

# Parameter Estimation for Stochastic Evolution Equations with Non-commuting Operators

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## Abstract

A parameter estimation problem is considered for a stochastic evolution equation on a compact smooth manifold. Unlike previous works on the subject, no commutativity is assumed between the operators in the equation. The estimate is based on finite dimensional projections of the solution. Under certain non-degeneracy assumptions the estimate is proved to be consistent and asymptotically normal as the dimension of the projections increases.

## 1 Introduction

Parameter estimation is a particular case of the inverse problem when the solution of a certain equation is observed and conclusions must be made about the coefficients of the equation. In the deterministic setting, numerous examples of such problems in ecology, material sciences, biology, etc. are given in the book by Banks and Kunisch [1]. The stochastic term is usually introduced in the equation to take into account those components of the model that cannot be described exactly.

In an abstract setting the parameter estimation problem is considered for an evolution equation

$$du(t) + (\mathcal{A}_0 + \theta\mathcal{A}_1)u(t)dt = \epsilon dW(t), \quad 0 < t \leq T; \quad u(0) = 0, \quad (1.1)$$

where  $\theta$  is the unknown parameter belonging to an open subset of the real line and  $W = W(t)$  is a random perturbation. If  $u$  is a random field, then a computable estimate of  $\theta$  must be based on finite dimensional projections of  $u$  even if the whole trajectory is observed. A question that arises in this setting is to study the asymptotic properties of the estimate as the dimension of those projections increases while the length  $T$  of the observation interval and the amplitude  $\epsilon$  of the noise remain fixed.

When  $u$  is the solution of the Dirichlet boundary value problem in some domain of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  this question was first studied by Huebner et al. [3] and further investigated by Huebner and Rozovskii [5], Huebner [4], and Piterbarg and Rozovskii [9]. The main assumption used in all those works was that the operators  $\mathcal{A}_0$  and  $\mathcal{A}_1$  in (1.1) have a common system of eigenfunctions.

The objective of the current paper is to consider an estimate of  $\theta$  for equation (1.1) without assuming anything about the eigenfunctions of the operators in the equation. For technical reasons the equation is considered on a compact smooth  $d$ -dimensional manifold so that there are no boundary conditions involved. The main assumption is that the operators  $\mathcal{A}_0$  and  $\mathcal{A}_1$  are of different orders and the operator  $\mathcal{A}_0 + \theta\mathcal{A}_1$  is elliptic for all admissible values of  $\theta$ . The model is described in **Section 2** and the main results are presented in **Section 3**. If  $\mathcal{A}_1$  is the leading operator, then the estimate of  $\theta$  is consistent and asymptotically normal as the dimension  $K$  of the projections tends to infinity. On the other hand, if  $\mathcal{A}_0$  is the leading operator, then the estimate of  $\theta$  is consistent and asymptotically normal if

$$\text{order}(\mathcal{A}_1) \geq \frac{1}{2} (\text{order}(\mathcal{A}_0 + \theta\mathcal{A}_1) - d) \quad (1.2)$$

and the operator  $\mathcal{A}_1$  satisfies a certain non-degeneracy property. In particular, condition (1.2) is necessary for consistency.<sup>1</sup> When (1.2) does not hold, the asymptotic shift of the estimate is computed. The proof of the main theorem about the consistency and asymptotic normality is outlined in **Section 5**.

In **Section 4** an example is presented, illustrating how the obtained results can be applied to the estimation of either thermodiffusivity or the cooling coefficient in the heat balance equation with a variable velocity field.

## 2 The Setting

Let  $M$  be a  $d$ -dimensional compact orientable  $\mathbf{C}^\infty$  manifold with a smooth positive measure  $dx$ . If  $\mathcal{L}$  is an elliptic positive definite self-adjoint differential operator of order  $2m$  on  $M$ , then the operator  $\Lambda = (\mathcal{L})^{1/(2m)}$  is elliptic of order 1 and generates the scale  $\{\mathbf{H}^s\}_{s \in \mathbb{R}}$  of Sobolev spaces on  $M$  [6, 11]. All differential operators on  $M$  are assumed to be non-zero with real  $\mathbf{C}^\infty(M)$  coefficients, and only real elements of  $\mathbf{H}^s$  will be considered. The variable  $x$  will usually be omitted in the argument of functions defined on  $M$ .

In what follows, an alternative characterization of the spaces  $\{\mathbf{H}^s\}$  will be used. By Theorem I.8.3 in [11], the operator  $\mathcal{L}$  has a complete orthonormal system of eigenfunctions  $\{e_k\}_{k \geq 1}$  in the space  $L_2(M, dx)$  of square integrable functions on  $M$ . With no loss of generality it can be assumed that each  $e_k(x)$  is real. Then for every  $f \in L_2(M, dx)$  the representation

$$f = \sum_{k \geq 1} \psi_k(f) e_k$$

holds, where

$$\psi_k(f) = \int_M f(x) e_k(x) dx.$$

If  $l_k > 0$  is the eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{L}$  corresponding to  $e_k$  and  $\lambda_k := l_k^{1/(2m)}$ , then, for  $s \geq 0$ ,  $\mathbf{H}^s = \{f \in L_2(M, dx) : \sum_{k \geq 1} \lambda_k^{2s} |\psi_k(f)|^2 < \infty\}$  and for  $s < 0$ ,  $\mathbf{H}^s$  is the closure of  $L_2(M, dx)$  in the norm  $\|f\|_s = \sqrt{\sum_{k \geq 1} \lambda_k^{2s} |\psi_k(f)|^2}$ . As a result, every element  $f$  of the space  $\mathbf{H}^s$ ,  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

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<sup>1</sup>It was shown in [5] that in the case of the Dirichlet problem in a domain of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , if the operators  $\mathcal{A}_0$  and  $\mathcal{A}_1$  are selfadjoint elliptic with a common system of eigenfunctions, then condition (1.2) is necessary and sufficient for consistency, asymptotic normality and asymptotic efficiency of the estimate.

can be identified with a sequence  $\{\psi_k(f)\}_{k \geq 1}$  such that  $\sum_{k \geq 1} \lambda_k^{2s} |\psi_k(f)|^2 < \infty$ . The space  $\mathbf{H}^s$ , equipped with the inner product

$$(f, g)_s = \sum_{k \geq 1} \lambda_k^{2s} \psi_k(f) \psi_k(g), \quad f, g \in \mathbf{H}^s, \quad (2.1)$$

is a Hilbert space.

A **cylindrical Brownian motion**  $W = (W(t))_{0 \leq t \leq T}$  on  $M$  is defined as follows: for every  $t \in [0, T]$ ,  $W(t)$  is the element of  $\cup_s \mathbf{H}^s$  such that  $\psi_k(W(t)) = w_k(t)$ , where  $\{w_k\}_{k \geq 1}$  is a collection of independent one dimensional Wiener processes on the given probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}, \mathbf{P})$  with a right continuous filtration  $\mathbb{F} = \{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq T}$ . Since by Theorem II.15.2 in [11]  $\lambda_k \asymp k^{1/d}$ ,  $k \rightarrow \infty$ ,<sup>2</sup> it follows that  $W(t) \in \mathbf{H}^s$  for every  $s < -d/2$ . Direct computations show that  $W$  is an  $\mathbf{H}^s$ -valued Wiener process with the covariance operator  $\Lambda^{2s}$ . This definition of  $W$  agrees with the alternative definitions of the cylindrical Brownian motion [8, 12].

Let  $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}$ , and  $\mathcal{N}$  be differential operators on  $M$  of orders  $order(\mathcal{A})$ ,  $order(\mathcal{B})$ , and  $order(\mathcal{N})$  respectively. It is assumed that  $\max(order(\mathcal{A}), order(\mathcal{B}), order(\mathcal{N})) < 2m$ .

Consider the random field  $u$  defined on  $M$  by the evolution equation

$$du(t) + [\theta_1(\mathcal{L} + \mathcal{A}) + \theta_2\mathcal{B} + \mathcal{N}]u(t)dt = dW(t), \quad 0 < t \leq T, \quad u(0) = 0. \quad (2.2)$$

Here  $\theta_1 > 0$ ,  $\theta_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ , and the dependence of  $u$  and  $W$  on  $x$  and  $\omega$  is suppressed.

If the trajectory  $u(t)$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq T$ , is observed, then the following scalar parameter estimation problems can be stated:

- 1). estimate  $\theta_1$  assuming that  $\theta_2$  is known;
- 2). estimate  $\theta_2$  assuming that  $\theta_1$  is known.

**Remark 1** *The general model*

$$du(t) + [\theta_1\mathcal{A}_0 + \theta_2\mathcal{A}_1 + \mathcal{N}]u(t)dt = dW(t), \quad 0 < t \leq T, \quad u(0) = 0$$

is reduced to (2.2) if the operator  $\theta_1\mathcal{A}_0 + \theta_2\mathcal{A}_1$  is elliptic of order  $2m$  for all admissible values of parameters  $\theta_1$ ,  $\theta_2$  and  $order(\mathcal{A}_0) \neq order(\mathcal{A}_1)$ . For example, if  $order(\mathcal{A}_1) = 2m$ , then  $\mathcal{L} = (\mathcal{A}_1 + \mathcal{A}_1^*)/2 + (c+1)I$ ,  $\mathcal{A} = (\mathcal{A}_1 - \mathcal{A}_1^*)/2 - (c+1)I$ ,  $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{A}_0$ , where  $c$  is the lower bound on eigenvalues of  $(\mathcal{A}_1 + \mathcal{A}_1^*)/2$  and  $I$  is the identity operator. Indeed, by Corollary 2.1.1 in [6], if an operator  $\mathcal{P}$  is of even order with real coefficients, then the operator  $\mathcal{P} - \mathcal{P}^*$  is of lower order than  $\mathcal{P}$ .

Before discussing possible solutions to the above parameter estimation problems, it seems appropriate to mention the analytical properties of the field  $u$ .

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<sup>2</sup>Notation  $a_k \asymp b_k$ ,  $k \rightarrow \infty$  means

$$0 < c_1 \leq \liminf_k (a_k/b_k) \leq \limsup_k (a_k/b_k) \leq c_2 < \infty.$$

**Theorem 2.1** For every  $s < -d/2$ , equation (2.2) has a unique solution  $u = u(t)$  so that

$$u \in L_2(\Omega \times [0, T]; \mathbf{H}^{s+m}) \cap L_2(\Omega; \mathbf{C}([0, T]; \mathbf{H}^s)) \quad (2.3)$$

with

$$\mathbf{E} \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \|u(t)\|_s^2 + \mathbf{E} \int_0^T \|u(t)\|_{s+m}^2 dt \leq CT \sum_{k \geq 1} \lambda_k^{2s} < \infty. \quad (2.4)$$

**Proof.** By assumption,  $\max(\text{order}(\mathcal{A}), \text{order}(\mathcal{B}), \text{order}(\mathcal{N})) < 2m$  and  $\theta_1 > 0$ . Then ellipticity of the operator  $\mathcal{L}$  implies that for every  $s \in \mathbb{R}$  there exist positive constants  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  so that for every  $f \in \mathbf{C}^\infty$

$$-((\theta_1(\mathcal{L} + \mathcal{A}) + \theta_2\mathcal{B} + \mathcal{N})f, f)_s \leq -C_1\|f\|_{s+m}^2 + C_2\|f\|_s^2,$$

which means that the operator  $-(\theta_1(\mathcal{L} + \mathcal{A}) + \theta_2\mathcal{B} + \mathcal{N})$  is coercive in every normal triple  $\{\mathbf{H}^{s+m}, \mathbf{H}^s, \mathbf{H}^{s-m}\}$ . The statement of the theorem now follows from Theorem 3.1.4 in [10].  $\square$

### 3 The Estimate and Its Properties

Both parameter estimation problems for (2.2) can be stated as follows: estimate  $\theta \in \Theta$  from the observations of

$$du^\theta(t) + (\mathcal{A}_0 + \theta\mathcal{A}_1)u^\theta(t)dt = dW(t). \quad (3.1)$$

Indeed, if  $\theta_2$  is known, then  $\mathcal{A}_0 = \theta_2\mathcal{B} + \mathcal{N}$ ,  $\theta = \theta_1$ ,  $\Theta = (0, +\infty)$ ,  $\mathcal{A}_1 = \mathcal{L} + \mathcal{A}$  and if  $\theta_1$  is known, then  $\mathcal{A}_0 = \theta_1(\mathcal{L} + \mathcal{A}) + \mathcal{N}$ ,  $\theta = \theta_2$ ,  $\Theta = \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}_1 = \mathcal{B}$ . All main results will be stated in terms of (2.2), and (3.1) will play an auxiliary role.

It is assumed that the observed field  $u$  satisfies (3.1) for some unknown but fixed value  $\theta^0$  of the parameter  $\theta$ . Depending on the circumstances,  $\theta^0$  can correspond to either  $\theta_1$  or  $\theta_2$  in (2.2), the other parameter being fixed and known. Even though the whole random field  $u^{\theta^0}(t, x)$  is observed, the estimate of  $\theta^0$  will be computed using only finite dimensional processes  $\Pi^K u^{\theta^0}$ ,  $\Pi^K \mathcal{A}_0 u^{\theta^0}$ , and  $\Pi^K \mathcal{A}_1 u^{\theta^0}$ . The operator  $\Pi^K$  used to construct the estimate is defined as follows: for every  $f = \{\psi_k(f)\}_{k \geq 1} \in \cup_s \mathbf{H}^s$ ,

$$\Pi^K f = \sum_{k=1}^K \psi_k(f) e_k.$$

By (3.1),

$$d\Pi^K u^\theta(t) + \Pi^K (\mathcal{A}_0 + \theta\mathcal{A}_1) u^\theta(t) dt = dW^K(t), \quad (3.2)$$

where  $W^K(t) = \Pi^K W(t)$ . The process  $\Pi^K u^\theta = (\Pi^K u^\theta(t), \mathcal{F}_t)_{0 \leq t \leq T}$  is finite dimensional, continuous in the mean, and Gaussian, but not, in general, a diffusion process because the operators  $\mathcal{A}_0$  and  $\mathcal{A}_1$  need not commute with  $\Pi^K$ . Denote by  $\mathbf{P}^{\theta, K}$  the measure in  $\mathbf{C}([0, T]; \Pi^K(\mathbf{H}^0))$ , generated by the solution of (3.2). The measure  $\mathbf{P}^{\theta, K}$  is absolutely continuous with respect to the measure  $\mathbf{P}^{\theta^0, K}$  for all  $\theta \in \Theta$  and  $K \geq 1$ . Indeed, denote by  $\mathcal{F}_t^{K, \theta}$  the  $\sigma$ -algebra generated by  $\Pi^K u^\theta(s)$ ,  $0 \leq s \leq t$ , and let  $U_t^{\theta, K}(X)$  be the operator from  $\mathbf{C}([0, T]; \Pi^K(\mathbf{H}^0))$  to  $\mathbf{C}([0, T]; \Pi^K(\mathbf{H}^0))$  such that for all  $t \in [0, T]$  and  $\theta \in \Theta$ ,

$$U_t^{\theta, K}(\Pi^K u^{\theta^0}) = \mathbf{E} \left( \Pi^K (\mathcal{A}_0 + \theta\mathcal{A}_1) u^\theta | \mathcal{F}_t^{K, \theta} \right) \quad (\mathbf{P}\text{- a.s.})$$

Then by Theorem 7.12 in [7] the process  $\Pi^K u^\theta$  satisfies

$$d\Pi^K u^\theta(t) = U_t^{\theta,K}(\Pi^K u^\theta)dt + d\tilde{W}^{\theta,K}(t), \quad \Pi^K u^\theta(0) = 0,$$

where  $\tilde{W}^{\theta,K}(t) = \sum_{k=1}^K \tilde{w}_k^\theta(t)e_k$  and  $\tilde{w}_k^\theta(t)$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, K$ , are independent one dimensional standard Wiener processes in general different for different  $\theta$ . Since  $\{\Pi^K(\mathcal{A}_0 + \theta\mathcal{A}_1)u^\theta, W^K\}$  is a Gaussian system for every  $\theta \in \Theta$ , it follows from Theorem 7.16 and Lemma 4.10 in [7] that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\mathbf{P}^{\theta,K}}{d\mathbf{P}^{\theta^0,K}}(\Pi^K u^{\theta^0}) &= \exp \left\{ \int_0^T \left( U_t^{\theta,K}(\Pi^K u^{\theta^0}) - U_t^{\theta^0,K}(\Pi^K u^{\theta^0}), d\Pi^K u^{\theta^0}(t) \right)_0 - \right. \\ &\quad \left. \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \left( \|U_t^{\theta,K}(\Pi^K u^{\theta^0})\|_0^2 - \|U_t^{\theta^0,K}(\Pi^K u^{\theta^0})\|_0^2 \right) dt \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

By definition, the maximum likelihood estimate (MLE) of  $\theta^0$  is then equal to  $\arg \max_{\theta} \left( d\mathbf{P}^{\theta,K} / d\mathbf{P}^{\theta^0,K} \right) (\Pi^K u^{\theta^0})$ , but since, in general, the functional  $U_t^{\theta,K}(X)$  is not known explicitly, this estimate cannot be computed. The situation is much simpler if the operators  $\mathcal{A}_0$  and  $\mathcal{A}_1$  commute with  $\Pi^K$  so that  $\Pi^K \mathcal{A}_i = \Pi^K \mathcal{A}_i \Pi^K$ ,  $i = 0, 1$ , and  $U_t^{\theta,K}(X) = \Pi^K(\mathcal{A}_0 + \theta\mathcal{A}_1)X(t)$ ; in this case, the MLE  $\hat{\theta}^K$  of  $\theta^0$  is computable and, as shown in [5],

$$\hat{\theta}^K = \frac{\int_0^T (\Pi^K \mathcal{A}_1 u^{\theta^0}(t), d\Pi^K u^{\theta^0}(t) - \Pi^K \mathcal{A}_0 u^{\theta^0}(t)dt)_0}{\int_0^T \|\Pi^K \mathcal{A}_1 u^{\theta^0}(t)\|_0^2 dt} \quad (3.3)$$

with the convention  $0/0 = 0$ .

Of course, expression (3.3) is well defined even when the operators  $\mathcal{A}_0$  and  $\mathcal{A}_1$  do not commute with  $\Pi^K$ , and if the whole trajectory  $u^{\theta^0}$  is observed, then the values of  $\Pi^K \mathcal{A}_0 u^{\theta^0}(t)$  and  $\Pi^K \mathcal{A}_1 u^{\theta^0}(t)$  can be evaluated, making (3.3) computable. Even though (3.3) is not, in general, the maximum likelihood estimate of  $\theta^0$ , it looks like a natural estimate to consider.

To simplify the notations, the superscript  $\theta^0$  will be omitted wherever possible so that  $u(t)$  is the solution of (2.2) or (3.1), corresponding to the true value of the unknown parameter. To study the properties of (3.3), note first of all that for all sufficiently large  $K$ ,

$$\mathbf{P}\left\{ \int_0^T \|\Pi^K \mathcal{A}_1 u(t)\|_0^2 dt > 0 \right\} = 1. \quad (3.4)$$

Indeed, by assumption, the operator  $\mathcal{A}_1$  is not identical zero and therefore  $(\Pi^K \mathcal{A}_1 W)_{t \geq 0}$  is a continuous nonzero square integrable martingale, while  $(\int_0^t \Pi^K \mathcal{A}_1 [\theta_1(\mathcal{L} + \mathcal{A}) + \theta_2 \mathcal{B}]u(s)ds)_{t \geq 0}$  is a continuous process with bounded variation. It then follows from (3.3) and (3.4) that

$$\hat{\theta}^K = \theta^0 + \frac{\int_0^T (\Pi^K \mathcal{A}_1 u(t), dW^K(t))_0}{\int_0^T \|\Pi^K \mathcal{A}_1 u(t)\|_0^2 dt} \quad (\mathbf{P}\text{- a.s.}) \quad (3.5)$$

Representation (3.5) will be used to study the asymptotic properties of  $\hat{\theta}^K$  as  $K \rightarrow \infty$ . To get a consistent estimate, it is intuitively clear that  $\int_0^T \|\Pi^K \mathcal{A}_1 u(t)\|_0^2 dt$  should tend to infinity as  $K \rightarrow \infty$ , and this requires certain non-degeneracy of the operator  $\mathcal{A}_1$ .

**Definition 1** A differential operator  $\mathcal{P}$  of order  $p$  on  $M$  is called **essentially non-degenerate** if

$$\|\mathcal{P}f\|_s^2 \geq \varepsilon \|f\|_{s+p}^2 - L \|f\|_{s+p-\delta}^2 \quad (3.6)$$

for all  $f \in C^\infty(M)$ ,  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ , with some positive constants  $\varepsilon$ ,  $L$ ,  $\delta$ .

If the operator  $\mathcal{P}^*\mathcal{P}$  is elliptic of order  $2p$ , then the operator  $\mathcal{P}$  is essentially non-degenerate because in this case the operator  $\mathcal{P}^*\mathcal{P}$  is positive definite and self-adjoint so that the operator  $(\mathcal{P}^*\mathcal{P})^{1/(2p)}$  generates an equivalent scale of Sobolev spaces on  $M$ . In particular, every elliptic operator satisfies (3.6). Since, by Corollary 2.1.2 in [6], for every differential operator  $\mathcal{P}$  the operator  $\mathcal{P}^*\mathcal{P} - \mathcal{P}\mathcal{P}^*$  is of order  $2p - 1$ , the operator  $\mathcal{P}$  is essentially non-degenerate if and only if  $\mathcal{P}^*$  is.

Let us now formulate the main result concerning the properties of the estimate (3.5). Recall that the observed field  $u$  satisfies

$$du(t) + [\theta_1(\mathcal{L} + \mathcal{A}) + \theta_2\mathcal{B} + \mathcal{N}]u(t)dt = dW(t), \quad 0 < t \leq T; \quad u(0) = 0, \quad (3.7)$$

with one of  $\theta_2 = \theta_2^0$  or  $\theta_1 = \theta_1^0$  known. According to (3.5), the estimate of the remaining parameter is given by

$$\hat{\theta}_1^K = \frac{\int_0^T (\Pi^K(\mathcal{L} + \mathcal{A})u(t), d\Pi^K du(t) - d\Pi^K(\theta_2^0\mathcal{B} + \mathcal{N})u(t))_0}{\int_0^T \|\Pi^K(\mathcal{L} + \mathcal{A})u(t)\|_0^2 dt}, \quad (3.8)$$

$$\hat{\theta}_2^K = \frac{\int_0^T (\Pi^K\mathcal{B}u(t), d\Pi^K du(t) - d\Pi^K(\theta_1^0(\mathcal{L} + \mathcal{A}) + \mathcal{N})u(t))_0}{\int_0^T \|\Pi^K\mathcal{B}u(t)\|_0^2 dt}. \quad (3.9)$$

**Theorem 3.1** Assume that equation (3.7) is considered on a compact  $d$ -dimensional smooth manifold  $M$ ,  $\theta_1^0 > 0$ ,  $\mathcal{L}$  is a positive definite self-adjoint elliptic operator of order  $2m$ , and

$$\max(\text{order}(\mathcal{A}), \text{order}(\mathcal{B}), \text{order}(\mathcal{N})) < 2m.$$

In the case  $\theta_2$  is known, the estimate (3.8) of  $\theta_1^0$  is consistent and asymptotically normal:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P} - \lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} |\hat{\theta}_1^K - \theta_1^0| &= 0; \\ \Psi_{K,1}(\theta_1^0 - \hat{\theta}_1^K) &\xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, 1), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Psi_{K,1} = \sqrt{(T/(2\theta_1^0)) \sum_{n=1}^K l_n}$ .

In the case  $\theta_1$  is known, the estimate (3.9) of  $\theta_2^0$  is consistent and asymptotically normal if the operator  $\mathcal{B}$  is essentially non-degenerate and  $\text{order}(\mathcal{B}) = b \geq m - d/2$ . In that case,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P} - \lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} |\hat{\theta}_2^K - \theta_2^0| &= 0; \\ \Psi_{K,2}(\theta_2^0 - \hat{\theta}_2^K) &\xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, 1), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Psi_{K,2} \asymp \sqrt{\sum_{n=1}^K l_n^{(b-m)/m}}$ .

A sketch of the proof is given in Section 5.

**Remark 2** 1. Since  $l_k \asymp k^{2m/d}$ , the rate of convergence for  $\hat{\theta}_1^K$  is  $\Psi_{K,1} \asymp K^{m/d+1/2}$ , and for  $\hat{\theta}_2^K$ , it is

$$\Psi_{K,2} \asymp \begin{cases} K^{(b-m)/d+1/2} & \text{if } b > m - d/2, \\ \sqrt{\ln K} & \text{if } b = m - d/2. \end{cases}$$

2. All the statements of the theorem remain true if, instead of differential operators, pseudo-differential operators of class  $S_{\rho,\delta}$  are considered with  $\rho > \delta$  [6, 11].

**Theorem 3.2** If  $\theta_1^0$  is known and  $\text{order}(\mathcal{B}) = b < m - d/2$ , then the measures generated in  $\mathbf{C}([0, T]; \mathbf{H}^s)$ ,  $s < -d/2$ , by the solutions of (3.7) are equivalent for all  $\theta_2 \in \mathbb{R}$  and

$$\mathbf{P} - \lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} \hat{\theta}_2^K = \theta_2^0 + \frac{\int_0^T (\mathcal{B}u(t), dW(t))_0}{\int_0^T \|\mathcal{B}u(t)\|_0^2 dt}. \quad (3.10)$$

**Proof.** By (2.4),

$$\mathbf{E} \int_0^T \|\mathcal{B}u(t)\|_0^2 dt < \infty \quad (3.11)$$

for all  $\theta_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ , and therefore the stochastic integral  $\int_0^T (\mathcal{B}u(t), dW(t))_0$  is well defined [8, 12]. Then (3.10) follows from (3.9) and the properties of the stochastic integral.

Next, denote by  $P^{\theta_2}$  the measure generated in  $\mathbf{C}([0, T]; \mathbf{H}^s)$ ,  $s < -d/2$ , by the solution of (3.7) corresponding to the given value of  $\theta_2$ . Inequality (3.11) implies that

$$\int_0^T \|\mathcal{B}u(t)\|_0^2 dt < \infty \quad (\mathbf{P}\text{- a.s.}) \quad (3.12)$$

and therefore by Corollary 1 in [8] the measures  $P^{\theta_2}$  are equivalent for all  $\theta_2 \in \mathbb{R}$  with the likelihood ratio

$$\frac{dP^{\theta_2}}{dP^{\theta_2^0}}(u) = \exp\left((\theta_2 - \theta_2^0) \int_0^T (\mathcal{B}u(t), dW(t))_0 - (1/2)(\theta_2 - \theta_2^0)^2 \int_0^T \|\mathcal{B}u(t)\|_0^2 dt\right), \quad (3.13)$$

where  $u(t)$  is the solution of (3.7) corresponding to  $\theta_2 = \theta_2^0$ . Note that

$$\hat{\theta}_2 = \theta_2^0 + \frac{\int_0^T (\mathcal{B}u(t), dW(t))_0}{\int_0^T \|\mathcal{B}u(t)\|_0^2 dt}$$

maximizes the likelihood ration (3.13). □

If the operators  $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}$ ,  $\mathcal{N}$  have the same eigenfunctions as  $\mathcal{L}$ , then the coefficients  $\psi_k(u(t))$  are independent (for different  $k$ ) Ornstien-Uhlenbeck processes and  $\Pi^K \mathcal{A}u(t) = \Pi^K \mathcal{A} \Pi^K u(t)$ , with similar relations for  $\mathcal{B}$  and  $\mathcal{N}$ . As a result, other properties of (3.8) and (3.9) can be established, including strong consistency and asymptotic efficiency [4, 5, 9], and, in the case of the continuous time observations, all estimates are computable explicitly in terms of  $\psi_k(u(t))$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, K$ .

In general, the computation of  $\hat{\theta}_1^K$  and  $\hat{\theta}_2^K$  using (3.8) and (3.9) respectively requires the knowledge of the whole field  $u$  rather than its projection. Still, the operators  $\Pi^K(\mathcal{L} + \mathcal{A})$ ,  $\Pi^K\mathcal{B}$ , and  $\Pi^K\mathcal{N}$  have finite dimensional range, which should make the computations feasible. Another option is to *replace*  $u$  by  $\Pi^K u$ . This can simplify the computations, but the result is, in some sense, even further from the maximum likelihood estimate, because some information is lost, and the asymptotic properties of the resulting estimate are more difficult to study. In general, the construction of the estimate depending *only* on the projection  $\Pi^K u(t)$  is equivalent to the parameter estimation for a partially observed system with observations being given by (3.2). Without special assumptions on the operators  $\mathcal{A}_0$  and  $\mathcal{A}_1$ , this problem is extremely difficult even in the finite dimensional setting.

## 4 An Example

Consider the following stochastic partial differential equation:

$$du(t, x) = (D\nabla^2 u(t, x) - (\vec{v}(x), \nabla)u(t, x) - \lambda u(t, x))dt + dW(t, x). \quad (4.1)$$

It is called the **heat balance equation** and describes the dynamics of the sea surface temperature anomalies [2]. In (4.1),  $x = (x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ ,  $\vec{v}(x) = (v_1(x_1, x_2), v_2(x_1, x_2))$  is the velocity field of the top layer of the ocean (it is assumed to be known),  $D$  is thermodiffusivity,  $\lambda$  is the cooling coefficient. The equation is considered on a rectangle  $|x_1| \leq a$ ;  $|x_2| \leq c$  with periodic boundary conditions  $u(t, -a, x_2) = u(t, a, x_2)$ ,  $u(t, x_1, -c) = u(t, x_1, c)$  and zero initial condition. This reduces (4.1) to the general model (3.7) with  $M$  being a torus,  $d = 2$ ,  $\mathcal{L} = -\nabla^2 = -\partial^2/\partial x_1^2 - \partial^2/\partial x_2^2$ ,  $\mathcal{A} = 0$ ,  $\mathcal{B} = I$  (the identity operator),  $\mathcal{N} = (\vec{v}, \nabla) = v_1(x_1, x_2)\partial/\partial x_1 + v_2(x_1, x_2)\partial/\partial x_2$ ,  $\theta_1 = D$ ,  $\theta_2 = \lambda$ . Then  $order(\mathcal{L}) = 2$  (so that  $m = 1$ ),  $order(\mathcal{A}) = 0$ ,  $order(\mathcal{B}) = 0$  (so that  $b = 0$ ), and  $order(\mathcal{N}) = 1$ . The basis  $\{e_k\}_{k \geq 1}$  is the suitably ordered collection of real and imaginary parts of

$$g_{n_1, n_2}(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4ac}} \exp\left\{\sqrt{-1}\pi(x_1 n_1/a + x_2 n_2/c)\right\}, \quad n_1, n_2 \geq 0.$$

By Theorem 3.1, the estimate of  $D$  is consistent and asymptotically normal, the rate of convergence is  $\Psi_{K,1} \asymp K$ ; the estimate of  $\lambda$  is also consistent and asymptotically normal with the rate of convergence  $\Psi_{K,2} \asymp \sqrt{\ln K}$ , since  $b = 0 = m - d/2$  and (3.6) holds.

Unlike the case of the commuting operators, the proposed approach allows non-constant velocity field. Still, a significant limitation is that the value of  $\vec{v}(x)$  must be known.

## 5 Sketch of the proof of Theorem 3.1

Hereafter,  $u(t)$  is the solution of (3.7) corresponding to the true value of the parameters ( $\theta_1^0$  and  $\theta_2^0$ ) and  $C$  is a generic constant with possibly different values in different places.

To prove the asymptotic normality of the estimate, the following version of the central limit theorem will be used. The proof can be found in [4].



**Lemma 5.1** *If  $\mathcal{P}$  is a differential operator on  $M$  and*

$$\mathbf{P} - \lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\int_0^T \|\Pi^K \mathcal{P}u(t)\|_0^2 dt}{\mathbf{E} \int_0^T \|\Pi^K \mathcal{P}u(t)\|_0^2 dt} = 1, \quad (5.1)$$

then

$$\lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\int_0^T (\Pi^K \mathcal{P}u(t), dW^K(t))_0 dt}{\sqrt{\mathbf{E} \int_0^T \|\Pi^K \mathcal{P}u\|_0^2 dt}} = \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \quad (5.2)$$

in distribution.

Once (5.1) and (5.2) hold and

$$\lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{E} \int_0^T \|\Pi^K \mathcal{P}u\|_0^2 dt = +\infty, \quad (5.3)$$

the convergence

$$\mathbf{P} - \lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\int_0^T (\Pi^K \mathcal{P}u, dW^K(t))_0 dt}{\int_0^T \|\Pi^K \mathcal{P}u\|_0^2 dt} = 0$$

follows. Thus, it suffices to establish (5.1) and compute the asymptotics of  $\mathbf{E} \int_0^T \|\Pi^K \mathcal{P}u\|_0^2 dt$  for a suitable operator  $\mathcal{P}$ .

If  $\psi_k(t) := \psi_k(u(t))$ , then (3.7) implies

$$d\psi_k(t) = -\theta_1^0 l_k \psi_k(t) - \psi_k((\theta_1^0 \mathcal{A} + \theta_2^0 \mathcal{B} + \mathcal{N})u(t)) dt + dw_k(t), \quad \psi_k(0) = 0.$$

According to the variation of parameters formula, the solution of this equation is given by  $\psi_k(t) = \xi_k(t) + \eta_k(t)$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_k(t) &= \int_0^t e^{-\theta_1^0 l_k(t-s)} dw_k(s), \\ \eta_k(t) &= - \int_0^t e^{-\theta_1^0 l_k(t-s)} \psi_k((\theta_1^0 \mathcal{A} + \theta_2^0 \mathcal{B} + \mathcal{N})u(s)) ds. \end{aligned}$$

If  $\xi(t)$  and  $\eta(t)$  are the elements of  $\cup_s \mathbf{H}^s$  defined by the sequences  $\{\xi_k(t)\}_{k \geq 1}$  and  $\{\eta_k(t)\}_{k \geq 1}$  respectively, then the solution of (3.7) can be written as  $u(t) = \xi(t) + \eta(t)$ .

It can be shown by direct computation that if  $\mathcal{P}$  is an essentially non-degenerate operator of order  $p \geq m - d/2$ , then the asymptotics of  $\mathbf{E} \int_0^T \|\Pi^K \mathcal{P}u(t)\|_0^2 dt$  is determined by the asymptotics of  $\mathbf{E} \int_0^T \|\Pi^K \mathcal{P}\xi(t)\|_0^2 dt$ , and the last expression is relatively easy to analyze. Specifically,

$$\mathbf{E} \int_0^T \|\Pi^K \mathcal{P}u(t)\|_0^2 dt \asymp \mathbf{E} \int_0^T \|\Pi^K \mathcal{P}\xi(t)\|_0^2 dt \asymp \sum_{k=1}^N l_k^{(p-m)/m}, \quad K \rightarrow \infty,$$

which implies (5.3), and also

$$\lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathbf{E} \int_0^T \|\Pi^K \mathcal{P}\eta(t)\|_0^2 dt}{\mathbf{E} \int_0^T \|\Pi^K \mathcal{P}\xi(t)\|_0^2 dt} = 0,$$

$$\mathbf{P} - \lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\int_0^T \|\Pi^K \mathcal{P}\xi(t)\|_0^2 dt}{\mathbf{E} \int_0^T \|\Pi^K \mathcal{P}\xi(t)\|_0^2 dt} = 1,$$

which imply (5.1). After that, the first (resp., second) statement of the theorem follows from Lemma 5.1 with  $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{L} + \mathcal{A}$  (resp.,  $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{B}$ ).

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