Shadowing data assimilation for imperfect models

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Problem setting



Variatonal data assimilation

Given:

Model
$$x_{n+1} = F(x_n), \quad x_n \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

Observations $y_n = H(X_n) + \eta_n, \quad y_n \in \mathbb{R}^{b \le d}, \quad n = -M, \dots, N.$
Find:

$$\mathbf{u} = \{u_{-M}, u_{-M+1}, \dots, u_N\}, u_n \in \mathbb{R}^d, n = -M, \dots, N$$

such that $||y_n - H(u_n)||$ small
 $||G(\mathbf{u})|| = ||(G_{-M}G_{-M+1} \dots G_{N-1})^T|| = 0$
with $G_n(\mathbf{u}) = u_{n+1} - F(u_n)$

By minimizing:

$$J(u_0) = ||y_n - H(F^n(u_0))||^2 + ||u_0 - u_{\text{background}}||^2$$

Variatonal data assimilation



Shadowing



Shadowing

If $||G_n(\mathbf{u})|| \leq \epsilon$, for all *n*, then **u** is called an ϵ -orbit.

Shadowing lemma: in a neighbourhood of a hyperbolic set of the map F, for every $\delta > 0$ there exists an $\epsilon > 0$, such that for every ϵ -orbit **u** there exists an orbit **X**, with G(X)=0 and $||u_n - X_n|| \le \delta$, for all n.



Shadowing

• "Numerical integration of chaotic dynamical systems makes sense"

• Note: there is no distinguished point in time! The initial condition $X_o \neq u_o$

• Shadowing refinement: finding improvements to numerical solutions of a chaotic system

Shadowing data assimilaton for perfect models

• Idea: start from the observations and use a root finding method to find a solution to $||G(\mathbf{u})|| = 0$ in the vicinity.

Shadowing data assimilaton for perfect models



Shadowing data assimilaton for perfect models



Imperfect models: weak 4DVar

- What about model error?
- Example: truth is stochastic differential equation, model is deterministic
- Variational approach: add a model error term to the cost function

$J = J_{obs} + J_{background} + J_{model}$

Imperfect models: weak 4DVar

• Choice of variables:

Model error formulation:

 $J_{\text{model}}(\mathbf{e}) = \|\mathbf{e}\|^2$, with $G_n(\mathbf{u}) = e_n$

State formulation:

 $J_{\text{model}}(\mathbf{u}) = ||G(\mathbf{u})||^2$

Underdetermined problem: at each step, we have to estimate both the model and observational errors!

Imperfect models: shadowing

- Existence of a model trajectory close to observations no longer guaranteed.
- Even the closest model trajectory could be incompatible with observations
- Applying perfect model shadowing in the imperfect model scenario may still yield a solution, but far from observations.

Imperfect models: shadowing

- Idea: regularization (Levenberg-Marquardt)
- Comparable cost and performance to state space weak constraint 4DVar



Example: stochastic L63

- Truth: L63 + Brownian motion forcing
- Imperfect model: L63 without stochastic term
 - Observational error sd 2, model error sd 1

Stochastic L63: truth



Stochastic L63: observations



Stochastic L63: w4DVAR



Stochastic L63: shadowing



Stochastic L63: overconfidence in the model

• Model error standard deviation underestimated by a factor 10



Stochastic double well



Stochastic double well



Conclusions

- Shadowing is a powerful technique from dynamical systems theory
- Shadowing may be used to solve variational data assimilation problems
- Shadowing is particularly suitable for highly chaotic systems
- Shadowing can be generalized to deal with imperfect models
- State space weak constraint 4DVar is closely related to shadowing
- Regularizing numerical methods may have benefits over regularizing cost functions

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