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# MCMC, SMC, and IS in High and Infinite Dimensional Spaces 1+2+3

Andrew Stuart  
August 28, 2015

There will be these sections:

**Probability measures of interest:**

$$\mu(du) = \frac{1}{z} e^{-\phi(u)} \mu_0(du), \mu_0 = N(0, C) \quad (1)$$

We want to understand properties of probability measures which have a density with respect to a Gaussian  $\mu_0$ . The main objective is to understand what the form of  $\phi$  is.

**Measure preserving dynamics:**  $c = (-\Delta)^{-s}, s > \frac{d}{2}$ .

$$\frac{du}{dt} = K(-(-\Delta)^s u - D\phi(u)) + \sqrt{2K} \frac{dw}{dt} \quad (2)$$

$$M \frac{d^2 u}{dt^2} + (-\Delta)^s u + D\phi(u) = 0$$

Two dynamical systems: Stochastic differential equation for the first equation and Hamiltonian mechanics for the second. We are interested in choices of  $K$  and  $M$ . For example:

1. If we take  $s = 1$  and  $K = 1$  the first equation becomes the nonlinear stochastic heat equation.
2. If we take  $s = 1$  and  $M = I$  then we have a wave equation with nonlinear forcing for the second equation.

**Measure preserving dynamics - discrete time (MCMC)** We will show how these continuous time dynamical systems play a role in a Monte-Carlo Markov Chain.

## 1 Probability measures of interest

### 1.1 Gaussian reference measure

$(\mathcal{H}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle, |\cdot|)$  separable Hilbert (sometimes  $|\cdot|$  will be the Euclidean norm).

Mean:  $m \in \mathcal{H}$ .

Covariance:  $c \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H})$  trace-class in  $\mathcal{H}$ , positive, self-adjoint.

$$c\phi_j = \lambda_j \phi_j, \quad \lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq 0, \lambda_j \rightarrow 0$$

$\{\phi_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$  form a complete orthonormal system for  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $\mu_0 = N(m, c)$

**Lemma 1.1 (Karshunen-Loeve)**  $u \sim \mu_0 \Leftrightarrow u = m + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \xi_j \sqrt{\lambda_j} \phi_j$  where  $\{\xi_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$  i.i.d  $\xi_1 \sim N(0, 1)$ .

**Corollary 1.0.1** Let  $u_j = \langle u - m, \phi_j \rangle$  then  $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{u_j^2}{\lambda_j} \rightarrow 1$  as  $N \rightarrow \infty$   $\mu_0$ -a.s.

**Example:**  $\mathcal{H} = L^2(D; \mathbb{R})$ ,  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  bounded and open.

Assumptions:

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- $A$  self-adjoint, invertable, positive definite on  $\mathcal{H}$ .
  - $\{\phi_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a complete orthonormal system (smooth) for  $\mathcal{H}$ .
  - $A\phi_j = \alpha_j\phi_j$ ,  $\alpha_j$  eigenvalues.
  - $\alpha_j$  is upper and lower bounded by  $j^{\frac{2}{d}}$ .
  - $\sup_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \left( \|\phi_j\|_{L^\infty} + \frac{1}{j^{1/d}} \text{Lip}(\phi(j)) \right) < \infty$

If we take  $A = -\Delta + I, D(A) = H^2(\mathbb{T}^d)$  then these assumptions are satisfied. More generally:

**Theorem 1.1** *Let  $c = A^{-s}$ . Then for  $u \sim \mu_0 = N(0, c)$  a.s.,  $u \in H^t, u \in C^{[t], t-[t]}$  and  $t < s - \frac{d}{2}$ .*

**Example:** Brownian Bridge  $d = 1$  on  $I(0, 1)$ . Take  $A = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2}, D(A) = H^2(I) \cap H_0^1(I), u \in H^{1/2}, u \in C^{0,1/2}$ .

## 1.2 Measure of interest

$(X, \|\cdot\|)$  a separable Banach Space and assume the Gaussian measure satisfies  $\mu_0(X) = 1$  (this is short for saying  $u \in X, \mu_0 - a.s.$ ). Also assume  $\phi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies

- $\phi \geq 0$ .
- $\phi$  is locally Lipschitz.
- $e^{-\phi} \in L^1_{\mu_0}(X, \mathbb{R})$ .

These conditions can (and will for a couple examples) be relaxed, but are sufficient for our understanding in the lectures.

Define

$$\mu(du) = \frac{1}{z} e^{-\phi(u)} \mu_0(du), \quad z = \int_x e^{-\phi(u)} \mu_0(du).$$

Since  $\mu$  is absolutely continuous with respect to  $\mu_0$ , the same things (corollary 1.0.1) holds for  $\mu$  a.s.

## 1.3 Elliptic inverse problems

$$\begin{cases} -\nabla \cdot (\kappa \nabla p) = f, & x \in D \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \\ p = 0, & x \in \partial D \end{cases}$$

Spaces:

- $Z = L^\infty(D; \mathbb{R})$
- $Z^+ = \{\kappa \in Z : \text{essinf}_{x \in D} \kappa > 0\}$
- $V = H_0^1(D)$  (weak formulation)

**Proposition 1.1** *If  $\kappa \in Z^+$ , then  $\exists! p \in V$  solving the equation. Thus we may write  $p = G(\kappa)$  for some  $G : Z^+ \rightarrow V$ . Furthermore,  $G$  is locally Lipschitz.*

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**Inverse Problem:** We have a collection of linear functions  $l_j \in V^*$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, J$ . Our goal is to find  $\kappa$  from noisy measurements  $\{l_j(p)\}_{j=1}^J$ .

Probability comes in because of the noisy data as well as noting that we are trying to reconstruct a function  $\kappa \in L^\infty$  from a finite set of observations.

**Bayesian Inverse Problem:**  $X = C(D; \mathbb{R})$ ,  $F : X \rightarrow Z^+$ .

- (i) (first choice)  $F(u) = e^u$  i.e.  $\kappa = e^u$ .
- (ii) (second choice)  $F(u) = \kappa^+ \mathbb{1}_{u \geq 0} + \kappa^- \mathbb{1}_{u < 0}$  where  $\kappa^+, \kappa^- < 0$ .

Now  $F$  maps from the place where we will put Gaussians into the space of permabilities. From permabilities,  $G$  will map us to  $p$ . Then we will map into the finite set of operators. Putting this together:

$$y_j = (l_j \circ G \circ F)(u) + \eta_j, \text{ where } \eta \sim N(0, \gamma^2) \text{ (i.i.d.)}$$

$$y = \mathcal{G}(u) + \eta, \eta \sim (0, \gamma^2 I) \text{ where } \mathcal{G} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^J$$

- (i) (for first choice)  $\mathcal{G}$  is locally Lipschitz. (exponentiation is locally Lipschitz)
- (ii) (for second choice)  $\mathcal{G}$  is continuous  $\mu_0$ -a.s.

Now  $\phi(u; y) = \frac{1}{2\gamma^2} |y - \mathcal{G}|^2$  and  $\phi : X \times \mathbb{R}^J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ .

We will use two distance in these talks:

$$d_{Hell}(\mu, \nu)^2 = \int_x \left| \sqrt{\frac{d\mu}{d\mu_0}}(u) - \sqrt{\frac{d\nu}{d\mu_0}}(u) \right|^2 \mu_0(du)$$

$u \sim \mu_0$  satisfying above assumptions. (Prior)  
 $y|u \sim N(\mathcal{G}(u), \gamma^2 I)$  - Likelihood  $u|y \sim \mu^y$  (Posterior)

**Theorem 1.2**  $\mu^y \ll \mu_0$ . Furthermore,  $\forall |y_1|, |y_2| < r$ ,  $d_{Hell}(\mu^{y_1}, \mu^{y_2}) \leq C(r)|y_1 - y_2|$ .

Notes for lecture 2 begins below:

## 1.4 Navier-Stokes equation

First we will start with another construction of  $\phi$ . Below we have Navier-Stokes in two dimensions on a Torus:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t v + v \cdot \nabla v = \nu \Delta v - \nabla p, & x \in \mathbb{T}^2, t > 0 \\ \operatorname{div} v = 0, & x \in \mathbb{T}^2, t > 0 \\ v = u, & x \in \mathbb{T}^2, t > 0 \end{cases}$$

Two examples of data from which we would like to recover the initial condition:

**Problem 1** “Weather-forecasting”

$$y_{j,k} = v(x_j, t_k) + \nu_{j,k}, \eta_{j,k} \sim N(0, \gamma^2 I)$$

$$y = \mathcal{G}(u) + \eta, \eta \sim N(0, \gamma^2 I).$$


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**Problem 2** “Oceanography”

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dz_j}{dt} &= v(z_j, t), z_j(0) = z_{j,0} \\ y_{j,k} &= z_j(t_k) + \eta_{j,k} \\ y &= \mathcal{G}(u) + \eta\end{aligned}$$

In both cases we can define the misfit function :

$$\phi(u; y) = \frac{1}{2\gamma^2} |y - \mathcal{G}(u)|^2$$

$$\begin{aligned}u &\sim \mu_0 = N(0, C) \quad (\text{Prior}) \\ C &= (-\Delta_{\text{stokes}})^{-s}, s > 1 \\ y|u &\sim N(\mathcal{G}(u), \gamma^2 I) \\ u|y &\sim \mu^y \text{ in (1)}\end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 1.3**  $\mu^y \ll \mu_0$  given by (1), then  $d_{\text{Hell}}(\mu^{y_1}, \mu^{y_2}) \leq c(y_1, y_2) |y_1 - y_2|$ .

**Comments:** In Problem 1,  $\mathcal{G} \in C^1(H; \mathbb{R}^J)$  and in Problem 2,  $\mathcal{G} \in C^1(H^t; \mathbb{R}^J), t > 0$ .

## 1.5 Getting information about $\mu$

Can we find a point estimate to maximize  $\mu$ ?

### 1.5.1 Map Estimators

$\mu_0(x) = 1$  and  $\phi \in C(X; \mathbb{R})$ .  $E$  a Hilbert space is compact in  $X$ . Inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_E = \langle C^{-\frac{1}{2}} \cdot, C^{-\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \rangle$  and norm  $|\cdot|_E = |C^{-\frac{1}{2}} \cdot|$ . Note  $u \notin E$   $\mu_0$ -a.s. Pretend  $H = \mathbb{R}^N$ , then to maximize the quantity below, we would minimize  $-\frac{1}{2}|u|_E^2$ :

$$\mu(du) \propto e^{-\phi(u) - \frac{1}{2}|u|_E^2} du.$$

Consider

$$\begin{aligned}B_\delta(z) &= \{u \in X : \|u - z\|_x < \delta\} \\ J^\delta(z) &= \mu(B_\delta(z))\end{aligned}$$

We are looking for the  $z$  value that maximizes  $J^\delta(z)$ .

**Definition 1.1**  $\bar{z}$  is a MAP estimator if

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{J^\delta(\bar{z})}{J^\delta(z^\delta)} = 1$$

Such points exists and can be characterized by:

$$I(z) = \frac{1}{2}|z|_E^2 + \phi(z) \text{ Onsager-Machlup Functional.}$$

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**Theorem 1.4 (Dosht, Law, Stuart, Voss)**

- (i) Any MAP estimator is a minimizer of  $I$ .
- (ii) Any  $z^* \in E$  which minimizes  $I$  is a map estimator.

**1.5.2 Variational characterization**

Work by (Pinski, Simpson, Stuart, Weber):

We want to generalize the previous minimization problem. To do this we minimize over Gaussians instead.

$$D_{KL}(\nu||\mu) = E^\nu \log \left( \frac{d\nu}{d\mu} \right).$$

$P$  will be a probability measure on  $H$  and

$$\frac{d\mu}{d\mu_0} = \frac{1}{z} e^{-\phi(u)}.$$

Next we will define a functional  $J$ :

$$J : P \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ and } J(\nu) = D_{KL}(\nu||\mu_0) + \mathbb{E}^\nu \phi(u)$$

**Theorem 1.5**  $\arg \inf_{\nu \in P} J(\nu) = \mu$

Sketch of proof:  $J(\nu) = D_{KL}(\nu||\mu) + \text{constant}$ . Next notice  $D_{KL}(\nu||\mu) \geq 0, D_{KL}(\mu||\mu) = 0$ . Thus the min is attained by setting  $\nu = \mu$ .

**Remark 1.1** Now minimize  $J(\nu)$  over  $\mathcal{A} \subset P$ . For the Gaussian case,

$$\mathcal{A} = \cup N(m, \Sigma) \text{ and } N(z, \Sigma) \text{ equivalent to } \mu_0$$

The  $J(\nu)$  within this class can be written as

$$J(\nu) = \frac{1}{2} |z|_E^2 + \mathbb{E}^{\xi \sim N(0, \Sigma)} \phi(z + \xi) + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} [C^{-1} \Sigma - I] + \ln \left( \frac{\det C}{\det \Sigma} \right)$$

**1.5.3 MCMC**

Idea is to create a Markov Chain  $\{u^{(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  which is  $\mu$ -ergodic. Then we have a method (see Jonathan Mattingly's lectures) to show

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \phi(u^{(n)}) \rightarrow \mathbb{E}^\mu \phi(u)$$

**2  $\mu$ -preserving dynamics**

Goal for the rest of this lecture is to describe the basic ideas of  $\mu$ -preserving dynamics so we can explain how they relate Markov Chains.

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## 2.1 SDE on $\mathbb{R}^n$

Start with  $\mu(du) \propto E^{-\Psi} du$  and  $\Psi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . We assume  $e^{-\Psi(u)} \in L^2(\mathbb{R}; \mathbb{R}^+)$ .

$$\frac{du}{dt} = -k\nabla\Psi(u) + \sqrt{2k}\frac{dw}{dt} \quad (3)$$

$k > 0$ , symmetric  $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}}$  matrix.

**Theorem 2.1** (3) is  $\mu$ -invariant  $\alpha$ -ergodic. (there are more conditions needed, but not listed in lecture)

Sketch of proof:

Invariance:

$$\mathcal{L}\phi =$$

$$\mathcal{L}^*\phi = \nabla \cdot (J(\phi))$$

Get the equation:

$$J(\phi) = k\nabla\Psi(u)\phi + \nabla \cdot (k\phi)$$

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} = \mathcal{L}^*\rho.$$

If  $\rho \propto e^{-\Psi(u)}$  then  $J(\rho) = 0$ .

Ergodicity:

$$\mathcal{L}\phi = \phi - E^\mu\phi.$$

Apply the Ito's formula to get:  $\frac{d\phi}{dt} = \mathcal{L}\phi + \langle \nabla\phi(u), \sqrt{2k}\frac{dw}{dt} \rangle$ .

$$\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \phi(t) dt = \mathbb{E}^\mu\phi + \frac{1}{T}(\phi(T) - \phi(0)) - \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \langle \nabla\phi(u), \sqrt{2k}\frac{dw}{dt} \rangle.$$

[Notes for lecture 3 starts below](#)

Recall we are interested in measures given by (1) as well as inverse problems.

We start today with two new  $\mu$ -reversible dynamical systems. One stochastic and one not:

$$\frac{du}{dt} = -k(C^{-1}u + D\phi(u)) + \sqrt{2k}\frac{dw}{dt} \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{du}{dt} = v, \quad \frac{dv}{dt} = -M^{-1}(C^{-1}u + d\phi(u)) \quad (5)$$

## 2.2 Lift to $H$

In the Hilbert setting, (1) can be written as

$$\mu(du) = \frac{1}{z} e^{-I(u)} du$$

where

$$I(u) = \frac{1}{2}|u|_E^2 + \phi(u), \quad |\cdot|_E = |C^{-\frac{1}{2}} \cdot|$$

Using this gives us (4). As in the finite dimensional case, we get the theorem:

**Theorem 2.2 (Hairer, Stuart, Voss)** For  $k = I, C$  it follows that (2) is  $\mu$ -reversible,  $\mu$ -ergodic.

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Recall all the physics is embedded in  $\phi$  so we can pick  $K$  however we want.

Comments on the proof for the case ( $K = C$ ).

$$\frac{du}{dt} = -u - C \cdot D\phi(u) + \sqrt{2C} \frac{dw}{dt}$$

From the point of algorithms this equation is very nice. If we ignore the  $\phi$ -term, then all of the time scales and modes of this equation are the same. In fact we can solve

$$\frac{du}{dt} = -u + \sqrt{2C} \frac{dw}{dt}$$

which gives

$$u(t) = N(e^{-t}u(0), (1 - e^{-2t})C)$$

Call this measure  $\mu^t(u_0)$ . If we let  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , we get the measure  $\mu^\infty = N(0, C)$ .

Asymptotics Strong Feller:

$\mu^t(u_0)$  is singular with respect to  $\mu^\infty$  and

$\mu^t(u_0)$  is singular with respect to  $\mu^t(u'_0)$  unless  $u_0 - u'_0 \in E$ .

Now we will go on to Hamiltonian mechanics.

### 2.3 $\mu(du) = e^{-\phi(u)} du$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$

$$\begin{aligned} H(u, p) &= \psi(u) + \frac{1}{2}|M^{-1/2}p|^2 \\ \frac{du}{dt} &= M^{-1}p, \quad \frac{dp}{dt} = -\nabla\Psi(u) \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

Since the last two equations conserve the Hamiltonian, it's a simple calculation via the Louisville Theorem to show that any function of the Hamiltonian will also be a conserved density for the flow. In particular,

$$\nu(du, dp) = e^{-H(u,p)} dudp$$

From here, it is fairly straightforward to show

**Theorem 2.3**  $\nu(du, dp)$  is an invariant measure for the dynamical system (6).

Now we introduce velocity  $v = M^{-1}p$  and so (6) becomes

$$\frac{du}{dt} = v, \quad \frac{dv}{dt} = -M^{-1}\nabla\Psi(u)$$

The relevant conserved measure:

$$\tilde{\nu}(du, dv) = e^{-\tilde{H}(u,v)} dudv$$

where

$$\tilde{H}(u, v) = \Psi(u) + \frac{1}{2}|M^{\frac{1}{2}}v|^2$$

We can lift this up to the Hilbert space setting.

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## 2.4 Hamiltonian on $\mathcal{H}$

$\tilde{\nu}(du, dv) = \frac{1}{z} e^{-\phi(u)} \mu_0(du) \mu_0(dv)$  provided  $M = C^{-1}$ .  $\mathcal{X} = C([0, T]; X)$ .

**Theorem 2.4 (Beskos, Pinski, Sanz-Serra, Stuart)** *There exists a unique solution to (5) in the space  $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X}$ . Furthermore, this solution preserves  $\tilde{\nu}(du, dv)$ .*

Next notice  $\int_H \tilde{\nu}(A, dv) = \mu(A)$ . If we introduce the flow for this Hamiltonian,

$$\begin{pmatrix} u(t) \\ v(t) \end{pmatrix} = \Xi^t \begin{pmatrix} u(0) \\ v(0) \end{pmatrix}, \quad p \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = u$$

for  $\frac{du}{dt} = v$ ,  $\frac{dv}{dt} = -u - CD\phi(u)$ . If  $\phi$  drops out, then this is just a trivial oscillator.

Now we would like an interesting Markov Chain:

$$u^{(n+1)} = P\Xi \begin{pmatrix} u^{(n)} \\ \xi^{(n)} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \xi^{(n)} \sim N(0, C) \text{ i.i.d.} \quad (7)$$

**Corollary 2.4.1** *This Markov chain  $\{u^{(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}^+}$  is  $\mu$ -reversible.*

This is proved by finite-dimensionalization and passage to the limit.

## 3 MCMC

### 3.1 Connect to SDE

$w = (1 - \beta^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} u + \beta \xi$ ,  $\xi \sim N(0, C)$ . Notice this is a formula for the exact solution of the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process.

Now we will construct a Markov chain  $\{u^{(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}^+}$  as follows:

Let  $w^{(n)} = (1 - \beta^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} u^{(n)} + \beta \xi^{(n)}$  and  $\xi^{(n)} \sim N(0, C)$  i.d.d.

Set  $\alpha^{(n)} = 1 \min$  of  $e^{(\phi(u^{(n)}) - \phi(w^{(n)}))}$ .

Set  $u^{(n+1)} = \gamma^{(n)} w^{(n)} + (1 - \gamma^{(n)}) u^{(n)}$  where  $\gamma^{(n)} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{w.p. } \alpha^{(n)} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ .

From the output of the Markov chain a piecewise-linear function with input  $t$  and output  $u_\beta$  is constructed. Think of the time step as being  $\beta^2/2$ .

**Theorem 3.1 (Pillai, Stuart, Theyry)**  *$u_\beta$  converges weakly to  $u$  solving the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process in  $C([0, T]; X)$ .*

**Theorem 3.2 (Haire, Stuart, Vollmer)** *The spectral gap for  $\{u^{(n)}\}_{\mathbb{Z}^+}$ .*

Another Markov chain (using (7)) similar to the previous one: Let  $w^{(n)} = P\Xi^{t,n} \begin{pmatrix} u^{(n)} \\ \xi^{(n)} \end{pmatrix}$  and

$\xi^{(n)} \sim N(0, C)$  i.d.d.

Set  $\alpha^{(n)} = 1 \min$  of  $e^{H(u^{(n)}, \xi^{(n)}) - H(w^{(n)}, \cdot)}$ .

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Set  $u^{(n+1)} = \gamma^{(n)}w^{(n)} + (1 - \gamma^{(n)})u^{(n)}$  where  $\gamma^{(n)} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{w.p. } \alpha^{(n)} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ . Here's the inverse problem which will appear in the simulations:

$$\frac{du}{dt} = u - u^3 + \frac{dw}{dt}$$

$$y(t) = \int_0^t u(s)ds + B(t)$$

where  $w, B$  are standard unit Brownian motions which are independent of each other. The goal is to find  $\mathbb{P}(u|y)$ .

Several simulations are presented next in the lecture which should be viewed in the video.

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