

A nested hybrid filter for parameter estimation and state tracking in homogeneous multi-scale models

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Introduction

We aim at tracking **homogeneous multi-scale systems**. They are of broad interest since they are found in many fields of science (biology, fluid dynamics, chemistry...).

The goal is to estimate the time-evolution of a system governed by

- processes with **different time-scales**,
- that may be **described by diverse laws**,
- and with **cross dependencies** among them

State of the Art Methods

We can find **theoretically-guaranteed solutions** for systems with unknown static parameters and dynamic state variables: a multi-scale problem with only two time scales:

- **Sequential Monte Carlo square (SMC²)** [Chopin et al., 2011] or **particle Markov chain Monte Carlo (PMCMC)** [Andrieu et al., 2010] aim at computing the joint posterior probability distribution of all the unknown variables and parameters of the system. Unfortunately, they are **batch techniques**.
- **Nested particle filters (NPFs)** [Crisan et al., 2018] is a scheme with two intertwined layers of Monte Carlo methods that approximates the same distribution but in a recursive way. Then, it is **better suited for long sequences of observations** but **the computational cost is prohibitive**.
- **Nested hybrid filters (NHFs)** [S. Pérez-Vieites, 2017] introduce Gaussian filtering techniques in the second layer of the algorithm, **reducing considerably the computational cost**.

State-space Model

We are interested in systems described by multidimensional stochastic differential equations (SDEs):

$$d\mathbf{x} = f_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta})dt + g_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta})dt + \sigma_{\mathbf{x}}d\mathbf{v}, \quad (1)$$

$$d\mathbf{z} = f_{\mathbf{z}}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta})dt + g_{\mathbf{z}}(\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta})dt + \sigma_{\mathbf{z}}d\mathbf{w}, \quad (2)$$

where:

- t denotes time.
- $\mathbf{x}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^{d_x}$ are the slow states of the system.
- $\mathbf{z}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^{d_z}$ are the fast states of the system.
- $\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{\theta}}$ are fixed vector of unknown parameters.
- $f_{\mathbf{x}}$, $f_{\mathbf{z}}$, $g_{\mathbf{x}}$ and $g_{\mathbf{z}}$ are possibly non-linear functions.
- $\sigma_{\mathbf{x}}$, $\sigma_{\mathbf{z}} > 0$ are known scale parameters that control the intensity of stochastic perturbations.
- $\mathbf{v}(t)$, $\mathbf{w}(t)$ are vectors of independent standard Wiener processes with dimension d_x and d_z .

Macro-micro Solver

In order to handle both time scales we apply a **macro-micro solver** [Weinan et al., 2005]. We use different integration steps: Δ_z for \mathbf{z} and $\Delta_x \gg \Delta_z$ for \mathbf{x} :

$$\mathbf{x}_n = \mathbf{x}_{n-1} + \Delta_x (\mathbf{f}_x(\mathbf{x}_{n-1}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) + \mathbf{g}_x(\bar{\mathbf{z}}_n, \boldsymbol{\theta})) + \sqrt{\Delta_x} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_x \mathbf{v}_n, \quad (3)$$

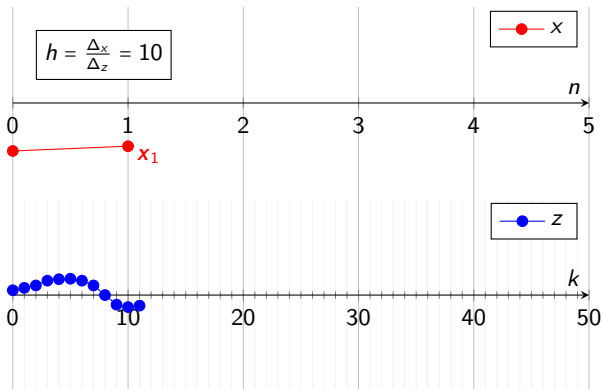
$$\mathbf{z}_k = \mathbf{z}_{k-1} + \Delta_z (\mathbf{f}_z(\mathbf{x}_{\lfloor \frac{k-1}{h} \rfloor}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) + \mathbf{g}_z(\mathbf{z}_{k-1}, \boldsymbol{\theta})) + \sqrt{\Delta_z} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_z \mathbf{w}_k, \quad (4)$$

where

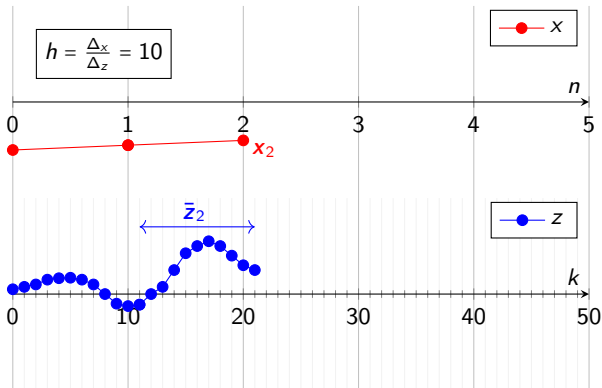
- $n \in \mathbb{N}$ denotes discrete time in the time scale of \mathbf{x} ($\mathbf{x}_n \simeq \mathbf{x}(n\Delta_x)$),
- $k \in \mathbb{N}$ denotes discrete time in the time scale of \mathbf{z} ($\mathbf{z}_k \simeq \mathbf{z}(k\Delta_z)$),
- $h = \frac{\Delta_x}{\Delta_z}$ is the ratio between the two time scales and

$$\bar{\mathbf{z}}_n = \frac{1}{h} \sum_{i=h(n-1)+1}^{hn} \mathbf{z}_i. \quad (5)$$

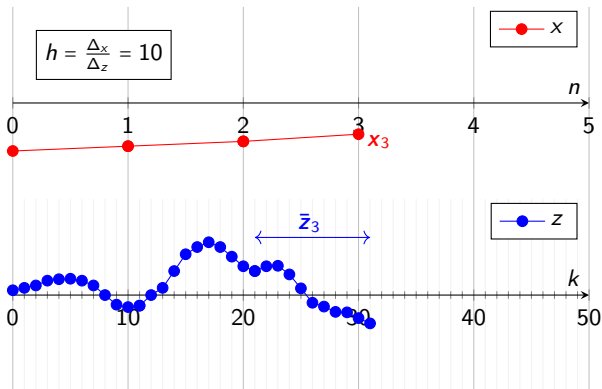
Macro-micro Solver



Macro-micro Solver



Macro-micro Solver



Model Inference

We aim at approximating the joint posterior probability density function (pdf) $p(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{x}_{0:n}, \mathbf{z}_{hn} | \mathbf{y}_{1:n})$. Using the chain rule, we can factorize this pdf as

$$p(\mathbf{z}_{hn}, \mathbf{x}_n, \boldsymbol{\theta} | \mathbf{y}_{1:n}) = \underbrace{p(\mathbf{z}_{hn} | \mathbf{x}_{0:n}, \mathbf{y}_{1:n}, \boldsymbol{\theta})}_{3^{rd} \text{ layer}} \underbrace{p(\mathbf{x}_{0:n} | \mathbf{y}_{1:n}, \boldsymbol{\theta})}_{2^{nd} \text{ layer}} \underbrace{p(\boldsymbol{\theta} | \mathbf{y}_{1:n})}_{1^{st} \text{ layer}}$$

→ Each of these pdf's can be handled in a **different layer of computation**.

General methodology

$$p(\theta|y_{1:n}) \propto \underbrace{p(y_n|\theta, y_{1:n-1})}_{\text{likelihood of } \theta} \underbrace{p(\theta|y_{1:n-1})}_{\text{posterior pdf at } n-1}$$

1st layer

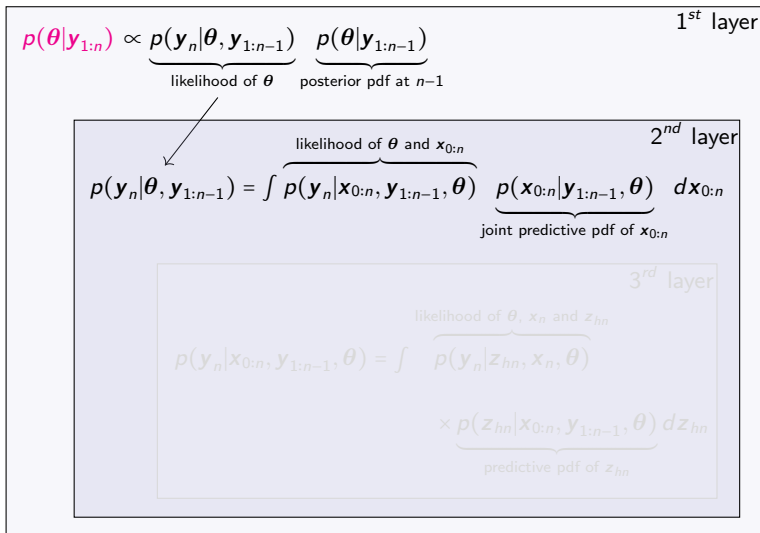
$$p(y_n|\theta, y_{1:n-1}) = \int \underbrace{p(y_n|x_{0:n}, y_{1:n-1}, \theta)}_{\text{likelihood of } \theta \text{ and } x_{0:n}} \underbrace{p(x_{0:n}|y_{1:n-1}, \theta)}_{\text{joint predictive pdf of } x_{0:n}} dx_{0:n}$$

2nd layer

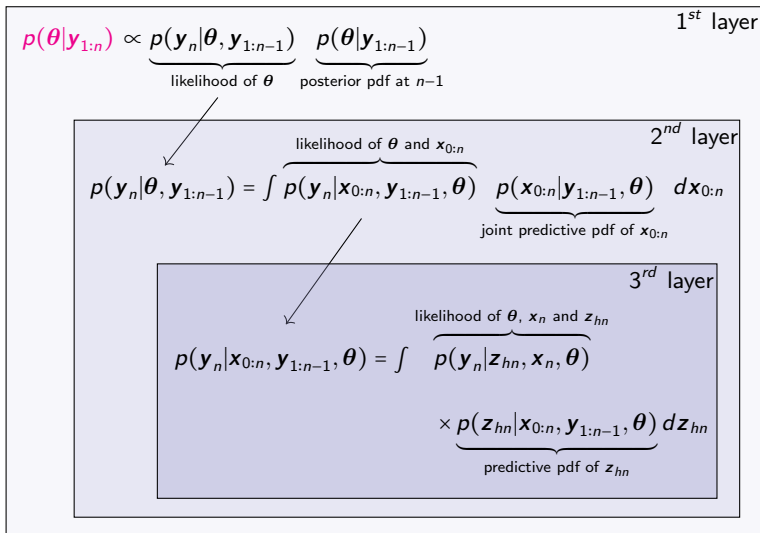
$$p(y_n|x_{0:n}, y_{1:n-1}, \theta) = \int \underbrace{p(y_n|z_{hn}, x_n, \theta)}_{\text{likelihood of } \theta, x_n \text{ and } z_{hn}} \times \underbrace{p(z_{hn}|x_{0:n}, y_{1:n-1}, \theta)}_{\text{predictive pdf of } z_{hn}} dz_{hn}$$

3rd layer

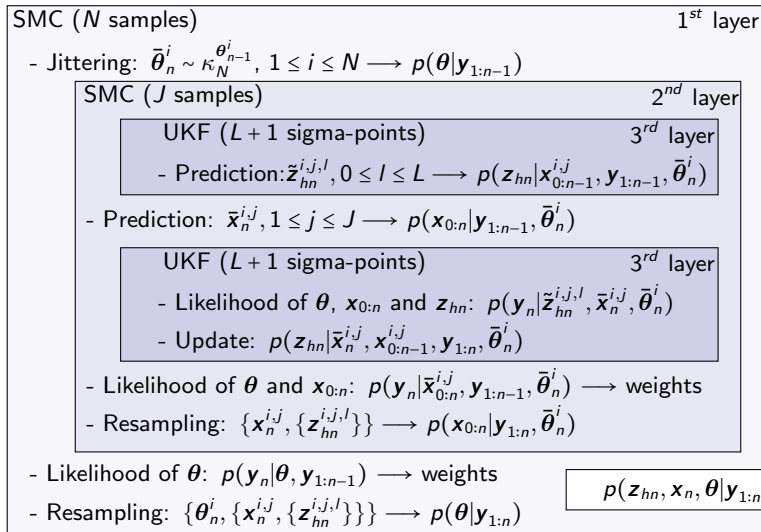
General methodology



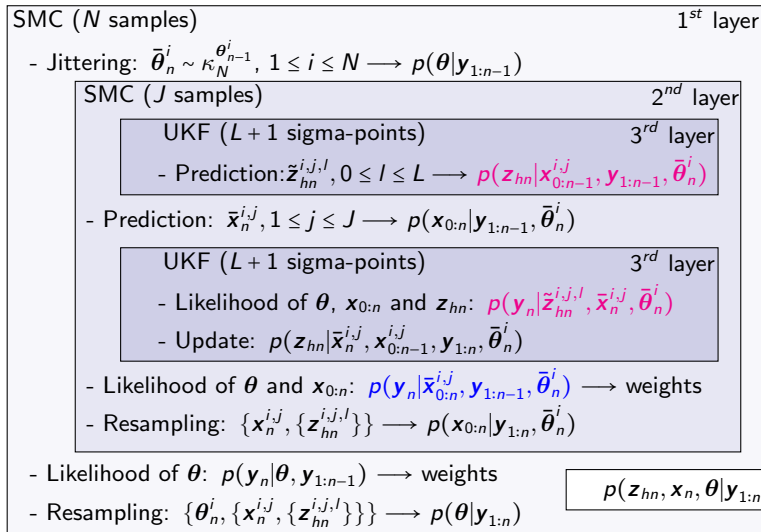
General methodology



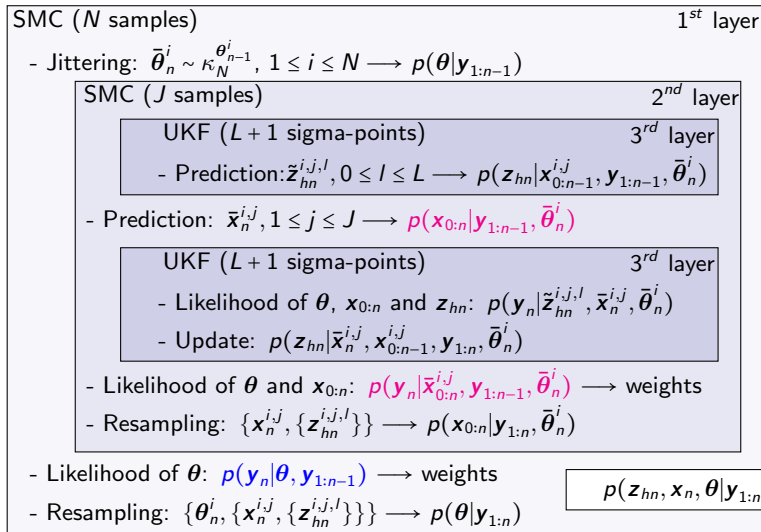
Multi-scale nested filters: a particular implementation



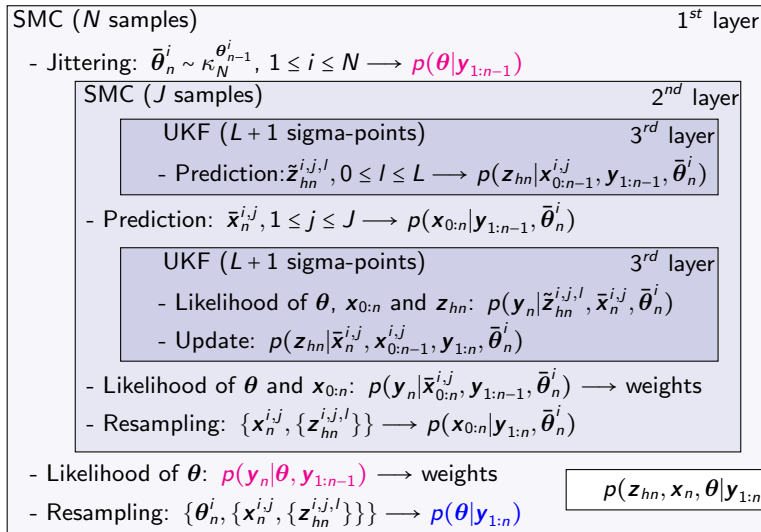
Multi-scale nested filters: a particular implementation



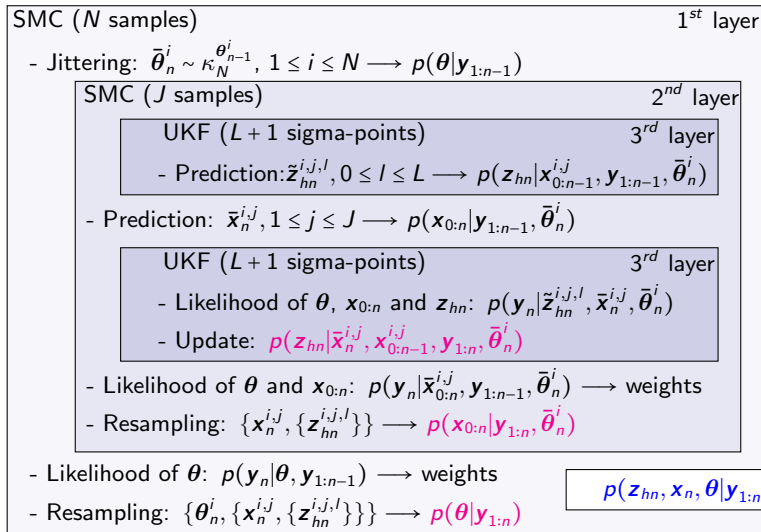
Multi-scale nested filters: a particular implementation



Multi-scale nested filters: a particular implementation



Multi-scale nested filters: a particular implementation



Numerical results

We consider a [stochastic two-scale Lorenz 96 model](#) that is described, in continuous time, by the SDEs

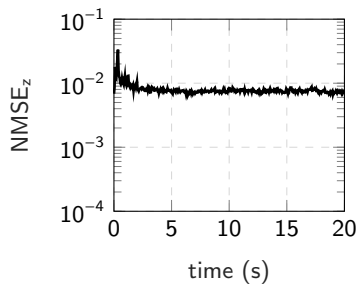
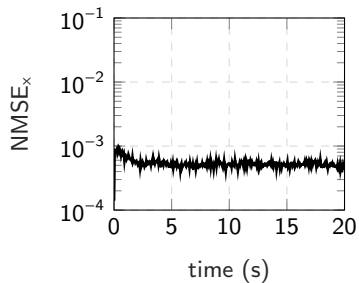
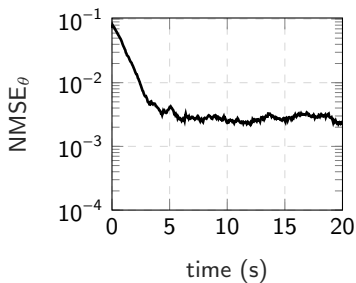
$$dx_j = \left[-x_{j-1}(x_{j-2} - x_{j+1}) - x_j + F - \frac{HC}{B} \sum_{l=(j-1)L}^{Lj-1} z_l \right] dt + \sigma_x dv_j, \quad (6)$$

$$dz_l = \left[-CBz_{l+1}(z_{l+2} - z_{l-1}) - Cz_l + \frac{CF}{B} + \frac{HC}{B} x_{[(l-1)L]} \right] dt + \sigma_z dw_l, \quad (7)$$

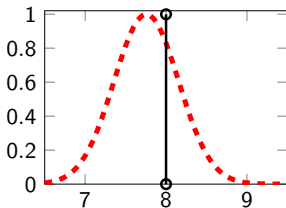
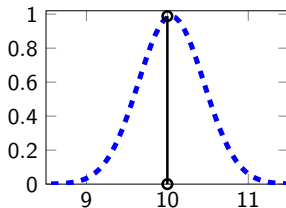
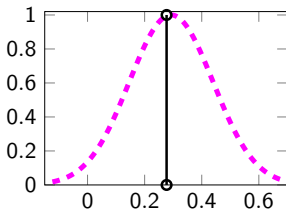
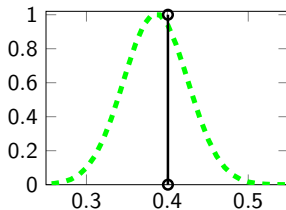
where

- the slow variables, \mathbf{x} , are a d_x -dimensional vector,
- the fast variables, \mathbf{z} , are d_z -dimensional ($d_z > d_x$) and
- we assume static parameters H and B are known, while we need to estimate $\boldsymbol{\theta} = [F, C]^\top$.

NMSE



Approximate posterior density functions

 F  C  $X_{1,n}$  $Z_{1,hn}$

Conclusions

- We have introduced a **new recursive methodology** for tracking the time evolution and evaluate any static parameters of **homogeneous multi-scale systems**.
- It is a **nested multilayered structure** that allows **different computation schemes at each layer**. Specifically, we have explored the use of **sequential Monte Carlo** in both first and second layers of the filter, and in the third layer, **Gaussian filters** (UKF).
- We have analyzed a **dynamical system of 3 time-scales** (static parameters, slow dynamic state variables and fast dynamic state variables), showing the average performance of the method in terms of **estimation errors**.

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