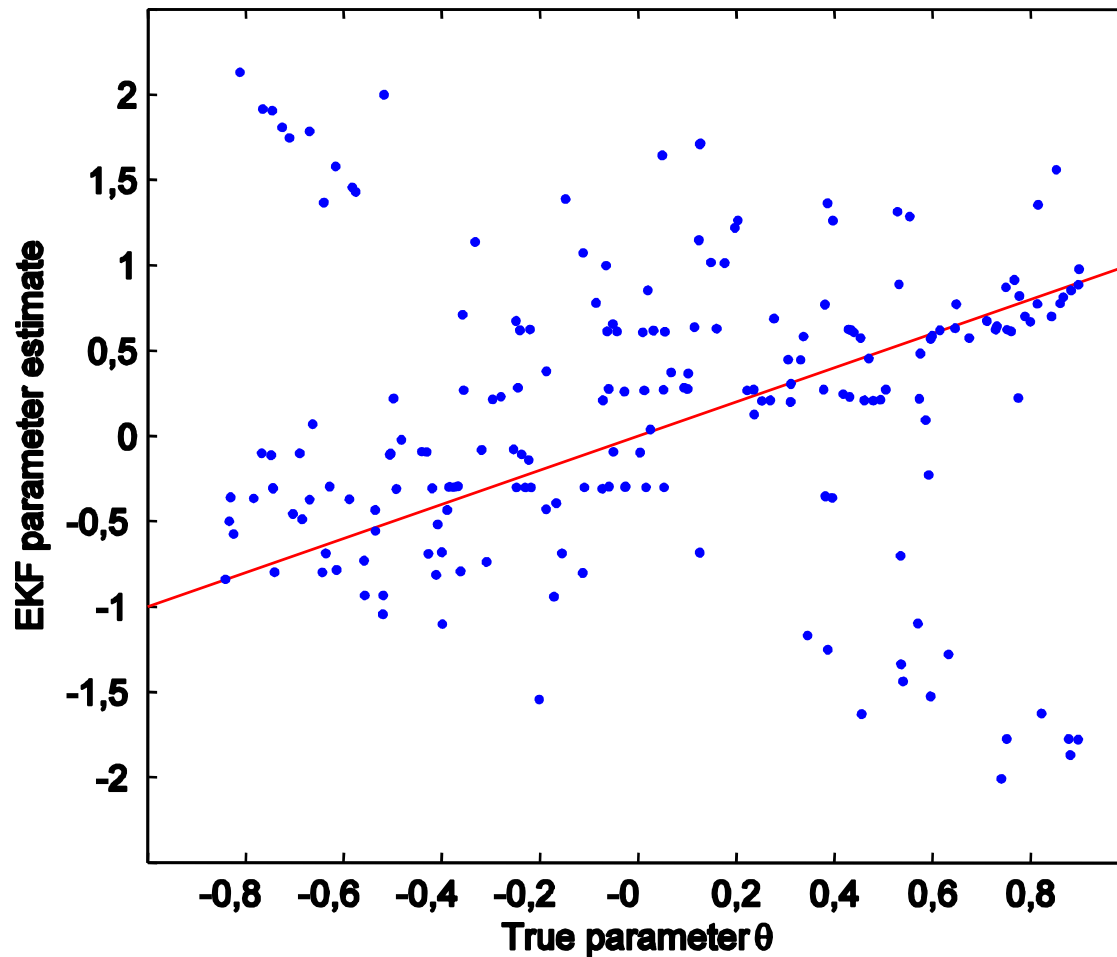
$$P_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0.1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 10^{-2} \end{bmatrix}$$

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# Test-bed problem – EKF



Initialization

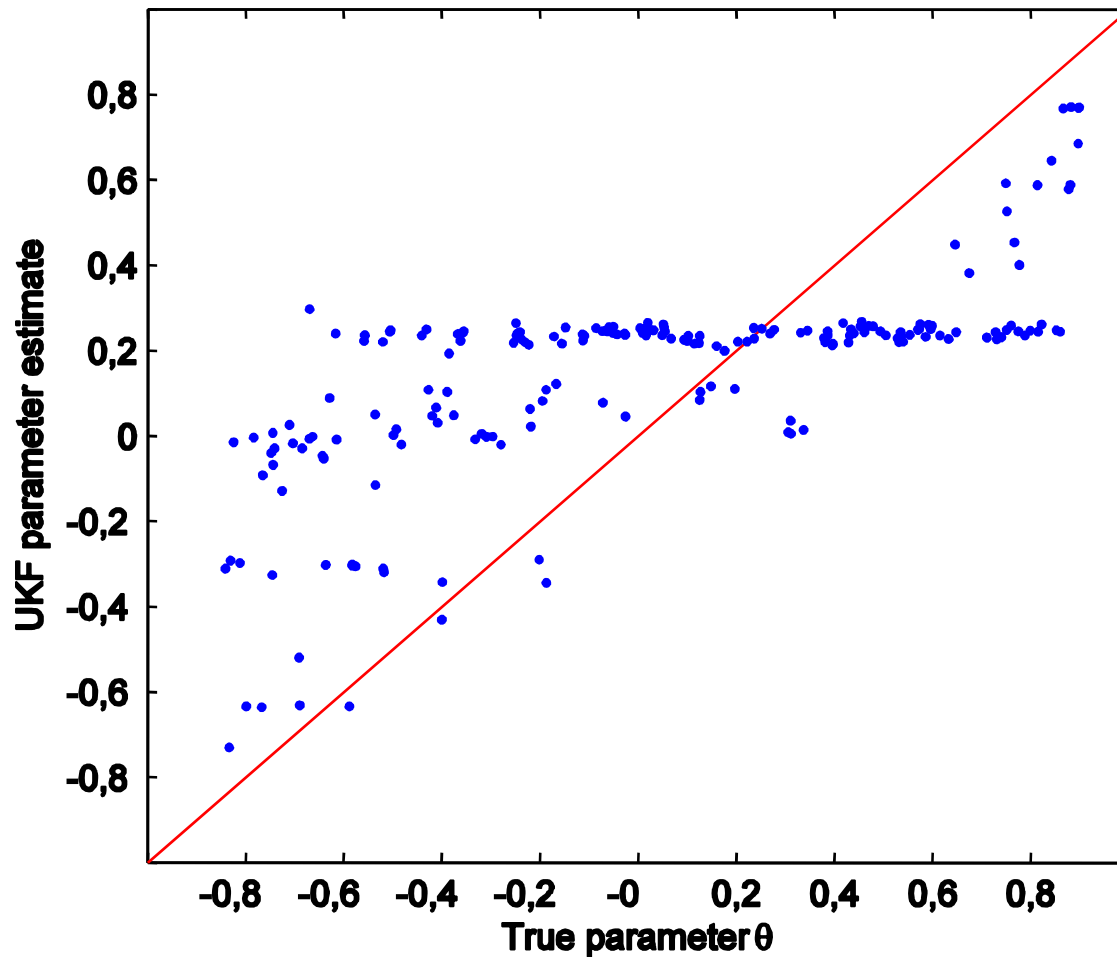
$$P_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0.1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Computational time:

11.01 seconds  
(0.055 seconds per  
estimate)

Matlab, standard 2.40 GHz  
dual-processor computer.

# Test-bed problem – UKF



Initialization

$$P_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0.1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 10^{-2} \end{bmatrix}$$

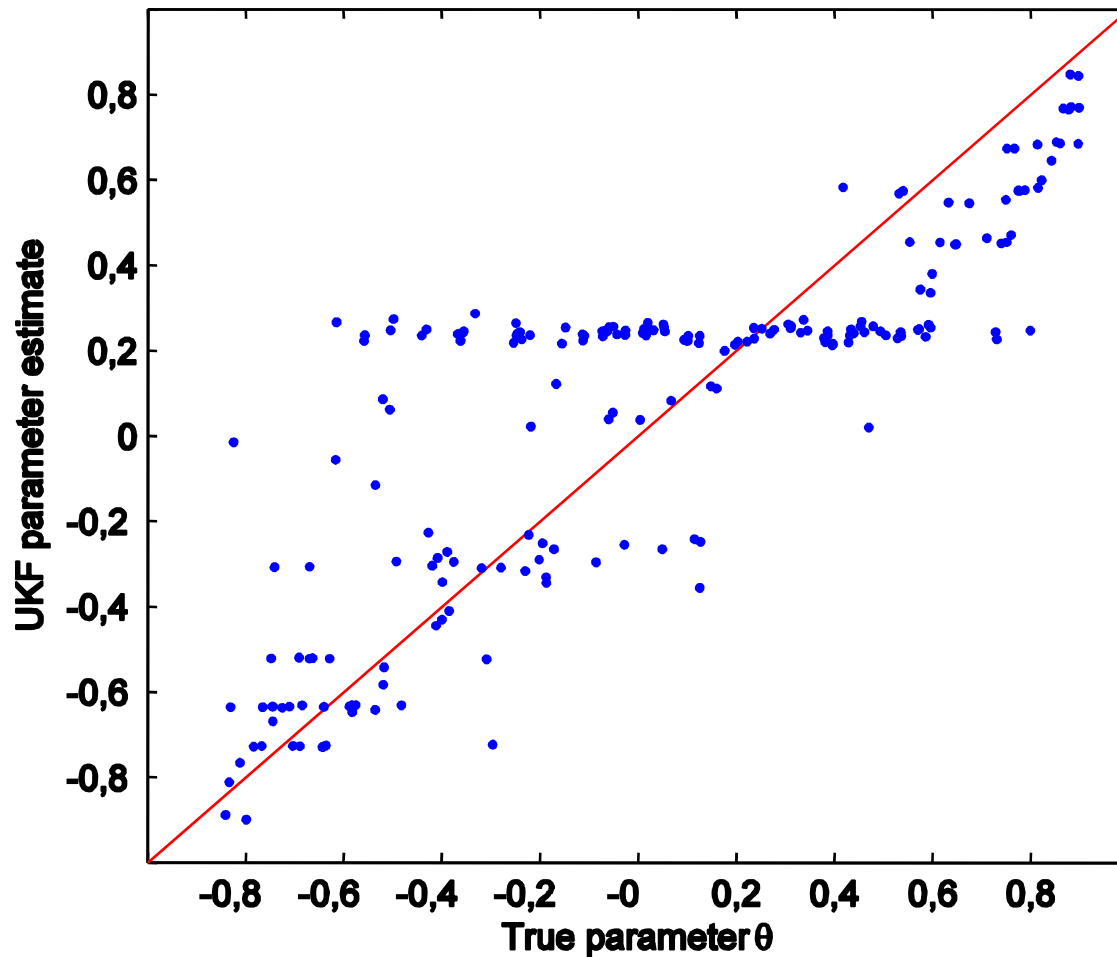
Computational time:

200 seconds  
(1 seconds per  
estimate)

Matlab, standard 2.40 GHz  
dual-processor computer.



# Test-bed problem – UKF



Initialization

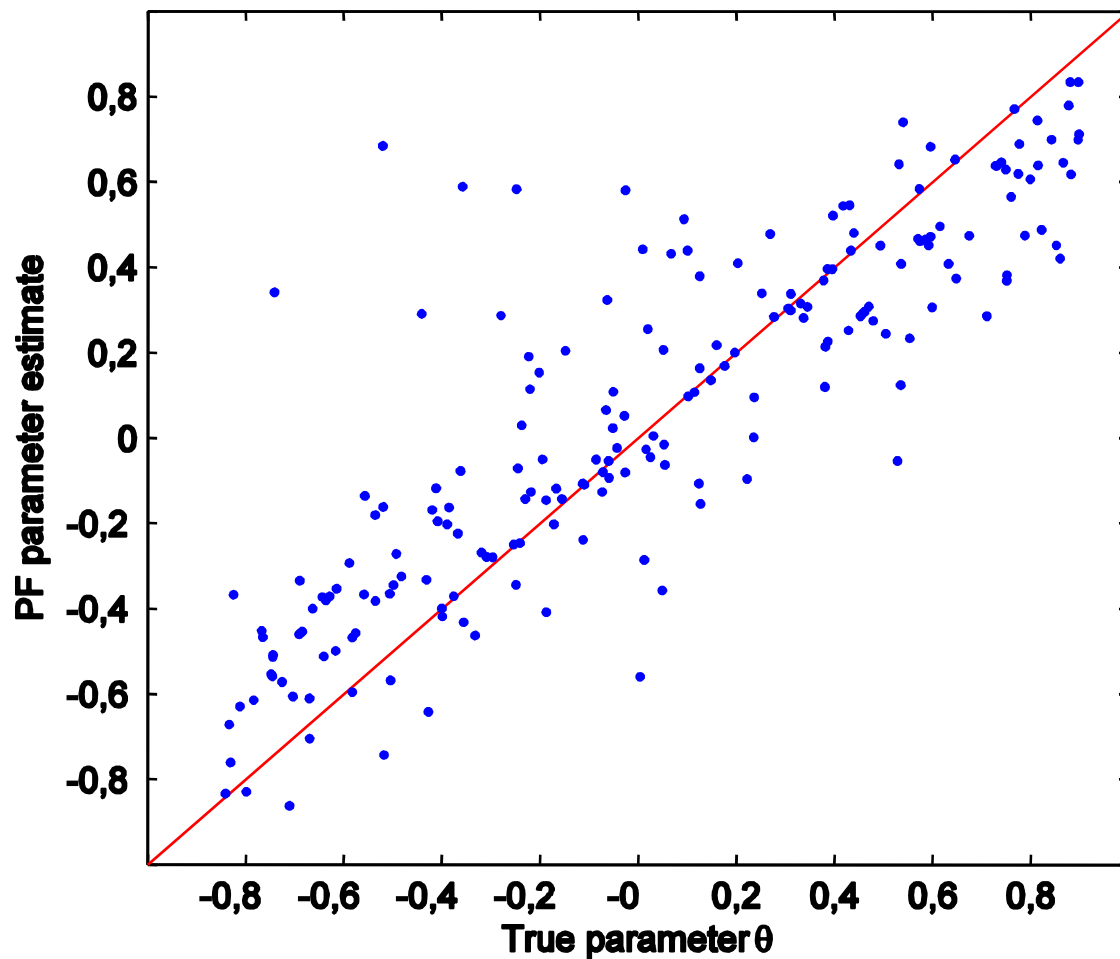
$$P_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0.1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Computational time:

200 seconds  
(1 seconds per  
estimate)

Matlab, standard 2.40 GHz  
dual-processor computer.

# Test-bed problem – PF



1000 particles

Computational time:

4675 seconds  
(23.38 seconds per  
estimate)

Matlab, standard 2.40 GHz  
dual-processor computer.

## 4) Proposing a new paradigm: the two stage (TS) method



# The two stage (TS) method

---



with Simone Garatti

# The two-stage (TS) approach

**Idea:** perform intensive simulation trials  
from which reconstruct an explicit expression for the estimator

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| $\theta^1$ | $\{y^1(1), u^1(1), \dots, y^1(N), u^1(N)\}$ |
| $\theta^2$ | $\{y^2(1), u^2(1), \dots, y^2(N), u^2(N)\}$ |
| $\vdots$   | $\vdots$                                    |
| $\theta^m$ | $\{y^m(1), u^m(1), \dots, y^m(N), u^m(N)\}$ |

Simulated  
data chart

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| $\theta^m$ | $\{y^m(1), u^m(1), \dots, y^m(N), u^m(N)\}$ |

Simulated  
data chart

Goal: reconstruct from the chart the relationship between data and parameter:

$$\hat{f} \leftarrow \min_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left\| \theta^i - f(y^i(1), u^i(1), \dots, y^i(N), u^i(N)) \right\|^2$$

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**Idea:** perform intensive simulation trials  
from which reconstruct an explicit expression for the estimator

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| $\theta^2$ | $\{y^2(1), u^2(1), \dots, y^2(N), u^2(N)\}$ |
| $\vdots$   | $\vdots$                                    |
| $\theta^m$ | $\{y^m(1), u^m(1), \dots, y^m(N), u^m(N)\}$ |

Simulated  
data chart

Reconstruct from the chart the relationship between data and  $\theta^i$  :

$$\hat{f} \leftarrow \min_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left\| \theta^i - f(y^i(1), u^i(1), \dots, y^i(N), u^i(N)) \right\|^2$$

Choice of the class of functions  $\mathcal{F}$  is **critical**:

➤ (**bias vs. variance** issue –  $\hat{f} : \mathbb{R}^{2N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^q$  )



# The two-stage (TS) approach

**Idea:** perform intensive simulation trials  
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| $\theta^1$ | $\{y^1(1), u^1(1), \dots, y^1(N), u^1(N)\}$ |
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MISSION  
IMPOSSIBLE

Choice of the class of functions  $\mathcal{F}$  is **critical**:

➤ (**bias vs. variance** issue –  $\hat{f} : \mathbb{R}^{2N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^q$ )

# TS Step 1: data compression

simple idea:

I/O data sequence **compactly** described by an **ARX** model:

$$y^i(t) = \alpha_1^i y^i(t-1) + \cdots + \alpha_{n_y}^i y^i(t-n_y) + \alpha_{n_y+1}^i u^i(t-1) + \cdots + \alpha_{n_y+n_u}^i u^i(t-n_u), \quad \boxed{n = n_y + n_u \ll 2N}$$

Parameter found via **least squares**:

$$\varphi^i(t) = [y^i(t-1) \cdots y^i(t-n_y) \ u^i(t-1) \cdots u^i(t-n_u)]^T$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1^i \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_n^i \end{bmatrix} = \left[ \sum_{t=1}^N \varphi^i(t) \varphi^i(t)^T \right]^{-1} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^N \varphi^i(t) y^i(t)$$

# TS Step 1: data compression

**simple idea:** repeat compression for all the  $m$  simulation trials:

|            |                                     |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| $\theta^1$ | $\{\alpha_1^1, \dots, \alpha_n^1\}$ |
| $\theta^2$ | $\{\alpha_1^2, \dots, \alpha_n^2\}$ |
| $\vdots$   | $\vdots$                            |
| $\theta^m$ | $\{\alpha_1^m, \dots, \alpha_n^m\}$ |

Compressed artificial  
data chart

$n \ll 2N$  , problem  
dimensionality reduced

## Remark

$\{\alpha_1^i, \dots, \alpha_n^i\}$  have no physical meaning

They play a purely instrumental role for reducing the size of the complexity

## TS Step 2: par. Est. from compressed data

**simple idea:** repeat this process for all the  $m$  simulation trials:

|            |                                     |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| $\theta^1$ | $\{\alpha_1^1, \dots, \alpha_n^1\}$ |
| $\theta^2$ | $\{\alpha_1^2, \dots, \alpha_n^2\}$ |
| $\vdots$   | $\vdots$                            |
| $\theta^m$ | $\{\alpha_1^m, \dots, \alpha_n^m\}$ |

Compressed artificial  
data chart

$n \ll 2N$  , problem  
dimensionality reduced

Reconstruct from the artificial chart the relationship  
between compressed data  $\{\alpha_1^i, \dots, \alpha_n^i\}$  and  $\theta^i$ :

$$\hat{h} \leftarrow \min_{h \in \mathcal{H}} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left\| \theta^i - h(\alpha_1^i, \dots, \alpha_n^i) \right\|^2$$

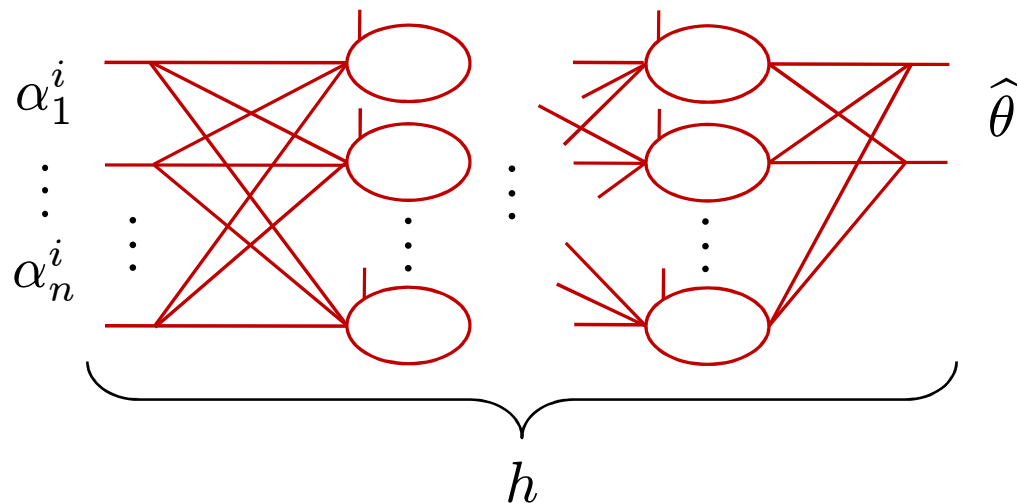
Choice of  $\mathcal{H}$  is **no more** critical:  $\hat{h} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^q$

# TS Step 2: choice of $\mathcal{H}$

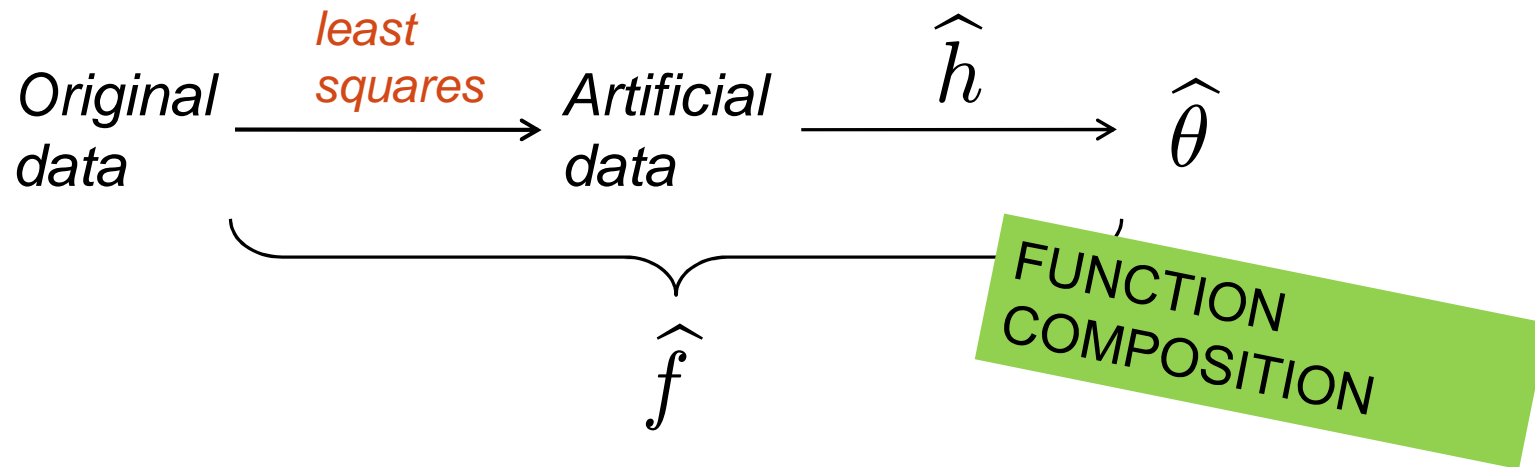
Linear regressions of  $\{\alpha_1^i, \dots, \alpha_n^i\}$

$$h = \begin{bmatrix} c_{1,1} & \cdots & c_{1,n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_{q,1} & \cdots & c_{q,n} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1^i \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_n^i \end{bmatrix}$$

Neural Networks



# The whole TS estimator



$$\hat{f} : \{u(1), y(1), \dots, u(N), y(N)\} \rightarrow \hat{\theta}$$

$$\hat{f} = \hat{h} \left( \left[ \sum_{t=1}^N \varphi(t) \varphi(t)^T \right]^{-1} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^N \varphi(t) y(t) \right)$$

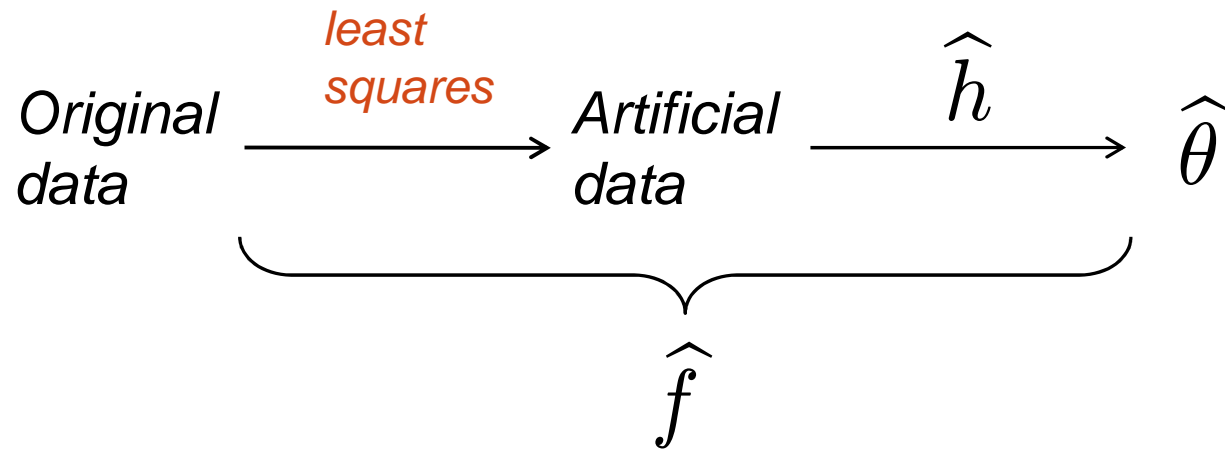
$$\varphi(t) = \begin{bmatrix} y(t-1) \\ \dots \\ y(t-n_y) \\ u(t-1) \\ \dots \\ u(t-n_u) \end{bmatrix}$$

# TS estimator training

- Extract many values for  $\theta$  in the feasible range
- For each  $\theta$ , generate I/O data sequence via simulation
- Construct **simulated data chart**
- Fit a simple model to each data sequence
- Construct **compressed artificial data chart**
- Solve opt problem: compressed artificial data sequence  $\Rightarrow \theta$
- Work out the overall mapping:  
original data sequence  $\Rightarrow \theta$   
as a composition of mappings of the two steps



# TS estimator at work



- **Estimation:**

once a new I/O data sequence is provided,  
the corresponding  $\theta$   
is immediately found from the composition of the two steps

# Test-bed problem – (cont'd)

$$x_1(t+1) = \frac{1}{2}x_1(t) + u(t) + v_{11}(t)$$

$$x_2(t+1) = (1 - \theta^2) \sin(50 \theta^2) \cdot x_1(t) - \theta \cdot x_2(t) + \frac{\theta}{1 + \theta^2} \cdot u(t) + v_{12}(t)$$

$$y(t) = x_2(t) + v_2(t)$$

$$u(t) \sim WGN(0, 1)$$

$\theta$  = uncertain parameter in  $[-0.9, 0.9]$

**Data:** 200 experiments:

200 values for  $\theta$

200 data sequences of length  $N=1000$  for each  $\theta$

**Objective:**  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} u(1), u(2), \dots, u(N) \\ y(1), y(2), \dots, y(N) \end{array} \right\} \longrightarrow \hat{\theta}$

# Test-bed problem – training TS estimator

- 1500 new values for  $\theta$  extracted uniformly from the interval  $[-0.9, 0.9]$
  - For each  $\theta$ , 1000 input/output samples obtained via **simulation**
- } **Simulated**  
data chart
- 
- Compressed **artificial** data via **ARX(5,5)**
  - $\hat{h}$  obtained via neural network
- (10 inputs, 1 outputs, 10 neurons in the 1<sup>st</sup> layer, 1 linear neuron in the output layer)
- Models order obtained by trials  
(training phase is entirely **off-line**)

# Test-bed problem – validating TS estimator



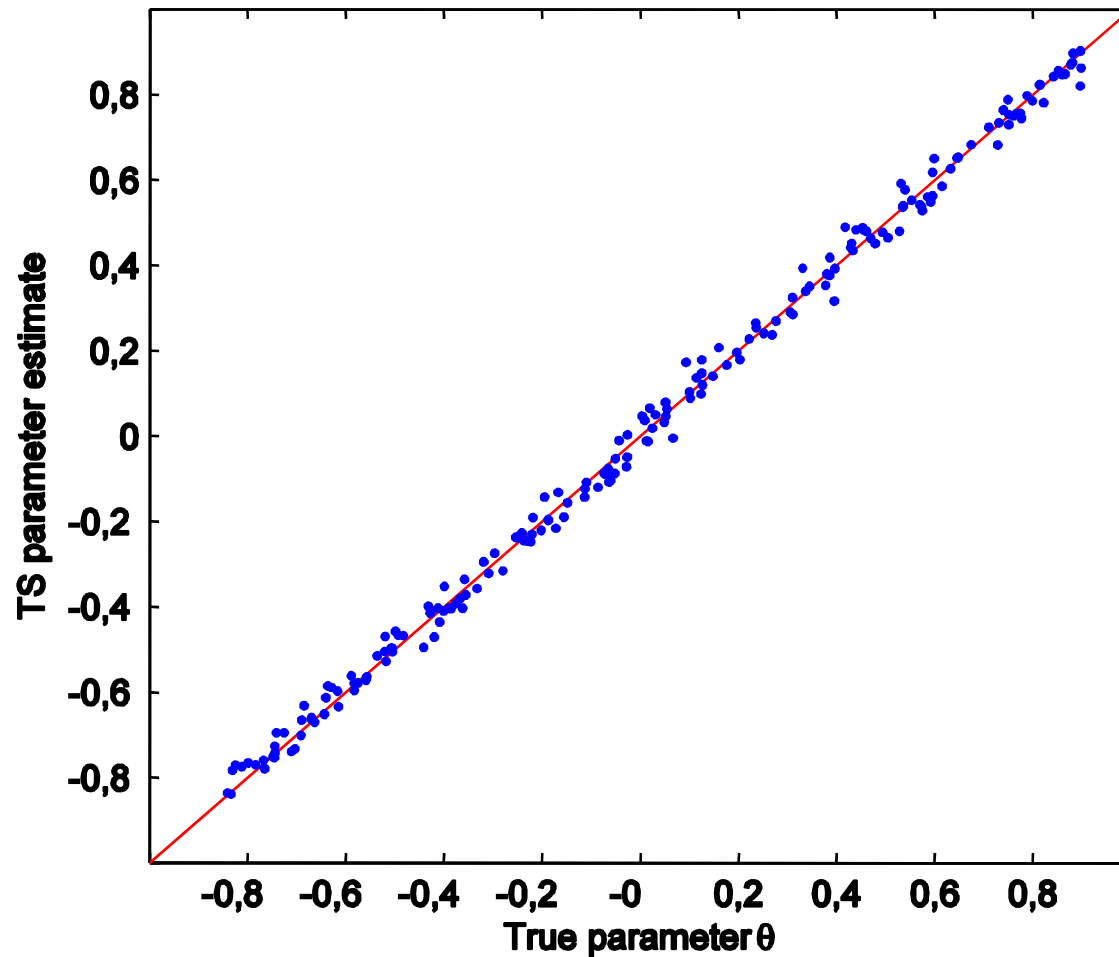
**Validation** of the obtained estimator over the same 200 sequences used for PEM, EKF, UKF, and PKF.

Note that the testing sequences are

**different**

from those used in the training phase (**cross-validation**)

# Test-bed problem – TS



Computational time:

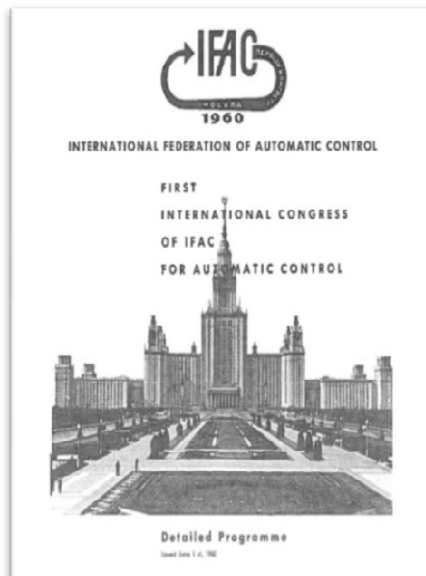
1.95 seconds  
(0.0097 seconds per  
estimate)

Matlab, standard 2.40 GHz  
dual-processor computer.

## 5) Conclusion



# Control science 1960 $\Rightarrow$ 2012



locations  
and  
events

# System id and control 1960 $\Rightarrow$ 2012

## The Parameter Estimation Problem

J. H. WESTCOTT

### Introduction

The establishment of the foundations of automatic control and communication systems during the past two decades has depended on advances and refinements in the mathematical study of such systems. Conversely, the growth of technology brought forth many new problems (such as those related to using digital computers in control, etc.) to challenge the ingenuity and competence of research workers concerned with theoretical questions.

Despite the appearance and effective resolution of many new problems, our understanding of fundamental aspects of control has remained superficial. The only basic advance so far appears to be the theory of information created by Shannon<sup>1</sup>. The chief significance of his work in our present interpretation is the discovery of general 'laws' underlying the process of information transmission, which are quite independent of the particular models being considered or even the methods used for the description and analysis of these models. These results could be compared with the 'laws' of physics, with the crucial difference that the 'laws' governing man-made objects cannot be discovered by straightforward experimentation but only by a purely abstract analysis guided by intuition gained in observing present-day examples of technology and economic organization. We may thus classify Shannon's result as belonging to the *pure theory* of communication and control, while everything else can be labelled as the *applied theory*; this terminology reflects the well-known distinctions between pure and applied physics or mathematics. For reasons pointed out above, in its methodology the pure theory of communication and control closely resembles mathematics, rather than physics; however, it is not a branch of mathematics because at present we cannot (yet?) disregard questions of physical realizability in the study of mathematical models.

### Parameter Estimation

It is necessary to approach the study of the pure theory of control, imitating the spirit of Shannon's investigations but otherwise using entirely different techniques. Our ultimate objective is to answer questions of the following type: What kind and how much information is needed to achieve a desired type of control? What intrinsic properties characterize a given unalterable plant as far as control is concerned?

At present only superficial answers are available to these questions, and even then only in special cases.

Initial results presented in this Note are far from the degree of generality of Shannon's work. By contrast, however, only *constructive* methods are employed here, giving some hope of being able to avoid the well-known difficulty of Shannon's theory: methods of proof which are impractical for actually constructing practical solutions. In fact, this paper arose from the need for a better understanding of some recently discovered computation methods of control-system synthesis<sup>2-5</sup>. Another by-product of the paper is a new computation method for the solution of the classical Wiener filtering problem<sup>6</sup>.

The organization of the paper is as follows:

the variables. The method can be extended to deal with data expressed as continuous time functions in which case the sum

## On the General Theory of Control Systems

R. E. KALMAN

### Introduction

In no small measure, the great technological progress in automatic control and communication systems during the past two decades has depended on advances and refinements in the mathematical study of such systems. Conversely, the growth of technology brought forth many new problems (such as those related to using digital computers in control, etc.) to challenge the ingenuity and competence of research workers concerned with theoretical questions.

Despite the appearance and effective resolution of many new problems, our understanding of fundamental aspects of control has remained superficial. The only basic advance so far appears to be the theory of information created by Shannon<sup>1</sup>. The chief significance of his work in our present interpretation is the discovery of general 'laws' underlying the process of information transmission, which are quite independent of the particular models being considered or even the methods used for the description and analysis of these models. These results could be compared with the 'laws' of physics, with the crucial difference that the 'laws' governing man-made objects cannot be discovered by straightforward experimentation but only by a purely abstract analysis guided by intuition gained in observing present-day examples of technology and economic organization. We may thus classify Shannon's result as belonging to the *pure theory* of communication and control, while everything else can be labelled as the *applied theory*; this terminology reflects the well-known distinctions between pure and applied physics or mathematics. For reasons pointed out above, in its methodology the pure theory of communication and control closely resembles mathematics, rather than physics; however, it is not a branch of mathematics because at present we cannot (yet?) disregard questions of physical realizability in the study of mathematical models.

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The organization of the paper is as follows:

In Section 3 we introduce the models for which a fairly complete theory is available: dynamic systems with a finite dimensional state space and linear transition functions (i.e. systems obeying linear differential or difference equations). The class of random processes considered consists of such dynamic systems excited by an uncorrelated gaussian random process. Other assumptions, such as stationarity, discretization, single input/single output, etc., are made only to facilitate the presentation and will be absent in detailed future accounts of the theory.

In Section 4 we define the concept of *controllability* and show that this is the 'natural' generalization of the so-called 'dead-beat' control scheme discovered by Oldenbourg and Sartorius<sup>7</sup> and later rederived independently by Tsypkin<sup>12</sup> and the author<sup>17</sup>.

We then show in Section 5 that the general problem of optimal regulation is solvable if and only if the plant is completely controllable.

In Section 6 we introduce the concept of *observability* and solve the problem of reconstructing unmeasurable state variables from the measurable ones in the minimum possible length of time.

We formalize the similarities between controllability and observability in Section 7 by means of the *Principle of Duality* and show that the Wiener filtering problem is the natural dual of the problem of optimal regulation.

Section 8 is a brief discussion of possible generalizations and currently unsolved problems of the pure theory of control.

### Notation and Terminology

The reader is assumed to be familiar with elements of linear algebra, as discussed, for instance, by Halmos<sup>8</sup>.

Consider an  $n$ -dimensional real vector space  $X$ . A *basis* in  $X$  is a set of vectors  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  in  $X$  such that any vector  $x$  in  $X$  can be written uniquely as

$$x = x_1 a_1 + \dots + x_n a_n \quad (1)$$

the  $x_i$  being real numbers, the *components* or *coordinates* of  $x$ . Vectors will be denoted throughout by small bold-face letters.

The set  $X^*$  of all real-valued linear functions  $x^*$  (= *covectors*) on  $X$ , with the 'natural' definition of addition and scalar multiplication, is an  $n$ -dimensional vector space. The value of a covector  $y^*$  at any vector  $x$  is denoted by  $[y^*, x]$ . We call this the *inner product* of  $y^*$  by  $x$ . The vector space  $X^*$  has a natural basis  $a^*_1, \dots, a^*_n$  associated with a given basis in  $X$ ; it is defined by the requirement that

$$[a^*_i, a_j] = \delta_{ij} \quad (2)$$

Using the 'orthogonality relation' 2, we may write 1 in the form

$$x = \sum_{i=1}^n [a^*_i, x] a_i \quad (3)$$

which will be used frequently.

For purposes of numerical computation, a vector may be considered a matrix with one column and a covector a matrix

□ System id and control

two collaborative friends



# Development of id methods: IFAC SYSID's story

## IFAC Symposium on System Identification (SYSID)

### The long story of system identification congresses:

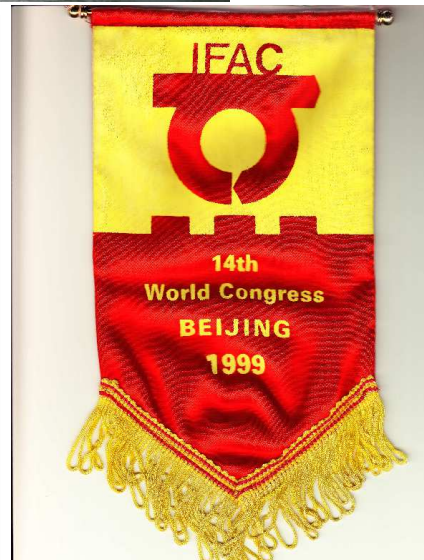
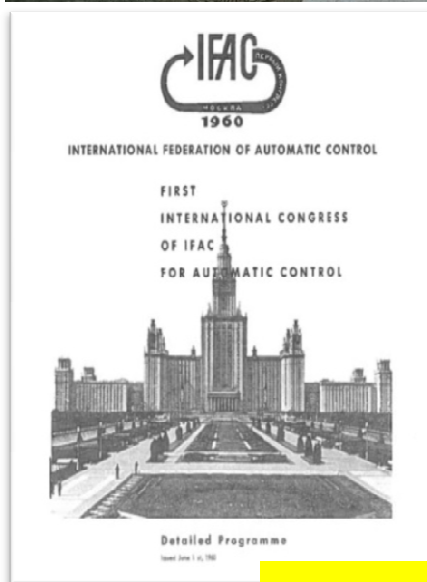
- Prague, The Check Republic (1970)
- Hague/Delft, The Netherlands (1973)
- Tblisi, URSS (1976)
- Darmstadt, Germany (1979)
- Arlington, USA (1982)
- York, UK (1985)
- Beijing, China (1988)
- Budapest, Hungary (1991)
- Copenhagen, Denmark (1994)
- Fukuoka, Japan (1997)
- Santa Barbara, USA (2000)
- Rotterdam, The Netherlands (2003)
- Newcastle, Australia (2006)
- St. Malo, France (2009)
- Brussels, Belgium (2012)
- Beijing, China (2015)

yet most interesting problems are open

# Control science 1960 $\Rightarrow$ 2012



- Control
- Identification



the most exiting  
research area  
in the planet

for 50 years  
more (at least)

控制科学是在行星中最好的研究区。

any questions or comments: [bittanti@elet.polimi.it](mailto:bittanti@elet.polimi.it)