Interaction of Deterministic and Stochastic Models

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Working Group III

List of core members who are still actively involved:

- Susie Bayarri
- Jim Berger
- Murali Haran
- John Harlim (stochastic dynamics)
- Emily Kang (postdoc)
- Pete Kramer+ Sorin Mitran (stochastic dynamics)
- Hans Künsch

Several others participated in the group including: Sham Bhat, Anabel Forte, Cindy Greenwood, Michael Lavine, Danilo Lopes, Robert Wolpert.
Our working group is unique:

- This has been a genuine collaboration between the stochastic dynamics program and the spatial program: two applied mathematicians participated regularly, often driving the research problems, with discussions involving five statisticians.
We started with a rather large list of potential areas:

- Approximations, emulation and calibration for complex computer models, typically Gaussian process-based models, inference for SDEs.

- Bridging gap between “usual” statistics idea of spatial modeling (accounting for dependence) and capturing spatial dynamic processes that are of scientific interest: one potential avenue for interacting between spatial program and stochastic dynamics program.

- Using deterministic models/process to construct flexible space-time models.
Potential Research [cont’d]

- Deterministic models as surrogate for probability/process model ("computer likelihoods").
- Embedding deterministic models within a hierarchical framework to learn about scientific parameters of interest.
- Developing efficient computational approaches for simulating from multiscale models.

Note that computational challenges are a common thread through most of these problems.
Potential Scientific Applications

- Climate science. e.g. global climate, glaciology.
- Simulation of physical systems. e.g. fluid dynamics.
- Epidemiology. e.g. models for infectious disease dynamics.
- Biology. e.g. molecular motors.
- Spread of invasive species, diffusion models (biology, hydrology etc.)
- Many others...
Specific Project Discussions

Lots of research talks and project discussions in the fall.

(i) Modeling/inference for a component model for alcohol usage.
(ii) Dengue fever modeling based on a data set from Peru.
(iii) Exploring mathematics underlying a class of spatial dynamics models.
(iv) Studying multiscale dynamical systems.
(v) Emulation/calibration for complex computer models for multivariate spatial processes.
(vi) Bayesian model averaging of climate models for temperature projections.

Multiscale Simulation

- Heterogeneous multiscale methods (HMMs) for simulation: uncharted waters for statisticians.

- HMMs: active research area in applied mathematics and scientific computing in the past decade (work by Vanden-Eijnden, Majda, others.)

- Lots of scientific applications, e.g. fluid dynamics, climate models.

- New ideas and terminology. E.g. HMM $\neq$ Hidden Markov Models and “parameterization” = representation of unresolved processes by some approximation.

- There appear to be a lot of open problems, avenues for research. An exciting new area for statisticians.
Want to simulate a physical process with both “macroscale” and “microscale” dynamics.

- E.g. of macroscale: global climate model with spatial resolution $\approx 25\text{km}$ to $100\text{km}$.
- E.g. of microscale: clouds. Important to try to get this right since precipitation and condensation affect macroscale.

The simulation challenge:

- Equations at macroscale need information from microscale.
- Microscale system needs information from macroscale to provide physical constraints and sensible starting values.
  - *Microscale simulation is computationally very expensive.*
- Statistical methods: kernel density estimation, Gaussian process (emulation), filtering, sequential Monte Carlo etc.

Pete Kramer provided a more detailed discussion on Monday.
Classes of Complex Deterministic/Stochastic Models

(I) (Relatively) simple deterministic/probability models that can be written down/approximated in closed form.

(II) Intermediate: cannot write models down but can simulate/do forward runs fairly quickly. Maybe use ‘likelihood-free’ (Marjoram et al., 2002) approaches.

(III) Very complex: can neither write them down, nor simulate fast. e.g. GCMs, EMICs. Typically build Gaussian process models as surrogates for process models.

Our group has been working primarily on (III) and on multiscale models, a combination of (II) and (III).
Working Group III: 2009–2010 and onwards

Multiscale modeling and simulation, spatio-temporal filtering:


- The core group is meeting biweekly to discuss multiscale simulation/computation (HMM)-related research. This has been continuing since the spring and we anticipate several publications to emerge from this line of work.

Most importantly, we believe we have opened up possibilities for a new and fruitful line of research.
Complex computer models with multivariate spatial output:


Bayesian model averaging for climate projections:


More papers in preparation related to above topics.
Several of our research project proposals will continue through our recently formed collaborations.

Others may find their home in future SAMSI programs. In particular, many of the complex computer models problems fit nicely into the “Uncertainty Quantification” SAMSI program in 2011.
Acknowledgments

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