



# Variational approach to data assimilation: optimization aspects and adjoint method

Eric Blayo Univ. Grenoble Alpes and Inria

# **Objectives**

- introduce (once again) the several points of view for data assimilation
- introduce data assimilation as an optimization problem
- discuss the different forms of the objective functions
- discuss their properties w.r.t. optimization
- introduce the adjoint technique for the computation of the gradient

Link with statistical methods: cf lectures by E. Cosme

Variational data assimilation algorithms, tangent and adjoint codes: cf lectures by A. Vidard



## Outline

DA for dummies: the simplest possible model problem

Definition and minimization of the cost function

The adjoint method



Two pieces of information on a single quantity. Which estimation for its true value ?  $\longrightarrow$  least squares approach



Two pieces of information on a single quantity. Which estimation for its true value ?  $\longrightarrow$  least squares approach

**Example** a prior value  $x^b = 19^{\circ}\text{C}$  and an observation  $y = 21^{\circ}\text{C}$  of the (unknown) present temperature x.

- Let  $J(x) = \frac{1}{2} [(x x^b)^2 + (x y)^2]$
- $ightharpoonup Min_x J(x)$

Two pieces of information on a single quantity. Which estimation for its true value ?  $\longrightarrow$  least squares approach

**Example** a prior value  $x^b = 19^{\circ}\text{C}$  and an observation  $y = 21^{\circ}\text{C}$  of the (unknown) present temperature x.

► Let 
$$J(x) = \frac{1}{2} [(x - x^b)^2 + (x - y)^2]$$



Two pieces of information on a single quantity. Which estimation for its true value ?  $\longrightarrow$  least squares approach

**Example** a prior value  $x^b = 19^{\circ}\text{C}$  and an observation  $y = 21^{\circ}\text{C}$  of the (unknown) present temperature x.

► Let 
$$J(x) = \frac{1}{2} [(x - x^b)^2 + (x - y)^2]$$

If 
$$\neq$$
 units:  $x^b = 66.2^{\circ}$ F and  $y = 69.8^{\circ}$ F

► Let 
$$H(x) = \frac{9}{5}x + 32$$
 observation operator



Two pieces of information on a single quantity. Which estimation for its true value ?  $\longrightarrow$  least squares approach

**Example** a prior value  $x^b = 19^{\circ}\text{C}$  and an observation  $y = 21^{\circ}\text{C}$  of the (unknown) present temperature x.

► Let 
$$J(x) = \frac{1}{2} [(x - x^b)^2 + (x - y)^2]$$

If 
$$\neq$$
 units:  $x^b = 66.2^{\circ}$ F and  $y = 69.8^{\circ}$ F

► Let 
$$H(x) = \frac{9}{5}x + 32$$
 observation operator

Let 
$$J(x) = \frac{1}{2} [(H(x) - x^b)^2 + (H(x) - y)^2]$$

$$Min_x J(x) \longrightarrow x^a = 20^{\circ} C$$



**Drawback** # 1: if observation units are inhomogeneous

$$x^b = 19^{\circ}\text{C}$$
 and  $y = 69.8^{\circ}\text{F}$ 

$$J(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ (x - x^b)^2 + (H(x) - y)^2 \right]$$

**Drawback** # 1: if observation units are inhomogeneous

$$x^b = 19^{\circ}\text{C}$$
 and  $y = 69.8^{\circ}\text{F}$ 

► 
$$J(x) = \frac{1}{2} [(x - x^b)^2 + (H(x) - y)^2] \longrightarrow x^a = 20.53^{\circ} C$$

**Drawback** # 1: if observation units are inhomogeneous

$$x^b = 19^{\circ} \text{C}$$
 and  $y = 69.8^{\circ} \text{F}$ 

► 
$$J(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ (x - x^b)^2 + (H(x) - y)^2 \right] \longrightarrow x^a = 20.53^{\circ} \text{C}$$
  
 $\longrightarrow \text{ adding apples and oranges !!}$ 



#### **Drawback** # 1: if observation units are inhomogeneous

$$x^b = 19^{\circ} \text{C}$$
 and  $y = 69.8^{\circ} \text{F}$ 

► 
$$J(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ (x - x^b)^2 + (H(x) - y)^2 \right] \longrightarrow x^a = 20.53^{\circ} \text{C}$$
  
 $\longrightarrow \text{ adding apples and oranges !!}$ 

#### **Drawback # 2:** if observation accuracies are inhomogeneous

If  $x^b$  is twice more accurate than y, one should obtain  $x^a = \frac{2x^b + y}{2} = 19.67^{\circ}\text{C}$ 

$$\longrightarrow J$$
 should be  $J(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \left( \frac{x - x^b}{1/2} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{x - y}{1} \right)^2 \right]$ 



#### Reformulation in a **probabilistic framework**:

- $\triangleright$  the goal is to find an estimator  $X^a$  of the true unknown value x
- $\triangleright$   $x^b$  and y are realizations of random variables  $X^b$  and Y



#### Reformulation in a probabilistic framework:

- $\triangleright$  the goal is to find an estimator  $X^a$  of the true unknown value x
- $\triangleright$   $x^b$  and y are realizations of random variables  $X^b$  and Y

Let 
$$X^b = x + \varepsilon^b$$
 and  $Y = x + \varepsilon^o$  with

### **Hypotheses**

- $E(\varepsilon^b) = E(\varepsilon^o) = 0$  unbiased background and measurement device
- $ightharpoonup \operatorname{Var}(arepsilon^b) = \sigma_b^2 \qquad \operatorname{Var}(arepsilon^o) = \sigma_o^2 \qquad \qquad \operatorname{known accuracies}$
- $ightharpoonup \operatorname{Cov}(\varepsilon^b, \varepsilon^o) = 0$  independent errors

One is looking for an estimator (i.e. a r.v.)  $X^a$  that is

- ▶ linear:  $X^a = \alpha_b X^b + \alpha_o Y$  (in order to be simple)
- unbiased:  $E(X^a) = x$  (it seems reasonable)
- of minimal variance:  $Var(X^a)$  minimum (optimal accuracy)

→ BLUE (Best Linear Unbiased Estimator)



One is looking for an estimator (i.e. a r.v.)  $X^a$  that is

- ▶ linear:  $X^a = \alpha_b X^b + \alpha_o Y$ (in order to be simple)
- unbiased:  $E(X^a) = x$ (it seems reasonable)
- of minimal variance:  $Var(X^a)$  minimum (optimal accuracy)

 $\longrightarrow$  BLUE (Best Linear Unbiased Estimator)

Since 
$$X^a = \alpha_b X^b + \alpha_o Y = (\alpha_b + \alpha_o) x + \alpha_b \varepsilon^b + \alpha_o \varepsilon^o$$
:

$$E(X^a) = (\alpha_b + \alpha_o)x + \alpha_b \underbrace{E(\varepsilon^b)}_{=0} + \alpha_o \underbrace{E(\varepsilon^o)}_{=0} \implies \alpha_b + \alpha_o = 1$$

One is looking for an estimator (i.e. a r.v.)  $X^a$  that is

- ▶ linear:  $X^a = \alpha_b X^b + \alpha_o Y$  (in order to be simple)
- unbiased:  $E(X^a) = x$  (it seems reasonable)
- ▶ of minimal variance: Var(X<sup>a</sup>) minimum (optimal accuracy)

→ BLUE (Best Linear Unbiased Estimator)

Since 
$$X^a = \alpha_b X^b + \alpha_o Y = (\alpha_b + \alpha_o)x + \alpha_b \varepsilon^b + \alpha_o \varepsilon^o$$
:

$$E(X^{s}) = (\alpha_{b} + \alpha_{o})x + \alpha_{b} \underbrace{E(\varepsilon^{b})}_{=0} + \alpha_{o} \underbrace{E(\varepsilon^{o})}_{=0} \implies \alpha_{b} + \alpha_{o} = 1$$

$$Var(X^a) = E\left[ (X^a - x)^2 \right] = E\left[ (\alpha_b \varepsilon^b + \alpha_o \varepsilon^o)^2 \right] = \alpha_b^2 \sigma_b^2 + (1 - \alpha_b)^2 \sigma_o^2$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha_b} = 0 \implies \alpha_b = \frac{\sigma_o^2}{\sigma_b^2 + \sigma_o^2}$$



#### **BLUE**

$$X^{a} = \frac{\frac{1}{\sigma_{b}^{2}} X^{b} + \frac{1}{\sigma_{o}^{2}} Y}{\frac{1}{\sigma_{b}^{2}} + \frac{1}{\sigma_{o}^{2}}}$$

#### **BLUE**

$$X^{a} = \frac{\frac{1}{\sigma_{b}^{2}} X^{b} + \frac{1}{\sigma_{o}^{2}} Y}{\frac{1}{\sigma_{b}^{2}} + \frac{1}{\sigma_{o}^{2}}} = X^{b} + \underbrace{\frac{\sigma_{b}^{2}}{\sigma_{b}^{2} + \sigma_{o}^{2}}}_{\text{gain}} \underbrace{(Y - X^{b})}_{\text{innovation}}$$

#### **BLUE**

$$X^{a} = \frac{\frac{1}{\sigma_{b}^{2}} X^{b} + \frac{1}{\sigma_{o}^{2}} Y}{\frac{1}{\sigma_{b}^{2}} + \frac{1}{\sigma_{o}^{2}}} = X^{b} + \underbrace{\frac{\sigma_{b}^{2}}{\sigma_{b}^{2} + \sigma_{o}^{2}}}_{\text{gain}} \underbrace{(Y - X^{b})}_{\text{innovation}}$$

Its accuracy:  $\left[ \operatorname{Var}(X^a) \right]^{-1} = \frac{1}{\sigma_h^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_o^2}$  accuracies are added

#### **BLUE**

$$X^{a} = \frac{\frac{1}{\sigma_{b}^{2}} X^{b} + \frac{1}{\sigma_{o}^{2}} Y}{\frac{1}{\sigma_{b}^{2}} + \frac{1}{\sigma_{o}^{2}}} = X^{b} + \underbrace{\frac{\sigma_{b}^{2}}{\sigma_{b}^{2} + \sigma_{o}^{2}}}_{\text{gain}} \underbrace{(Y - X^{b})}_{\text{innovation}}$$

Its accuracy:  $\left[ \operatorname{Var}(X^a) \right]^{-1} = \frac{1}{\sigma_L^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_2^2}$  accuracies are added

**Remark:** Hypotheses on the two first moments of  $\varepsilon^b, \varepsilon^o$  lead to results on the two first moments of  $X^a$ .

#### Variational equivalence

This is equivalent to the problem:

Minimize 
$$J(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{(x - x^b)^2}{\sigma_b^2} + \frac{(x - y)^2}{\sigma_o^2} \right]$$

#### Variational equivalence

This is equivalent to the problem:

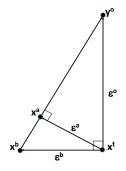
Minimize 
$$J(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{(x - x^b)^2}{\sigma_b^2} + \frac{(x - y)^2}{\sigma_o^2} \right]$$

#### Remarks:

- ► This answers the previous problems of sensitivity to inhomogeneous units and insensitivity to inhomogeneous accuracies
- ▶ This gives a rationale for choosing the norm for defining J

$$\underbrace{J''(x^a)}_{\text{convexity}} = \frac{1}{\sigma_b^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_o^2} = \underbrace{\left[ \text{Var}(x^a) \right]^{-1}}_{\text{accuracy}}$$

**Geometric interpretation** 
$$E(\varepsilon^o \varepsilon^b) = 0 \implies E(\varepsilon^a (Y - X_b)) = 0$$



 $\rightarrow$  orthogonal projection for the scalar product <  $Z_1, Z_2>= E(Z_1Z_2)$  for unbiased random variables.

- $\triangleright$  x: a realization of a random variable X. What is the pdf p(X|Y)?
- Based on the Bayes rule:

$$P(X = x \mid Y = y) = \underbrace{\frac{P(Y = y \mid X = x)}{P(X = x)} \underbrace{P(X = x)}_{\text{normalisation factor}} \underbrace{P(X = x)}_{\text{prior}}$$



- $\triangleright$  x: a realization of a random variable X. What is the pdf p(X|Y)?
- Based on the Bayes rule:

$$P(X = x \mid Y = y) = \underbrace{\frac{P(Y = y \mid X = x)}{P(X = x)} \underbrace{P(X = x)}_{normalisation factor}}_{prior}$$

- Back to our example:
  - ▶ Background  $X^b \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{N}(19, \sigma_b^2)$
  - ▶ Observation  $y = 21^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and  $Y = X + \varepsilon^{o}$  with  $\varepsilon^{o} \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{o}^{2})$

- ▶ Background  $X^b \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{N}(19, \sigma_b^2)$
- ▶ Observation  $y = 21^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and  $Y = X + \varepsilon^{\circ}$  with  $\varepsilon^{\circ} \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{\circ}^{2})$

$$P(X = x | Y = 21) = \frac{P(Y = 21 | X = x) P(X = x)}{P(Y = y)}$$



- ▶ Background  $X^b \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{N}(19, \sigma_b^2)$
- ▶ Observation  $y = 21^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and  $Y = X + \varepsilon^{o}$  with  $\varepsilon^{o} \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{o}^{2})$

$$P(X = x | Y = 21) = \frac{P(Y = 21 | X = x) P(X = x)}{P(Y = y)}$$

- Prior:  $P(X = x) = P(X^b = x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sigma_b} \exp\left(\frac{(x 19)^2}{2\sigma_b^2}\right)$
- Likelihood:

$$p(Y = 21 \mid X = x) = p(\varepsilon^{\circ} = 21 - X \mid X = x)$$

$$= p(\varepsilon^{\circ} = 21 - x) \quad \varepsilon^{\circ} \text{ is assumed independent from } X$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sigma_{\circ}} \exp\left(-\frac{(21 - x)^{2}}{2 \sigma_{\circ}^{2}}\right)$$



- ▶ Background  $X^b \sim \mathcal{N}(19, \sigma_b^2)$
- ▶ Observation  $y = 21^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and  $Y = X + \varepsilon^{o}$  with  $\varepsilon^{o} \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{o}^{2})$

$$P(X = x | Y = 21) = \frac{P(Y = 21 | X = x) P(X = x)}{P(Y = y)}$$

► Hence

$$\begin{split} \rho(X=x) \, \rho(Y=21|\ X=x) & = \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_b} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-19)^2}{2\,\sigma_b^2}\right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\,\sigma_o} \exp\left(-\frac{(21-x)^2}{2\,\sigma_o^2}\right) \\ & = \quad \mathcal{K} \, \exp\left(-\frac{(x-m_a)^2}{2\sigma_a^2}\right) \\ & \text{with } m_a = \frac{\frac{1}{\sigma_b^2} \, 19 + \frac{1}{\sigma_o^2} \, 21}{\frac{1}{\sigma_b^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_o^2}} \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_a^2 = \left(\frac{1}{\sigma_b^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_o^2}\right)^{-1} \end{split}$$

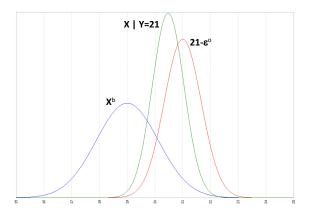
- ▶ Background  $X^b \sim \mathcal{N}(19, \sigma_b^2)$
- ▶ Observation  $y=21^{\circ}\mathsf{C}$ , and  $Y=X+arepsilon^o$  with  $arepsilon^o \leadsto \mathcal{N}(0,\sigma_o^2)$

$$P(X = x | Y = 21) = \frac{P(Y = 21 | X = x) P(X = x)}{P(Y = y)}$$

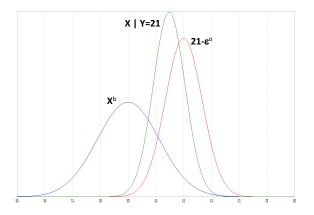
► Hence

$$\begin{split} p(X=x) \, p(Y=21|\; X=x) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_b} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-19)^2}{2\;\sigma_b^2}\right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\,\sigma_o} \exp\left(-\frac{(21-x)^2}{2\;\sigma_o^2}\right) \\ &= \; K \; \exp\left(-\frac{(x-m_a)^2}{2\sigma_a^2}\right) \\ &\text{with } m_a = \frac{\frac{1}{\sigma_b^2} \, 19 + \frac{1}{\sigma_o^2} \, 21}{\frac{1}{\sigma_b^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_o^2}} \quad \text{and} \; \; \sigma_a^2 = \left(\frac{1}{\sigma_b^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_o^2}\right)^{-1} \end{split}$$









Same as the BLUE because of Gaussian hypothesis



# Model problem: synthesis

Data assimilation methods are often split into 2-3 families:

- Variational methods: minimization of a cost function (least squares approach)
- ► Linear statistical approach: computation of the BLUE (with hypotheses on the first two moments)
- Bayesian approach: approximation of pdfs (with hypotheses on the pdfs)
- ► There are strong links between those approaches, depending on the case (linear, Gaussian...)



# Model problem: synthesis

Data assimilation methods are often split into 2-3 families:

- Variational methods: minimization of a cost function (least squares approach)
- ► Linear statistical approach: computation of the BLUE (with hypotheses on the first two moments)
- Bayesian approach: approximation of pdfs (with hypotheses on the pdfs)
- ► There are strong links between those approaches, depending on the case (linear, Gaussian...)

#### Theorem

If you have understood this previous stuff, you have understood a lot on data assimilation.

## Outline

DA for dummies: the simplest possible model problem

#### Definition and minimization of the cost function

Least squares problems
Linear (time independent) problems

The adjoint method



## Outline

DA for dummies: the simplest possible model problem

Definition and minimization of the cost function Least squares problems

Linear (time independent) problems

The adjoint method



To be estimated: 
$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbf{R}^n$$
Observations:  $\mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbf{R}^p$ 

Observation operator:  $\mathbf{y} \equiv H(\mathbf{x})$ , with  $H: \mathbf{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbf{R}^p$ 



#### A simple example of observation operator

If 
$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix}$$
 and  $\mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} \text{an observation of } \frac{x_1 + x_2}{2} \\ \text{an observation of } x_4 \end{pmatrix}$ 

then 
$$H(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}$$
 with  $\mathbf{H} =$ 



## A simple example of observation operator

If 
$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix}$$
 and  $\mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} \text{an observation of } \frac{x_1 + x_2}{2} \\ \text{an observation of } x_4 \end{pmatrix}$ 

then 
$$H(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}$$
 with  $\mathbf{H} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ 



To be estimated: 
$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbf{R}^n$$
Observations:  $\mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbf{R}^p$ 

Observation operator:  $\mathbf{y} \equiv H(\mathbf{x})$ , with  $H: \mathbf{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbf{R}^p$ 

Cost function:  $J(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \|H(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{y}\|^2$  with  $\|.\|$  to be chosen.



#### Reminder: norms and scalar products

$$\mathbf{u} = \left(\begin{array}{c} u_1 \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{array}\right) \in \mathbf{R}^n$$

Euclidian norm:  $\|\mathbf{u}\|^2 = \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{u} = \sum_{i=1}^n u_i^2$ 

Associated scalar product:  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{v} = \sum_{i=1}^m u_i v_i$ 

▶ Generalized norm: let M a symmetric positive definite matrix

**M**-norm: 
$$\|\mathbf{u}\|_{\mathbf{M}}^2 = \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{M} \ \mathbf{u} = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n m_{ij} u_i u_j$$

Associated scalar product:  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})_{\mathsf{M}} = \mathbf{u}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathsf{M} \ \mathbf{v} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} m_{ij} \ u_i v_j$ 

To be estimated: 
$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbf{R}^n$$

Observations: 
$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_p \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbf{R}^p$$

Observation operator:  $\mathbf{y} \equiv H(\mathbf{x})$ , with  $H: \mathbf{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbf{R}^p$ 

Cost function:  $J(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \|H(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{y}\|^2$  with  $\|.\|$  to be chosen.



To be estimated: 
$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbf{R}^n$$

Observations: 
$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_p \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbf{R}^p$$

Observation operator:  $\mathbf{y} \equiv H(\mathbf{x})$ , with  $H: \mathbf{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbf{R}^p$ 

Cost function:  $J(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \|H(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{y}\|^2$  with  $\|.\|$  to be chosen.

(Intuitive) necessary (but not sufficient) condition for the existence of a unique minimum:

$$p \geq n$$



# Formalism "background value + new observations"

$$\mathbf{Y} = \left(\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{x}_b \\ \mathbf{y} \end{array}\right) \xleftarrow{\quad \text{background}}$$
 new obs

The cost function becomes:

$$J(\mathbf{x}) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_b\|_b^2}_{J_b} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \|H(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{y}\|_o^2}_{J_a}$$



# Formalism "background value + new observations"

$$\mathbf{Y} = \left(\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{x}_b \\ \mathbf{y} \end{array}\right) \xleftarrow{\quad \text{background}}$$

The cost function becomes:

$$J(\mathbf{x}) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_b\|_b^2}_{J_b} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \|H(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{y}\|_o^2}_{J_o}$$
$$= (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_b)^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_b) + (H(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{y})^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} (H(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{y})$$



# Formalism "background value + new observations"

$$\mathbf{Y} = \left(\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{x}_b \\ \mathbf{y} \end{array}\right) \xleftarrow{\quad \text{background}}$$

The cost function becomes:

$$J(\mathbf{x}) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_b\|_b^2}_{J_b} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \|H(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{y}\|_o^2}_{J_o}$$
$$= (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_b)^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_b) + (H(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{y})^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} (H(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{y})$$

The necessary condition for the existence of a unique minimum  $(p \ge n)$  is automatically fulfilled.



## If the problem is time dependent

- ▶ Observations are distributed in time:  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{y}(t)$ .
- The observation cost function becomes:

$$J_o(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \|H_i(\mathbf{x}(t_i)) - \mathbf{y}(t_i)\|_o^2$$



# If the problem is time dependent

- ▶ Observations are distributed in time:  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{y}(t)$ .
- The observation cost function becomes:

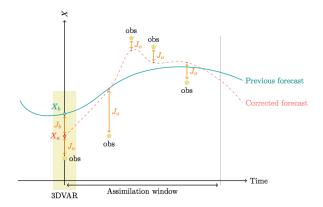
$$J_o(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \|H_i(\mathbf{x}(t_i)) - \mathbf{y}(t_i)\|_o^2$$

▶ There is a model describing the evolution of  $\mathbf{x}$ :  $\frac{d\mathbf{x}}{dt} = M(\mathbf{x})$  with  $\mathbf{x}(t=0) = \mathbf{x}_0$ . Then J is often no longer minimized w.r.t.  $\mathbf{x}$ , but w.r.t.  $\mathbf{x}_0$  only, or to some other parameters.

$$J_o(\mathbf{x}_0) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \|H_i(\mathbf{x}(t_i)) - \mathbf{y}(t_i)\|_o^2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \|H_i(\mathbf{M}_{0 \to t_i}(\mathbf{x}_0)) - \mathbf{y}(t_i)\|_o^2$$



# If the problem is time dependent



$$J(\mathbf{x}_0) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}_0^b\|_b^2}_{\text{background term } J_b} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \|H_i(\mathbf{x}(t_i)) - \mathbf{y}(t_i)\|_o^2}_{\text{observation term } J_o}$$



$$J(\mathbf{x}_0) = J_b(\mathbf{x}_0) + J_o(\mathbf{x}_0) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}_b\|_b^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^N \|H_i(M_{0 \to t_i}(\mathbf{x}_0)) - \mathbf{y}(t_i)\|_o^2$$

▶ If H and M are linear then  $J_o$  is quadratic.



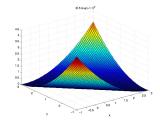


$$J(\mathbf{x}_0) = J_b(\mathbf{x}_0) + J_o(\mathbf{x}_0) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}_b\|_b^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \|H_i(M_{0 \to t_i}(\mathbf{x}_0)) - \mathbf{y}(t_i)\|_o^2$$

- ▶ If H and M are linear then  $J_o$  is quadratic.
- ▶ However it generally does not have a unique minimum, since the number of observations is generally less than the size of  $\mathbf{x}_0$  (the problem is underdetermined: p < n).

Example: let  $(x_1^t, x_2^t) = (1, 1)$  and y = 1.1 an observation of  $\frac{1}{2}(x_1 + x_2)$ .

$$J_o(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{x_1 + x_2}{2} - 1.1 \right)^2$$



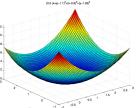
$$J(\mathbf{x}_0) = J_b(\mathbf{x}_0) + J_o(\mathbf{x}_0) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}_b\|_b^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \|H_i(M_{0 \to t_i}(\mathbf{x}_0)) - \mathbf{y}(t_i)\|_o^2$$

- ▶ If H and M are linear then  $J_o$  is quadratic.
- ▶ However it generally does not have a unique minimum, since the number of observations is generally less than the size of **x**<sub>0</sub> (the problem is underdetermined).
- ▶ Adding  $J_b$  makes the problem of minimizing  $J = J_o + J_b$  well posed.

Example: let  $(x_1^t, x_2^t) = (1, 1)$  and y = 1.1 an observation of  $\frac{1}{2}(x_1 + x_2)$ . Let  $(x_1^b, x_2^b) = (0.9, 1.05)$ 

$$J(x_1, x_2) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{x_1 + x_2}{2} - 1.1 \right)^2}_{J_o} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \left[ (x_1 - 0.9)^2 + (x_2 - 1.05)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}}_{J_b}$$

$$\longrightarrow (x_1^*, x_2^*) = (0.94166..., 1.09166...)$$





$$J(\mathbf{x}_0) = J_b(\mathbf{x}_0) + J_o(\mathbf{x}_0) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}_b\|_b^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \|H_i(M_{0 \to t_i}(\mathbf{x}_0)) - \mathbf{y}(t_i)\|_o^2$$

▶ If H and/or M are nonlinear then  $J_o$  is no longer quadratic.





$$J(\mathbf{x}_0) = J_b(\mathbf{x}_0) + J_o(\mathbf{x}_0) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}_b\|_b^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \|H_i(M_{0 \to t_i}(\mathbf{x}_0)) - \mathbf{y}(t_i)\|_o^2$$

▶ If H and/or M are nonlinear then  $J_o$  is no longer quadratic.

Example: the Lorenz system (1963)

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dx}{dt} = \alpha(y - x) \\ \frac{dy}{dt} = \beta x - y - xz \\ \frac{dz}{dt} = -\gamma z + xy \end{cases}$$





Edward Lorenz (1917-2008)

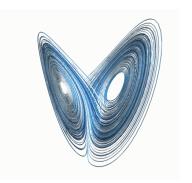
Does the flap of a butterfly's wings in Brazil set off a tornado in Texas? (139th meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1972)

$$J(\mathbf{x}_0) = J_b(\mathbf{x}_0) + J_o(\mathbf{x}_0) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}_b\|_b^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \|H_i(M_{0 \to t_i}(\mathbf{x}_0)) - \mathbf{y}(t_i)\|_o^2$$

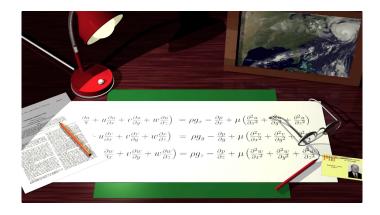
▶ If H and/or M are nonlinear then  $J_o$  is no longer quadratic.

Example: the Lorenz system (1963)

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dx}{dt} = \alpha(y - x) \\ \frac{dy}{dt} = \beta x - y - xz \\ \frac{dz}{dt} = -\gamma z + xy \end{cases}$$







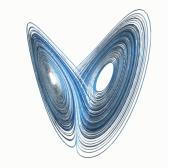
http://www.chaos-math.org

$$J(\mathbf{x}_0) = J_b(\mathbf{x}_0) + J_o(\mathbf{x}_0) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}_b\|_b^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \|H_i(M_{0 \to t_i}(\mathbf{x}_0)) - \mathbf{y}(t_i)\|_o^2$$

▶ If H and/or M are nonlinear then  $J_o$  is no longer quadratic.

Example: the Lorenz system (1963)

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dx}{dt} = \alpha(y - x) \\ \frac{dy}{dt} = \beta x - y - xz \\ \frac{dz}{dt} = -\gamma z + xy \end{cases}$$



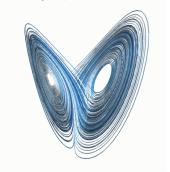


$$J(\mathbf{x}_0) = J_b(\mathbf{x}_0) + J_o(\mathbf{x}_0) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}_b\|_b^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \|H_i(M_{0 \to t_i}(\mathbf{x}_0)) - \mathbf{y}(t_i)\|_o^2$$

▶ If H and/or M are nonlinear then  $J_o$  is no longer quadratic.

Example: the Lorenz system (1963)

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dx}{dt} = \alpha(y - x) \\ \frac{dy}{dt} = \beta x - y - xz \\ \frac{dz}{dt} = -\gamma z + xy \end{cases}$$



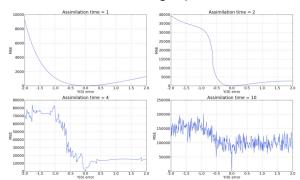
$$J_o(y_0) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{N} (x(t_i) - x_{obs}(t_i))^2 dt$$



$$J(\mathbf{x}_0) = J_b(\mathbf{x}_0) + J_o(\mathbf{x}_0) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}_b\|_b^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \|H_i(M_{0 \to t_i}(\mathbf{x}_0)) - \mathbf{y}(t_i)\|_o^2$$

▶ If H and/or M are nonlinear then  $J_o$  is no longer quadratic.

$$J_o(y_0) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{N} (x(t_i) - x_{obs}(t_i))^2 dt$$

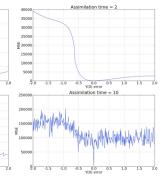


$$J(\mathbf{x}_0) = J_b(\mathbf{x}_0) + J_o(\mathbf{x}_0) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}_b\|_b^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \|H_i(M_{0 \to t_i}(\mathbf{x}_0)) - \mathbf{y}(t_i)\|_o^2$$

▶ If H and/or M are nonlinear then  $J_o$  is no longer quadratic.

$$J_{o}(y_{0}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{N} (x(t_{i}) - x_{obs}(t_{i}))^{2} dt$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{N} (x(t_{i}) - x_{obs}(t_{i}))^{2} dt$$



Adding  $J_b$  makes it "more quadratic" ( $J_b$  is a regularization term), but  $J = J_o + J_b$  may however have several (local) minima.

# A fundamental remark before going into minimization aspects

Once J is defined (i.e. once all the ingredients are chosen: control variables, norms, observations...), the problem is entirely defined. Hence its solution.



The "physical" (i.e. the most important) part of data assimilation lies in the definition of J.

The rest of the job, i.e. minimizing J, is "only" technical work.



## Outline

DA for dummies: the simplest possible model problem

Definition and minimization of the cost function

Least squares problems

Linear (time independent) problems

The adjoint method



## Reminder: norms and scalar products

$$\mathbf{u} = \left(\begin{array}{c} u_1 \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{array}\right) \in \mathbf{R}^n$$

► Euclidian norm: 
$$\|\mathbf{u}\|^2 = \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{u} = \sum_{i=1}^n u_i^2$$

Associated scalar product: 
$$(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{v} = \sum_{i=1}^n u_i v_i$$

▶ Generalized norm: let M a symmetric positive definite matrix

M-norm: 
$$\|\mathbf{u}\|_{\mathbf{M}}^2 = \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{M} \ \mathbf{u} = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n m_{ij} \ u_i u_j$$

Associated scalar product:  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})_{\mathsf{M}} = \mathbf{u}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathsf{M} \ \mathbf{v} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} m_{ij} \ u_i v_j$ 

#### Reminder: norms and scalar products

$$u: \quad \Omega \subset \mathbf{R}^n \quad \longrightarrow \mathbf{R} \\ \mathbf{x} \qquad \longrightarrow u(\mathbf{x}) \qquad \qquad u \in L^2(\Omega)$$

Euclidian (or  $L^2$ ) norm:  $||u||^2 = \int_{\Omega} u^2(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}$ 

Associated scalar product:  $(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} u(\mathbf{x}) v(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}$ 



## Reminder: derivatives and gradients

$$f: E \longrightarrow \mathbf{R}$$
 (E being of finite or infinite dimension)

▶ Directional (or Gâteaux) derivative of f at point  $x \in E$  in direction  $d \in E$ :

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial d}(x) = \hat{f}[x](d) = \lim_{\alpha \to 0} \frac{f(x + \alpha d) - f(x)}{\alpha}$$

**Example:** partial derivatives  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}$  are directional derivatives in the direction of the members of the canonical basis  $(d = e_i)$ 



#### Reminder: derivatives and gradients

 $f: E \longrightarrow \mathbf{R}$  (E being of finite or infinite dimension)

▶ Gradient (or Fréchet derivative): E being an Hilbert space, f is Fréchet differentiable at point  $x \in E$  iff

$$\exists p \in E \text{ such that } f(x+h) = f(x) + (p,h) + o(\|h\|) \quad \forall h \in E$$

p is the derivative or gradient of f at point x, denoted f'(x) or  $\nabla f(x)$ .

▶  $h \rightarrow (p(x), h)$  is a linear function, called differential function or tangent linear function or Jacobian of f at point x

#### Reminder: derivatives and gradients

 $f: E \longrightarrow \mathbf{R}$  (E being of finite or infinite dimension)

▶ Gradient (or Fréchet derivative): E being an Hilbert space, f is Fréchet differentiable at point  $x \in E$  iff

$$\exists p \in E \text{ such that } f(x+h) = f(x) + (p,h) + o(\|h\|) \quad \forall h \in E$$

p is the derivative or gradient of f at point x, denoted f'(x) or  $\nabla f(x)$ .

- ▶  $h \rightarrow (p(x), h)$  is a linear function, called differential function or tangent linear function or Jacobian of f at point x
- ▶ Important (obvious) relationship:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial d}(x) = (\nabla f(x), d)$

# Minimum of a quadratic function in finite dimension

#### Theorem: Generalized (or Moore-Penrose) inverse

Let **M** a  $p \times n$  matrix, with rank n, and  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^p$ . (hence  $p \ge n$ )

Let 
$$J(\mathbf{x}) = \|\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|^2 = (\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b})^T (\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}).$$

*J* is minimum for  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{M}^+ \mathbf{b}$ , where  $\mathbf{M}^+ = (\mathbf{M}^T \mathbf{M})^{-1} \mathbf{M}^T$  (generalized, or Moore-Penrose, inverse).



# Minimum of a quadratic function in finite dimension

## Theorem: Generalized (or Moore-Penrose) inverse

Let **M** a  $p \times n$  matrix, with rank n, and  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^p$ . (hence  $p \ge n$ )

Let 
$$J(\mathbf{x}) = \|\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|^2 = (\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b})^T (\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}).$$

J is minimum for  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{M}^+ \mathbf{b}$ , where  $\mathbf{M}^+ = (\mathbf{M}^T \mathbf{M})^{-1} \mathbf{M}^T$  (generalized, or Moore-Penrose, inverse).

#### Corollary: with a generalized norm

Let **N** a  $p \times p$  symmetric definite positive matrix.

Let 
$$J_1(\mathbf{x}) = \|\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|_N^2 = (\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b})^T \mathbf{N} (\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}).$$

 $J_1$  is minimum for  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = (\mathbf{M}^T \mathbf{N} \mathbf{M})^{-1} \mathbf{M}^T \mathbf{N} \mathbf{b}$ .



#### Link with data assimilation

This gives the solution to the problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{R}^n} J_o(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \| \mathbf{H} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y} \|_o^2$$

in the case of a linear observation operator  $\mathbf{H}$ .

$$J_o(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbf{H} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y} \right)^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} (\mathbf{H} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) \ \longrightarrow \ \hat{\mathbf{x}} = (\mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{H})^{-1} \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} \, \mathbf{y}$$

## Link with data assimilation



#### Similarly:

$$J(\mathbf{x}) = J_b(\mathbf{x}) + J_o(\mathbf{x})$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_b\|_b^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|H(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{y}\|_o^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_b)^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_b) + \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{H}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} (\mathbf{H}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b})^T \mathbf{N} (\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|_{\mathbf{N}}^2$$
with  $\mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I}_n \\ \mathbf{H} \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}_b \\ \mathbf{y} \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{N} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{B}^{-1} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{R}^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$ 





#### Link with data assimilation



#### Similarly:

$$J(\mathbf{x}) = J_b(\mathbf{x}) + J_o(\mathbf{x})$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_b\|_b^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|H(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{y}\|_o^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_b)^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_b) + \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{H}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} (\mathbf{H}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b})^T \mathbf{N} (\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|_{\mathbf{N}}^2$$
with  $\mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I}_n \\ \mathbf{H} \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}_b \\ \mathbf{y} \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{N} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{B}^{-1} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{R}^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$ 

which leads to

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{x}_b + \underbrace{(\mathbf{B}^{-1} + \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{H})^{-1} \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{R}^{-1}}_{\text{gain matrix}} \underbrace{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H} \mathbf{x}_b)}_{\text{innovation vector}}$$

**Remark:** The gain matrix also reads  $BH^T(HBH^T + R)^{-1}$  (Sherman-Morrison-Woodbury formula)



## Link with data assimilation

### Remark

$$\underbrace{\mathsf{Hess}(J)}_{\mathsf{convexity}} = \mathbf{B}^{-1} + \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{H} = \underbrace{[\mathit{Cov}(\hat{\mathbf{x}})]^{-1}}_{\mathsf{accuracy}}$$

(cf BLUE)



### Remark

Given the size of n and p, it is generally impossible to handle explicitly H, B and R. So the direct computation of the gain matrix is impossible.

 $\blacktriangleright$  even in the linear case (for which we have an explicit expression for  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ ), the computation of  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  is performed using an optimization algorithm.



# Outline

DA for dummies: the simplest possible model problem

Definition and minimization of the cost function

## The adjoint method

Rationale

A simple example

A more complex (but still linear) example

Control of the initial condition

The adjoint method as a constrained minimization



# Outline

DA for dummies: the simplest possible model problem

Definition and minimization of the cost function

## The adjoint method

### Rationale

A simple example

A more complex (but still linear) example

Control of the initial condition

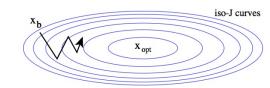
The adjoint method as a constrained minimization



## Descent methods

Descent methods for minimizing the cost function require the knowledge of (an estimate of) its gradient.

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{x}_k + \alpha_k \, \mathbf{d}_k$$



with 
$$\mathbf{d}_k = \left\{ egin{array}{ll} - 
abla J(\mathbf{x}_k) & \text{gradient method} \\ - \left[ \operatorname{Hess}(J)(\mathbf{x}_k) \right]^{-1} 
abla J(\mathbf{x}_k) & \text{Newton method} \\ - \mathbf{B}_k \, 
abla J(\mathbf{x}_k) & \text{quasi-Newton method} \\ - 
abla J(\mathbf{x}_k) + \frac{\| 
abla J(\mathbf{x}_k) \|^2}{\| 
abla J(\mathbf{x}_{k-1}) \|^2} d_{k-1} & \text{conjugate gradient} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \end{array} \right.$$

gradient method quasi-Newton methods (BFGS, ...) The computation of  $\nabla J(\mathbf{x}_k)$  may be difficult if the dependency of J with regard to the control variable  $\mathbf{x}$  is not direct.

### Example:

- $\triangleright u(x)$  solution of an ODE
- K(x) a coefficient of this ODE
- $u^{\text{obs}}(x)$  an observation of u(x)
- $J(K) = \frac{1}{2} \|u(x) u^{\text{obs}}(x)\|^2$

The computation of  $\nabla J(\mathbf{x}_k)$  may be difficult if the dependency of J with regard to the control variable  $\mathbf{x}$  is not direct.

### Example:

- ▶ u(x) solution of an ODE
- K(x) a coefficient of this ODE
- $u^{\text{obs}}(x)$  an observation of u(x)

$$J(K) = \frac{1}{2} \|u(x) - u^{\text{obs}}(x)\|^2$$

$$\hat{J}[K](k) = (\nabla J(K), k) = \langle \hat{u}, u - u^{\text{obs}} \rangle$$
with  $\hat{u} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial k}(K) = \lim_{\alpha \to 0} \frac{u_{K+\alpha k} - u_{K}}{\alpha}$ 



It is often difficult (or even impossible) to obtain the gradient through the computation of growth rates.

### **Example:**

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d\mathbf{x}(t)}{dt} = M(\mathbf{x}(t)) & t \in [0, T] \\ \mathbf{x}(t=0) = \mathbf{u} \end{cases} \text{ with } \mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ \vdots \\ u_N \end{pmatrix}$$

$$J(\mathbf{u}) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \|\mathbf{x}(t) - \mathbf{x}^{\text{obs}}(t)\|^2 \longrightarrow \text{requires one model run}$$

$$\nabla J(\mathbf{u}) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial J}{\partial u_1}(\mathbf{u}) \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial J}{\partial u_N}(\mathbf{u}) \end{pmatrix} \simeq \begin{pmatrix} [J(\mathbf{u} + \alpha \, \mathbf{e}_1) - J(\mathbf{u})] / \alpha \\ \vdots \\ [J(\mathbf{u} + \alpha \, \mathbf{e}_N) - J(\mathbf{u})] / \alpha \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\longrightarrow N + 1 \text{ model runs}$$



In most actual applications,  $N = [\mathbf{u}]$  is large (or even very large: e.g.  $N = \mathcal{O}(10^8 - 10^9)$  in meteorology)  $\longrightarrow$  this method cannot be used.

Alternatively, the adjoint method provides a very efficient way to compute  $\nabla J$ .



In most actual applications,  $N = [\mathbf{u}]$  is large (or even very large: e.g.  $N = \mathcal{O}(10^8 - 10^9)$  in meteorology)  $\longrightarrow$  this method cannot be used.

Alternatively, the adjoint method provides a very efficient way to compute  $\nabla J$ .



On the contrary, do not forget that, if the size of the control variable is very small (< 10-20),  $\nabla J$  can be easily estimated by the computation of growth rates.



# Reminder: adjoint operator

### ► General definition

Let  $\mathcal X$  and  $\mathcal Y$  two prehilbertian spaces (i.e. vector spaces with scalar products).

Let  $A: \mathcal{X} \longrightarrow \mathcal{Y}$  an operator.

The adjoint operator  $A^*: \mathcal{Y} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$  is defined by:

$$\forall x \in \mathcal{X}, \forall y \in \mathcal{Y}, \qquad \langle Ax, y \rangle_{\mathcal{Y}} = \langle x, A^*y \rangle_{\mathcal{X}}$$

In the case where  $\mathcal{X}$  and  $\mathcal{Y}$  are Hilbert spaces and A is linear, then  $A^*$  always exists (and is unique).



# Reminder: adjoint operator

### ► General definition

Let  $\mathcal X$  and  $\mathcal Y$  two prehilbertian spaces (i.e. vector spaces with scalar products).

Let  $A: \mathcal{X} \longrightarrow \mathcal{Y}$  an operator.

The adjoint operator  $A^*: \mathcal{Y} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$  is defined by:

$$\forall x \in \mathcal{X}, \forall y \in \mathcal{Y}, \qquad \langle Ax, y \rangle_{\mathcal{Y}} = \langle x, A^*y \rangle_{\mathcal{X}}$$

In the case where  $\mathcal{X}$  and  $\mathcal{Y}$  are Hilbert spaces and A is linear, then  $A^*$  always exists (and is unique).

## ► Adjoint operator in finite dimension

 $A: \mathbf{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbf{R}^m$  a linear operator (i.e. a matrix). Then its adjoint operator  $A^*$  (w.r. to Euclidian norms) is  $A^T$ .

# Outline

DA for dummies: the simplest possible model problem

Definition and minimization of the cost function

### The adjoint method

Rationale

## A simple example

A more complex (but still linear) example Control of the initial condition

The adjoint method as a constrained minimization



## The continuous case

### The assimilation problem

- $\begin{cases}
  -u''(x) + c(x) u'(x) = f(x) & x \in ]0,1[ \\
  u(0) = u(1) = 0
  \end{cases}
  f \in L^2(]0,1[)$
- ightharpoonup c(x) is unknown
- $u^{\text{obs}}(x)$  an observation of u(x)
- $\qquad \qquad \mathsf{Cost function:} \ J(c) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \left( u(x) u^{\mathsf{obs}}(x) \right)^2 \, dx$



## The continuous case

### The assimilation problem

$$\begin{cases} -u''(x) + c(x) u'(x) = f(x) & x \in ]0,1[ \\ u(0) = u(1) = 0 \end{cases} f \in L^2(]0,1[)$$

- ightharpoonup c(x) is unknown
- $ightharpoonup u^{obs}(x)$  an observation of u(x)
- $\qquad \qquad \mathsf{Cost function:} \ J(c) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \left( u(x) u^{\mathsf{obs}}(x) \right)^2 \, dx$

$$\begin{array}{l} \nabla J \rightarrow \text{G\^ateaux-derivative: } \hat{\mathsf{J}}[c](\delta c) = < \nabla J(c), \delta c > \\ \hat{\mathsf{J}}[c](\delta c) = \int_0^1 \hat{u}(x) \left(u(x) - u^{\mathsf{obs}}(x)\right) \, dx \quad \text{ with } \hat{u} = \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} \frac{u_{c+\alpha} \delta c - u_c}{\alpha} \end{array}$$

What is the equation satisfied by  $\hat{u}$  ?



$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} -\hat{u}''(x)+c(x)\,\hat{u}'(x)=-\delta c(x)\,u'(x) & x\in ]0,1[ & \mathsf{tangent} \\ \hat{u}(0)=\hat{u}(1)=0 & \mathsf{linear model} \end{array} \right.$$



$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} -\hat{u}''(x)+c(x)\,\hat{u}'(x)=-\delta c(x)\,u'(x) & x\in ]0,1[ & \mathsf{tangent} \\ \hat{u}(0)=\hat{u}(1)=0 & \mathsf{linear\ model} \end{array} \right.$$

$$-\int_0^1 \hat{u}'' p + \int_0^1 c \, \hat{u}' p = -\int_0^1 \delta c \, u' p$$



$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} -\hat{u}''(x)+c(x)\,\hat{u}'(x)=-\delta c(x)\,u'(x) & x\in ]0,1[ & {\rm tangent} \\ \hat{u}(0)=\hat{u}(1)=0 & {\rm linear\ model} \end{array} \right.$$

$$-\int_0^1 \hat{u}'' p + \int_0^1 c \, \hat{u}' p = -\int_0^1 \delta c \, u' p$$

Integration by parts:

$$\int_0^1 \hat{u} \left( -p'' - (c \, p)' \right) = \hat{u}'(1) p(1) - \hat{u}'(0) p(0) - \int_0^1 \delta c \, u' p$$



$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} -\hat{u}''(x)+c(x)\,\hat{u}'(x)=-\delta c(x)\,u'(x) & x\in ]0,1[ & \mathsf{tangent} \\ \hat{u}(0)=\hat{u}(1)=0 & \mathsf{linear\ model} \end{array} \right.$$

$$-\int_0^1 \hat{u}'' p + \int_0^1 c \, \hat{u}' p = -\int_0^1 \delta c \, u' p$$

Integration by parts:

$$\int_0^1 \hat{u} \left( -p'' - (c \, p)' \right) = \hat{u}'(1)p(1) - \hat{u}'(0)p(0) - \int_0^1 \delta c \, u' p$$

$$\begin{cases} -p''(x) - (c(x)p(x))' = u(x) - u^{\text{obs}}(x) & x \in ]0,1[ \text{ adjoint } \\ p(0) = p(1) = 0 & \text{model} \end{cases}$$



$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} -\hat{u}''(x)+c(x)\,\hat{u}'(x)=-\delta c(x)\,u'(x) & x\in ]0,1[ & {\sf tangent} \\ \hat{u}(0)=\hat{u}(1)=0 & {\sf linear model} \end{array} \right.$$

$$-\int_0^1 \hat{u}'' p + \int_0^1 c \, \hat{u}' p = -\int_0^1 \delta c \, u' p$$

Integration by parts:

$$\int_0^1 \hat{u} \left( -p'' - (c \, p)' \right) = \hat{u}'(1)p(1) - \hat{u}'(0)p(0) - \int_0^1 \delta c \, u' p$$

$$\begin{cases} -p''(x) - (c(x)p(x))' = u(x) - u^{\text{obs}}(x) & x \in ]0,1[ \text{ adjoint } \\ p(0) = p(1) = 0 & \text{model} \end{cases}$$

Then 
$$\nabla J(c(x)) = -u'(x) p(x)$$



### Remark

Formally, we just made

$$(TLM(\hat{u}), p) = (\hat{u}, TLM^*(p))$$

We indeed computed the adjoint of the tangent linear model.



### Remark

Formally, we just made

$$(TLM(\hat{u}), p) = (\hat{u}, TLM^*(p))$$

We indeed computed the adjoint of the tangent linear model.

### Actual calculations

Solve the direct model

$$\begin{cases} -u''(x) + c(x) u'(x) = f(x) & x \in ]0,1[\\ u(0) = u(1) = 0 \end{cases}$$

► Then solve the adjoint model

$$\begin{cases} -p''(x) - (c(x)p(x))' = u(x) - u^{\text{obs}}(x) & x \in ]0,1[\\ p(0) = p(1) = 0 \end{cases}$$

► Hence the gradient:  $\nabla J(c(x)) = -u'(x) p(x)$ 

## The discrete case



#### Model

$$\begin{cases} -u''(x) + c(x) u'(x) = f(x) & x \in ]0, 1[\\ u(0) = u(1) = 0 & \\ \longrightarrow \begin{cases} -\frac{u_{i+1} - 2u_i + u_{i-1}}{h^2} + c_i \frac{u_{i+1} - u_i}{h} = f_i & i = 1 \dots N \\ u_0 = u_{N+1} = 0 & \end{cases}$$

### Cost function

$$J(c) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \left( u(x) - u^{\text{obs}}(x) \right)^2 dx \longrightarrow \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \left( u_i - u_i^{\text{obs}} \right)^2$$

### Gâteaux derivative:

$$\hat{J}[c](\delta c) = \int_0^1 \hat{u}(x) \left( u(x) - u^{\text{obs}}(x) \right) dx \qquad \longrightarrow \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i \left( u_i - u_i^{\text{obs}} \right)$$



$$\begin{cases} -\hat{u}''(x) + c(x)\,\hat{u}'(x) = -\delta c(x)\,u'(x) & x \in ]0,1[\\ \hat{u}(0) = \hat{u}(1) = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} -\frac{\hat{u}_{i+1} - 2\hat{u}_i + \hat{u}_{i-1}}{h^2} + c_i\,\frac{\hat{u}_{i+1} - \hat{u}_i}{h} = -\delta c_i\,\frac{u_{i+1} - u_i}{h} \quad i = 1\dots N \\ \hat{u}_0 = \hat{u}_{N+1} = 0 \end{cases}$$

## Adjoint model

$$\begin{cases} -p''(x) - (c(x) p(x))' = u(x) - u^{\text{obs}}(x) & x \in ]0, 1[\\ p(0) = p(1) = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} -\frac{p_{i+1} - 2p_i + p_{i-1}}{h^2} - \frac{c_i p_i - c_{i-1} p_{i-1}}{h} = u_i - u_i^{\text{obs}} & i = 1 \dots N \\ p_0 = p_{N+1} = 0 \end{cases}$$

### Gradient

$$\nabla J(c(x)) = -u'(x) p(x) \longrightarrow \left( \begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ -p_i \frac{u_{i+1} - u_i}{h} \\ \vdots \end{array} \right)$$



### Remark: with matrix notations

What we do when determining the adjoint model is simply transposing the matrix which defines the tangent linear model

$$(\mathsf{M}\hat{\mathsf{U}},\mathsf{P})=(\hat{\mathsf{U}},\mathsf{M}^T\,\mathsf{P})$$

In the preceding example:

In the preceding example: 
$$\mathbf{M}\hat{\mathbf{U}} = \mathbf{F} \quad \text{with } \mathbf{M} = \begin{bmatrix} 2\alpha - \beta_1 & -\alpha + \beta_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ -\alpha & 2\alpha - \beta_2 & -\alpha + \beta_2 & & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & & & -\alpha & 2\alpha - \beta_{N-1} & -\alpha + \beta_{N-1} \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & -\alpha & 2\alpha - \beta_N \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\alpha = 1/h^2, \beta_i = c_i/h$$



### Remark: with matrix notations

What we do when determining the adjoint model is simply transposing the matrix which defines the tangent linear model

$$(\mathsf{M}\hat{\mathsf{U}},\mathsf{P})=(\hat{\mathsf{U}},\mathsf{M}^T\,\mathsf{P})$$

In the preceding example:

In the preceding example: 
$$\mathbf{M}\hat{\mathbf{U}} = \mathbf{F} \quad \text{with } \mathbf{M} = \begin{bmatrix} 2\alpha - \beta_1 & -\alpha + \beta_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ -\alpha & 2\alpha - \beta_2 & -\alpha + \beta_2 & & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & & & -\alpha & 2\alpha - \beta_{N-1} & -\alpha + \beta_{N-1} \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & -\alpha & 2\alpha - \beta_N \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\alpha = 1/h^2, \beta_i = c_i/h$$

But **M** is generally not explicitly built in actual complex models...

## Outline

DA for dummies: the simplest possible model problem

Definition and minimization of the cost function

## The adjoint method

Rationale

A simple example

## A more complex (but still linear) example

Control of the initial condition

The adjoint method as a constrained minimization



# Control of the coefficient of a 1-D diffusion equation

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( K(x) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) = f(x, t) & x \in ]0, L[, t \in ]0, T[\\ u(0, t) = u(L, t) = 0 & t \in [0, T]\\ u(x, 0) = u_0(x) & x \in [0, L] \end{cases}$$

- ► *K*(*x*) is unknown
- $ightharpoonup u^{\text{obs}}(x,t)$  an available observation of u(x,t)

Minimize 
$$J(K(x)) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \int_0^L (u(x,t) - u^{\text{obs}}(x,t))^2 dx dt$$





### Gâteaux derivative

$$\hat{J}[K](k) = \int_0^T \int_0^L \hat{u}(x,t) \left( u(x,t) - u^{\text{obs}}(x,t) \right) dx dt$$

$$\hat{\mathsf{J}}[K](k) = \int_0^T \int_0^L \hat{u}(x,t) \left( u(x,t) - u^{\text{obs}}(x,t) \right) dx dt$$

# Tangent linear model

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \hat{u}}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( K(x) \frac{\partial \hat{u}}{\partial x} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( k(x) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) & x \in ]0, L[, t \in ]0, T[\\ \hat{u}(0, t) = \hat{u}(L, t) = 0 & t \in [0, T]\\ \hat{u}(x, 0) = 0 & x \in [0, L] \end{cases}$$



### Gâteaux derivative

$$\hat{\mathsf{J}}[K](k) = \int_0^T \int_0^L \hat{u}(x,t) \left( u(x,t) - u^{\text{obs}}(x,t) \right) \, dx \, dt$$

# Tangent linear model

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \hat{u}}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( K(x) \frac{\partial \hat{u}}{\partial x} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( k(x) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) & x \in ]0, L[, t \in ]0, T[\\ \hat{u}(0, t) = \hat{u}(L, t) = 0 & t \in [0, T]\\ \hat{u}(x, 0) = 0 & x \in [0, L] \end{cases}$$

# Adjoint model

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( K(x) \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} \right) = u - u^{\text{obs}} & x \in ]0, L[, t \in ]0, T[\\ p(0, t) = p(L, t) = 0 & t \in [0, T]\\ p(x, T) = 0 & x \in [0, L] & \text{final condition } !! \rightarrow \text{backward integration} \end{cases}$$



## Gâteaux derivative of J

$$\hat{J}[K](k) = \int_0^T \int_0^L \hat{u}(x,t) \left( u(x,t) - u^{\text{obs}}(x,t) \right) dx dt$$
$$= \int_0^T \int_0^L k(x) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} dx dt$$

### Gradient of J

$$\nabla J(x) = \int_{0}^{T} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(x,t) \frac{\partial p}{\partial x}(x,t) dt \qquad \text{function of } x$$



### Discrete version:

same as for the preceding ODE, but with  $\sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{i=1}^{I} u_{i}^{n}$ 

Matrix interpretation: **M** is much more complex than previously!!



# Outline

DA for dummies: the simplest possible model problem

Definition and minimization of the cost function

## The adjoint method

Rationale

A simple example

A more complex (but still linear) example

Control of the initial condition

The adjoint method as a constrained minimization



## General formal derivation

- ► Model  $\begin{cases} \frac{dX(x,t)}{dt} = M(X(x,t)) & (x,t) \in \Omega \times [0,T] \\ X(x,0) = H(x) \end{cases}$
- ▶ **Observations** Y with observation operator  $H: H(X) \equiv Y$
- ► Cost function  $J(U) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T ||H(X) Y||^2$



# General formal derivation

- ► Model  $\begin{cases} \frac{dX(x,t)}{dt} = M(X(x,t)) & (x,t) \in \Omega \times [0,T] \\ X(x,0) = U(x) \end{cases}$
- ▶ **Observations** Y with observation operator  $H: H(X) \equiv Y$
- ► Cost function  $J(U) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T ||H(X) Y||^2$

### Gâteaux derivative of J

$$\hat{\mathsf{J}}[U](u) = \int_0^T \langle \hat{X}, \mathsf{H}^*(HX - Y) \rangle \quad \text{with } \hat{X} = \lim_{\alpha \to 0} \frac{X_{U + \alpha u} - X_U}{\alpha}$$

where  $\mathbf{H}^*$  is the adjoint of  $\mathbf{H}$ , the tangent linear operator of H.



# Tangent linear model

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d\hat{X}(x,t)}{dt} = \mathbf{M}(\hat{X}) & (x,t) \in \Omega \times [0,T] \\ \hat{X}(x,0) = u(x) \end{cases}$$

where M is the tangent linear operator of M.



# Tangent linear model

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d\hat{X}(x,t)}{dt} = \mathbf{M}(\hat{X}) & (x,t) \in \Omega \times [0,T] \\ \hat{X}(x,0) = u(x) \end{cases}$$

where  $\mathbf{M}$  is the tangent linear operator of M.

# Adjoint model

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{dP(x,t)}{dt} + \mathbf{M}^*(P) = \mathbf{H}^*(HX - Y) & (x,t) \in \Omega \times [0,T] \\ P(x,T) = 0 & \text{backward integration} \end{array} \right.$$



$$\begin{cases} \frac{d\hat{X}(x,t)}{dt} = \mathbf{M}(\hat{X}) & (x,t) \in \Omega \times [0,T] \\ \hat{X}(x,0) = u(x) \end{cases}$$

where M is the tangent linear operator of M.

# Adjoint model

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dP(x,t)}{dt} + \mathbf{M}^*(P) = \mathbf{H}^*(HX - Y) & (x,t) \in \Omega \times [0,T] \\ P(x,T) = 0 & \text{backward integration} \end{cases}$$

#### Gradient

$$\nabla J(U) = -P(.,0)$$
 function of x



# Example: the Burgers' equation



#### The assimilation problem

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - \nu \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = f & x \in ]0, L[, t \in [0, T] \\ u(0, t) = \psi_1(t) & t \in [0, T] \\ u(L, t) = \psi_2(t) & t \in [0, T] \\ u(x, 0) = u_0(x) & x \in [0, L] \end{cases}$$

- $\triangleright u_0(x)$  is unknown
- $ightharpoonup u^{\text{obs}}(x,t)$  an observation of u(x,t)
- $\qquad \qquad \textbf{Cost function:} \ J(u_0) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \int_0^L \left( u(x,t) u^{\text{obs}}(x,t) \right)^2 \, dx \, dt$



#### Gâteaux derivative

$$\hat{J}[u_0](h_0) = \int_0^T \int_0^L \hat{u}(x,t) \left(u(x,t) - u^{\text{obs}}(x,t)\right) dx dt$$



#### Gâteaux derivative

$$\hat{J}[u_0](h_0) = \int_0^T \int_0^L \hat{u}(x,t) \left( u(x,t) - u^{\text{obs}}(x,t) \right) dx dt$$

# Tangent linear model

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \hat{u}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial (u\hat{u})}{\partial x} - \nu \frac{\partial^2 \hat{u}}{\partial x^2} = 0 & x \in ]0, L[, t \in [0, T] \\ \hat{u}(0, t) = 0 & t \in [0, T] \\ \hat{u}(L, t) = 0 & t \in [0, T] \\ \hat{u}(x, 0) = h_0(x) & x \in [0, L] \end{cases}$$



#### Gâteaux derivative

$$\hat{J}[u_0](h_0) = \int_0^T \int_0^L \hat{u}(x,t) \left( u(x,t) - u^{\text{obs}}(x,t) \right) dx dt$$

# Tangent linear model

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \hat{u}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial (u\hat{u})}{\partial x} - \nu \frac{\partial^2 \hat{u}}{\partial x^2} = 0 & x \in ]0, L[, t \in [0, T] \\ \hat{u}(0, t) = 0 & t \in [0, T] \\ \hat{u}(L, t) = 0 & t \in [0, T] \\ \hat{u}(x, 0) = h_0(x) & x \in [0, L] \end{cases}$$

# Adjoint model

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \nu \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial x^2} = \left(u - u^{\text{obs}}\right) & x \in ]0, L[, t \in [0, T] \\ p(0, t) = 0 & t \in [0, T] \\ p(L, t) = 0 & t \in [0, T] \\ p(x, T) = 0 & x \in [0, L] \text{ final condition } !! \rightarrow \text{backward integration} \end{cases}$$



## Gâteaux derivative of J

$$\hat{J}[u_0](h_0) = \int_0^T \int_0^L \hat{u}(x,t) \left( u(x,t) - u^{\text{obs}}(x,t) \right) dx dt 
= - \int_0^L h_0(x) p(x,0) dx$$

#### Gradient of J

$$\nabla J = -p(.,0)$$
 function of x



#### Outline

#### The adjoint method

A simple example

A more complex (but still linear) example

The adjoint method as a constrained minimization



# Minimization with equality constraints

# Optimization problem

- $ightharpoonup J: \mathbf{R}^n \to \mathbf{R}$  differentiable
- $K = \{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ such that } h_1(\mathbf{x}) = \ldots = h_p(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \}, \text{ where the } \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ functions  $h_i: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$  are continuously differentiable.

Find the solution of the constrained minimization problem  $\min_{\mathbf{x} \in K} J(\mathbf{x})$ 

# Theorem

If  $\mathbf{x}^* \in K$  is a local minimum of J in K, and if the vectors  $\nabla h_i(\mathbf{x}^*)$ (i = 1, ..., p) are linearly independent, then there exists  $\lambda^* = (\lambda_1^*, \dots, \lambda_p^*) \in \mathbb{R}^p$  such that

$$\nabla J(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{i=1}^p \lambda_i^* \nabla h_i(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0$$



Let 
$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}; \lambda) = J(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^{p} \lambda_i h_i(\mathbf{x})$$

- $\triangleright$   $\lambda_i$ 's: Lagrange multipliers associated to the constraints.
- $\triangleright$   $\mathcal{L}$ : Lagrangian function associated to J.

Then minimizing J in K is equivalent to solving  $\nabla \mathcal{L} = 0$  in  $\mathbf{R}^n \times \mathbf{R}^p$ , since  $\begin{cases} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \mathcal{L} &= \nabla J + \sum_{i=1}^{p} \lambda_{i} \nabla h_{i} \\ \nabla_{\lambda_{i}} \mathcal{L} &= h_{i} & i = 1, \dots, p \end{cases}$ 

This is a saddle point problem.



# The adjoint method as a constrained minimization

The adjoint method can be interpreted as a minimization of J(x) under the constraint that the model equations must be satisfied.

From this point of view, the adjoint variable corresponds to a Lagrange multiplier.





# Example: control of the initial condition of the Burgers' equation

Model:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - \nu \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = f & x \in ]0, L[, t \in [0, T] \\ u(0, t) = \psi_1(t) & t \in [0, T] \\ u(L, t) = \psi_2(t) & t \in [0, T] \\ u(x, 0) = u_0(x) & x \in [0, L] \end{cases}$$

- ▶ Full observation field  $u^{obs}(x, t)$
- ► Cost function:  $J(u_0) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \int_0^L (u(x,t) u^{\text{obs}}(x,t))^2 dx dt$



# Example: control of the initial condition of the Burgers' equation

Model:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - \nu \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = f & x \in ]0, L[, t \in [0, T] \\ u(0, t) = \psi_1(t) & t \in [0, T] \\ u(L, t) = \psi_2(t) & t \in [0, T] \\ u(x, 0) = u_0(x) & x \in [0, L] \end{cases}$$

- ▶ Full observation field  $u^{obs}(x, t)$
- ► Cost function:  $J(u_0) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \int_0^L (u(x,t) u^{\text{obs}}(x,t))^2 dx dt$

We will consider here that J is a function of  $u_0$  and u, and will minimize  $J(u_0, u)$  under the constraint of the model equations.

# Lagrangian function

$$\mathcal{L}(u_0, u; p) = \underbrace{J(u_0, u)}_{\text{data ass cost function}} + \underbrace{\int_0^T \int_0^L \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - \nu \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} - f\right) p}_{\text{model}}$$

Remark: no additional term (i.e. no Lagrange multipliers) for the initial condition nor for the boundary conditions: their values are fixed.

By integration by parts,  $\mathcal L$  can also be written:

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{L}(u_0,u;p) = & \quad J(u_0,u) + \int_0^T \int_0^L \left( -u \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{2} u^2 \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} - \nu u \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial x^2} - fp \right) \\ & \quad + \int_0^L \left[ u(.,T) p(.,T) - u_0 p(.,0) \right] + \int_0^T \left[ \frac{1}{2} \psi_2^2 p(L,.) - \frac{1}{2} \psi_1^2 p(0,.) \right] \\ & \quad - \nu \int_0^T \left[ \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(L,.) p(L,.) - \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(0,.) p(0,.) + \psi_2 \frac{\partial p}{\partial x}(L,.) - \psi_1 \frac{\partial p}{\partial x}(0,.) \right] \end{split}$$

Saddle point:

$$(\nabla_{p}\mathcal{L}, h_{p}) = \int_{0}^{T} \int_{0}^{L} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - \nu \frac{\partial^{2} u}{\partial x^{2}} - f \right) h_{p}$$

$$(\nabla_{u}\mathcal{L}, h_{u}) = \int_{0}^{T} \int_{0}^{L} \left( (u - u^{\text{obs}}) - \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} - u \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} - \nu \frac{\partial^{2} p}{\partial x^{2}} \right) h_{u}$$

$$+ \int_{0}^{L} h_{u}(., T) p(., T)$$

$$-\nu \int_{0}^{T} \left[ \frac{\partial h_{u}}{\partial x}(L, .) p(L, .) - \frac{\partial h_{u}}{\partial x}(0, .) p(0, .) \right]$$

$$(\nabla_{u_0} \mathcal{L}, h_0) = - \int_0^L h_0(.,0) p(.,0)$$



$$\nabla \mathcal{L} = (\nabla_{p} \mathcal{L}, \nabla_{u} \mathcal{L}, \nabla_{u_0} \mathcal{L}) = 0$$

$$\nabla_{p}\mathcal{L} = 0 \iff \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - \nu \frac{\partial^{2} u}{\partial x^{2}} = f \qquad \forall x \, \forall t$$

$$\nabla_{u}\mathcal{L} = 0 \iff \begin{cases} \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \nu \frac{\partial^{2} p}{\partial x^{2}} = u - u^{\text{obs}} \\ p(x, T) = 0 \quad \forall x \\ p(0, t) = p(L, t) = 0 \quad \forall t \end{cases}$$

$$\nabla_{u_0}\mathcal{L}=-p(.,0)=0$$

# Optimality system

This set of equations (direct model, adjoint model, Euler equation) is called the optimality system. It gathers all the information of the data assimilation problem.



# Thank you!

