

Identification of parameters in large-scale physical model structures

Motivated by an example from reservoir engineering

Paul M.J. Van den Hof

co-authors: **Jorn Van Doren, Jan Dirk Jansen, Sippe Douma Okko Bosgra**

Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, 19 October 2009

Delft University of Technology



Oldest and largest of 3
Technical Universities in the
Netherlands:
Delft – Eindhoven - Twente

Founded in 1842 as an
engineering school

Now: 5000 employees, of which
2700 scientists, 15,000 students,
distributed over 8 engineering
faculties:

- Electrical, Math, Comp. Science
- Aerospace Engineering
- Applied Sciences
- Mechanical, Maritime, Mat. Eng.
- Civil Engin., Earth Sciences
- Industrial Design
- Techn. Policy Making and Manag
- Architecture

Delft



Dutch Universities in Control



vrije Universiteit amsterdam



rijksuniversiteit
 groningen

CWI

Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica



TU Delft

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University of
Technology



Universiteit Twente
de ondernemende universiteit



WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY

disc

dutch institute
of systems
and control

TU/e

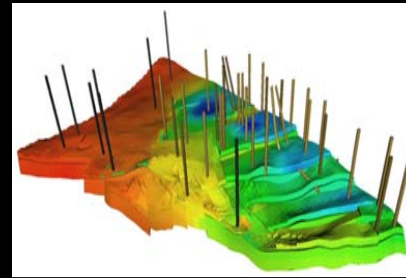
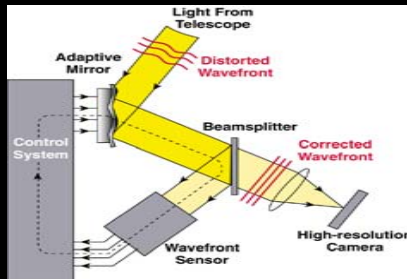
Technische Universiteit
Eindhoven
University of Technology

UNIVERSITEIT VAN TILBURG



Universiteit Maastricht

Delft Center for Systems and Control



University wide center and department within Mechanical Engineering

- 16 scientific (tenured) staff
- 40 PhD students
- 15 Postdocs
- 40 MSc students / year
- BSc programs ME, EE, AP,
- MSC programs ME, EE, AP
- 3TU MSc Systems and Control
- PhD programme DISC

Fundamentals:

- Modelling, control and optimization of complex, non-linear and hybrid systems
- Signal analysis, signal processing and data-based modelling (identification for control)

Mechatronics and Microsystems:



- Automotive systems
- Microfactory
- AFM nano-positioning
- Smart optics systems
- Electron microscopes
- Robotics

Traffic and Transportation:

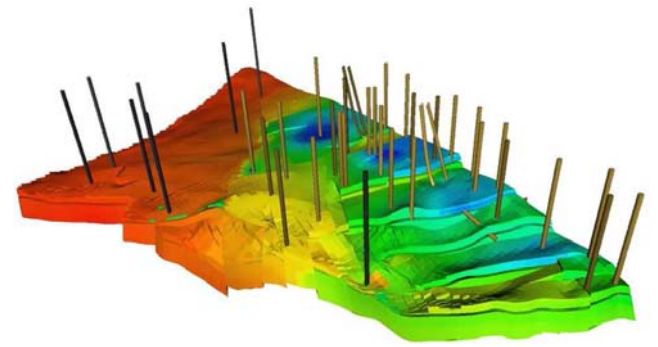


- Discrete event and hybrid systems
- Distributed multi-agent systems
- Optimal adaptive traffic control
- Advanced driver assistance systems

Sustainable Industrial Processes:



- Increase of scale in process operation
- More flexibility in operation
- Economic optimization under operating constraints
- Process intensification
- Towards model-based process management
- hydrocarbon reservoir optimization; crystallization



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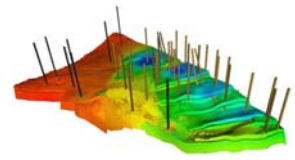
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 - an example from reservoir engineering
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- Particular connections:
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 - Bayesian estimation
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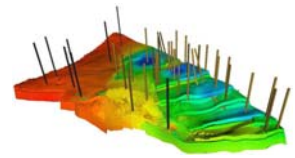


Motivation: physical structures versus black box

- Black box model structures (transfer function, state-space etc.) are well suited for identification of **linear systems**.
- For **nonlinear systems** there are multiple approaches possible, and a choice for an efficient model structure will be highly case-dependent (neural nets, Wiener/Hammerstein, polynomials, Volterra kernels....)
- Typical issue in model structure selection: strive towards as few parameters as possible/necessary.

Rough definition:

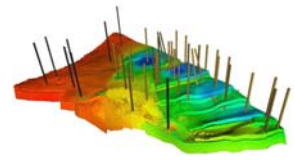
Model structure $\mathcal{M} : \boldsymbol{\theta} \rightarrow i/o \text{ map}$



Motivation: physical structures versus black box

- Which mechanisms can induce a limited number of parameters?
 - *Sheer luck* : guess a model structure that needs only a few parameters to approximate the system well.
 - *Prior information* : use information on the structure / dynamics of the underlying system
- A model structure / parametrization parametrizes a set of models that should reflect the prior uncertainty that we have about our system to be identified.

If that prior info is: "*any nonlinear system*"
the identification task becomes huge!

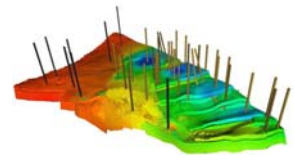


Motivation: physical structures versus black box

- Physical model structures can help us to
 - Come up with model structures with *limited number of parameters*.
 - *Extrapolate* the model dynamics to (nonlinear) regimes that are not necessarily captured in the data.

Rather than linearizing a model around an operating point, estimate the parameters in a (reliable) nonlinear model with a predefined (physics-motivated) structure.

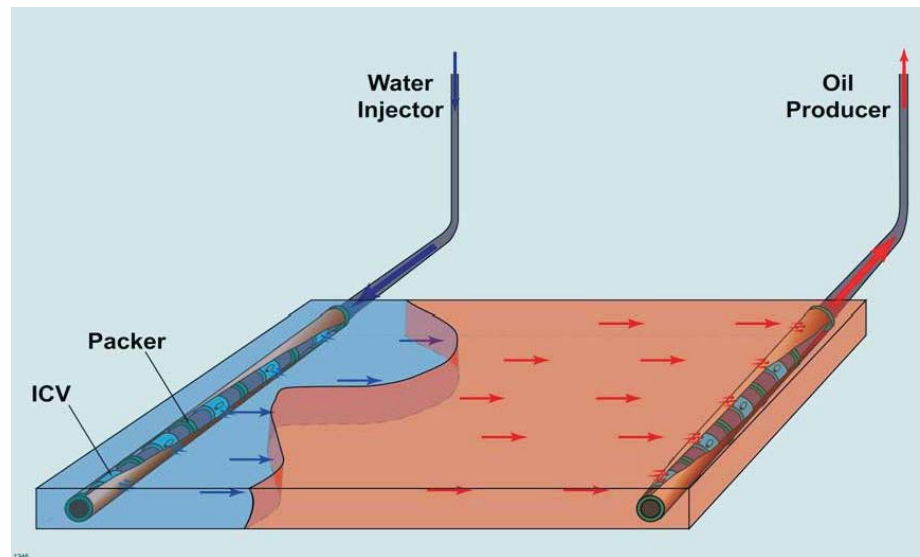
- Physical model structures raise the problem of **identifiability**:
can all unknown parameters be estimated uniquely?



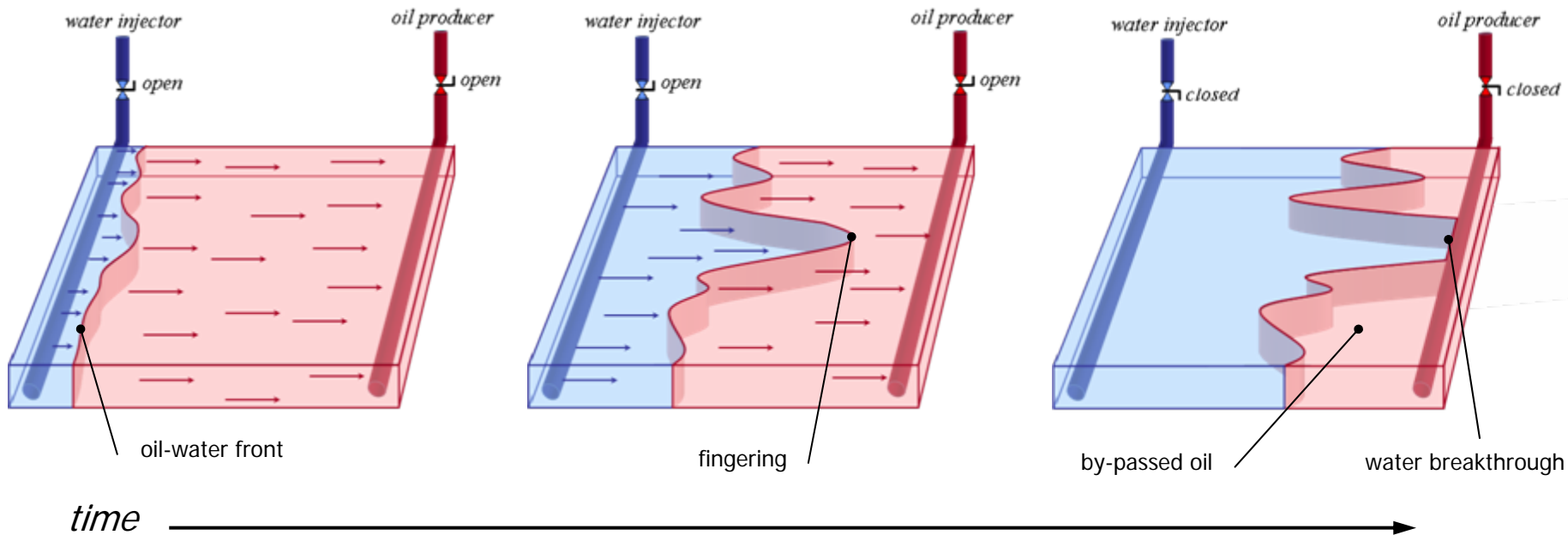
Motivation: an example from oil reservoir engineering

Water flooding

- Involves the injection of water through the use of injection wells
- Goal is to displace oil by water
- Production is terminated when (too much) water is being produced



Motivation: an example from oil reservoir engineering



Oil production from a reservoir can last for periods of 15-25 years.

Motivation: an example from oil reservoir engineering

Mass balance:

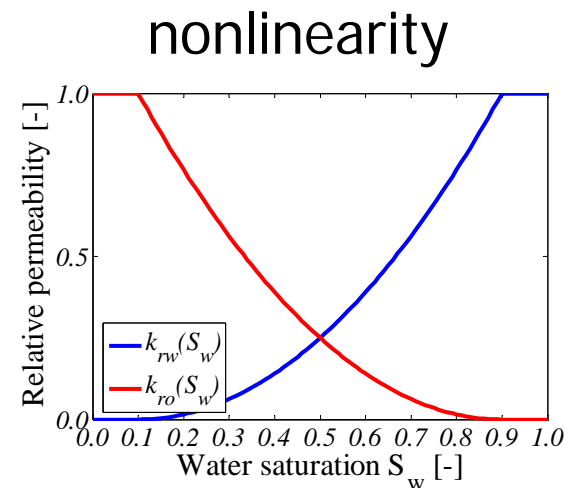
$$\nabla(\rho_i u_i) + \frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\phi \rho_i S_i) = 0 \quad i = \{o, w\}$$

Momentum (Darcy's law):

$$u_i = -k \frac{k_{ri}}{\mu_i} \nabla p_i \quad i = \{o, w\}$$

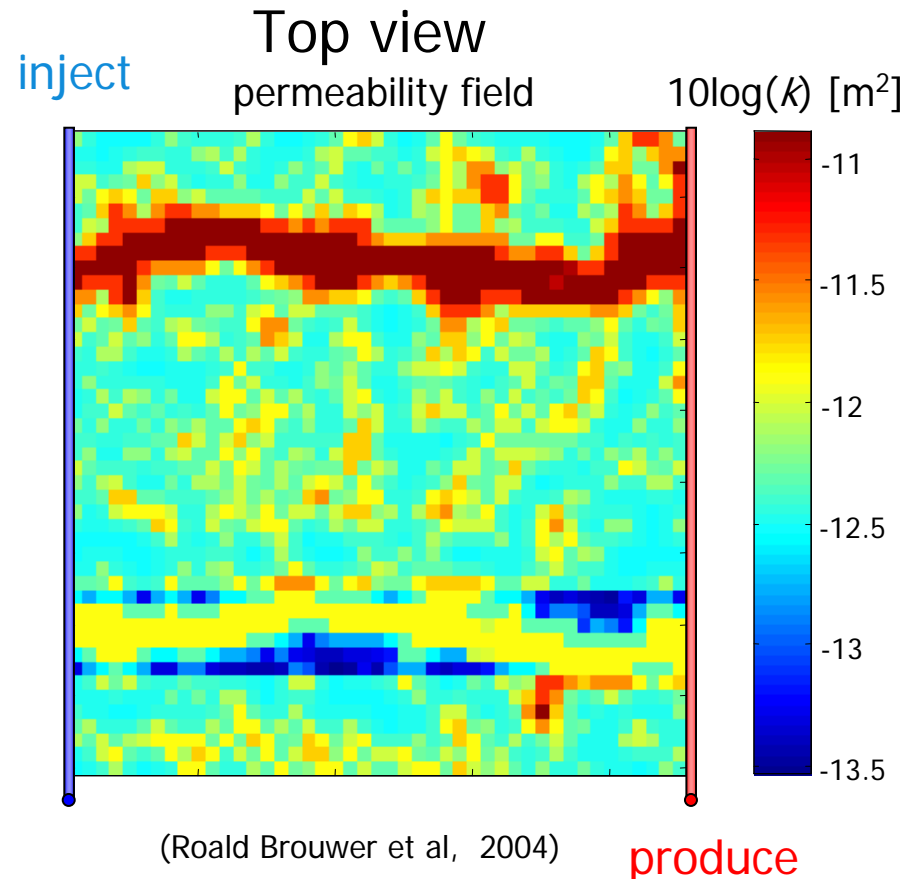
Variables: p_o, p_w, S_o, S_w

After discretization in space (grid blocks):
a nonlinear ODE results, with
separate permeability parameters in each
grid block \rightarrow typically $\approx 10^4 - 10^6$



Example permeability structure of a toy-reservoir:

- 2 horizontal **smart** wells
 - 45 inj. & prod. segments
- 2 higher permeability streaks
- Dynamics is dependent on position of water-oil front (nonlinearity)
- Typical non-linear batch process with extremely many (unknown) parameters.



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Identifiability

- Consider nonlinear model structure $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{h}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{u}; \mathbf{x}_0)$ with $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ being a prediction of $\mathbf{y} := [y_1^T \cdots y_N^T]^T$

- **Locally identifiable** in $\boldsymbol{\theta}_m$ for given \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{x}_0 if in neighbourhood of $\boldsymbol{\theta}_m$:

$$\{\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\theta}_1; \mathbf{x}_0) = \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\theta}_2; \mathbf{x}_0)\} \Rightarrow \boldsymbol{\theta}_1 = \boldsymbol{\theta}_2$$

[Grewal and Glover 1976]

- **Structural identifiability** in similar way on the basis of transfer functions (rather than output), for the linear(ized) dynamics case.

$$\{G(z, \boldsymbol{\theta}_1) = G(z, \boldsymbol{\theta}_2)\} \Rightarrow \boldsymbol{\theta}_1 = \boldsymbol{\theta}_2$$

[Bellman and Åström (1970)]

- **Global** properties are generally hard to analyze

Identifiability

- Notion of *identifiability* is instrumental in analyzing model structure properties
- It determines whether it is feasible at all to relate unique values to the physical parameter variables, on the basis of measured data

Testing local identifiability in identification

- In Prediction Error framework, identification criterion

$$V(\boldsymbol{\theta}) := \frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\boldsymbol{\theta})^T \mathbf{P}_v^{-1} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\boldsymbol{\theta}), \quad \boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{h}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{u}; \mathbf{x}_0),$$

- Hessian given by

$$\frac{\partial^2 V(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}^2} = \frac{\partial \hat{\mathbf{y}}^T}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathbf{P}_v^{-1} \left(\frac{\partial \hat{\mathbf{y}}^T}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \right)^T + \mathbf{S}$$

- Local identifiability test in $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = \arg \min V(\boldsymbol{\theta})$: Hessian > 0

- With quadratic approximation of cost function around $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$:

Hessian given by
$$\frac{\partial \hat{\mathbf{y}}^T}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathbf{P}_v^{-1} \left(\frac{\partial \hat{\mathbf{y}}^T}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \right)^T$$

Testing local identifiability in identification

- Rank test on Hessian through SVD

$$\left. \frac{\partial \hat{\mathbf{y}}^T}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathbf{P}_v^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right|_{\boldsymbol{\theta}=\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{U}_1 & \mathbf{U}_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{V}_1^T \\ \mathbf{V}_2^T \end{bmatrix}$$

- If $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2 = 0$ then lack of local identifiability
- SVD can be used to reparameterize the model structure through

$$\boldsymbol{\theta} = \mathbf{U}_1 \boldsymbol{\rho}, \quad \dim(\boldsymbol{\rho}) \ll \dim(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$

in order to achieve local identifiability in $\boldsymbol{\rho}$

- Columns of \mathbf{U}_1 are basis functions of the identifiable parameter space

Testing local identifiability in identification

$$\left. \frac{\partial \hat{\mathbf{y}}^T}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathbf{P}_v^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right|_{\boldsymbol{\theta}=\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{U}_1 & \mathbf{U}_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{V}_1^T \\ \mathbf{V}_2^T \end{bmatrix}$$

- What if $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2 \neq \mathbf{0}$ but contains (many) small singular values ?

No lack of identifiability, but possibly very poor variance properties

- Identifiability mostly considered in a yes/no setting: qualitative rather than quantitative [Bellman and Åström (1970), Grewal and Glover (1976)]
- Approach: *quantitative* analysis of appropriate parameter space, maintaining physical parameter interpretation

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Model structure approximation

- How to reduce the model structure in terms of its *parameter space*?
(different from “classical” model reduction, in which the model dynamics of a single model is reduced)
- **Objective:** obtain a physical parametrization (model structure) in which the parameters can be **reliably estimated** from data.

Approximating the identifiable parameter space

Asymptotic variance analysis: $\text{cov}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) = J^{-1} = \left(\mathbb{E} \left[\frac{\partial^2 V(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}^2} \Big| \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \right] \right)^{-1}$

with $J =$ Fisher Information Matrix.

- Sample estimate of parameter variance, on the basis of $V(\boldsymbol{\theta})$:

$$\text{cov}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) = \begin{cases} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{U}_1 & \mathbf{U}_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1^{-2} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2^{-2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{V}_1^T \\ \mathbf{V}_2^T \end{bmatrix} & \text{for } \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2 > 0 \\ \infty & \text{for } \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2 = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{cov}(\mathbf{U}_1 \hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}}) = \mathbf{U}_1 \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1^{-2} \mathbf{U}_1^T$$

$$\text{cov}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) > \text{cov}(\mathbf{U}_1 \hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}}) \quad \text{if } \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2 > 0$$

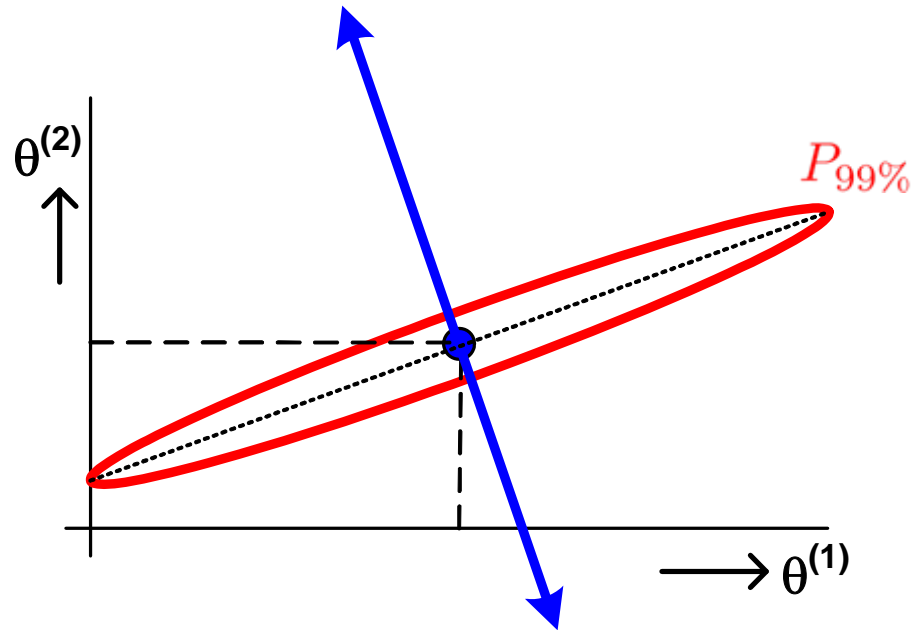
Approximating the identifiable parameter space

$$\text{cov}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) > \text{cov}(\mathbf{U}_1 \hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}}) \quad \text{if } \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2 > 0$$

- Discarding singular values that are small, reduces the variance of the resulting parameter estimate
- Particularly important in situations of (very) large numbers of small s.v.'s
- Model structure approximation (local)
- Quantified notion of identifiability – related to parameter variance

Approximating the identifiable parameter space

- Interpretation:
Remove the parameter directions that are poorly identifiable (have large variance)



- This is different from removing the (separate) parameters for which the value 0 lies within the confidence bound [Hjalmarsson, 2005]

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Effect of parameter scaling/units

- In physical model structures there is a freedom of choice in parameter units (cm,km)
- Choice of units (scaling) should not influence the choice for approximation of the model structure!

Toy example

Second order system: $y(t) = \alpha_0 u(t-1) + \beta_0 u(t-2)$

$$\alpha_0 = 10^6; \quad \beta_0 = 10^{-6}$$

Second order FIR model:

$$\hat{y}(t, \theta) = \alpha u(t-1) + \beta u(t-2), \quad \theta := [\alpha \ \beta]^T.$$

$$\psi(t, \theta_0) := \frac{\partial \hat{y}(t, \theta)}{\partial \theta} = \begin{bmatrix} u(t-1) \\ u(t-2) \end{bmatrix}$$

Fisher information matrix: $J = N \begin{bmatrix} R_u(0) & R_u(1) \\ R_u(1) & R_u(0) \end{bmatrix} = N \cdot I$

unit variance white noise input; $\mathbf{P}_v = 1$



No indications for reducing model structure

Toy example (cnt'd)

Second order system: $y(t) = \alpha_0 u(t-1) + \beta_0 u(t-2)$

$$\alpha_0 = 10^6; \quad \beta_0 = 10^{-6}$$

However, if we reparametrize:

$$\hat{y}(t, \theta) = \alpha u(t-1) + 10^{-6} \gamma u(t-2), \quad \theta := [\alpha \quad \gamma]^T.$$

$$\psi(t, \theta_0) := \frac{\partial \hat{y}(t, \theta)}{\partial \theta} = \begin{bmatrix} u(t-1) \\ 10^{-6} u(t-2) \end{bmatrix}$$

Fisher information matrix:
$$J = N \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 10^{-12} \end{bmatrix}$$

 Strong indication for removing the γ parameter

Effect of parameter scaling/units

- Scaling-dependence of the results is very undesirable!

What are the observed mechanisms here?

- The yes/no question on identifiability:

$$\Sigma_2 = 0, \quad \Sigma_2 \neq 0$$

is not influenced by a scaling of parameter values:

$$\hat{\theta} = \Gamma \hat{\theta}_1, \quad \Gamma = \text{diag}(s_1, \dots, s_n)$$

- However for $\Sigma_2 \neq 0$, scaling will influence the numerical values of Σ_1, Σ_2 and therefore also the choice of the identifiable parameter space

Effect of parameter scaling/units

- The Fisher matrix considers an **absolute** parameter variance measure

While a parameter variance of 1 has different consequences for a nominal parameter of 10^6 or 10^{-6}

- The remedy here is: defining a measure for the **relative** variance

Effect of parameter scaling/units

- Possible remedy: use **relative parameter variance** rather than absolute variance as a measure for model structure approximation

$$\text{cov}(\mathbf{\Gamma}_{\hat{\theta}}^{-1}\hat{\theta}), \quad \text{e.g. } \mathbf{\Gamma}_{\hat{\theta}} = \text{diag} (|\hat{\theta}_1| \quad \dots \quad |\hat{\theta}_q|)$$

- Motivates analysis of scaled Hessian $\mathbf{\Gamma}_{\hat{\theta}} \left. \frac{\partial^2 V(\theta)}{\partial \theta^2} \right|_{\hat{\theta}} \mathbf{\Gamma}_{\hat{\theta}}$

- Essential information in

$$\mathbf{\Gamma}_{\hat{\theta}} \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}(\theta)^T}{\partial \theta} \mathbf{P}_v^{-\frac{1}{2}} = [\mathbf{U}_1 \quad \mathbf{U}_2] \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{\Sigma}_1 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{\Sigma}_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{V}_1^T \\ \mathbf{V}_2^T \end{bmatrix}$$

- Model structure approximated: parameters identifiable and physically interpretable!

Consequence for toy example

Second order system: $y(t) = \alpha_0 u(t - 1) + \beta_0 u(t - 2)$

$$\alpha_0 = 10^6; \quad \beta_0 = 10^{-6}$$

Second order FIR model:

$$\hat{y}(t, \theta) = \alpha u(t - 1) + \beta u(t - 2), \quad \theta := [\alpha \ \beta]^T.$$

Scaled Fisher information matrix:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{J} &= N \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_0 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta_0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} R_u(0) & R_u(1) \\ R_u(1) & R_u(0) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_0 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta_0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= N \begin{bmatrix} 10^{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 10^{-12} \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

➡ Indication for reducing model structure by one parameter

and this result is invariant for scaling of any of the parameters.

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Relation with controllability and observability

- Does (local) identifiability relate to properties of observability and controllability?

$$\mathbf{h}_k(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{\theta})\mathbf{x}_k, \quad \mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{\theta})\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{B}(\boldsymbol{\theta})\mathbf{u}_k$$

- Without loss of generality: $\mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbf{C}$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}_k(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}(i)} = \mathbf{C} \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}_k}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}(i)},$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{x}_{k+1}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}(i)} = \mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}_k}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}(i)} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial \mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}(i)} \mathbf{x}_k + \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}(i)} \mathbf{u}_k}_{:= \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_k^{\boldsymbol{\theta}(i)}}$$

Substitution of the two equations delivers:

Relation with controllability and observability

$$\left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}(\boldsymbol{\theta})^T}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}}\right)^T = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C} & & & & \mathbf{0} \\ & \mathbf{C} & & & \\ & & \ddots & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ \mathbf{0} & & & & \mathbf{C} \end{bmatrix}}_{\tilde{\mathcal{O}} \in \mathbb{R}^{N(p \times n)}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & & \\ \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{I} & & & \\ \mathbf{A}^2 & \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{I} & & \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & \\ \mathbf{A}^{N-1} & \mathbf{A}^{N-2} & \dots & \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{I} \end{bmatrix}}_{\tilde{\mathbf{U}} \in \mathbb{R}^{Nn \times q}} \times \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_0^{\boldsymbol{\theta}(1)} & \dots & \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_0^{\boldsymbol{\theta}(i)} & \dots & \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1^{\boldsymbol{\theta}(q)} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1^{\boldsymbol{\theta}(1)} & \dots & \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1^{\boldsymbol{\theta}(i)} & \dots & \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_2^{\boldsymbol{\theta}(q)} \\ \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_{N-1}^{\boldsymbol{\theta}(1)} & \dots & \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_{N-1}^{\boldsymbol{\theta}(i)} & \dots & \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_{N-1}^{\boldsymbol{\theta}(q)} \end{bmatrix},$$

With abuse of notation:

$$\left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}(\boldsymbol{\theta})^T}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}}\right)^T = \tilde{\mathcal{O}} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} & \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \end{bmatrix}$$

Relation with controllability and observability

$$\left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}(\boldsymbol{\theta})^T}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}}\right)^T = \tilde{\mathcal{O}} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} & \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{u} \end{bmatrix}$$

Effect of current state and input, related to **controllability**

Sensitivity of system matrices with respect to parameter perturbations

Effect of state perturbation on output, related to **observability**

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A Bayesian approach

- Often applied method for dealing with overdetermination in parameter space:
- Incorporate **prior knowledge** term (regularization) in cost function

$$V_p(\boldsymbol{\theta}) := V(\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \frac{1}{2}(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \boldsymbol{\theta}_p)\mathbf{P}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}_p}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \boldsymbol{\theta}_p)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\theta}_p$ is the prior parameter vector (with covariance $\mathbf{P}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}_p}$).

- Model output approximated with first-order Taylor expansion.
Hessian is

$$\frac{\partial^2 V_p(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}^2} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}(\boldsymbol{\theta})^T}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathbf{P}_v^{-1} \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}(\boldsymbol{\theta})^T}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \right)^T + \mathbf{P}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}_p}^{-1}$$

- “Always” identifiable, since $\mathbf{P}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}_p}$ full rank by construction!!

A Bayesian approach

Implications

- Bayesian methods seem not to suffer from identifiability problems.....
- This includes all (extended) Kalman filter type algorithms. Where parameters are recursively estimated by augmenting the states
- Unique parameter estimates usually result, but
- In the parameter subspace that is **poorly identifiable**, estimated parameters will be heavily **dominated** by the **prior information**.
- Analysis of $V(\theta)$ can show identifiable directions (locally)

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Structural identifiability

- The analysis presented so far, can similarly be given for local **structural identifiability** (in stead of local identifiability).
- Rather than the system output (which is input dependent) we then consider the transfer function:

$$G(z, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{M}(k, \boldsymbol{\theta}) z^{-k}$$

- Structurally identifiable in $\boldsymbol{\theta}_m$ if $\frac{\partial \mathbf{S}_N^T(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}}$ full rank, where

$$\mathbf{S}_N(\boldsymbol{\theta}) := [\mathbf{M}(1, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \quad \dots \quad \mathbf{M}(N, \boldsymbol{\theta})]^T$$

- The matrix to be quantitatively analyzed becomes: $\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}_m} \frac{\partial \mathbf{S}_N^T(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_S$

Structural identifiability

- For linear(ized) models, a closed-form expression exists for

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{S}_N^T(\theta)}{\partial \theta}$$

on the basis of:

$$\mathbf{A}(\theta), \mathbf{B}(\theta), \mathbf{C}(\theta), \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial \theta}, \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial \theta}, \frac{\partial \mathbf{C}}{\partial \theta}$$

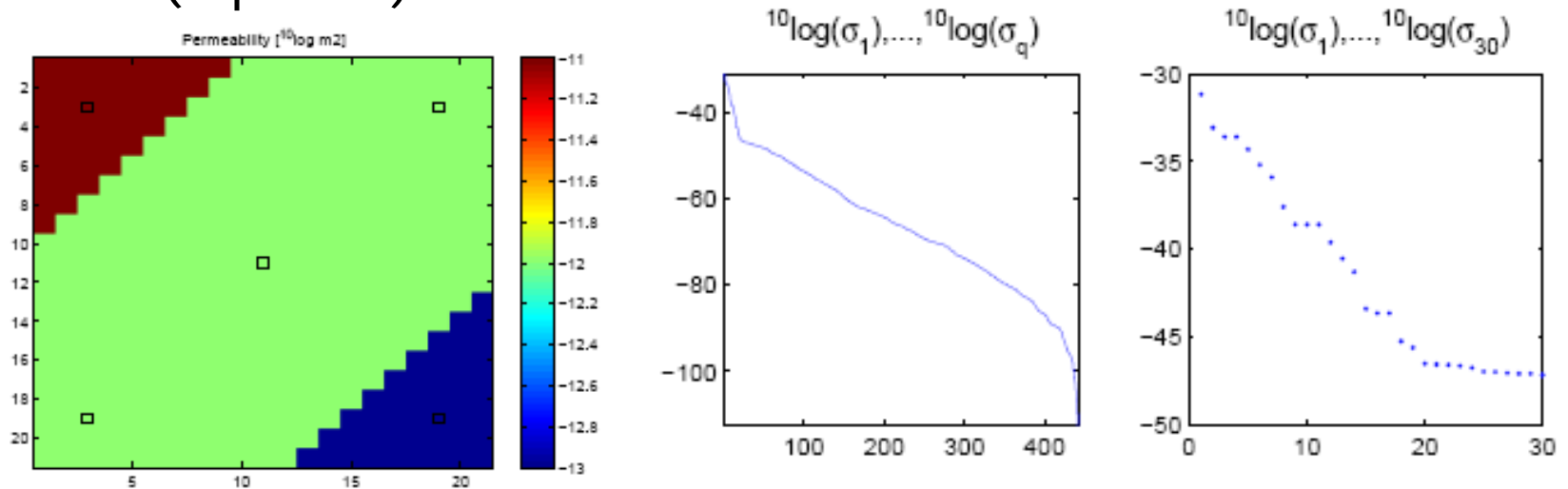
[Van Doren et al., IFAC World Congress 2008]

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Simple reservoir example

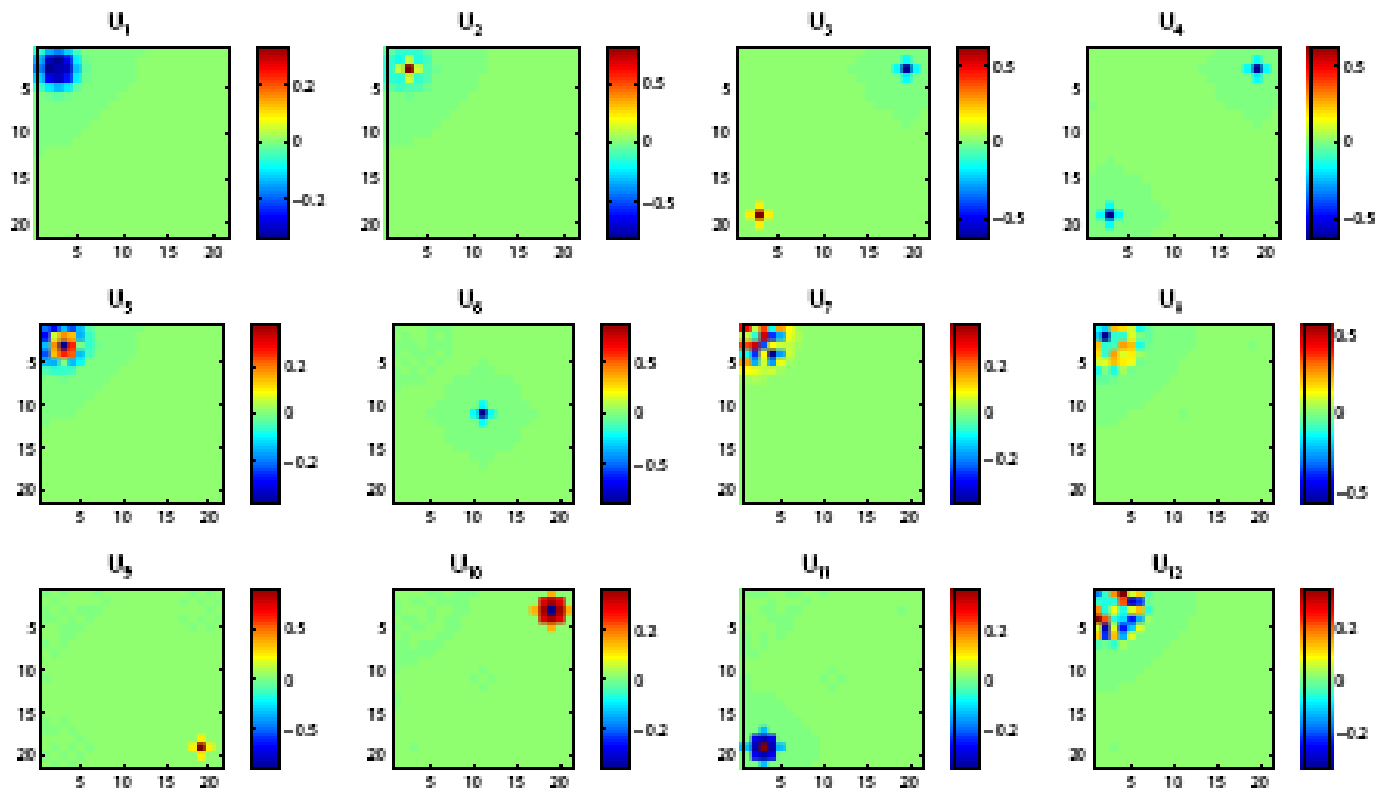
Single phase example
(top view)



21 x 21 grid block permeabilities
5 wells; 3 permeability strokes

Simple reservoir example

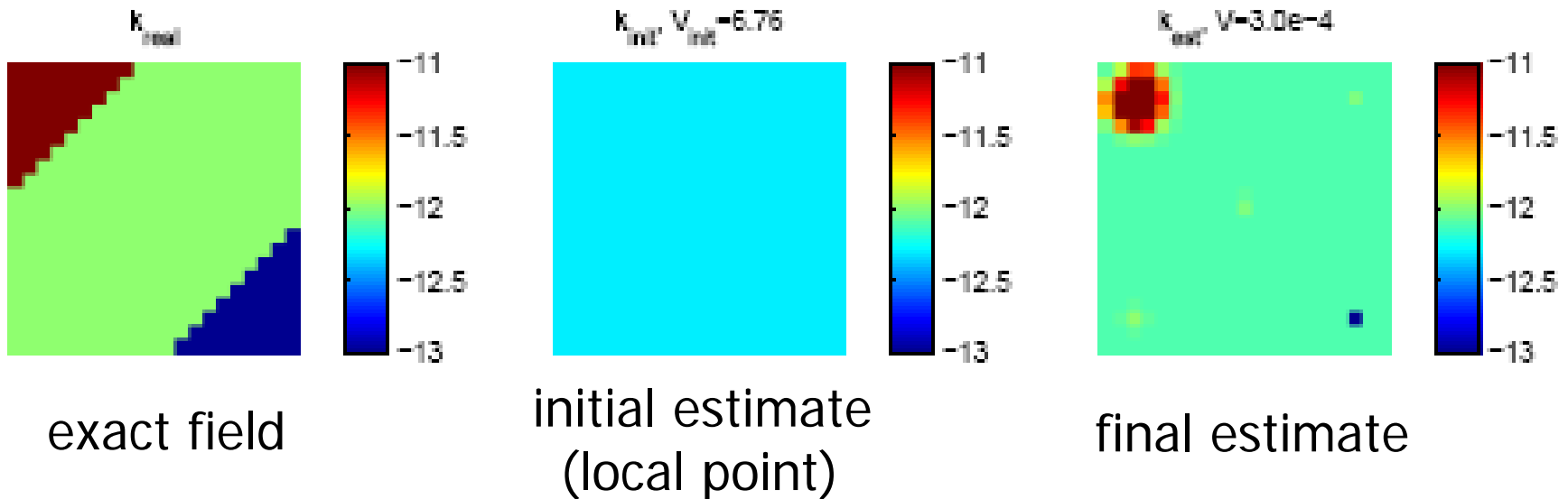
Singular vectors can be projected on the grid:



First 12 singular vectors; structural identifiability case

Simple reservoir example

Using the reduced parameter space –iteratively–
in identification:



Observation:

Only grid block permeabilities around well (in high permeable area) are identifiable.

Simple reservoir example

- Same observation holds true for the case of oil/water (2-phase flow) -- (results under progress)
- Grid block properties far away from wells are poorly identifiable
- There are indications that they might not be very important for the optimal control strategy.....

Discussion

- Estimating physical parameters in large-scale models is highly relevant
- Notion of identifiability quantified
- Model structure approximated to achieve identifiability, while retaining interpretation of physical parameters
- Analysis can only be done locally linearized
- Established relation with
 - Controllability and observability properties
 - Bayesian estimation
- Illustrating example (ongoing work) in reservoir engineering

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THE VALUE OF SMARTNESS

