



PARAMETER ESTIMATION FOR STOCHASTIC DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS
DRIVEN BY WIENER AND POISSON NOISE

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Abstract

Ensemble and temporal parameter estimators are developed for linear and nonlinear stochastic differential equations driven by both Wiener and Poisson processes. Linear moment recursion relations are obtained for the stationary moments of the process. Consistency and asymptotic normality of the resulting ensemble estimators are demonstrated. The temporal estimators, i.e., using a single temporal record, are shown to coincide with maximum likelihood estimators in the special case of linear systems driven by Wiener noise.

Keywords: stochastic differential equations, parameter estimators, moment recursion relation, nonlinear stochastic systems.

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1. Introduction

This report is concerned with estimating the parameters of a class of linear and nonlinear stochastic differential equations driven by Wiener and Poisson processes. Specifically, we consider two models with a polynomial drift term. The first model (1) has state-dependent noise, while the second (2) has an additive noise term.

The first model is:

$$(1) \quad dx_t = -\gamma(x_t) dt + x_t dn_t,$$

$$dn_t = \sigma dW_t + a(dP_t - \lambda dt),$$

where $\gamma(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \dots + \theta_d x^d$, $\theta_0 \neq 0$, $\theta_d > 0$, W_t is a standard Wiener process (zero mean and variance t), P_t is a homogeneous Poisson process with intensity λ and unit jump size, and σ , a are constants. We assume the two noise processes, W_t and P_t , are independent of each other and of the initial condition x_0 .

The second model is similar to the first:

$$(2) \quad dy_t = -\gamma(y_t) dt + dn_t,$$

$$dn_t = \sigma dW_t + a(dP_t - \lambda dt),$$

with all conditions identical to (1) except that θ_0 is no longer constrained to be nonzero.

Systems of this form, (1) and (2) have been used as models for a number of physical and biological processes (see, for example, Arnold and Lefever, 1981). The polynomial structure of γ permits the modelling of systems with multi-modal stationary distributions. For example bistable systems can be modelled with $\gamma(x)$ as a cubic polynomial, see Kipnis and Newman (1985), Cobb and Zacks (1985). State-dependent noise, as in (1), has been applied to a variety of nonlinear systems (population growth: Hanson and Tuckwell (1981); optimal harvesting: Ryan and Hanson (1985); economics: Malliaris and

Brock (1982); neural models: Tuckwell (1979), Wilbur and Rinzel (1983), Hanson and Tuckwell (1983), Smith and Smith (1984); overview of Poisson models: Tuckwell (1981)).

Let $f(x,t,x_0)$ denote the transition probability density function (pdf) for the Markov process x_t , given the initial value x_0 . With $\theta_d > 0$ the transition pdf approaches a nondegenerate pdf, denoted by f^* , as $t \rightarrow \infty$. The stationary density f^* is independent of x_0 . In the next section we show that the moments of f^* satisfy a linear recursion relation which depends only on the parameters $\theta_0, \dots, \theta_d, \sigma, \lambda, a$. This recursion relation permits the construction of an estimator of the parameters $(\theta_0, \dots, \theta_d)$ if λ, a and σ are known. This estimator is shown to be consistent and asymptotically normal. Since this estimator is constructed from i.i.d. samples of the ensemble, we refer to it as an "ensemble" estimator. The problem of estimation from a single temporal record is then addressed.

This report extends earlier results on versions of (1) and (2) with Wiener input alone (Cobb et al., 1983; also see Lanska, 1979), and with Poisson input alone (Smith and Cobb, 1982).

2. Estimation from observations of an ensemble

In this section, we derive linear moment recursion relations for models (1) and (2) and construct ensemble estimators for θ based on these relations.

Theorem 1 (Moment Recursion Relations).

Let m_n denote the n^{th} noncentral moment of f^* , the stationary pdf. For models (1) and (2) these moments satisfy a recursion relation for $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ that is linear in terms of m_n . For model (1),

$$(3a) \quad \sum_{i=0}^d \theta_i m_{i+n} = \psi_{n+1} m_{n+1}$$

with

$$\psi_k = \lambda((1+a)^k - 1)/k + (k-1)\sigma^2/2.$$

For model (2),

$$(3b) \quad \sum_{i=0}^d \theta_i m_{i+n} = n\sigma^2 m_{n-1}/2 + \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} \beta_k m_{n-k}$$

with

$$\beta_k = \lambda a^{k+1}/(k+1).$$

Proof.

Model (1):

Let ∂_x denote the operator for partial differentiation with respect to x .

It can be shown (Gihman and Skorohod, 1972, p299) that $f(x,t,x_0)$ satisfies the forward Feller-Kolmogorov equation

$$(4) \quad \begin{aligned} \partial_t f = \partial_x [\gamma(x) f] + \sigma^2/2 \partial_x^2 [x^2 f] \\ - \lambda f + \lambda f(x/(1+a)) / |1+a|. \end{aligned}$$

The stationary pdf f^* is the solution of $\partial_t f = 0$ in (4). The boundary conditions are $\partial_x^k f^*(+\infty) = 0$ for $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. Now let $F_\nu\{f\}$ denote the Fourier transform of a function f , i.e.,

$$F_\nu\{f\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \exp(-i\nu x) dx,$$

where ν is the transform variable, and i is the unit imaginary number.

Taking the Fourier transform of our equation for f^* , we obtain

$$(5) \quad \begin{aligned} F_\nu\{\partial_x [\gamma(x)f^*]\} + \sigma^2/2 F_\nu\{\partial_x^2 [x^2 f^*]\} \\ = \lambda (F_\nu\{f^*\} - F_\nu\{f^*\}_{1+a}), \end{aligned}$$

where for the last term we have used the scaling property of the Fourier transform, i.e.,

$$F_{\nu}\{f(bx)\} = 1/|b| F_{\nu/b}\{f(x)\}$$

for some constant b . The LHS is evaluated using

$$F_{\nu}\{\partial_x f(x)\} = (i\nu) F_{\nu}\{f\}$$

and

$$F_{\nu}\{x^m f(x)\} = i^m \partial_{\nu}^m F_{\nu}\{f\}$$

to obtain

$$(6) \quad (i\nu) \gamma(i\partial_{\nu}) F_{\nu}\{f^*\} + \sigma^2/2 (i\nu)^2 (i\partial_{\nu})^2 F_{\nu}\{f^*\} \\ = \lambda (F_{\nu}\{f^*\} - F_{\nu(1+a)}\{f^*\}).$$

we can now derive the moments m_n by using the well-known fact that

$$m_n = (i\partial_{\nu})^n F\{f^*\} \text{ when } \nu = 0.$$

Using the $(i\partial_{\nu})^n$ operator on both sides of (6), the RHS becomes

$$\lambda [(i\partial_{\nu})^n F_{\nu}\{f^*\} - (1+a)^n (i\partial_{\nu(1+a)})^n F_{\nu(1+a)}\{f^*\}],$$

which simplifies to

$$\lambda [1 - (1+a)^n] m_n \quad \text{for } \nu = 0.$$

For the LHS of (6), we use the product rule of differentiation, namely

$$\partial_x^n (u \cdot v) = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} (\partial_x^{n-k} u) (\partial_x^k v)$$

to obtain $(S_1 + S_2) F_{\nu}\{f^*\}$, where

$$S_1 = (-n) (i\partial_{\nu})^{n-1} \gamma(i\partial_{\nu}) + 0(\nu),$$

and

$$S_2 = \sigma^2/2 n(n-1) (i\partial_{\nu})^n + 0(\nu).$$

When $v = 0$ the LHS becomes

$$-n \sum_{k=0}^d \theta_k m_{k+n-1} + \sigma^2/2 n(n-1) m_n$$

so, combining these results and shifting the index by 1, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^d \theta_k m_{k+n} &= \lambda / (n+1) [(1+a)^{n+1} - 1] m_{n+1} + n \sigma^2/2 m_{n+1} \\ &= \psi_{n+1} m_{n+1}, \quad \text{for } n = 0, 1, 2, \dots \end{aligned}$$

the desired result (3a).

For model (2), the corresponding Feller-Kolmogorov equation is

$$\partial_t f = \partial_x [\gamma(x)f] + \sigma^2/2 \partial_x^2 f + \lambda (f(x-a) - f).$$

Except for the term $\sigma^2/2 \partial_x^2 f$, this equation is identical to the one in Smith and Cobb (1982, p703). The result follows from a minor adjustment of their development.

Remark. These results carry over easily to finite sums of independent Wiener and Poisson noise.

A concrete example gives some feeling for the mechanics of the use of the relationship. Let $\gamma(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \theta_2 x^2 + \theta_3 x^3$, a cubic polynomial. We now obtain four equations for the four unknowns $\theta_0, \theta_1, \theta_2$ and θ_3 in terms of the parameters of the noise and the zeroth through sixth moments of f^* .

Ensemble estimators of θ can be derived from the moment recursion relations as follows. Suppose that $\{X_k\}$, $k = 1, \ell$ are independent random variables, each with density f^* . The moment recursion relations for both (1) and (2) reduce to

$$\hat{M} \hat{\theta} = \hat{W} B,$$

where

$$\theta = [\theta_0, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_d]';$$

with (') indicating transpose;

$$\hat{M}_{ij} = \hat{m}_{i+j-2} = 1/\ell \sum_{k=1}^{\ell} X_k^{i+j-2},$$

$$\hat{W}_{ij} = m_i \delta_{ij}, \quad (\text{Model 1})$$

with δ_{ij} being the Kronecker delta,

$$= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } j > i \\ \binom{i-1}{j-1} m_{i-j} & \text{for } j \leq i. \end{cases} \quad (\text{Model 2})$$

and

$$B_j = \psi_j \quad (\text{Model 1})$$

$$= \begin{cases} \beta_{j-1} & \text{for } j \neq 2, \\ \beta_1 + \sigma^2/2 & \text{for } j = 2. \end{cases} \quad (\text{Model 2})$$

Theorem 2.

Under models (1) and (2) the ensemble estimator $\hat{\theta} = \hat{M}^{-1} \hat{W} B$ is consistent and $\sqrt{\ell} (\hat{\theta} - \theta)$ is asymptotically normal $N(0, V)$, where V is a $d \times d$ matrix that satisfies

$$[MVM]_{ij} = E\{([\hat{W}B]_i - [M\theta]_i) ([\hat{W}B]_j - [M\theta]_j)\}$$

Proof: (following Cobb et al., 1983, Theorem 2)

Consistency: Let $p_a(x) = a_0 + a_1 x + \dots + a_d x^d$. Because x is a random variable with a continuous nondegenerate density, we have $E[p_a^2(x)] = a'M a > 0$ for any vector $a \neq 0$. From this it follows that M is positive definite and invertible. Furthermore, \hat{M} is invertible w.p. 1 by a similar argument, as

long as $n > d$. Since $\hat{M} \xrightarrow{P} M$ and $\hat{W} \xrightarrow{P} W$, we also have $(\hat{M})^{-1} \xrightarrow{P} M^{-1}$ and $(\hat{M})^{-1} \hat{W} \xrightarrow{P} M^{-1} W$. Consistency $(\hat{\theta} \xrightarrow{P} \theta)$ follows immediately because B is nonstochastic.

Normality: We have $\sqrt{\ell} (\hat{M} - M) = o_p(1)$ and $\hat{\theta} - \theta = o_p(1)$. Rewrite $\sqrt{\ell} M (\hat{\theta} - \theta)$ as follows, collecting terms of similar order in probability:

$$\sqrt{\ell} M (\hat{\theta} - \theta) = \sqrt{\ell} (\hat{W}B - \hat{M}\theta) - \sqrt{\ell} (\hat{M} - M) (\hat{\theta} - \theta)$$

Each entry of the second term on the right-hand side is $O_p'(1) o_p(1) = o_p(1)$, where $(')$, indicates transpose. Thus

$$\sqrt{\ell} M (\hat{\theta} - \theta) - \sqrt{\ell} (\hat{W}B - \hat{M}\theta) \xrightarrow{P} 0,$$

and

$$\sqrt{\ell} (\hat{\theta} - \theta) - \sqrt{\ell} M^{-1} (\hat{W}B - \hat{M}\theta) \xrightarrow{P} 0,$$

since M^{-1} is invertible. The vector $\sqrt{\ell} M^{-1} (\hat{W}B - \hat{M}\theta)$ can be written as

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\ell} h(X_k) / \sqrt{\ell}, \text{ where } h(x) \text{ is a vector of polynomials in } x. \text{ Note}$$

that $E[h(X)] = 0$, due to the linear moment recursion relations. Let $V_{ij} = E[h_i(X) h_j(X)]$. Then $\sqrt{\ell} (\hat{\theta} - \theta)$ is asymptotically $N(0, V)$ by the multivariate Central Limit Theorem.

3. Estimation from continuous observations

In this section we present a method for estimating the coefficients of (1) and (2) given continuous observations of the stochastic process x_t on $[0, T]$. Explicit maximum likelihood estimation is not possible because the noise process is a mixture of Wiener and Poisson noise. We shall instead construct an estimator which reduces to the MLE when there is no Poisson noise, and which always satisfies a minimum mean squared error criterion. This estimator is best developed in a slightly more general context. Let $\theta = [\theta_0, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_d]'$ and $g(x) = [1, x, \dots, x^d]'$ with $\theta_0 \neq 0$, $\theta_d < 0$, and d odd. Suppose that x_t is a stochastic process which satisfies the stochastic differential equation

$$dx_t = \theta' g(x_t) dt + \sigma(x) dn_t,$$

where $\sigma(x)$ is a smooth non-anticipatory function, $\sigma(x) \neq 0$ if $x \neq 0$, and n_t is, as before, a mixture of an arbitrary number of independent Wiener and compensated Poisson processes, such that the process x_t is ergodic. We shall make use of a weighting function introduced by Lipster and Shiriyayev (1977, p. 274):

$$v(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \sigma(x) = 0 \\ 1/\sigma^2(x) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Consider the function $\Delta Q_t(x, c)$ defined by

$$\Delta Q_t(x, c) = [(\Delta x_t - c' g(x_t) \Delta t) / \sigma(x_t)]^2 - [\Delta x_t / \sigma(x_t)]^2,$$

where the right hand side is evaluated at $x_t = x$, and where $\Delta x_t \stackrel{d}{=} x_{t+\Delta t} - x_t$. The function $\Delta Q_t(x, c)$ has a graph that for $\omega \in \Omega'$ and

$t \in [0, T - \Delta t]$, is a paraboloid with a single minimum. The ratio $\Delta Q_t(x, c) / \Delta t$ converges in probability as $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$ to the stochastic differential

$$dQ_t(x, c) = -2 c' g(x_t) v(x_t) dx_t + c' [g(x_t) g(x_t)'] c v(x_t) dt$$

with the RHS evaluated at $x_t = x$.

The mean squared error of c for the stochastic process x_t on $[0, t]$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MSE}(c, T) &= \int_0^T dQ_t(x_t, c) \\ &= -2c' \int_0^T g(x_t)' v(x_t) dx_t + c' \left[\int_0^T g(x_t) g(x_t)' v(x_t) dt \right] c. \end{aligned}$$

Let $\hat{\theta}_T(\omega)$ be the solution of $\nabla_c \text{MSE}(c, T) = 0$ for fixed $\omega \in \Omega$.

Thus

$$\hat{\theta}_T(\omega) = \left[\int_0^T g(x_t) g(x_t)' v(x_t) dt \right]^{-1} \left[\int_0^T g(x_t) v(x_t) dx_t \right].$$

In the special case in which $\sigma(x) = x$, $d = 1$, and $\lambda = 0$, we have an estimator $\hat{\theta}_T$ which coincides with the maximum likelihood estimator (see Basawa and Rao (1980, Theorem 5.1) for example). In the general case the consistency of the estimator depends crucially on the ergodicity of the process.

4. Discussion

In the preceding sections we have considered both ensemble and temporal estimation. There are interesting connections between the two methods. If the systems described by (1) and (2) are ergodic and satisfy the appropriate mixing conditions, then the moment recursion relations of Section 2 can be used with temporal moments (instead of ensemble moments) to generate estimates of the parameters. It is interesting to observe that, in the case of Wiener noise only, this method coincides with the "minimum contrast" procedure of Lanska (1979). Lanska showed that the minimum contrast estimates are strongly consistent and asymptotically normal.

With respect to the question of existence and uniqueness of solutions for (1) and (2), note that the usual Lipschitz condition is not met by the function $\gamma(x)$, except when $d = 1$. However if we modify γ so that it reads

$$\gamma(x) = \begin{cases} \gamma(A) + \gamma_x(A) (x - A) & \text{for } x > A, \\ \gamma(x) & \text{for } B \leq x \leq A, \\ \gamma(B) + \gamma_x(B) (x - B) & \text{for } x < B, \end{cases}$$

where γ_x denotes differentiation with respect to x . The solutions of the modified process coincide exactly with the solutions of (1) and (2) up until a random hitting time τ , when x_t first reaches A or B . Using this construction and a theorem of Kallianpur and Wolpert (1984), a heuristic argument for the existence and uniqueness of solutions for (1) and (2) in the presence of both Wiener and Poisson noise is obtained.

In the foregoing we have assumed that the noise process has already been characterized, and that we need only to estimate the parameters of $\gamma(x)$. Jointly estimating all parameters is a problem that has been addressed in some special cases by Lansky (1983) and Habib (1985).

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