

Berglund's Diffusion Constant Model

Ramiro Barrantes Reynolds

1 Introduction

I worked for a long time in a variation of this model, for various reasons it did not get published but I wanted to share part of the derivation with the community - as it is not obvious in the paper - especially if you don't do calculus every day!! I hope this will be useful for someone else.

2 Model

A particle moves on one dimension with time intervals of size τ on positions $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N\}$.

The Brownian motion model is governed by the following equation

$$x_n = x_{n-1} + \epsilon_n$$

with $\epsilon_n \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_\Delta^2)$

Where $\sigma_\Delta^2 = 2D\tau$ with D the diffusion constant.

We also have measurement noise σ_c (also called localization noise) which is usually modeled as having observations $\{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_N\}$ consisting of the true position and some measurement error:

$$y_n = x_n + \phi_n$$

where $\phi_n \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_c^2)$.

However, the method suggested by Berglund ([Berglund \(2010\)](#), see also [Michalet and Berglund \(2012\)](#)) adds the fact that the particle is being imaged by a camera and subject to the shutter being opened in a given interval of time, giving rise to motion blur. Therefore he defines a shutter function $s(t)$ that integrates to unity over the time interval τ and defines the observed position on frame k , Y_k , as the true position X averaged by the shutter function plus the measurement noise ϕ_k ,

$$y_k = \int_{(k-1)\tau}^{k\tau} s(t - (k-1)\tau) X(t) dt + \phi_k$$

Where $\phi_k \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_c^2)$.

This leads to the following multivariate normal distribution for the displacements $\Delta_k = y_{k+1} - y_k$:

$$\langle \Delta_i \Delta_j \rangle = \begin{cases} 2D\tau - 2(2DR\tau - \sigma_c^2) = \sigma - 2R\sigma - 2\sigma_c^2 & \text{if } i = j \\ 2DR\tau - \sigma_c^2 = \sigma R - \sigma_c^2 & \text{if } |i - j| = 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where, if $S(t) = \int_0^t s(u)du$,

$$R = \frac{1}{\tau} \left(\int_0^\tau s(t')t' dt' - \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t)s(t') \min(t, t') dt dt' \right) = \int_0^\tau S(t)(1 - S(t))dt$$

R would be a *motion blur coefficient* with $0 \leq R \leq 1/4$.

(see [Berglund \(2010\)](#) and the supplement for the derivation)

Therefore we have the likelihood as

$$p(y_1, \dots, y_p | \sigma, \sigma_c, R) = p(\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_{p-1}) = \mathcal{N}_p(0, \sum)$$

Where $\sum$ is as defined above.

Finally, we want to study the case where we know the sequence of hidden states $S = \{s_1, s_2, \dots, s_N\}$, where $s_i \in \{1, \dots, K\}$ with N the number of diffusion states and, instead of a single σ_Δ , we have $\{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_K\}$ as the actual diffusion states. Then we will set the joint distribution including the hidden states to be the product of the separate joint distributions for each state:

$$\begin{aligned} p(Y, \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_K, \sigma_c) &= p(y_1, \dots, y_N, s_1, \dots, s_N, \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_K, \sigma_c) \\ &= \left[\prod_{k=1}^K p(y_{k,1}, \dots, y_{k,n_k} | \sigma_k, \sigma_c) \right] p(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_K) \end{aligned}$$

Supplementary Material

The method suggested by Berglund and Michalet ([Berglund \(2010\)](#); [Michalet and Berglund \(2012\)](#)) add the fact that the particle is being imaged by a camera and subject to the shutter being opened in a given interval of time, giving rise to motion blur. Therefore we define a shutter function $s(t)$ that integrates to unity over the time interval τ and define the observed position on frame k , Y_k , as the true position X averaged by the shutter function plus the localization noise ϕ_k ,

$$Y_k = \int_{(k-1)\tau}^{k\tau} s(t - (k-1)\tau) X(t) dt + \phi_k$$

Where $\phi_k \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_c^2)$.

We also assume that the particle follows Brownian motion so,

$$\langle \epsilon_k^2 \rangle = \langle (X((k+1)\tau) - X(k\tau))^2 \rangle = 2D\tau$$

For the derivation below we will use the following result:

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle X_{true}(t')X_{true}(t'') \rangle &= \langle [X_{true}(t' - 1) + \epsilon_{t'}][X_{true}(t'' - 1) + \epsilon_{t''}] \rangle \\
&= \langle [X_{true}(t' - 2) + \epsilon_{t'-1} + \epsilon_{t'}][X_{true}(t'' - 2) + \epsilon_{t''-1} + \epsilon_{t''}] \rangle \\
&= \dots \\
&= \langle [X_{true}(0) + \sum_{i=1}^{t'} \epsilon_i][X_{true}(0) + \sum_{j=1}^{t''} \epsilon_j] \rangle \\
&= \langle X_{true}^2(0) + X_{true}(0) \sum_{j=1}^{t'} \epsilon_j + X_{true}(0) \sum_{i=1}^{t''} \epsilon_i + \sum_{i=1}^{t'} \epsilon_i \sum_{j=1}^{t''} \epsilon_j \rangle \\
&= \langle X_{true}^2(0) \rangle + \langle X_{true}(0) \sum_{j=1}^{t'} \epsilon_j \rangle + \langle X_{true}(0) \sum_{i=1}^{t''} \epsilon_i \rangle + \langle \sum_{i=1}^{t'} \epsilon_i \sum_{j=1}^{t''} \epsilon_j \rangle \quad (2.1) \\
&= X_{true}^2(0) + \langle \sum_{i=1}^{t'} \epsilon_i \sum_{j=1}^{t''} \epsilon_j \rangle \\
&= X_{true}^2(0) + \langle \sum_{i=1}^{min(t', t'')} \epsilon_i^2 + \sum_{j=min(t', t'')+1}^{max(t', t'')} \epsilon_j \rangle \\
&= X_{true}^2(0) + \sum_{i=1}^{min(t', t'')} \langle \epsilon_i^2 \rangle + \sum_{j=min(t', t'')+1}^{max(t', t'')} \langle \epsilon_j \rangle \\
&= X_{true}^2(0) + min(t', t'')2D
\end{aligned}$$

We now want to find the distribution for the measured displacements $\Delta_k = Y_{k+1} - Y_k$. First we see that, using the substitution $u = t - (k-1)\tau$:

$$Y_k = \int_{(k-1)\tau}^{k\tau} s(t - (k-1)\tau)X(t)dt + \phi_k = \int_0^\tau s(u + (k-1)\tau)X(u)du$$

And we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \Delta_k \Delta_{k-1} \rangle &= \langle (Y_{k+1} - Y_k)(Y_k - Y_{k-1}) \rangle \\
&= \langle (Y_{k+1}Y_k) - (Y_{k+1}Y_{k-1}) - (Y_kY_k) + (Y_kY_{k-1}) \rangle \\
&= \langle Y_{k+1}Y_k \rangle - \langle Y_{k+1}Y_{k-1} \rangle - \langle Y_kY_k \rangle + \langle Y_kY_{k-1} \rangle
\end{aligned}$$

Using (2.1) we can determine $\langle Y_{k+1}Y_k \rangle$, $\langle Y_kY_k \rangle$ and $\langle Y_{k+1}Y_{k-1} \rangle$ as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle Y_{k+1} Y_k \rangle &= \langle (\int_0^\tau s(t) X(t + k\tau) dt + \phi_{k+1}) (\int_0^\tau s(t') X(t' + (k-1)\tau) dt' + \phi_k) \rangle \\
&= \langle \int_0^\tau s(t) X(t + k\tau) dt \int_0^\tau s(t') X(t' + (k-1)\tau) dt' \rangle + \langle \phi_k \int_0^\tau s(t) X(t + k\tau) dt \rangle + \langle \phi_{k+1} \int_0^\tau s(t') X(t' + (k-1)\tau) dt' \rangle + \langle \phi_{k+1} \phi_k \rangle \\
&= \langle \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t) s(t') X(t + k\tau) X(t' + (k-1)\tau) dt dt' \rangle \\
&= \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t) s(t') \langle X(t + k\tau) X(t' + (k-1)\tau) \rangle dt dt' \\
&= \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t) s(t') [X(0)^2 + 2D(t' + (k-1)\tau)] dt dt' \\
&= X(0)^2 \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t) s(t') dt dt' + 2D \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t) s(t') t dt dt' + 2D(k-1)\tau \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t) s(t') dt dt' \\
&= X(0)^2 + 2D \int_0^\tau s(t) t dt + 2D(k-1)\tau
\end{aligned} \tag{2.2}$$

and,

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle Y_k Y_k \rangle &= \langle (\int_0^\tau s(t) X(t + (k-1)\tau) dt + \phi_k) (\int_0^\tau s(t') X(t' + (k-1)\tau) dt' + \phi_k) \rangle \\
&= \langle \int_0^\tau s(t) X(t + (k-1)\tau) dt \int_0^\tau s(t') X(t' + (k-1)\tau) dt' \rangle + \langle 2\phi_k \int_0^\tau s(t') X(t' + (k-1)\tau) dt' \rangle + \langle \phi_k \phi_k \rangle \\
&= \langle \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t) s(t') X(t + (k-1)\tau) X(t' + (k-1)\tau) dt dt' \rangle + \sigma^2 \\
&= \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t) s(t') \langle X(t + (k-1)\tau) X(t' + (k-1)\tau) \rangle dt dt' + \sigma^2 \\
&= \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t) s(t') [X(0)^2 + 2D(\min(t, t') + (k-1)\tau)] dt dt' + \sigma^2 \\
&= X(0)^2 + 2D \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t) s(t') \min(t, t') dt dt' + 2D(k-1)\tau \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t) s(t') dt dt' + \sigma^2 \\
&= X(0)^2 + 2D \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t) s(t') \min(t, t') dt dt' + 2D(k-1)\tau + \sigma^2
\end{aligned} \tag{2.3}$$

And

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle Y_{k+1}Y_{k-1} \rangle &= \langle (\int_0^\tau s(t)X(t+k\tau)dt + \phi_{k+1})(\int_0^\tau s(t')X(t'+(k-2)\tau)dt' + \phi_{k-1}) \rangle \\
&= \langle \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t)s(t')X(t+k\tau)X(t'+(k-2)\tau)dt dt' \rangle \\
&= \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t)s(t')\langle X(t+k\tau)X(t'+(k-2)\tau) \rangle dt dt' \tag{2.4} \\
&= \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t)s(t')[X(0)^2 + 2D(t'+(k-2)\tau)]dt dt' \\
&= X(0)^2 + 2D \int_0^\tau s(t')t' dt' + 2D(k-2)\tau
\end{aligned}$$

Using (2.2), (2.3) and (2.4) together:

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \Delta_k \Delta_{k-1} \rangle &= \langle Y_{k+1}Y_k \rangle - \langle Y_{k+1}Y_{k-1} \rangle - \langle Y_kY_k \rangle + \langle Y_kY_{k-1} \rangle \\
&= X(0)^2 + 2D \int_0^\tau s(t')t' dt' + 2D(k-1)\tau \\
&\quad - (X(0)^2 + 2D \int_0^\tau s(t')t' dt' + 2D(k-2)\tau) \\
&\quad - (X(0)^2 + 2D \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t)s(t')\min(t,t')dt dt' + 2D(k-1)\tau) + \sigma^2 \\
&\quad + X(0)^2 + 2D \int_0^\tau s(t')t' dt' + 2D(k-2)\tau \\
&= 2D \int_0^\tau s(t')t' dt - 2D \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t)s(t')\min(t,t')dt dt' - \sigma^2 \\
&= 2D \left(\int_0^\tau s(t')t' dt - \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t)s(t')\min(t,t')dt dt' \right) - \sigma^2
\end{aligned}$$

Analogously,

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \Delta_k \Delta_k \rangle &= \langle (Y_{k+1} - Y_k)(Y_{k+1} - Y_k) \rangle \\
&= \langle Y_{k+1} Y_{k+1} \rangle - 2\langle Y_{k+1} Y_k \rangle - \langle Y_k Y_k \rangle \\
&= (X(0)^2 + 2D \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t)s(t') \min(t, t') dt dt' + 2Dk\tau + \sigma^2) \\
&\quad - 2 \left(X(0)^2 + 2D \int_0^\tau s(t') t' dt' + 2D(k-1)\tau \right) \\
&\quad (X(0)^2 + 2D \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t)s(t') \min(t, t') dt dt' + 2D(k-1)\tau + \sigma^2) \\
&= 4D \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t)s(t') \min(t, t') dt dt' - 4D \int_0^\tau s(t') t' dt' + 2D\tau + 2\sigma^2 \\
&= 2D\tau - 2 \left[2D \left(\int_0^\tau s(t') t' dt' - \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t)s(t') \min(t, t') dt dt' \right) - \sigma^2 \right]
\end{aligned}$$

We also have that for the case $|k - j| > 1$, assuming without loss of generality that $k > j$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \Delta_k \Delta_j \rangle &= \langle (Y_{k+1} - Y_k)(Y_{j+1} - Y_j) \rangle \\
&= \langle Y_{k+1} Y_{j+1} \rangle - \langle Y_{k+1} Y_j \rangle - \langle Y_k Y_{j+1} \rangle + \langle Y_k Y_j \rangle \\
&= 2Dj\tau - 2D(j-1)\tau - 2Dj\tau + 2D(j-1)\tau \\
&= 0
\end{aligned}$$

Hence if we define $R = \frac{1}{\tau} \left(\int_0^\tau s(t') t' dt' - \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t)s(t') \min(t, t') dt dt' \right)$ we see that the displacements have a multivariate normal distribution centered at zero and with a co-variance matrix as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \Delta_k \Delta_{k-1} \rangle &= 2D\tau R - \sigma^2 \\
\langle \Delta_k \Delta_k \rangle &= 2D\tau - 2(2D\tau R - \sigma^2) \\
\langle \Delta_i \Delta_j \rangle &= 0 \text{ if } |i - j| > 1
\end{aligned}$$

This implies correlation between consecutive displacements.

In addition, if we define $S(t) = \int_0^t s(u) du$ we have:

$$R = \frac{1}{\tau} \left(\int_0^\tau s(t') t' dt' - \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t)s(t') \min(t, t') dt dt' \right) = \int_0^\tau S(t)(1 - S(t)) dt$$

This can be seen by the following:

First, using integration by parts:

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_0^\tau t' s(t') dt' &= t'(S(t) - 1)|_0^\tau - \int_0^\tau (S(t) - 1) dt \\
&= 0 - \int_0^\tau (S(t) - 1) dt \\
&= \int_0^\tau (1 - S(t)) dt
\end{aligned} \tag{2.5}$$

Then we also have, using an index function where

$$\mathbb{1}_{\{\dots\}} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } \dots \text{ is true,} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

So for $t, t' \in [0, \tau]$

$$\min\{t, t'\} = \int_0^\tau \mathbb{1}_{\{u \leq t, u \leq t'\}} du = \int_0^\tau \mathbb{1}_{\{u \leq t\}} \mathbb{1}_{\{u \leq t'\}} du$$

And

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t) s(t') \min(t, t') dt dt' &= \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t) s(t') \int_0^\tau \mathbb{1}_{\{u \leq t\}} \mathbb{1}_{\{u \leq t'\}} du dt dt' \\
&= \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t) \mathbb{1}_{\{u \leq t\}} dt \int_0^\tau s(t') \mathbb{1}_{\{u \leq t'\}} dt' du \\
&= \int_0^\tau \int_u^t s(t) dt \int_u^{t'} s(t') dt' du \\
&= \int_0^\tau (1 - S(u))^2 du
\end{aligned} \tag{2.6}$$

Now, combining (2.5) and (2.6)

$$\begin{aligned}
R &= \frac{1}{\tau} \left(\int_0^\tau s(t') t' dt' - \int_0^\tau \int_0^\tau s(t) s(t') \min(t, t') dt dt' \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{\tau} \int_0^\tau (1 - S(u)) du - \int_0^\tau (1 - S(u))^2 du \\
&= \frac{1}{\tau} \int_0^\tau (1 - S(u)) (1 - (1 - S(u))) du \\
&= \frac{1}{\tau} \int_0^\tau (1 - S(u)) S(u) du
\end{aligned}$$

Derivation of Berglund's Estimator. Derivation of Berglund's Estimator

References

- Berglund, A. J. (2010). “Statistics of camera-based single-particle tracking.” *Phys Rev E Stat Nonlin Soft Matter Phys*, 82(1 Pt 1): 011917. Berglund, Andrew J eng 2010/09/28 Phys Rev E Stat Nonlin Soft Matter Phys. 2010 Jul;82(1 Pt 1):011917. doi: 10.1103/PhysRevE.82.011917. Epub 2010 Jul 22.
URL <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20866658> 1, 2
- Michalet, X. and Berglund, A. J. (2012). “Optimal diffusion coefficient estimation in single-particle tracking.” *Phys. Rev. E*, 85: 061916.
URL <https://link.aps.org/doi/10.1103/PhysRevE.85.061916> 1, 2