

Parameter Estimation for Fractional Transport

Chae Young Lim

Department of Statistics and Probability
Michigan State University

Joint work with Paramita Chakraborty, Mark M. Meerschaert

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The space-fractional advection-dispersion equation (fADE):

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = -v \frac{\partial C}{\partial x} + D \frac{1 + \beta}{2} \frac{\partial^\alpha C}{\partial x^\alpha} + D \frac{1 - \beta}{2} \frac{\partial^\alpha C}{\partial (-x)^\alpha}, \quad (1)$$

- $C(x, t)$ is tracer concentration
- v (L/T) is the average plume velocity
- D (L^α/T) controls rate of spreading
- β (dimensionless) is the skewness parameter.
- the space-fractional index α (dimensionless) codes the heterogeneity of the porous medium
- When $\alpha = 2$, (1) reduces to the classical ADE with constant parameters.

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Particle tracking approach

- A tracer plume is represented by a large ensemble of statistically identical particles $[X_t^{(k)} : 1 \leq k \leq n]$.
- Each particle has the same probability density $f_\theta(x, t)$.
- We assume a fixed total mass $K > 0$, so that each particle carries mass K/n .
- The model concentration $C(x, t) = Kf_\theta(x, t)$.
- For the fADE with point source initial condition, $f_\theta(x, t)$ is a stable density.

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- Histogram of a large ensemble of particles

$$\hat{f}_{\theta}(x, t) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n I(x - \Delta < X_t^{(k)} \leq x)$$

- Suppressing t and θ ,

$$E[\hat{f}(x)] = \frac{\rho_{\Delta}(x)}{\Delta}$$

$$\text{Var}[\hat{f}(x)] = \frac{1}{n\Delta^2} \rho_{\Delta}(x) (1 - \rho_{\Delta}(x))$$

$$\text{Cov}[\hat{f}(x), \hat{f}(y)] = -\frac{1}{n\Delta^2} \rho_{\Delta}(x) \rho_{\Delta}(y)$$

$$\rho_{\Delta}(x) = F(x) - F(x - \Delta)$$

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- It can be shown that

$$\sqrt{n\Delta} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{f}(x) - f(x) \\ \hat{f}(y) - f(y) \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow N \left(0, \begin{pmatrix} f(x) & 0 \\ 0 & f(y) \end{pmatrix} \right).$$

- Observed concentration, $\hat{C}(x, t)$, can be regarded as a scaled histogram bar,

$$\hat{C}(x, t) = \frac{K}{\Delta} \cdot \frac{N_x}{n} = K\hat{f}(x, t)$$

N_x is the number of particles in the bin at location x , and Δ is the bin width.

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What we observe

We don't observe each particle $X_t^{(k)}$ but observe concentration $\hat{C}(x_i, t)$, a scaled histogram bar $K\hat{f}(x, t)$.

- Spatial snapshots: $\{x_i, c_i\}$ for $i = 1, \dots, N$.
 x_i locations, $c_i = \hat{C}(x_i, t)$ observed concentration at location x_i for fixed time t .
- Temporal breakthrough curves: $\{t_i, c_i\}$ for $i = 1, \dots, N$.
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Parameter estimation

Since variation of $\hat{f}(x, t)$ is proportional to $f(x, t)$, consider weighted least squares.

- For spatial snapshots, minimize

$$e(\theta, K) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{Kc_i} (c_i - Kf_{\theta}(x_i, t))^2$$

- Iterative two-step approach
 - Given K minimize θ using $e(\theta, K)$.
 - Given θ ,

$$K = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n c_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n [f_{\theta}^2(x_i, t)/c_i]}}$$

- Similar approach for temporal breakthrough curves

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Stable density $f_{\theta}(x, t)$

Recall $f_{\theta}(x, t)$ for fADE is a stable density

- No closed form
- It can be characterized by Fourier transform:

$$\int e^{ikx} f_{\theta}(x, t) dx = \exp(i\mu k - \sigma^{\alpha} \omega_{\alpha, \beta}(k)), \quad (2)$$

where

$$\omega_{\alpha, \beta}(k) = \begin{cases} |k|^{\alpha} [1 + i\beta \text{sign}(k) \tan(\pi\alpha/2)] & \text{for } \alpha \neq 1, \\ |k| [1 + i\beta(2/\pi) \text{sign}(k) \log |k|] & \text{for } \alpha = 1 \end{cases}$$

- $0 < \alpha \leq 2$ is the tail index
- $-1 \leq \beta \leq 1$ controls skewness
- $-\infty < \mu < \infty$ controls center
- $\sigma \geq 0$ controls scale.

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Asymptotics of estimated parameters

- It can be shown that the estimated parameters are asymptotically normal.

$$(\hat{\theta} - \theta_0) \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{n} dx_n} A \mathcal{N}(0, I) \quad \text{where}$$

$$A = \left[\frac{\partial f_{\theta_0}(\mathbf{x}, t)^T}{\partial \theta} \text{diag} \left[f_{\theta_0}(\mathbf{x}, t) \right]^{-1} \frac{\partial f_{\theta_0}(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\partial \theta} \right]^{-1} \\ \times \frac{\partial f_{\theta_0}(\mathbf{x}, t)^T}{\partial \theta} \left[\text{diag}(f_{\theta_0}(\mathbf{x})) \right]^{-1/2}$$

- The matrix A can be evaluated numerically.

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Stable parameters v.s. fADE parameters

- $\theta = (\alpha, \beta, \mu, \sigma)$
- The plume center of mass $\mu = vt$
- The scale σ is given by $\sigma^\alpha = Dt |\cos(\pi\alpha/2)|$.

Computing stable density

- Analytical inversion of the Fourier transform and numerical integration of the resulting formula
- Programs are widely available [e.g. see *Nolan*, 1999]

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Spatial snapshots from a MADE tracer test

- Natural-gradient tracer tests at the MAcroDispersion Experimental (MADE) site at Columbus Air Force Base in northeastern Mississippi.
- The MADE-2 tritium plume data was considered [*Boggs et al.*, 1993]
- The data represent the maximum concentration measured in vertical slices perpendicular to the direction of plume travel
- Four spatial snapshots at day 27, day 132, day 224, and day 328 days after injection

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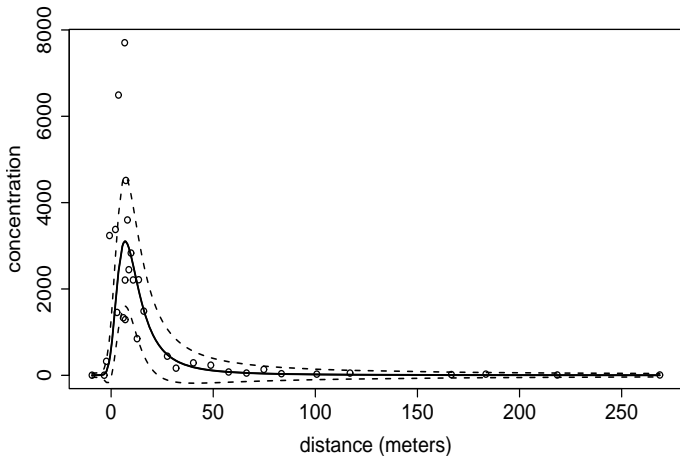


Figure: Day 224, $\alpha = 1.0915$, $\beta = 0.99$, $\nu = 0.196$ m/day, $D = 0.186$ m ^{α} /day, and $K = 56,778$ mg/L
 95% CI for α : [1.08, 1.11], 95% CI for ν : [0.15, 0.23]

Breakthrough curve for the Red Cedar river

- From a tracer test reported in *Phanikumar et al.* [2007]
- A fourth-order stream in south central Michigan, United States
- Four slug additions of Fluorescein dye were released in the middle 75% of the channel
- The distances to the three sampling locations from the point of release: 1.4 km, 3.1 km and 5.08 km from the injection site

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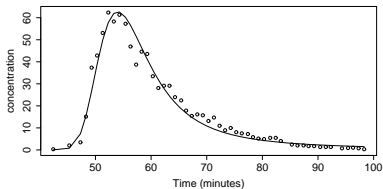
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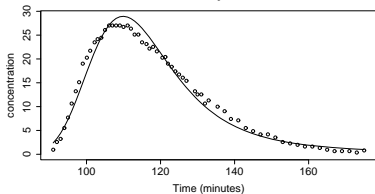
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1.4 km from injection site



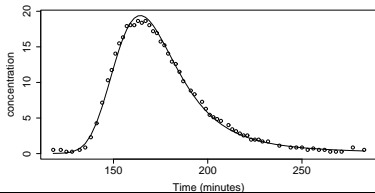
- 1.4 km: $\alpha = 1.32$, $\beta = -0.99$,
 $v = 0.022$ km/min,
 $D = 0.00181$ km $^\alpha$ /min, and
 $K = 22.64$ μ g/L.

3.1 km from injection site



- 3.1 km: $\alpha = 1.56$, $\beta = -0.99$,
 $v = 0.026$ km/min,
 $D = 0.00131$ km $^\alpha$ /min, and
 $K = 25.48$ μ g/L.

5.08 km from injection site



- 5.08 km: $\alpha = 1.58$, $\beta = -0.96$,
 $v = 0.029$ km/min,
 $D = 0.00181$ km $^\alpha$ /min,
 $K = 27.75$ μ g/L.

Breakthrough curve for the Grand river

- From a tracer test reported in *Shen et al.* [2008]
- Test on a 40 km stretch of the Grand River, a 420km long tributary to Lake Michigan, traveling through the city of Grand Rapids and extending to Coopersville, Michigan, United States
- Rodamine WT 20% (weight) solution was used in the study.
- The distances to the four sampling locations from the point of release: 4558 m (Bridge 1), 13,687 m (Bridge 2), 28,375 m (Bridge 3) and 37,608 m (Bridge 4).

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- Test on a 40 km stretch of the Grand River, a 420km long tributary to Lake Michigan, traveling through the city of Grand Rapids and extending to Coopersville, Michigan, United States
- Rodamine WT 20% (weight) solution was used in the study.
- The distances to the four sampling locations from the point of release: 4558 m (Bridge 1), 13,687 m (Bridge 2), 28,375 m (Bridge 3) and 37,608 m (Bridge 4).

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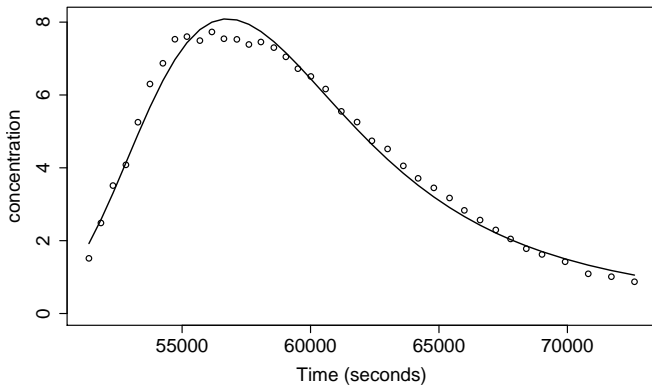


Figure: Bridge 3: $\alpha = 1.38$, $\beta = -1.0$, $\nu = 0.446$ m/sec, $D = 0.887$ m $^\alpha$ /sec, and $K = 50,179$ ppb

Interactive Ground Water simulation (IGW)

- Provide unified deterministic, stochastic, and multi-scale groundwater modeling [*Li and Liu, 2006; Li et al., 2006*]
- Fit fADE (1) to an ensemble average plume simulated in IGW using a multiscale hydraulic conductivity field on a model domain of 500 m \times 125 m.
- An ensemble mean of 100 simulated plumes was averaged along the axis transverse to the flow to produce one dimensional concentration.

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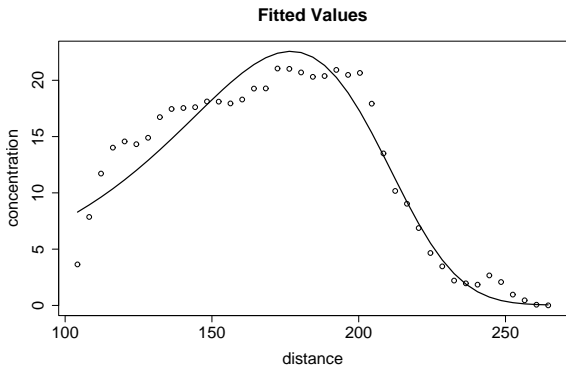
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- $\alpha = 1.25,$
 $\beta = -1.0,$
 $\mu = 93.4,$
 $\sigma = 31.8,$
 $K = 2578$

Conclusion

- Parameter estimation based on a particle tracking approach, where concentration measurements are interpreted as a random histogram.
- Can also be used for any other transport model that admits a particle tracking solution.
- The particle tracking model implies that concentration variance is proportional to concentration.
- The method is effective for both spatial snapshots and temporal breakthrough data.

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Thank You!

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