Extending the square root method to account for model noise in the ensemble Kalman filter

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Os, June 9, 2015







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Paper

MWR special issue on DA, 2015 ?

Abstract: A square root approach is considered for the problem of accounting for model noise in the forecast step of the ensemble Kalman filter (EnKF) and related algorithms. Primarily intended to replace additive, pseudo-random noise simulation, the core method is based on the analysis step of ensemble square root filters, and consists in the deterministic computation of a transform matrix. The theoretical advantages regarding dynamical consistency are surveyed, applying equally well to the square root method in the analysis step. A fundamental problem due to the limited size of the ensemble subspace is discussed, and novel solutions that complement the core method are suggested and studied. Benchmarks from twin experiments with simple, low-order dynamics indicate improved performance over standard approaches such as additive, simulated noise and multiplicative inflation.

Model noise - Problem statement

Assume

$$oldsymbol{x}^{t+1} = f(oldsymbol{x}^t) + oldsymbol{q}^t$$
, where $oldsymbol{q}^t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, oldsymbol{\mathsf{Q}})$, (1)

with f and $\mathbf{Q} = \mathbb{C}ov(q)$ perfectly known.

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with f and $\mathbf{Q} = \mathbb{C}ov(q)$ perfectly known.

Then we want the forecast ensemble to satisfy

$$\mathbf{\bar{P}}^{f} = \mathbf{\bar{P}} + \mathbf{Q} \,, \tag{2}$$

where

$$\bar{\mathbf{P}} = \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{n} (\boldsymbol{x}_n - \bar{\boldsymbol{x}}) (\boldsymbol{x}_n - \bar{\boldsymbol{x}})^{\mathrm{T}}.$$
 (3)

Outline

SQRT-CORE

Initial comparisons

Residual noise treatment

Further experiments



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Lessons learnt the past 15 years

Any square root update, $\boldsymbol{A}\mapsto\boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{T},$ will

- deterministically match covariance relations
- preserve the ensemble subspace
- satisfy linear, homogeneous, equality constraints *

Lessons learnt the past 15 years

Any square root update, $\mathbf{A} \mapsto \mathbf{AT}$, will

- deterministically match covariance relations
- preserve the ensemble subspace
- satisfy linear, homogeneous, equality constraints *

Furthermore, the "symmetric choice", $\mathbf{A} \mapsto \mathbf{AT}_s$, will

- preserve the mean
- satisfy linear, inhomogeneous constraints *
- satisfy the first-order approximation to non-linear constraints *
- minimise ensemble displacement *
- yield equally likely realisations \star
- *: (plausibly) improves "dynamical consistency" of realisations.

 $\mathbf{SQRT}\text{-}\mathbf{CORE}$

$\mathbf{\bar{P}}^f = \mathbf{\bar{P}} + \mathbf{Q}$ can be rewritten using $\mathbf{\bar{P}} = \frac{1}{N-1} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^{\mathrm{T}}$, yielding:

$$\mathbf{A}^{f} \mathbf{A}^{f^{\mathrm{T}}} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^{\mathrm{T}} + (N-1)\mathbf{Q}.$$
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(Brutally) factorising out **A** using the M-P pseudoinverse, \mathbf{A}^+ :

$$\mathbf{A}^{f} \mathbf{A}^{f^{\mathrm{T}}} = \mathbf{A} \left(\mathbf{I}_{N} + (N-1) \mathbf{A}^{+} \mathbf{Q} (\mathbf{A}^{\mathrm{T}})^{+} \right) \mathbf{A}^{\mathrm{T}}, \qquad (5)$$

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(Brutally) factorising out $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{A}}$ using the M-P pseudoinverse, $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{A}}^+$:

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we get $\operatorname{SQRT-CORE}$:

$$\mathbf{A}^f = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{T}^f_s \tag{6}$$

where \mathbf{T}_{s}^{f} is the sym. square root of the middle factor in eqn. (5).

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We also see that the problem of eqn. (4) is ill-posed...

In fact, $\operatorname{SQRT-CORE}$ only satisfies

$$\mathbf{A}^{f} \mathbf{A}^{f^{\mathrm{T}}} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^{\mathrm{T}} + (N-1)\mathbf{\hat{Q}}$$
(7)

where $\boldsymbol{\hat{Q}}=\Pi_{A}Q\Pi_{A},$ and $\Pi_{A}=AA^{+}$ is the orthogonal projector onto the column space of A.



Initial comparisons

Residual noise treatment

Further experiments



| Method | $\mathbf{A}^f =$ | where |
|-----------|---------------------------|--|
| Add-Q | $\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{D}$ | $\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{Q}^{1/2} \Xi$, $\xi_n \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I}_m)$ |
| Mult-1 | $\lambda \mathbf{A}$ | $\lambda^2 = rac{	ext{trace}(ar{\mathbf{P}} + \mathbf{Q})}{	ext{trace}(ar{\mathbf{P}})}$ |
| Mult- m | ٨A | $\mathbf{\Lambda}^2 = \operatorname{diag}(\mathbf{\bar{P}})^{-1} \operatorname{diag}(\mathbf{\bar{P}} + \mathbf{Q})$ |
| SQRT-CORE | AT | $\mathbf{T} = \left(\mathbf{I}_N + (N-1)\mathbf{A}^{+}\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{A}^{+\mathrm{T}}\right)_s^{1/2}$ |

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| Add-Q | $\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{D}$ | $\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{Q}^{1/2} \Xi$, $\xi_n \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I}_m)$ | $\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{D}}(eqn.(4))$ |
| Mult-1 | $\lambda \mathbf{A}$ | $\lambda^2 = rac{	ext{trace}(ar{	extbf{P}} + m{Q})}{	ext{trace}(ar{	extbf{P}})}$ | $\operatorname{trace}(eqn. (4))$ |
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| SQRT-CORE | AT | $\mathbf{T} = \left(\mathbf{I}_N + (N-1)\mathbf{A}^{+}\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{A}^{+}\right)_s^{1/2}$ | $\pmb{\Pi_A}(eqn.\ \pmb{(4)})\pmb{\Pi_A}$ |

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Also:

- Complete resampling
- 2nd-order exact sampling (Pham, 2001)
- A similar (but distinct) square root method (Nakano, 2013)
- Relaxation (Zhang et al., 2004)
- Forcings fields or boundary conditions (Shutts, 2005)
- ► SEIK, with forgetting factor (Pham, 2001)
- RRSQRT, with orthogonal ensemble (Heemink et al., 2001)0 / 34

Snapshot comparison

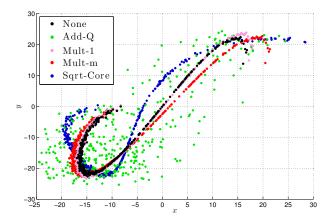


Figure: Snapshot of ensemble forecasts with the Lorenz-63 system after model noise incorporation.

Experimental setup

 \blacktriangleright Twin experiment: tracking a simulated "truth", x^t

• RMSE =
$$\sqrt{\frac{1}{m} \| \bar{\boldsymbol{x}}^t - \boldsymbol{x}^t \|_2^2}$$

- Analysis update:
 - ETKF (using the symmetric square root)
 - No localisation
 - \blacktriangleright Inflation (for analysis update errors): tuned for $\rm ADD\mathchar`-Q$
- Baselines

Lorenz-63 - system

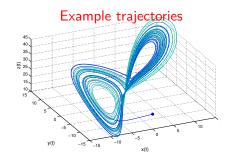
Integrated with RK4:

$$r=28$$
, $\sigma=10$, and $b=8/3$.

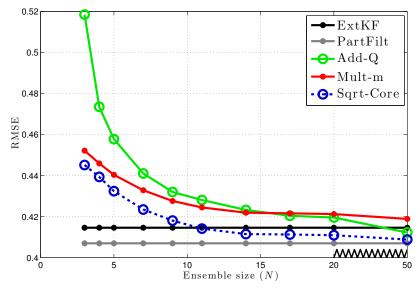
$$\begin{split} \dot{x} &= \sigma(y-x) \,, \\ \dot{y} &= rx-y-xz \,, \\ \dot{z} &= xy-bz \,, \end{split}$$

Direct observations of the entire state, with ${\bf R}=2{\bf I}_3.$

$$\mathbf{Q} = \begin{bmatrix} 10 & -2 & 3 \\ -2 & 5 & 3 \\ 3 & 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix} / 10 \,.$$

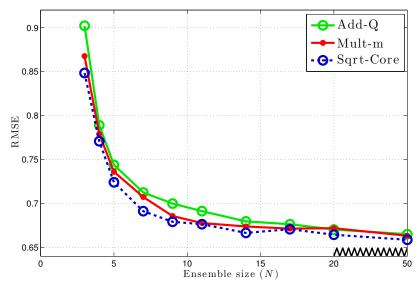


Lorenz-63 – vs N, with $\Delta t_{\rm obs} = 0.05$



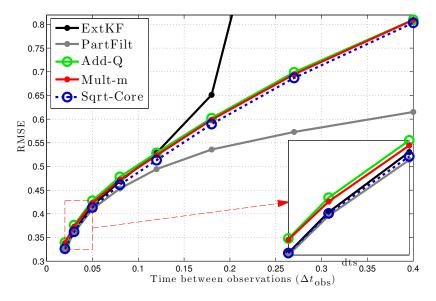
where the particle filter uses $N = 10^4$.

Lorenz-63 – vs N, with $\Delta t_{\rm obs} = 0.25$

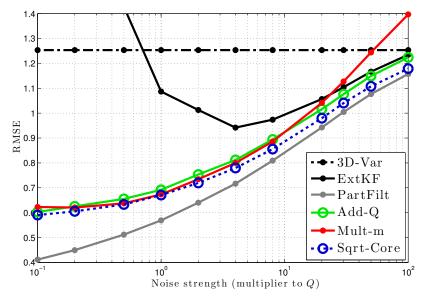


Particle filter RMSE: 0.57. Extended Kalman filter RMSE: 1.4.

Lorenz-63 – vs $\Delta t_{\rm obs}$, with N=12



Lorenz-63 – vs **Q** multiplier, with N = 12, $\Delta t_{obs} = 21$





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Improving SQRT-CORE: Residual noise treatment

After SQRT-CORE there is still $[\mathbf{Q} - \hat{\mathbf{Q}}]$ unaccounted for. \implies Residual noise problem:

$$\mathbf{A}^{f} \mathbf{A}^{f^{\mathrm{T}}} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^{\mathrm{T}} + (N-1) [\mathbf{Q} - \hat{\mathbf{Q}}].$$
(8)

Note: notation recycled from original problem.

A first approach – SQRT-ADD-Z

- 1. Define $\mathbf{Z} = (\mathbf{I}_m \mathbf{\Pi}_{\mathbf{A}})\mathbf{Q}^{1/2}$.
- 2. Add $\tilde{q}_n = \mathbf{Z}\tilde{\xi}_n$ to realisation n, with $\tilde{\xi}_n \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I}_m)$.

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2. Add $\tilde{q}_n = \mathbf{Z}\tilde{\xi}_n$ to realisation n, with $\tilde{\xi}_n \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I}_m)$.

But due to cross-terms, **Z** is not a square root of $[\mathbf{Q} - \hat{\mathbf{Q}}]$, and therefore SQRT-ADD-Z is biased:

$$\mathbb{E}_{\{\tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}\}}\left(\boldsymbol{\mathsf{A}}^{f}\boldsymbol{\mathsf{A}}^{f^{\mathrm{T}}}\right) = \boldsymbol{\mathsf{A}}\boldsymbol{\mathsf{A}}^{\mathrm{T}} + (N-1)[\boldsymbol{\mathsf{Q}} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\mathsf{Q}}}] - \left(\boldsymbol{\hat{\mathsf{Q}}}^{1/2}\boldsymbol{\mathsf{Z}}^{\mathrm{T}} + \boldsymbol{\mathsf{Z}}\boldsymbol{\hat{\mathsf{Q}}}^{\mathrm{T}/2}\right)$$

Compare to eqn. (8).

The underlying problem: replacing one draw with two

As an analogy to the "core+residual" problem, define

$$\boldsymbol{q} = \boldsymbol{\hat{Q}}^{1/2} \boldsymbol{\xi} + \boldsymbol{\mathsf{Z}} \boldsymbol{\xi} \,, \tag{9}$$

$$\boldsymbol{q}^{\perp} = \hat{\boldsymbol{\mathsf{Q}}}^{1/2} \hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}} + \boldsymbol{\mathsf{Z}} \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}} \,, \tag{10}$$

where $\boldsymbol{\xi}, \boldsymbol{\hat{\xi}}, \boldsymbol{\tilde{\xi}} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I}_m)$ are all independent.

Note that

$$\mathbb{C}\mathsf{ov}(\boldsymbol{q}) = \boldsymbol{\mathsf{Q}} = \underbrace{\boldsymbol{\mathsf{Q}}}_{\mathbb{C}\mathsf{ov}(\boldsymbol{q}^{\perp})} + \left(\boldsymbol{\mathsf{Q}}^{1/2}\boldsymbol{\mathsf{Z}}^{\mathrm{T}} + \boldsymbol{\mathsf{Z}}\boldsymbol{\mathsf{Q}}^{\mathrm{T}/2}\right). \quad (11)$$

Reintroducing dependence – SQRT-DEP

Let Π be any orthogonal projection matrix, and define

$$\boldsymbol{\xi}^{\perp} = \boldsymbol{\Pi} \hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}} + (\boldsymbol{\mathsf{I}}_m - \boldsymbol{\Pi}) \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \qquad (12)$$

where, as before, $\hat{\pmb{\xi}}, \tilde{\pmb{\xi}} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I}_m)$ are independent.

But, $\boldsymbol{\xi}^{\perp} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I}_m)$ too (no cross terms)!

Choose Π so that $\mathbf{Z}\Pi = 0$. Rather than eqn. (9), redefine q:

$$\boldsymbol{q} = \boldsymbol{\mathsf{Q}}^{1/2} \boldsymbol{\xi}^{\perp\!\!\perp} \,. \tag{13}$$

Then,

$$\mathbb{C}\mathsf{ov}(q) = \mathbf{Q}$$
. (14)

The solution: reintroducing dependence – SQRT-DEP

But also:

$$\boldsymbol{q} = (\hat{\boldsymbol{\mathsf{Q}}}^{1/2} + \boldsymbol{\mathsf{Z}}) \left(\boldsymbol{\mathsf{\Pi}} \hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}} + (\boldsymbol{\mathsf{I}}_m - \boldsymbol{\mathsf{\Pi}}) \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}} \right) \tag{15}$$

$$= \mathbf{\hat{Q}}^{1/2}\mathbf{\hat{\xi}} + \mathbf{Z}\left(\mathbf{\Pi}\mathbf{\hat{\xi}} + (\mathbf{I}_m - \mathbf{\Pi})\mathbf{\tilde{\xi}}\right).$$
(16)

Hence, while maintaining $\mathbb{C}\mathsf{ov}(q) = \mathbf{Q}$, the influence of $\tilde{\xi}$ has been confined to $\operatorname{span}(\mathbf{Z}) = \operatorname{span}(\mathbf{A})^{\perp}$.

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Hence, while maintaining $\mathbb{C}\mathsf{ov}(q) = \mathbf{Q}$, the influence of $\tilde{\xi}$ has been confined to $\operatorname{span}(\mathbf{Z}) = \operatorname{span}(\mathbf{A})^{\perp}$.

Algorithm: for each realisation:

- 1. Compute $\hat{oldsymbol{\xi}}_n$ corresponding to $\mathrm{SQRT} ext{-}\mathrm{CORE}$
- 2. Draw $ilde{\xi}_n$
- 3. Total (core+residual) update: eqn. (16)



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| Method | $\mathbf{A}^f =$ | where |
|-----------|---------------------------|--|
| Add-Q | $\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{D}$ | $\mathbf{D}=\mathbf{Q}^{1/2}\Xi$, each column of Ξ drawn from $\mathcal{N}(0,\mathbf{I}_m)$ |
| Mult-1 | $\lambda \mathbf{A}$ | $\lambda^2 = rac{	ext{trace}(ar{\mathbf{P}} + \mathbf{Q})}{	ext{trace}(ar{\mathbf{P}})}$ |
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- ► SQRT-ADD-Z
- ► SQRT-DEP

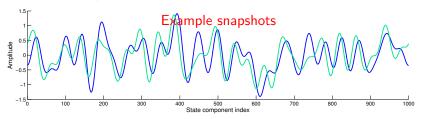
Linear advection – system

For $t = 0, 1, \ldots$ and $i = 1, \ldots, m$, and with periodic BCs,

:

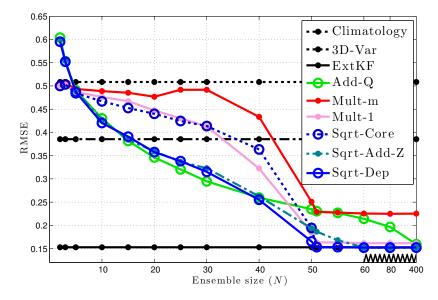
$$x_i^{t+1} = 0.98 x_{i-1}^t \,. \tag{17}$$

Direct observation of the truth at p = 40 equidistant locations with $\mathbf{R} = 0.01 \mathbf{I}_p$, every seventh time step: $\Delta t_{obs} = 7\Delta t = 4.9$.



Q is such that although m = 1000, the system subspace only has 50 dimensions.

Linear advection – results



Lorenz-96 - system

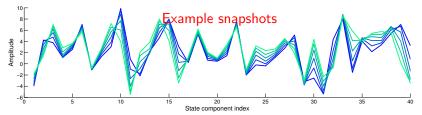
Integrated with RK4,

1

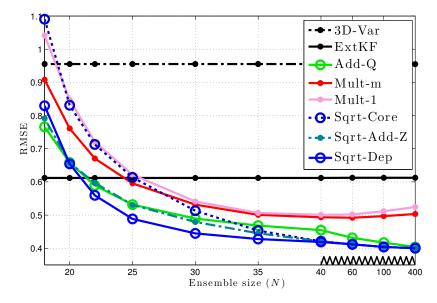
$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = (x_{i+1} - x_{i-2}) x_{i-1} - x_i + F, \qquad (18)$$

with periodic BCs, $i=1,\ldots,m,\ m=40,$ and

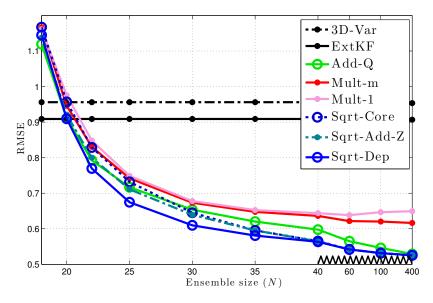
$$Q_{i,j} = \exp\left(-1/30\|i-j\|_2^2\right) + 0.1\delta_{i,j}.$$
(19)



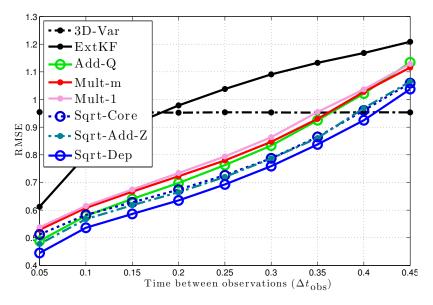
Lorenz-96 – vs N, with $\Delta t_{\rm obs} = 0.05$



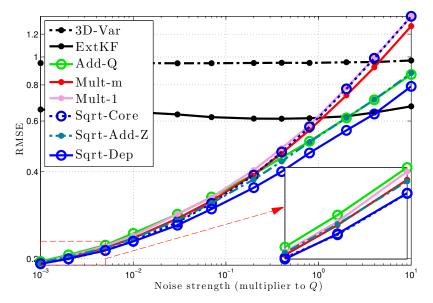
Lorenz-96 – vs N, with $\Delta t_{\rm obs} = 0.15$



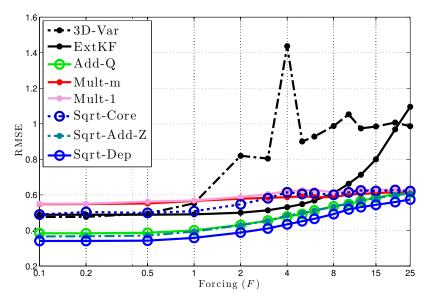
Lorenz-96 – vs $\Delta t_{\rm obs}$, with N=30



Lorenz-96 – vs **Q** multiplier, with N = 25, $\Delta t_{obs} = 0.05$



Lorenz-96 – vs F, with N = 25, $\Delta t_{\rm obs} = 0.05$



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Extending the square root method to the forecast step

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- SQRT-CORE is deficient when $[\mathbf{Q} \hat{\mathbf{Q}}]$ is significant
 - \blacktriangleright ${\rm SQRT}\text{-}{\rm ADD}\text{-}{\rm Z}$ is simple and efficient, but biased
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 - ► Both methods perform robustly better than MULT-*m* and ADD-Q

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 - \blacktriangleright ${\rm SQRT-DEP}$ is costly, but more satisfactory
 - ► Both methods perform robustly better than MULT-*m* and ADD-Q
- Future directions
 - Experiments on larger models and more realistic model error
 - ▶ Improvements to SQRT-ADD-Z and SQRT-DEP
 - Investigate perspectives from Nakano (2013) and M. Bocquet

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