

# Nonlinear System Identification A User-Oriented Roadmap

Johan Schoukens

Extended presentation - May 25, 2020



This presentation is an extended version of the plenary lecture  
*Nonlinear System Identification. A User-Oriented Roadmap.*  
18th IFAC Symposium on System Identification, SYSID 2018,  
Stockholm, Sweden, July 9-11, 2018.

The paper

*Nonlinear System Identification: A User-Oriented Road Map*  
Johan Schoukens and Lennart Ljung  
IEEE Control Systems Magazine, vol. 39 (6), pp. 28-99, 2019

▶ Schoukens and Ljung (2019) IEEE Control Systems Magazine

provides more information on the topic and references to the material used in this presentation.



Linear



Nonlinear

Time-Varying

# Outline

Why is nonlinear SI so involved?

Linear or nonlinear SI? A users decision

The lead actors in SI

Linear identification in the presence of nonlinear distortions

Nonlinear SI: Extensive case study

Conclusions

# Outline

- ▶ Why is nonlinear SI so involved?

  - From hyperplane to manifold

  - Model errors

  - Process noise

Linear or nonlinear SI? A users decision

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Nonlinear SI: Extensive case study

Conclusions

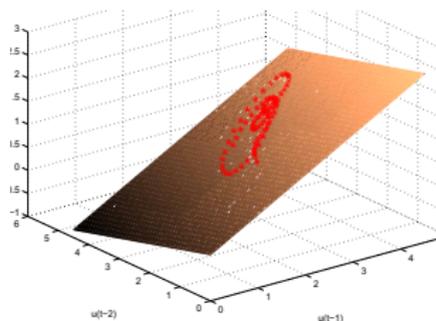
# From hyperplane to manifold <sup>1</sup>

Linear models: a hyperplane

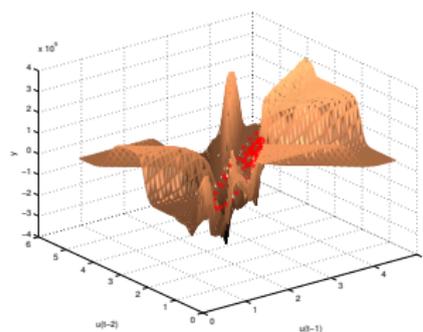
Nonlinear models: a manifold

only known where domain is sampled  
extrapolation should be avoided

Linear



Nonlinear



<sup>1</sup> Acknowledgement Ljung, Bode Lecture IEEE CDC 2003

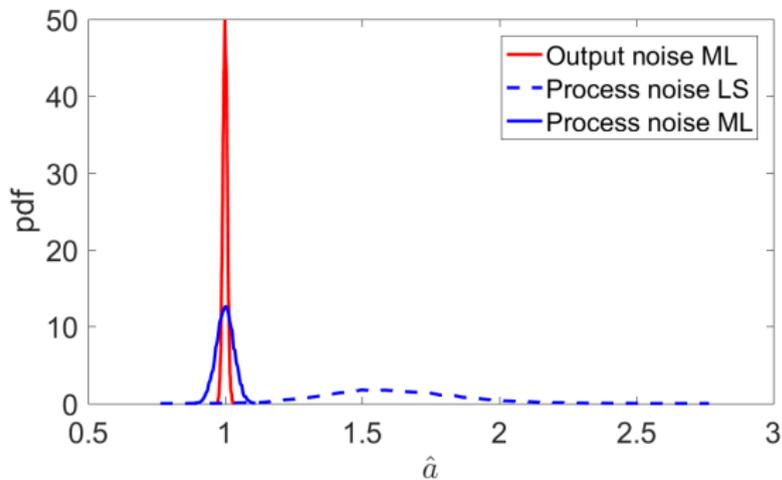
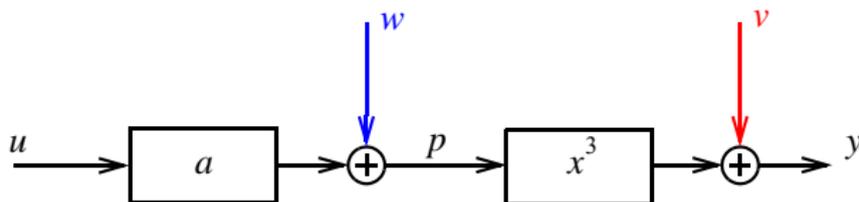
# Model errors

Impossible to avoid in many cases

Affect experiment design and choice cost function

Residuals no longer independent of input

# Process noise



# Outline

Why is nonlinear SI so involved?

- ▶ Linear or nonlinear SI? A users decision
  - Nonparametric distortion analysis
  - Example: the Duffing Oscillator

The lead actors in SI

Linear identification in the presence of nonlinear distortions

Nonlinear SI: Extensive case study

Conclusions

## Linear or nonlinear SI? A users decision

Nonlinear SI much more 'expensive' than linear SI

Make a well informed decision

Do we face a nonlinear identification problem?

Safe to use a linear system identification approach?

How much to gain with a nonlinear model?

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How much to gain with a nonlinear model?

Detection, qualification, quantification NL distortions

Characterize nonlinear behavior

No increase of the measurement time

Little user interaction

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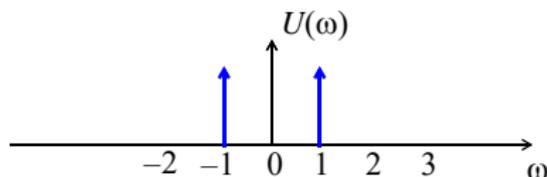
Little user interaction

Tool: well-designed periodic excitations

$$u_0(t) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{k=1}^{N/2-1} U_k \cos(2\pi k f_0 t + \varphi_k)$$

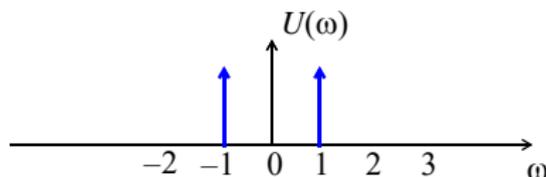
## Understanding nonlinear systems: $y = u^3$

$$\begin{aligned}u(t) &= 2 \cos \omega t \\ &= e^{j\omega t} + e^{-j\omega t} \text{ with } \omega = 1\end{aligned}$$



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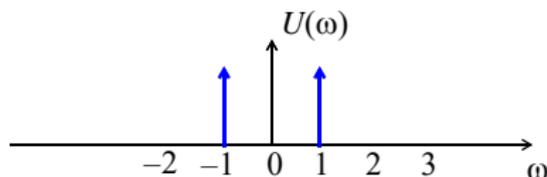
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$$\begin{aligned}y &= u^3 \\ &= (e^{j\omega t} + e^{-j\omega t})(e^{j\omega t} + e^{-j\omega t})(e^{j\omega t} + e^{-j\omega t})\end{aligned}$$

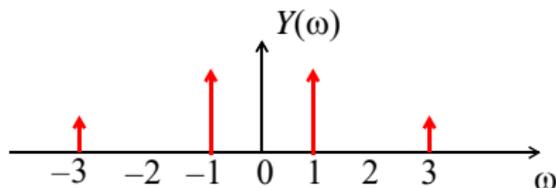
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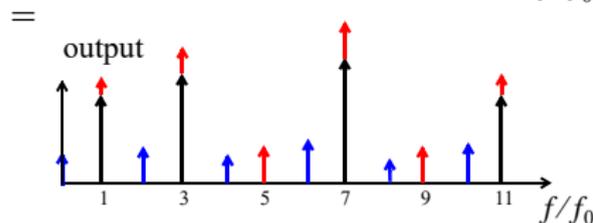
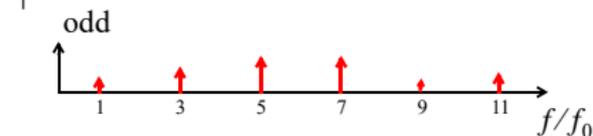
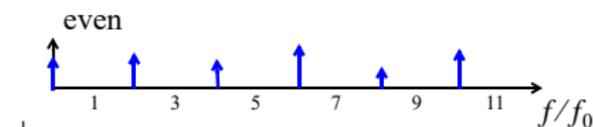
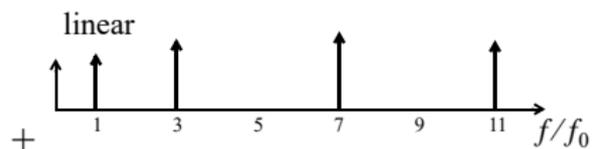
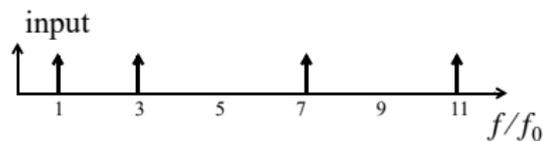


$$y = u^3 \\ = (e^{j\omega t} + e^{-j\omega t})(e^{j\omega t} + e^{-j\omega t})(e^{j\omega t} + e^{-j\omega t})$$

1	1	1	3
1	1	-1	1
1	-1	1	1
1	-1	-1	-1
-1	1	1	1
-1	1	-1	-1
-1	-1	1	-1
-1	-1	-1	-3

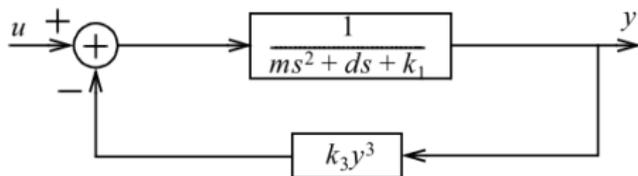


# Detection and qualification of nonlinear distortions

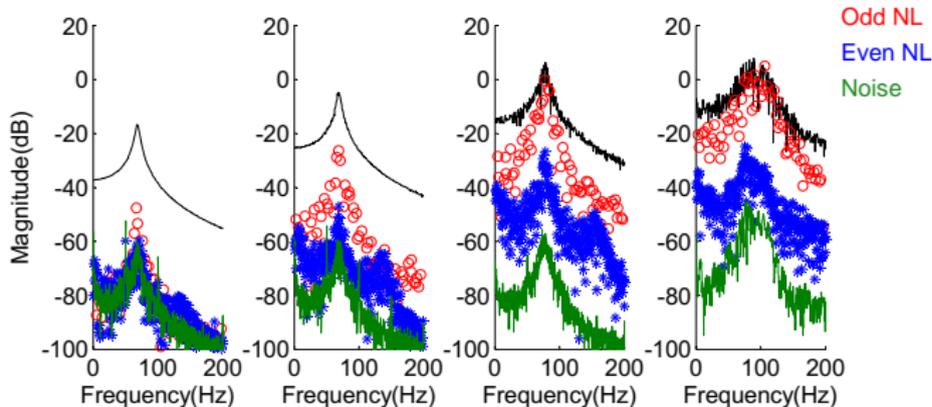
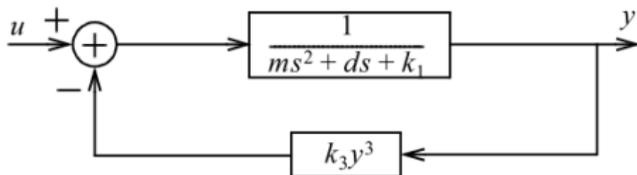


► A detailed example

## Example: the forced Duffing oscillator



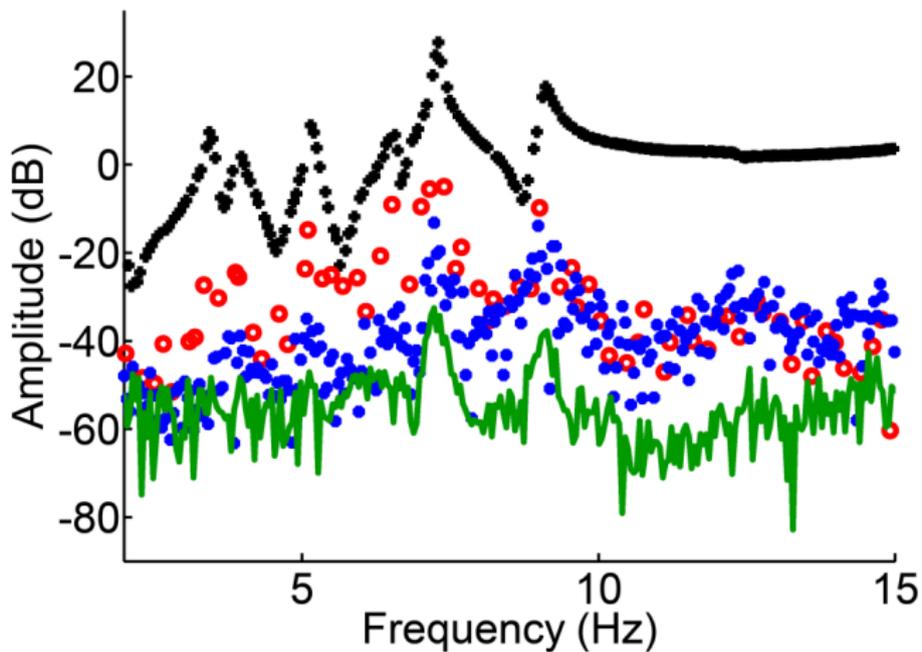
# Example: the forced Duffing oscillator



## Example: an air fighter<sup>2</sup>



## Example: an air fighter<sup>2</sup>



Output

Odd NL

Even NL

Noise

<sup>2</sup>Acknowledgement M. Vaes (VUB), B. Peeters, J. Debille (Siemens Industry Software), T. Dossogne, J.P. Noël, C. Grappasaonni, G. Kerschen (ULg)

# Outline

Why is nonlinear SI so involved?

Linear or nonlinear SI? A users decision

- ▶ The lead actors in SI

  - Data

  - Cost

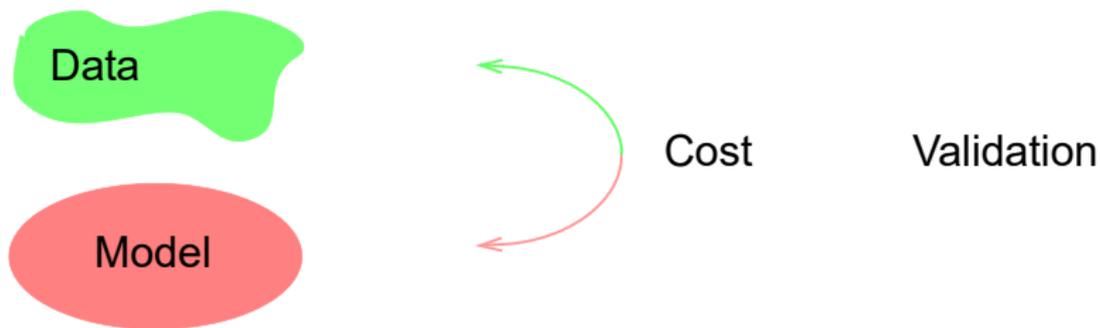
  - Model

Linear identification in the presence of nonlinear distortions

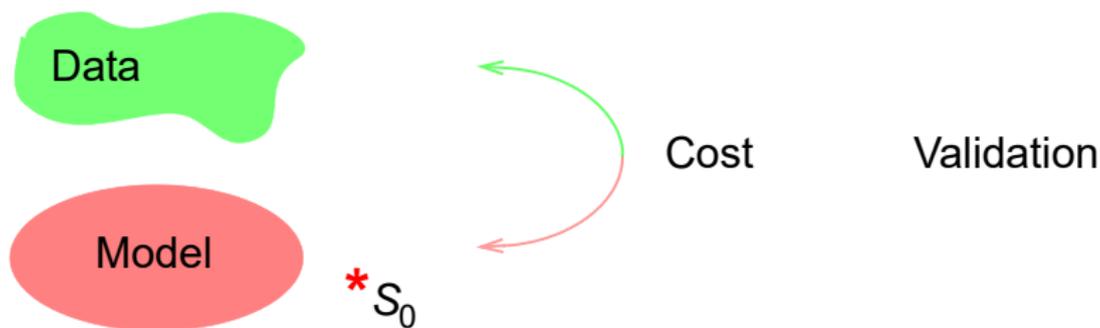
Nonlinear SI: Extensive case study

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# Lead actors in SI from a nonlinear perspective

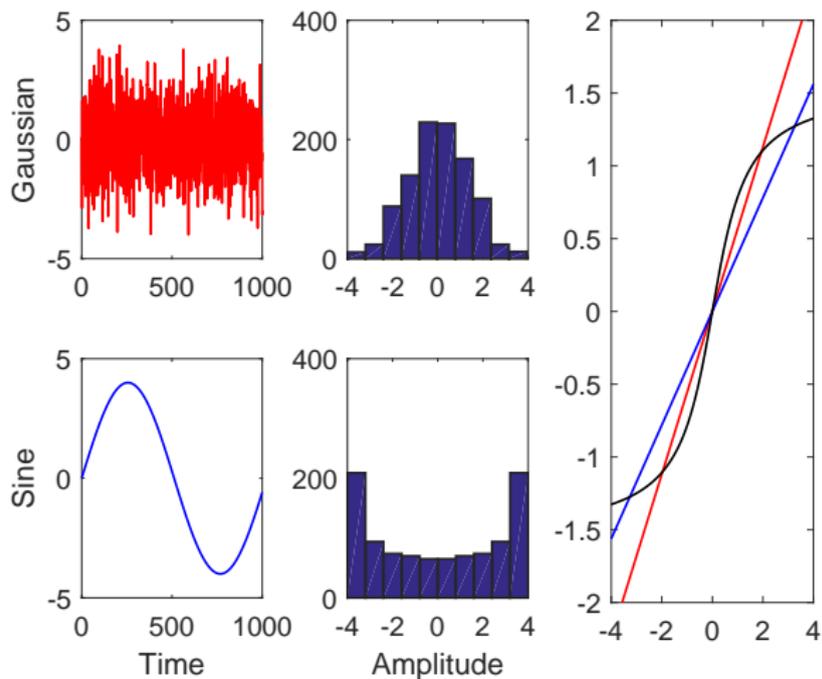


# Lead actors in SI from a nonlinear perspective

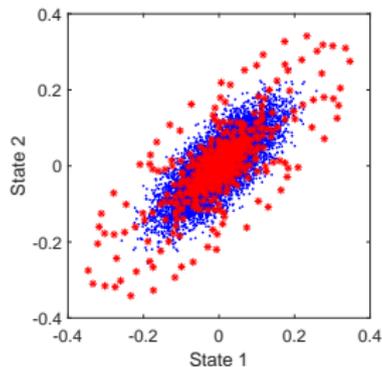
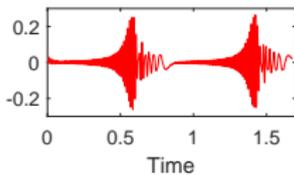
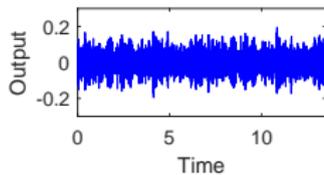
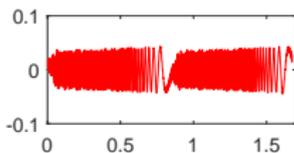
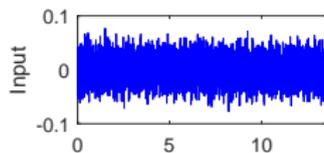
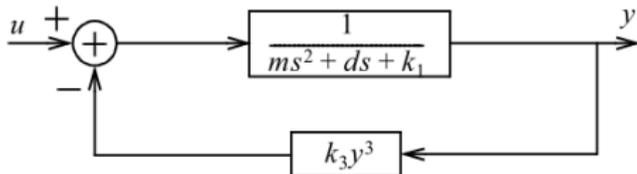


» User choices in the presence of model errors

# Data: amplitude distribution



# Data: cover domain of interest



► Error plot

# Data: experiment design

Optimal experiment design is still an open problem

## User guidelines

Use periodic excitations

- Nonparametric distortion analysis

- No user interaction

- Separation of plant and noise model

- No inference with model errors

Cover amplitude and frequency range of interest

- Necessary but not sufficient condition

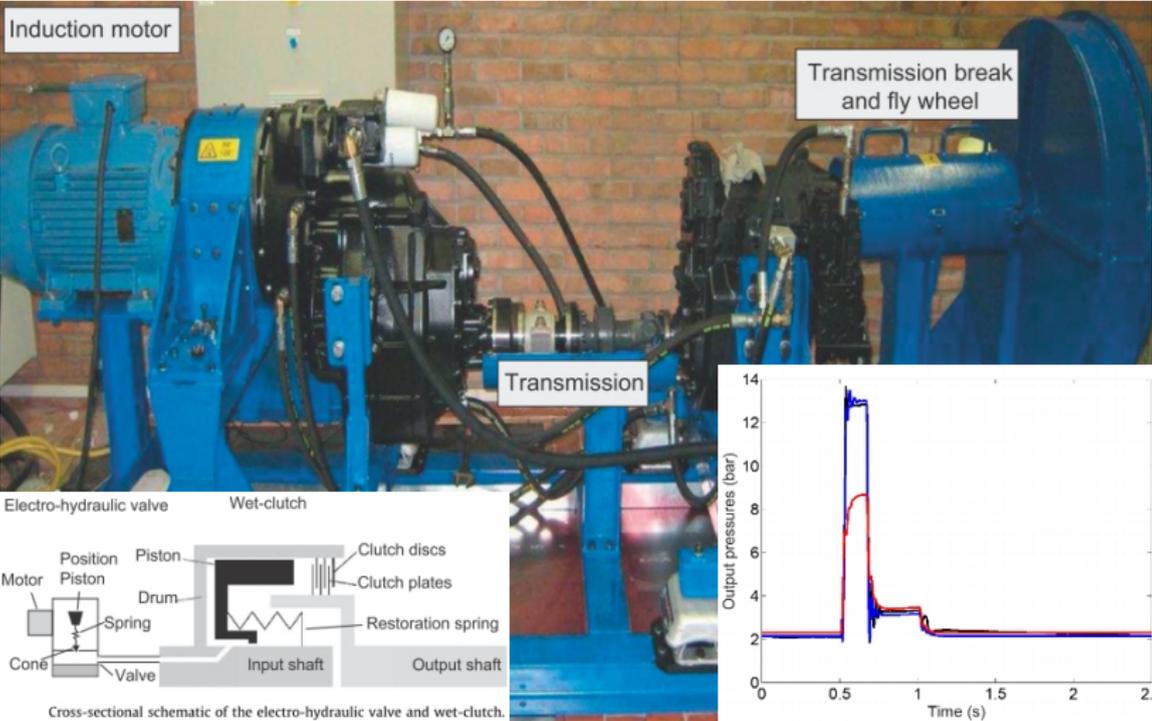
- Pay attention to the state domain

- Strongly linked to application: use excitation with same nature

Repeat experiment with new realization of random excitation

Use linear SI insights to excite the dynamics

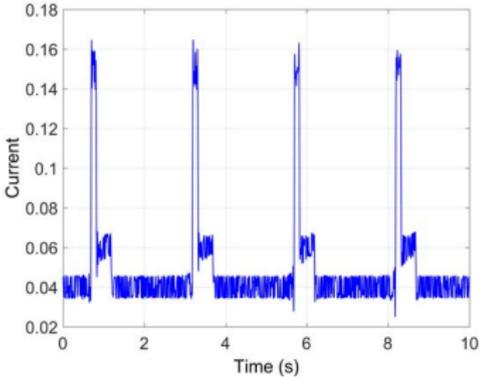
# Experiment design: example<sup>3</sup>



<sup>3</sup> Acknowledgement W.D. Widanage, A. Van Mulders (VUB), J. Stoev, G. Pinte (FMTC)

# Experiment design: example<sup>3</sup>

Input



This block contains three main components:
 

- Photograph:** A photograph of the experimental setup. Labels include 'Induction motor' on the left, 'Transmission' in the center, and 'Transmission break and fly wheel' on the right.
- Schematic:** A cross-sectional schematic of the electro-hydraulic valve and wet-clutch. Labels include: Motor, Position Piston, Spring, Valve, Piston, Drum, Input shaft, Clutch discs, Clutch plates, Restoration spring, and Output shaft. Below the schematic is the text: 'Cross-sectional schematic of the electro-hydraulic valve and wet-clutch.'
- Pressure Graph:** A graph of Output pressure (bar) on the y-axis (ranging from 0 to 14) and Time (s) on the x-axis (ranging from 0 to 2.5). The pressure is zero until approximately 0.5s, where it spikes to about 13 bar, then drops to a steady state of about 2 bar.

<sup>3</sup> Acknowledgement W.D. Widanage, A. Van Mulders (VUB), J. Stoev, G. Pinte (FMTC)

# Cost



Minimize the distance between the data and the model  
Model errors dominate  $\rightarrow$  move away from ML paradigm  
Should reflect user's need how to shape model errors  
Least squares cost functions in TD and FD

$$\hat{\theta}_N = \operatorname{argmin}_{\theta} \sum_{t=1}^N \|y(t) - \hat{y}(t|\theta)\|^2$$

$$\hat{\theta}_N = \operatorname{argmin}_{\theta} \sum_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \|Y(f) - \hat{Y}(f|\theta)\|^2$$

Can be combined with regularization

# Model



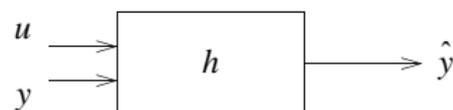
Estimates future outputs

$$\hat{y}(t|\theta, Z^{t-})$$

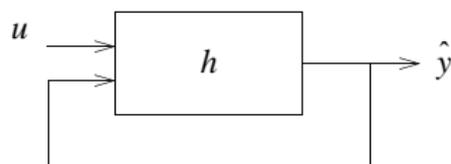
What data are used?

Model structure?

## Model: what data are used?



simulation



prediction

### *Prediction model*

uses past inputs and outputs:  $Z^t = \{u^t, y^{t-1}\}$

### *Simulation model*

uses only past inputs:  $Z^t = u^t$

▶ Basic idea prediction

## Model: selection model structure

$$\hat{y}(t|\theta, Z^{t-})$$

### *System behavior*

open loop - dynamic NL closed loop

### *Users choice*

white box - black box models

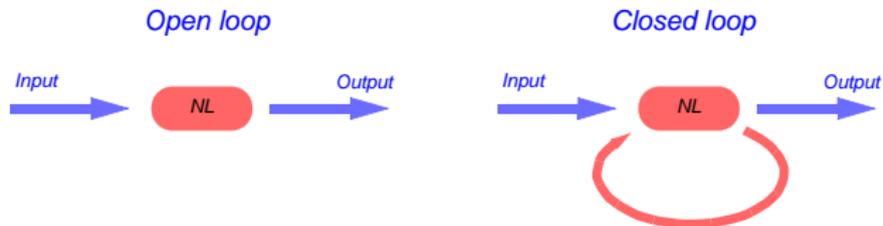
### *Nonlinear function*

present in every nonlinear model

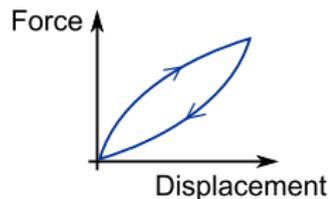
$q(t) = f(p(t))$  with  $p, q$  signals in the model

$f$  a static multivariate function

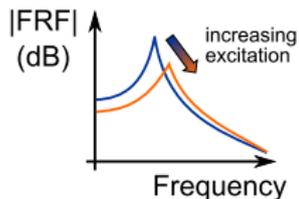
# System behavior: open loop - dynamic NL closed loop



Hysteresis



Varying dynamics



Chaos



# System behavior: open loop - dynamic NL closed loop

## NL Open loop

NL not captured in a dynamic feedback loop

Fading memory

Examples

NFIR

Volterra [▶ Volterra theory in a nutshell](#)

Block-oriented models: Wiener, Hammerstein,

Wiener-Hammerstein, Hammerstein-Wiener

Nonlinear state space with lower triangular structure

## Dynamic NL closed loop

Covers complex non-fading memory behavior

shifting resonances, hysteresis, chaos, . . .

Can become unstable

Examples

NIIR and NARX

Closed loop block-oriented systems

Nonlinear state space

# Users choice: white box - black box models

## White models

- Dedicated: new model for new problem
- Expensive
- Compact
- Provide physical insight

## Black box models

- Generic methodology
- Behavior modeling
- Exploding number of parameters
- Can provide intuitive insight

# Users choice: white box - black box models

White models: physical models

Estimate value physical parameters

Smoke-grey models: semi-physical modeling

Natural selection of the variables

Steel-grey models: linearization based models

Models depend on working point and nature of excitation

Slate-grey models: block oriented models

Structural insight can be injected

Black models: universal approximators

Volterra, NARX, Nonlinear state space

Pit-black models: nonparametric smoothing

# Black box models complexity

Keep the exploding number of parameters under control

## Regularization

Sparse solutions

Force parameters to zero

Brute force

Smooth solutions

Impose smoothness

Number of parameters not changed

## Data driven structure retrieval

Decouple multivariate nonlinear function  $p = f(q)$

Search for a natural basis

Reduction from combinatorial to linear grow complexity

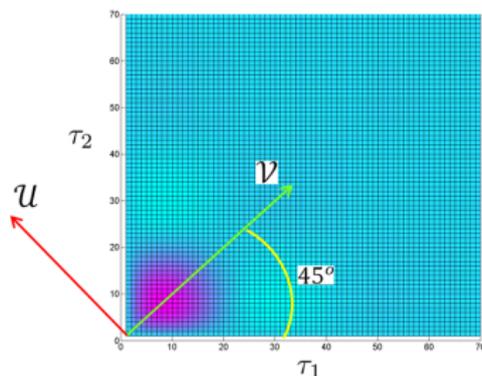
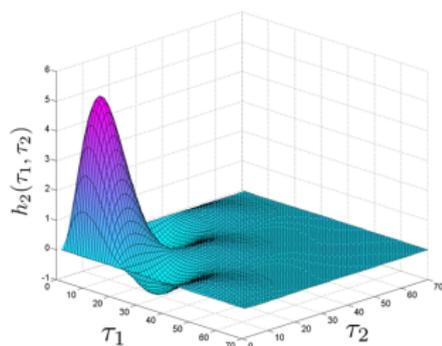
# Regularization: impose smoothness on Volterra kernel

## Model

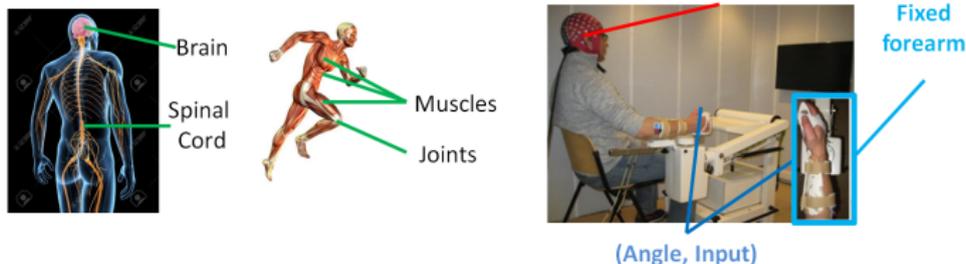
$$y_0(t) = \sum_0^{n_1} g_1(\tau)u(t-\tau) + \sum_0^{n_2} \sum_0^{n_2} g_\alpha(\tau_1, \tau_2)u(t-\tau_1)u(t-\tau_2) + \dots$$

## Cost

$$V = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^N (y(t) - y_{mod}(t, \theta))^2 + [\theta_1^T \theta_2^T] \begin{bmatrix} P_1^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & P_2^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \theta_1 \\ \theta_2 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Example: Volterra model wrist-brain sensorimotor system<sup>4</sup>



## Experiment Design

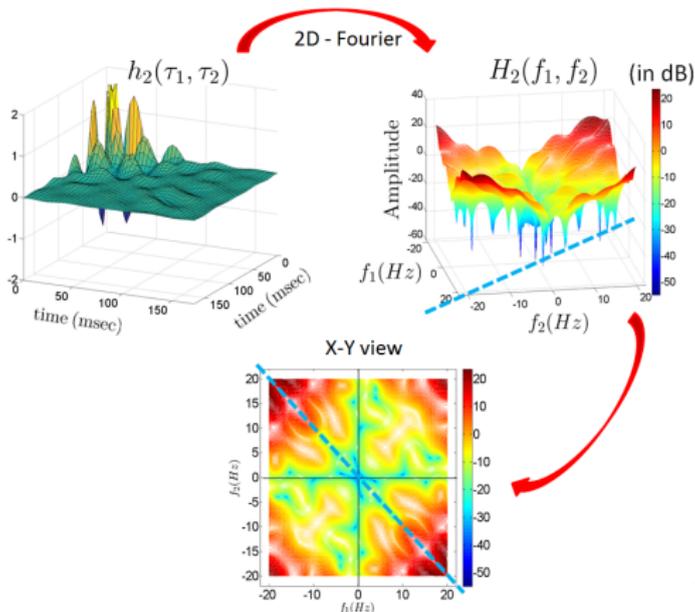
Random odd multisine [1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 19, 23]Hz  
Averaged over 210 periods  
7 Realizations

## Model

2<sup>nd</sup> degree Volterra kernel  
Fixed delay 20 ms  
Memory length 130 ms (33 samples)

<sup>4</sup> Acknowledgement G. Birpoutsoukis (VUB), M. Vlaar, F. Van der Helm and A. Schouten (TU Delft)

# Example: Volterra model wrist-brain sensorimotor system



## Results

Linear kernel 10% VAF (Variance Accounted For)

2<sup>nd</sup> degree Volterra model 45% VAF

2<sup>nd</sup> degree Volterra model 60% VAF on improved experiment

high-pass system

# Black box models complexity

Keep the exploding number of parameters under control

## Regularization

- Sparse solutions

  - Force parameters to zero

  - Brute force

- Smooth solutions

  - Impose smoothness

  - Number of parameters not changed

## Data driven structure retrieval

- Decouple multivariate nonlinear function  $p = f(q)$

- Search for a natural basis

- Reduction from combinatorial to linear growth complexity

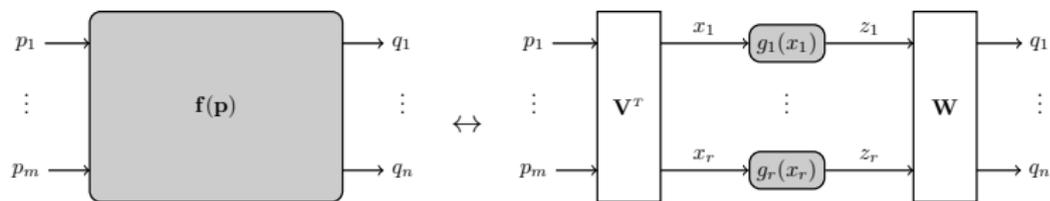
# Data driven structure retrieval: decoupling<sup>5</sup>

Multivariate nonlinear function  $q = f(p)$

Decouple

$$q = W\mathbf{g}(V^T p)$$

$$\mathbf{g}_i = g_i(x_i), i = 1, \dots, r \text{ with } x = V^T p$$



$$O(m^d)$$

$$O(rd)$$

<sup>5</sup> Acknowledgement D. Philippe, M. Ishteva, K. Tiels (VUB)

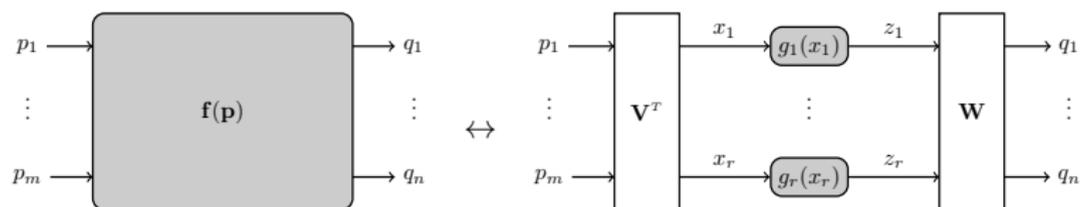
## Decoupling: example

$$q_1 = f_1(p_1, p_2)$$

$$= 54p_1^3 - 54p_1^2p_2 + 8p_1^2 + 18p_1p_2^2 + 16p_1p_2 - 2p_2^3 + 8p_2^2 + 8p_2 + 1$$

$$q_2 = f_2(p_1, p_2)$$

$$= -27p_1^3 + 27p_1^2p_2 - 24p_1^2 - 9p_1p_2^2 - 48p_1p_2 - 15p_1 + p_2^3 - 24p_2^2 - 19p_2 - 3$$



$$\begin{bmatrix} q_1 \\ q_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2x_1^2 - 3x_1 + 1 \\ x_2^3 - x_2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{with} \quad \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & -2 \\ 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p_1 \\ p_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Decoupling: from complexity control to model reduction

## Complexity control

Number of parameters

Full model  $O(n^d)$

Decoupled model  $O(rd)$

Force all  $g_i(x) = g(x), \forall i$

$$q = W\mathbf{g}(V^T p)$$

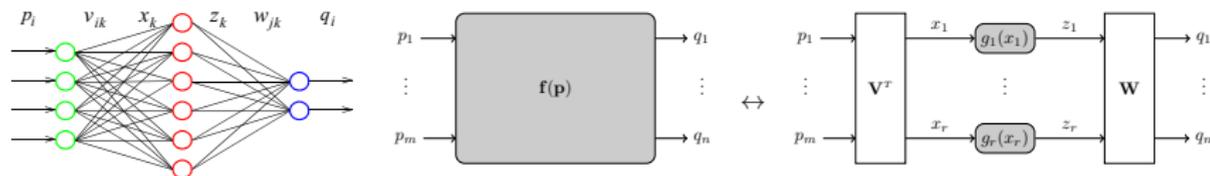
$$\mathbf{g}_i = g(x_i), i = 1, \dots, r \text{ with } x = V^T p$$

## Model reduction

Reduce number of branches

Balance complexity versus model errors

# Decoupling: Link with Neural Networks



## Neural network

Activation functions (red circles) prior user choice

Example: sigmoids, Gaussian bells, ReLU functions

Parameters tuned on the data

## Decoupled model

Nonlinear functions set by the data

Nonparametric or parametric representation

# Outline

Why is nonlinear SI so involved?

Linear or nonlinear SI? A users decision

The lead actors in SI

► **Linear identification in the presence of nonlinear distortions**

► More on the Best Linear Approximation (BLA)

Extensive case study

The system

The data

Linear models

Nonlinear models

From black box to highly structured models

Conclusions

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Why is nonlinear SI so involved?

Linear or nonlinear SI? A users decision

The lead actors in SI

Linear identification in the presence of nonlinear distortions

- ▶ Nonlinear SI: Extensive case study

  - The system

  - The data

  - Linear models

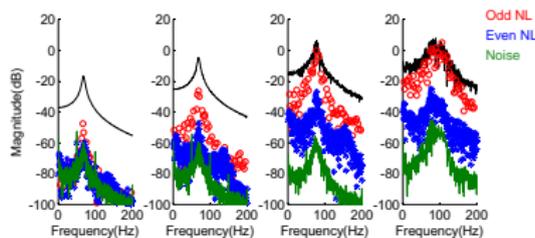
  - Nonlinear models

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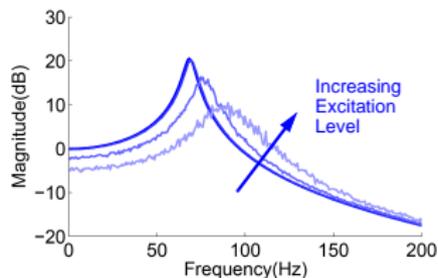
# Forced Duffing Oscillator: Initial nonparametric analysis

## Nonlinear distortion analysis



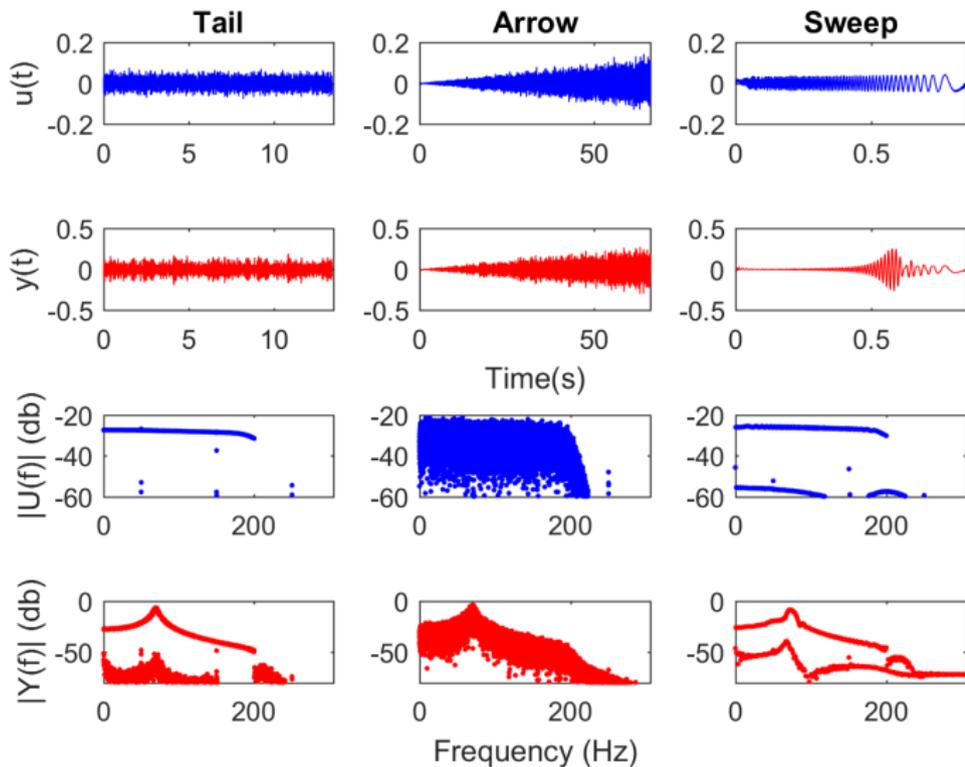
Conclusion: nonlinear distortions dominate noise

## FRF measurement



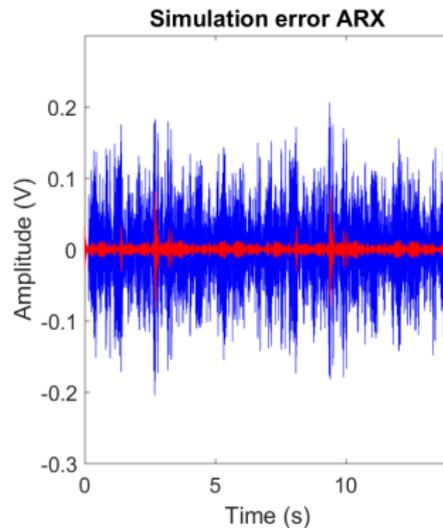
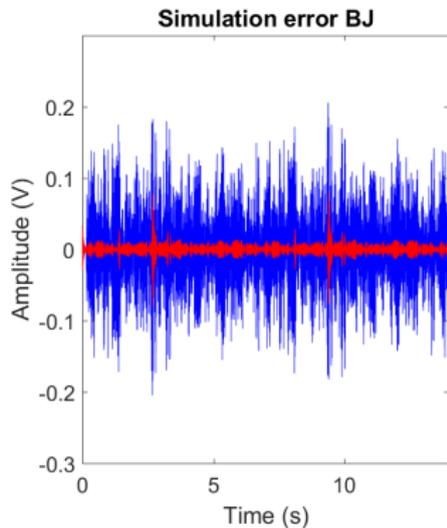
Conclusion: Nonlinear feedback model needed

# Forced Duffing Oscillator: the data<sup>6</sup>

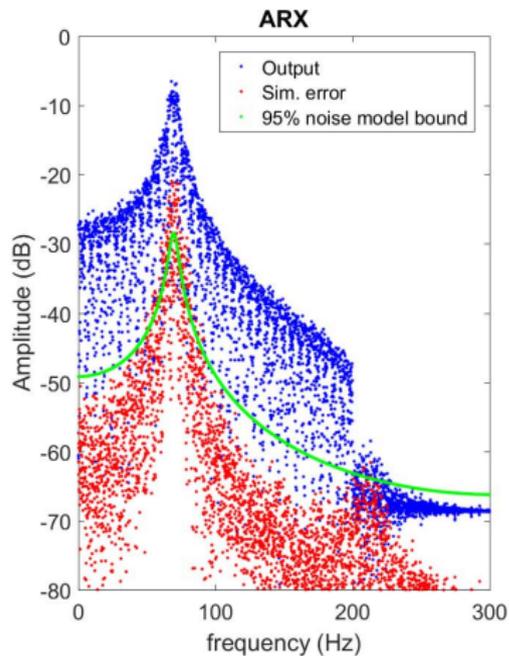
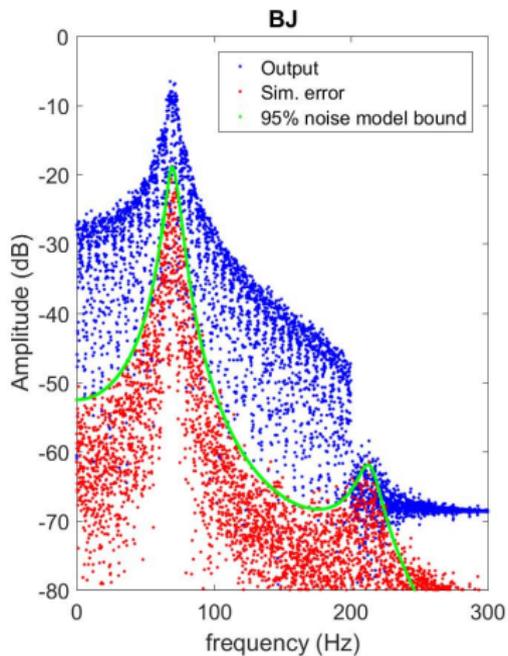


<sup>6</sup>Data available on <http://www.nonlinearbenchmark.org> (Silverbox Benchmark)

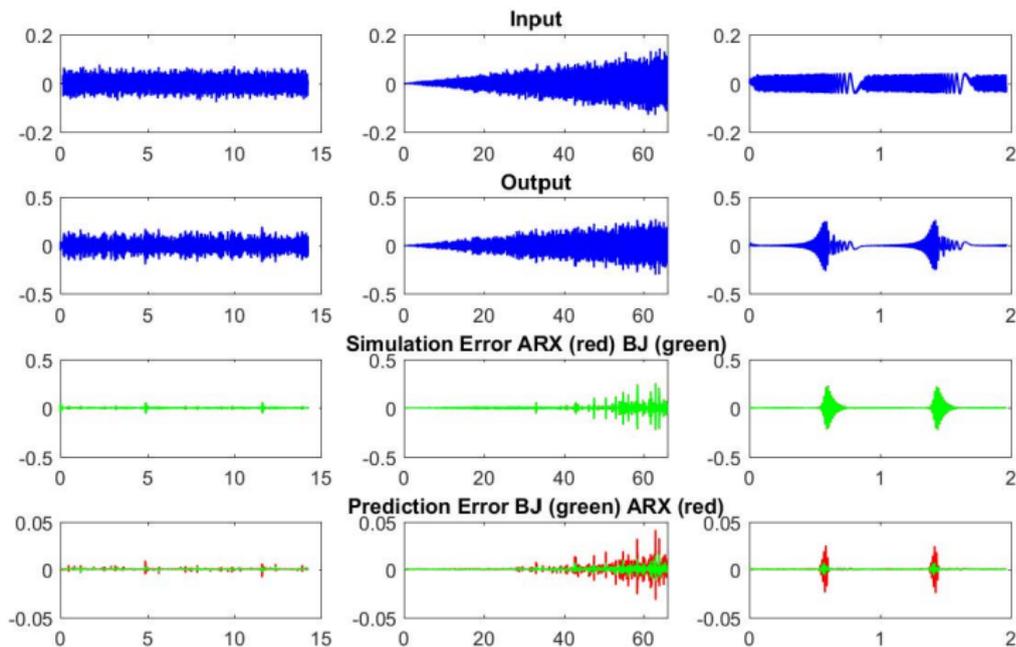
# Forced Duffing Oscillator: linear models



# Forced Duffing Oscillator: linear models



# Forced Duffing Oscillator: linear models

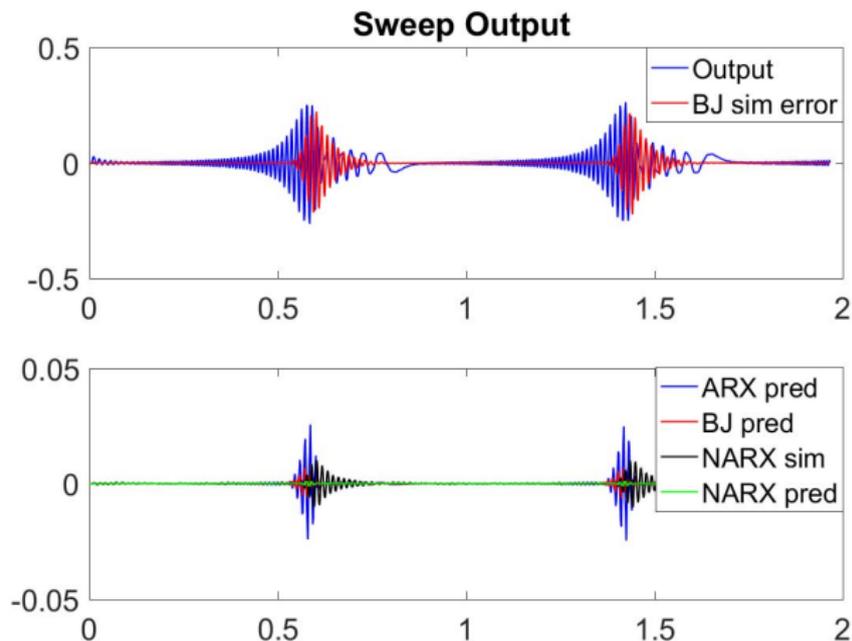


# Forced Duffing Oscillator: from linear to nonlinear models

NARX

$$y(t) = P(u(t), u(t-1), u(t-2), y(t-1), y(t-2))$$

$P$  Polynomial degree 3

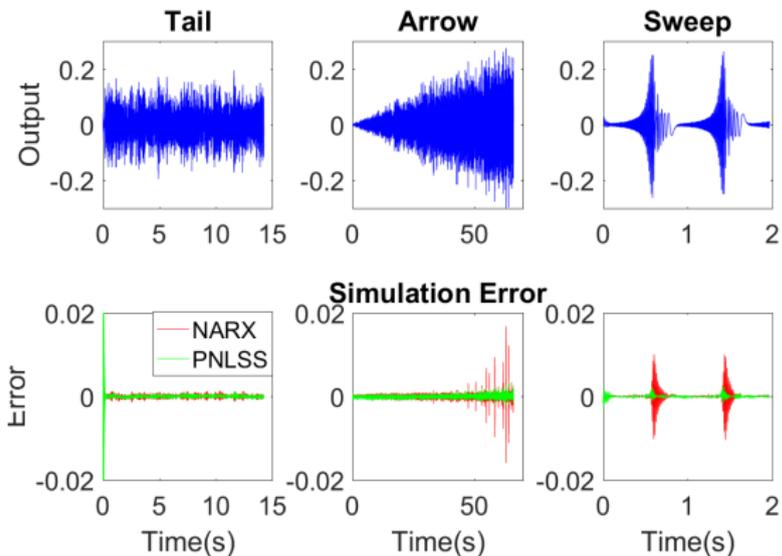


# Forced Duffing Oscillator: black box nonlinear state space model<sup>7</sup>

Nonlinear State space

2 states

Polynomial degree 3



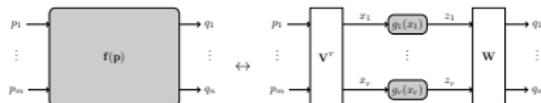
<sup>7</sup> Acknowledgement K. Tiels (University of Uppsala)

# Forced Duffing Oscillator: from black box to highly structured models<sup>8</sup>

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1(k+1) \\ x_2(k+1) \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} x_1(k) \\ x_2(k) \end{bmatrix} + Bu(k) + \begin{bmatrix} f_1(x_1(k), x_2(k), u(k)) \\ f_2(x_1(k), x_2(k), u(k)) \end{bmatrix}$$
$$y(k) = C \begin{bmatrix} x_1(k) \\ x_2(k) \end{bmatrix} + Du(k)$$

$f$  polynomial degree 3

Decouple  $f(x_1(k), x_2(k), u(k))$



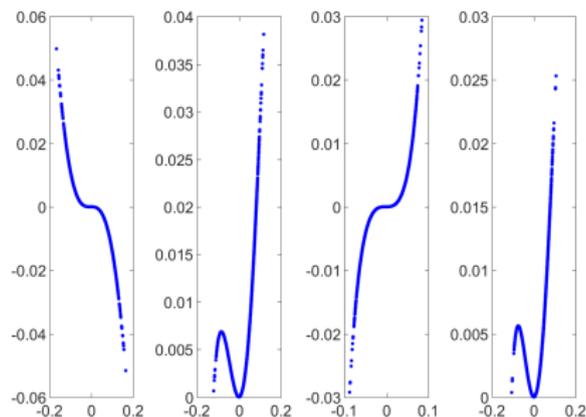
<sup>8</sup> Acknowledgement J. Decuyper (VUB)

# Forced Duffing Oscillator: Decoupled Model

4 branches

Polynomial degree 3  $\rightarrow$  5

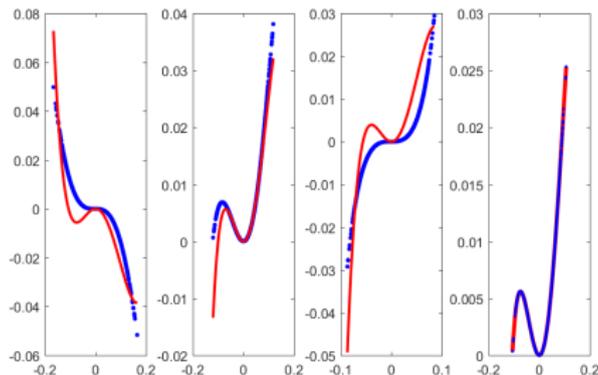
	BLA	NLSS	Decoupled
RMS error	12%	0.49%	0.40%
$n_{\theta_L}$	5	5	5
$n_{\theta_{NL}}$	0	30	12



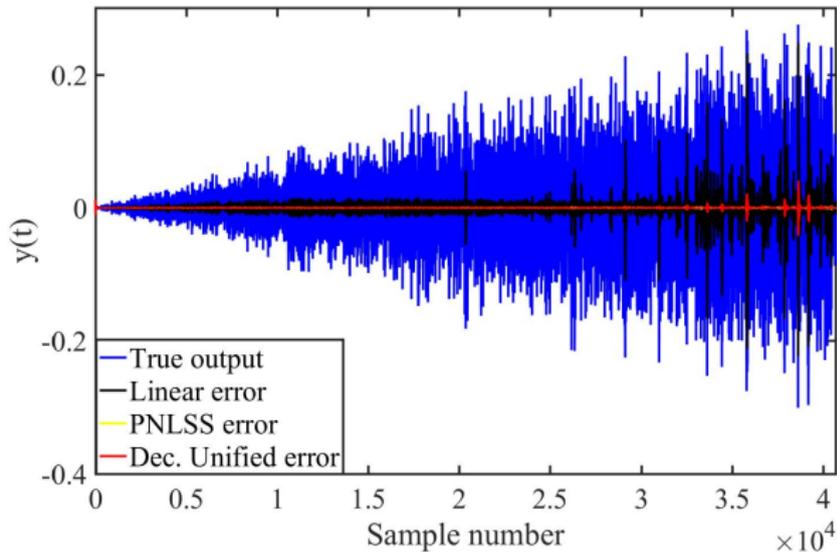
# Forced Duffing Oscillator: Decoupled + Equal Branches

Impose all branches are equal

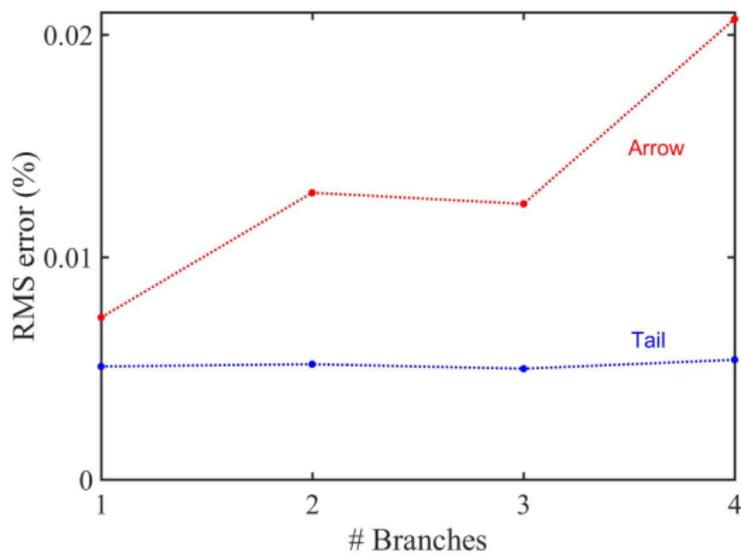
	BLA	NLSS	Decoupled	Equal Branches
RMS error	12%	0.49%	0.40%	0.40%
$n_{\theta_L}$	5	5	5	5
$n_{\theta_{NL}}$	0	30	12	6



# Forced Duffing Oscillator: Decoupled + Equal Branches



# Forced Duffing Oscillator: Decoupled, Equal + Single Branch

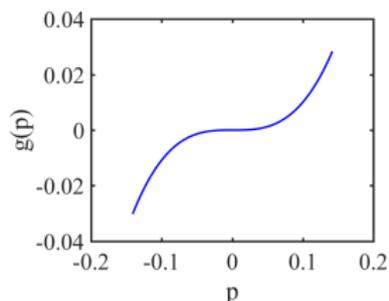


# Forced Duffing Oscillator: Decoupled, Equal, Single Branch

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1(k+1) \\ x_2(k+1) \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} x_1(k) \\ x_2(k) \end{bmatrix} + Bu(k) + \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{bmatrix} g(p)$$

$$y(k) = C \begin{bmatrix} x_1(k) \\ x_2(k) \end{bmatrix} + Du(k)$$

$$p = v_1 x_1(k) + v_2 x_2(k) + v_3 u(k)$$



# Forced Duffing Oscillator: Final model

Black box

Data driven structure retrieval

Single branch

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1(k+1) \\ x_2(k+1) \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} x_1(k) \\ x_2(k) \end{bmatrix} + Bu(k) + \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{bmatrix} g(p)$$

$$y(k) = C \begin{bmatrix} x_1(k) \\ x_2(k) \end{bmatrix} + Du(k)$$

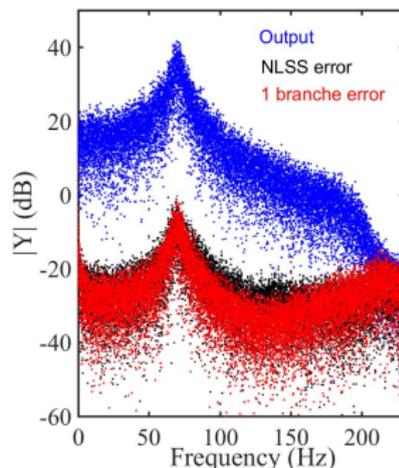
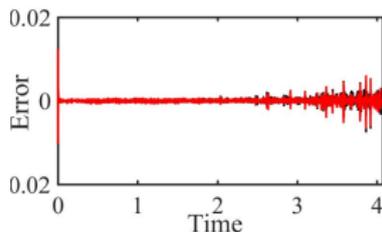
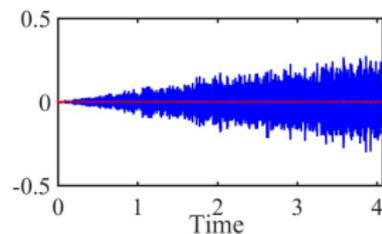
$$p = v_1 x_1(k) + v_2 x_2(k) + v_3 u(k)$$

## Forced Duffing Oscillator: Final model

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1(k+1) \\ x_2(k+1) \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} x_1(k) \\ x_2(k) \end{bmatrix} + Bu(k) + \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{bmatrix} g(p)$$

$$y(k) = C \begin{bmatrix} x_1(k) \\ x_2(k) \end{bmatrix} + Du(k)$$

$$p = v_1 x_1(k) + v_2 x_2(k) + v_3 u(k)$$



# Conclusions

## Why is nonlinear SI so involved?

- From hyperplane to manifold
- Model errors
- Process noise

## Linear or nonlinear SI? A users decision

- Nonparametric distortion analysis
- Guidance model structure selection

## The lead actors in SI

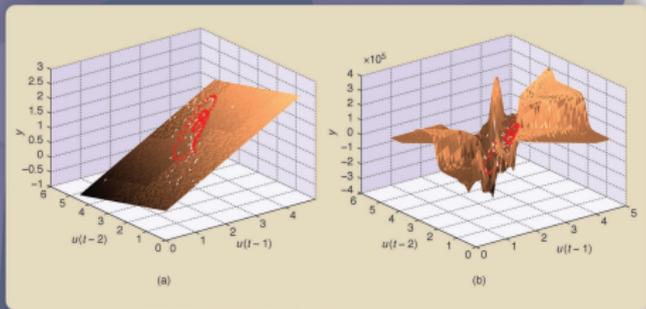
- Impact model errors on Experiment, Model, Cost Function

## Data driven insight

- Structure retrieval
- Model reduction

# Nonlinear System Identification

A USER-ORIENTED  
ROAD MAP



JOHAN SCHOUKENS and LENNART LJUNG

**N**onlinear system identification is an extremely broad topic, since every system that is not linear is nonlinear. That makes it impossible to give a full overview of all aspects of the field. For this reason, the selection of topics and the organization of the discussion are strongly colored by the personal journey of the authors in this nonlinear universe.

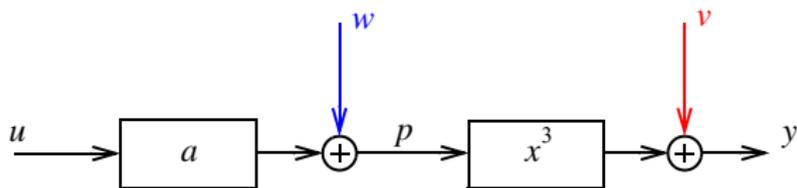
The identification of linear dynamic systems started in the late 1950s. Zadeh [1] prioritized the need for a well-developed system identification framework at the very outset, followed by early overviews of the field [2]. A series of books established the field [3]–[7]. Linear system identification presented many successes, and data-driven modeling became an enabling factor in modern design methods. Nonlinear system identification [8]–[29] began when linear system identification [6], [7], [30] failed to

address users' questions. The real world is nonlinear and time varying, and, in some applications, these aspects cannot be ignored (see Figure 1). Therefore, linear models are imprecise or do not reproduce essential aspects of system behavior. This article is focused on nonlinear system identification. Overviews of time-varying system identification are given in [31] and the references therein.

Nonlinear behavior appears in many engineering problems. In mechanical engineering, nonlinear stiffness, damping, and interconnections influence ground vibration tests of airplanes and satellites, resulting in resonance frequencies and dampings that vary with the excitation level (see Figure 2, [32], and [33]). In telecommunications, power amplifiers are pushed into a nonlinear operation regime to improve power efficiency. Distillation columns exhibit nonlinear dynamic behavior. Many biological systems (for example, the eyes, ears, and sense of touch) first apply a nonlinear compression (known as the *Weber-Fechner law*) to cover the very large dynamic range of the inputs.

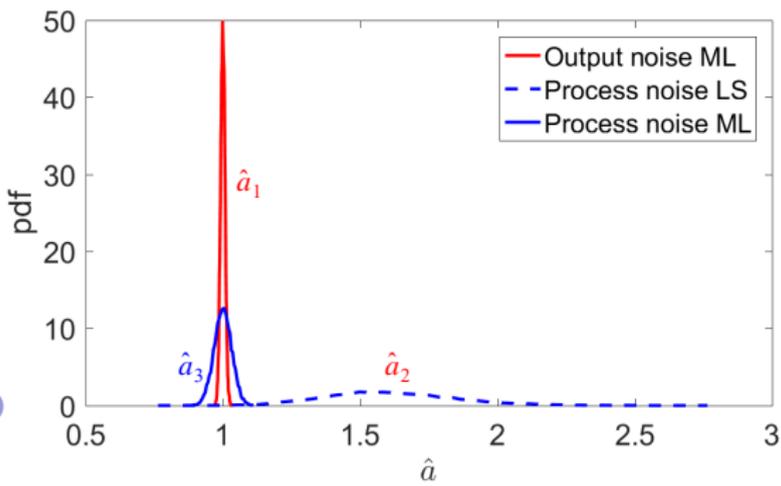
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Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/MCS.2019.2938123  
Date of current version: 23 November 2019



$$\hat{a}_{1,2} = \operatorname{argmin}_a \sum_{t=1}^N \|y(t) - [au(t)]^3\|^2$$

$$\hat{a}_3 = \operatorname{argmin}_a \sum_{f \in F} \|\sqrt[3]{y(t)} - au(t)\|^2$$

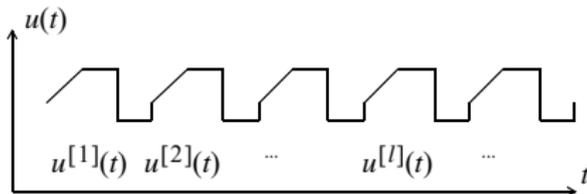


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## Noise model, prior analysis periodic excitation

Estimate  $\sigma_U^2(k)$ ,  $\sigma_Y^2(k)$  and  $\sigma_{YU}^2(k)$

Additional information: the signals are periodic



$$\hat{U}(k) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{l=1}^M U^{[l]}(k), \quad \hat{Y}(k) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{l=1}^M Y^{[l]}(k),$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_U^2(k) = \frac{1}{M-1} \sum_{l=1}^M |U^{[l]}(k) - \hat{U}(k)|^2 \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\sigma}_Y^2(k) = \frac{1}{M-1} \sum_{l=1}^M |Y^{[l]}(k) - \hat{Y}(k)|^2$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_{YU}^2(k) = \frac{1}{M-1} \sum_{l=1}^M (Y^{[l]}(k) - \hat{Y}(k)) \overline{(U^{[l]}(k) - \hat{U}(k))}$$

# Noise model, prior analysis periodic excitation

## Properties

consistency:  $M = 4$  periods are enough

efficiency:

$M = 6$  periods are enough

$$\text{'loss' in efficiency } C_{\theta\text{SML}} = \frac{M-2}{M-3} C_{\theta\text{ML}}$$

normality:  $M = 7$  is enough

## Recent results

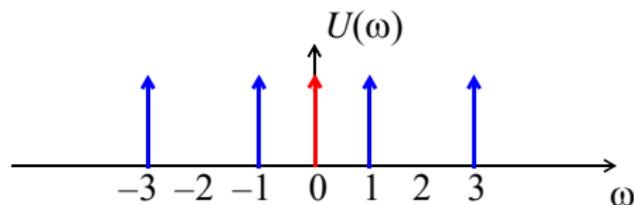
2 periods + overlapping windows are enough

See:

Welch Method Revisited: Nonparametric Power Spectrum Estimation Via Circular Overlap  
Barbe, K.; Pintelon, R.; Schoukens, J.  
*IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON SIGNAL PROCESSING*, Vol. 58, pp. 553-565, 2010

# Frequency analysis nonlinear distortions

## Impact DC component



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	No DC	DC
$\omega$	-3 -1 1 3	-3 -1 0 1 3
$u$	-3 -1 1 3	-3 -1 0 1 3
$u^2$	0 1-1 3-3  2 1+1 3-1  ...	1 1+0  3 3+0  ...
$u^3$	1 1+1-1 3-1-1  3 1+1+1 3+1-1  ...	0 1+0-1 2+0-2  2 3+0-1 2+1+0  ...

# Snow-White Models

$$x(t+1) = f(x(t), u(t), w(t))$$

$$y(t) = h(x(t), u(t)) + v(t)$$

$v(t), w(t)$  sequences of independent random variables.

$f, h$  obtained from physical insight

## Off-White Models

Model depends on physical parameters  $\theta$  with unknown value

$$x(t+1) = f(x(t), u(t), w(t), \theta)$$

$$\hat{y}(t|\theta) = h(x(t), u(t), \theta) + v(t)$$

$f, h$  parameterized on  $\theta$

$\hat{y}(t|\theta)$  predicted output for parameter value  $\theta$

# Steel-Grey Models: Semi-Physical Modelling

Using qualitative reasoning rather than formal equations

Example: electrical motor

acceleration  $\frac{d}{dt}\omega \sim T_e - T_f - T_L$

electrical torque  $T_e \sim i$

friction torque  $T_f \sim \omega$

load torque  $T_L \sim \omega$

current  $i \sim u - u_{bef}$

$u$  applied input voltage

back electromotive force  $u_{bef} \sim \omega$

$$\theta_1 \frac{d}{dt}\omega(t) + \theta_2 \omega(t) = u(t)$$

# Steel-Grey Models: Semi-Physical Modelling

## Nonlinear transformations of the measured data

Example: heat production in resistor

$$P(t) = Ri(t)^2$$

$$i(t) \sim u(t)$$

Use  $u^2(t)$  as input of linear model  $P = f(u^2(t))$

# Steel-Grey Models: Linearization-Based Models

Best Linear Approximation of a nonlinear system: BLA

$$G_{BLA} = \arg \min_G E \left\{ |y_0(t) - G(q)u(t)|^2 \right\}$$

Local linear models

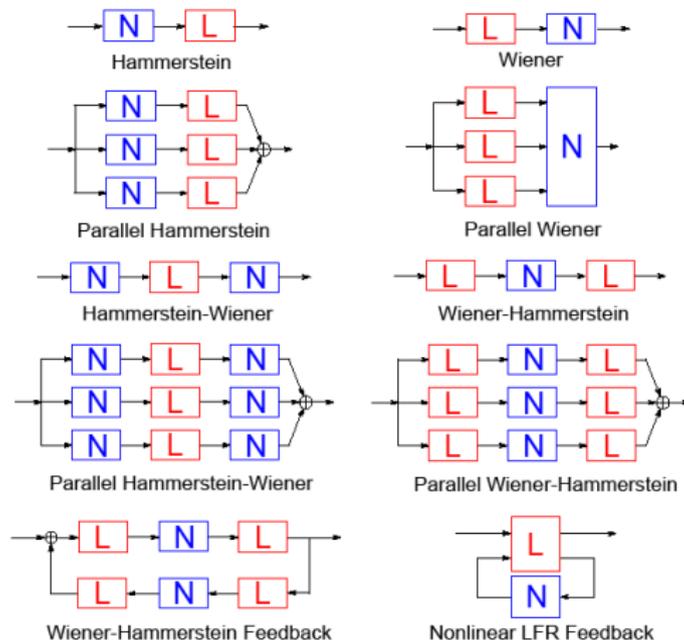
$$\hat{y}(t|\theta, Z^{t-1}) = \sum_{i=1}^d \rho(p(t), p_i) \hat{y}_i(t|\theta, Z^{t-1})$$

$\rho$  is a weighting or *validity function*

$p_i$  regime variable: the local working point

$\hat{y}_i(t|\theta, Z^{t-1})$  local linear model around  $p_i$

# Block-Oriented Models



**N:** static nonlinear block

**L:** dynamic linear block

# Black-Box Models: Universal Approximators

## Nonlinear state space models

$$\begin{aligned}x(t+1) &= f(x(t), u(t), \theta), \\ \hat{y}(t|\theta) &= h(x(t), \theta).\end{aligned}$$

## Special case: NARX Nonlinear Autoregressive Exogenous models

states  $x(t)$ : finite number of past inputs and outputs

$$x(t) = [y(t-1), \dots, y(t-n_a), u(t-1), \dots, u(t-n_b)]^T$$

regressors  $\varphi(t) = x(t)$

NARX model

$$\hat{y}(t|\theta) = h(\varphi(t), \theta)$$

# Pit-Black Models: Nonparametric Smoothing

Model:  $y(t) = g(\varphi(t)) + e(t)$

Regressors  $\varphi(t)$ :  $n$ -dimensional vector of past observations

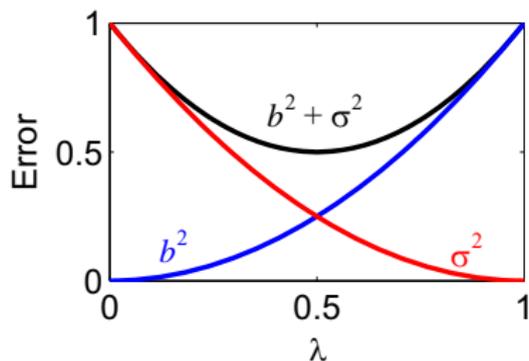
Assumption: model surface  $[y, \varphi(t)]$  is smooth

Model

$$\hat{g}(\varphi_*) = \sum_{i=1}^N y_i w(|\varphi_* - \varphi_i|)$$

Kernel  $w$ : weights the observations in neighborhood of  $\varphi_*$

Basic idea regularization: pull parameters to zero  $\tilde{\theta} = \lambda \hat{\theta}$



true parameter:  $\theta_0 = 1$

unbiased estimate:  $\hat{\theta}$

bias  $b = 0$  and variance  $\sigma^2 = 1$

scaled estimator:  $\tilde{\theta} = \lambda \hat{\theta}$

bias  $\tilde{\theta}$ :  $b = (1 - \lambda)$  and variance  $\tilde{\theta}$ :  $\sigma_{\tilde{\theta}}^2 = \lambda^2$

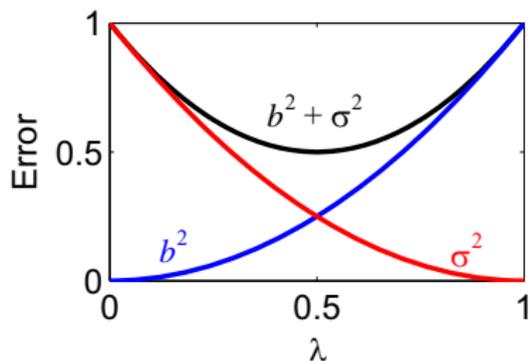
MSE:  $b^2 + \sigma_{\tilde{\theta}}^2 = (1 - \lambda)^2 + \lambda^2$

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## Extended cost function

$$\hat{\theta}_N = \operatorname{argmin}_{\theta} \sum_{t=1}^N \|y(t) - \hat{y}(t|\theta)\|^2 + \theta^T P^{-1} \theta$$

Basic idea regularization: pull parameters to zero  $\tilde{\theta} = \lambda \hat{\theta}$



true parameter:  $\theta_0 = 1$

unbiased estimate:  $\hat{\theta}$

bias  $b = 0$  and variance  $\sigma^2 = 1$

scaled estimator:  $\tilde{\theta} = \lambda \hat{\theta}$

bias  $\tilde{\theta}$ :  $b = (1 - \lambda)$  and variance  $\tilde{\theta}$ :  $\sigma_{\tilde{\theta}}^2 = \lambda^2$

MSE:  $b^2 + \sigma_{\tilde{\theta}}^2 = (1 - \lambda)^2 + \lambda^2$

▶ return

## Extended cost function

$$\hat{\theta}_N = \operatorname{argmin}_{\theta} \sum_{t=1}^N \|y(t) - \hat{y}(t|\theta)\|^2 + \theta^T P^{-1} \theta$$

## Basic idea prediction methods

### Model the errors using past output observations

Simulation model:  $\hat{y}_s(t) = G(u, \theta)$

Simulation error:  $v_s(t) = y(t) - \hat{y}_s(t)$

If simulation error  $v_s(t)$  is correlated

$v_s(t)$  can be predicted from past values  $v_s^{t-1}$

Correlation error model:  $v_s(t) = H(q)e(t)$

$\hat{v}_p(t|t-1) = (1 - H^{-1}(q))v_s(t)$

Use  $\hat{v}_p(t|t-1)$  to improve  $\hat{y}_s(t)$

$\hat{y}_p(t) = \hat{y}_s(t) + \hat{v}_p(t|t-1)$

$$\hat{y}_p(t) = G(u, \theta) + (1 - H^{-1}(q))v_s(t)$$

# Best choice: Prediction of Simulation?

## Simulation model

Goal: simulate the system output for new inputs

No output data available

Prediction model cannot be used

Use simulation model

## Prediction model

Goal: give the best estimate for the next output

Past output data available

Prediction error is smaller than simulation error

Use prediction model

## Best choice: Prediction of Simulation?

$v(t)$  dominated by measurement or sensor noise

$v(t)$  not related to process of interest

$v(t)$  should be eliminated

Use simulation model

$v(t)$  dominated by process noise

Process noise affects the process of interest

$v(t)$  should be part of the model

Use prediction model

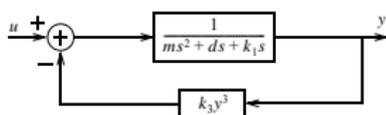
$v(t)$  dominated by structural model errors

Structural model errors related to process of interest

$v(t)$  should be part of the model

Use prediction model

# Example: Forced Duffing Oscillator

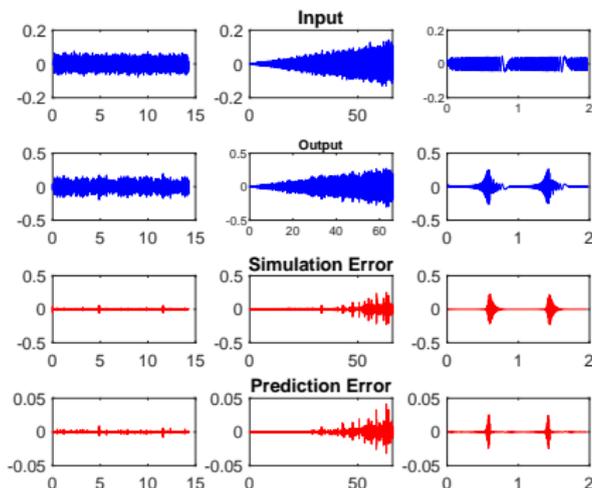


## Simulation

$$\hat{y}_s(t) = b_0 u(t) + b_1 u(t-1) + b_2 u(t-2) - a_1 \hat{y}_s(t-1) - a_2 \hat{y}_s(t-2)$$

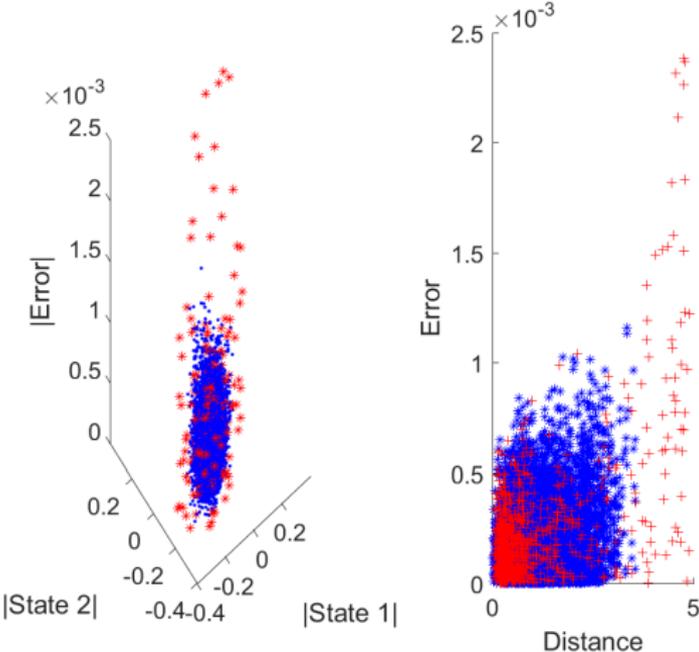
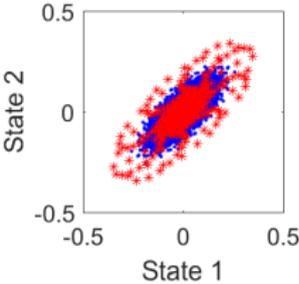
## Prediction

$$\hat{y}_p(t) = b_0 u(t) + b_1 u(t-1) + b_2 u(t-2) - a_1 y(t-1) - a_2 y(t-2)$$



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# Error plot



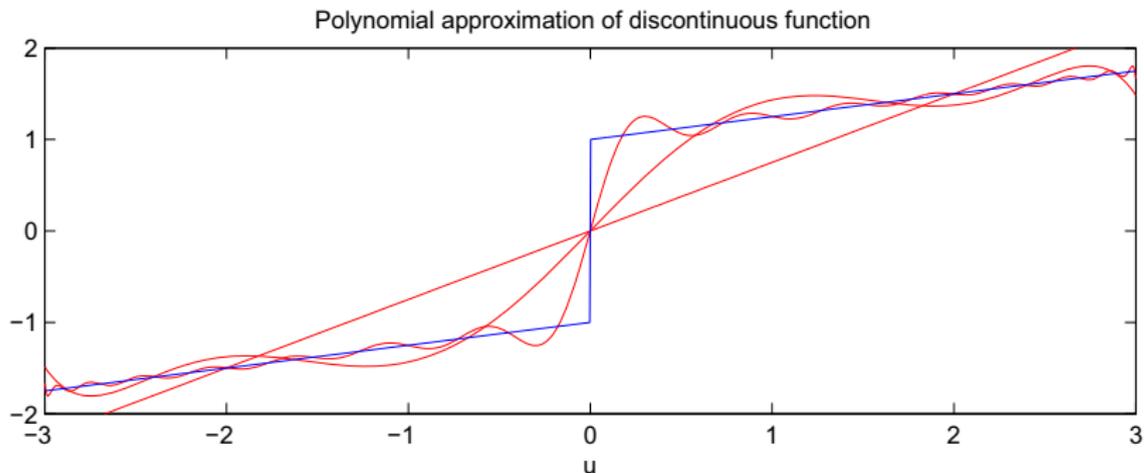
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# Identification in the Presence of Model Errors

## User Choices

- convergence criterion
- approximation method
- excitation

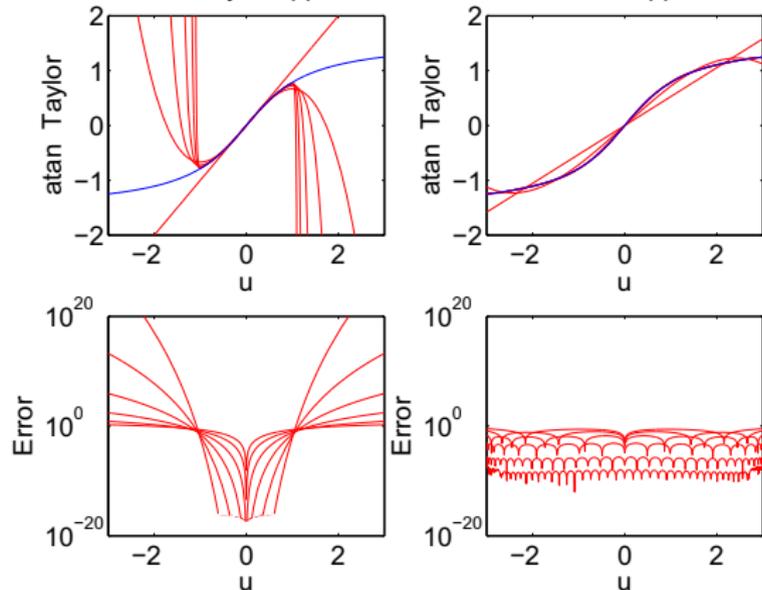
## User choices: convergence criterion



uniform convergence  $\neq$  point wise convergence

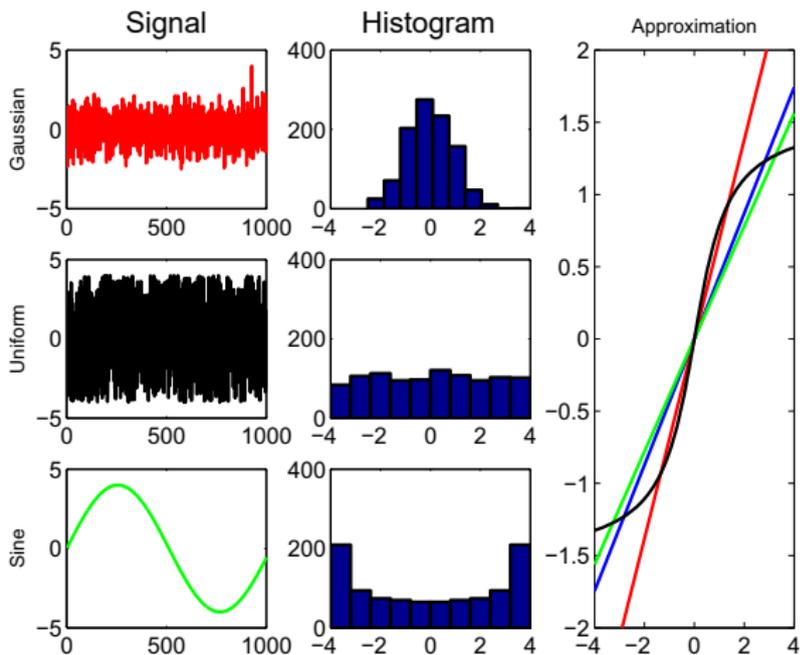
## User choices: Approximation method

atan and its Taylor approximation    atan and its LS approximation

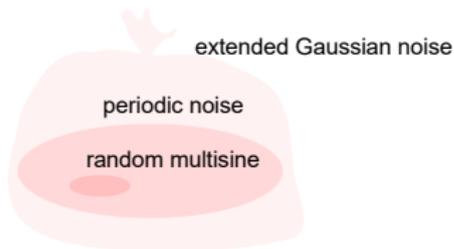


**Taylor** >< **Least Squares**

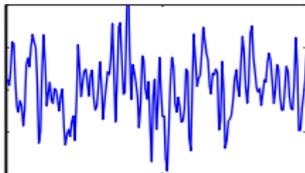
## User choices: Excitation



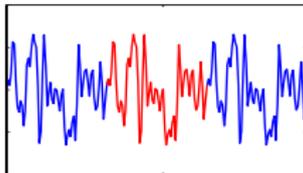
# Class of excitation signals



Gaussian noise

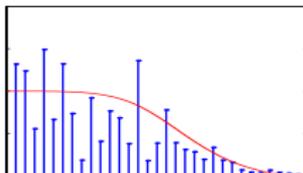
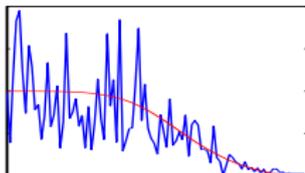
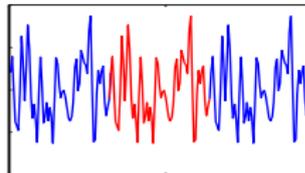


periodic noise

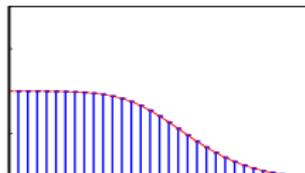


time

random multisine



frequency



▶▶ return

$$u(t) = \frac{1}{F} \sum_{k=1}^F A_k \cos(2\pi k f_0 t + \varphi_k)$$

## Design of discrete time periodic excitation: a sine

$$u(t) = U_1 \cos(2\pi f_0 t)$$

$$t = kT_s$$

$$k = 1, \dots, N$$

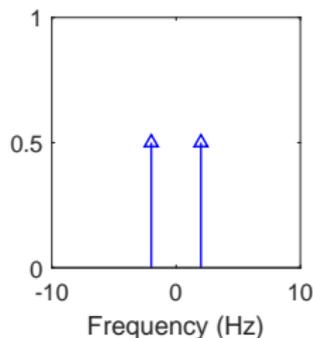
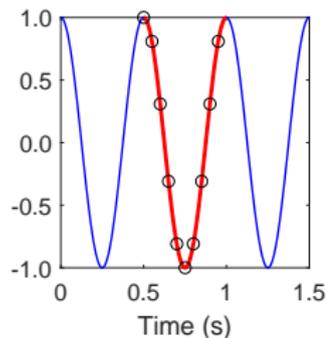
$f_s$ : sample frequency

$f_0 = f_s/N$ : fundamental frequency

$T_s = 1/f_s$ : sample period

$T = 1/f_0$ : period signal

$T = NT_s$ ,  $N$  samples in one period



▶▶ return

## Design multisine

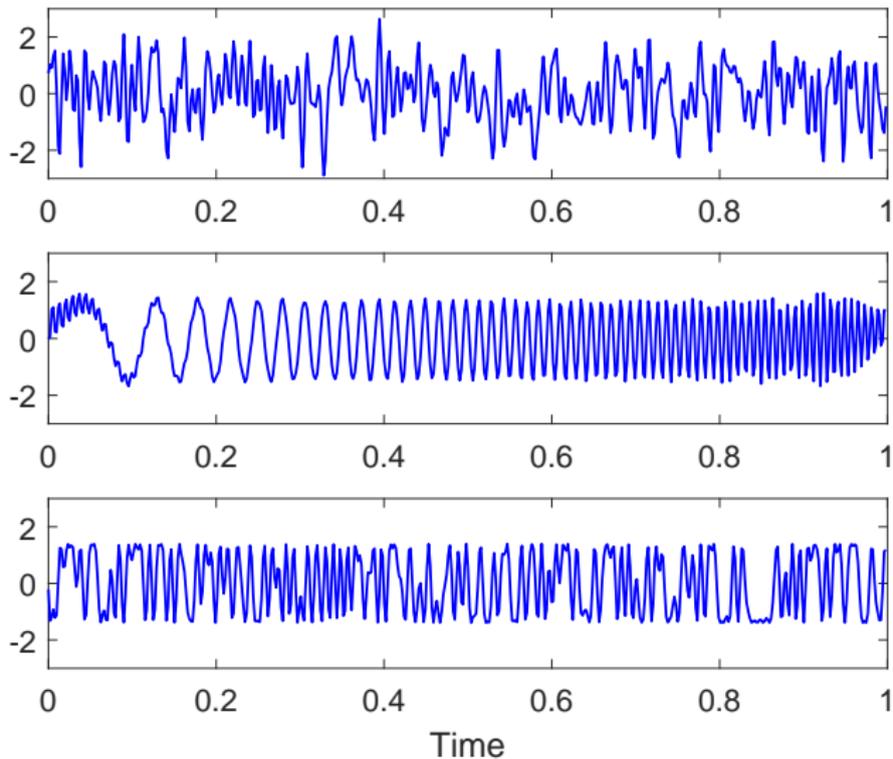
$$u(t) = \sum_{k=1}^F U_k \cos(2\pi k f_0 t + \varphi_k)$$

$T = 1/f_0$ : period signal

$f_0 = f_s/N$ : frequency resolution

$N$  samples in one period

# Multisine Examples



▶ return

# User guidelines to design a multisine

Spectral resolution  $f_0 = f_s/N$

miss no sharp resonances

Period length  $N = f_s/f_0$

higher frequency resolution  $\rightarrow$  longer measurement time

Amplitude spectrum  $U_k, k = 1, \dots, F$

cover the frequency band of interest

Phases  $\varphi_k$

use random phases in  $[0, 2\pi[$

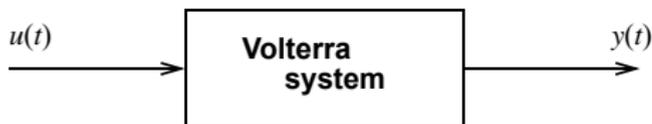
Signal amplitude

cover the input amplitude range of interest

Number of periods

measure 3 or more periods

## Volterra theory in a nut shell time domain



$$y(t) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} y^{[k]}(t)$$

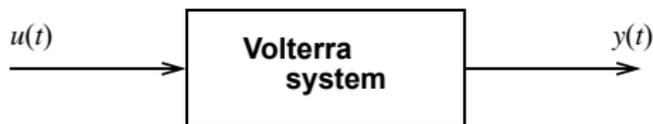
with

$$y^{[1]}(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u(\sigma_1) h_1(t - \sigma_1) d\sigma_1$$

$$y^{[2]}(t) = \iint_{-\infty}^{\infty} u(\sigma_1) u(\sigma_2) h_2(t - \sigma_1, t - \sigma_2) d\sigma_1 d\sigma_2$$

...

## Volterra theory in a nut shell multi dimensional frequency domain



$$y(t) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} y^{[k]}$$

Define

$$y^{[2]}(t_1, t_2) = \iint_{-\infty}^{\infty} u(\sigma_1)u(\sigma_2)h_2(t_1 - \sigma_1, t_2 - \sigma_2)d\sigma_1d\sigma_2$$

Then

$$Y^{[2]}(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \iint_{-\infty}^{\infty} y^{[2]}(t_1, t_2)e^{-j\omega_1 t_1}e^{-j\omega_2 t_2}dt_1dt_2$$

## Volterra theory in a nut shell collapsing the multi dimensional frequency domain

Inverse Fourier transform

$$y^{[2]}(t) = y^{[2]}(t_1, t_2) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \iint_{-\infty}^{\infty} Y^{[2]}(\omega_1, \omega_2) e^{j\omega_1 t_1} e^{j\omega_2 t_2} d\omega_1 d\omega_2 \text{ with } t = t_1 = t_2$$

or

$$y^{[2]}(t) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \iint_{-\infty}^{\infty} Y^{[2]}(\omega_1, \omega_2) e^{j(\omega_1 + \omega_2)t} d\omega_1 d\omega_2$$

Put

$$\omega = \omega_1 + \omega_2 \rightarrow \omega_2 = \omega - \omega_1, \text{ and } d\omega = d\omega_2$$

Then

$$y^{[2]}(t) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \iint_{-\infty}^{\infty} Y^{[2]}(\omega_1, \omega - \omega_1) d\omega_1 e^{j\omega t} d\omega = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} Y^{[2]}(\omega) e^{j\omega t} d\omega$$

with

$$Y^{[2]}(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y^{[2]}(\omega, \omega - \omega_1) d\omega_1$$

## Volterra theory in a nut shell frequency domain relations

$$Y^{[n]}(\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_n) = H^{[n]}(\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_n)U(\omega_1)\dots U(\omega_n)$$

with

$$H^{[n]}(\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_n) = \int \dots \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h_n(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n) e^{-j\omega_1 t_1} \dots e^{-j\omega_n t_n} dt_1 dt_2 \dots dt_n$$

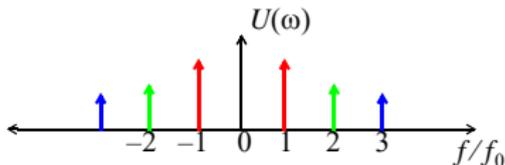
Corresponding one-dimensional frequency representation

$$Y^{[n]}(\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_n) \rightarrow Y(\omega_1 + \omega_2 + \dots + \omega_n)$$

$\omega_1 + \omega_2 + \dots + \omega_n$  indicates that contribution results from  $n^{th}$  degree NL

## Volterra theory in a nut shell frequency domain relations for periodic signals

$$Y^{[n]}(\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_n) = H(\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_n)U(\omega_1)\dots U(\omega_n)$$



with

$$Y^{[2]}(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y^{[2]}(\omega, \omega - \omega_1)d\omega_1 \rightarrow Y^{[2]}(k) = \sum_l y^{[2]}(l, k-l) = \sum_l H^{[2]}(l, k-l)U(l)U(k-l)$$

similar

$$Y^{[3]}(k) = \sum_{l_1} \sum_{l_2} \dots U(l_1)U(l_2)U(k-l_1-l_2)$$

Conclusion

$Y^{[3]}(k)$  sum over all combination  $U(l_1)U(l_2)U(l_3)$  such that  $l_1 + l_2 + l_3 = k$

# Linear identification in the presence of nonlinear distortions

## BLA: best linear approximation

### User choices

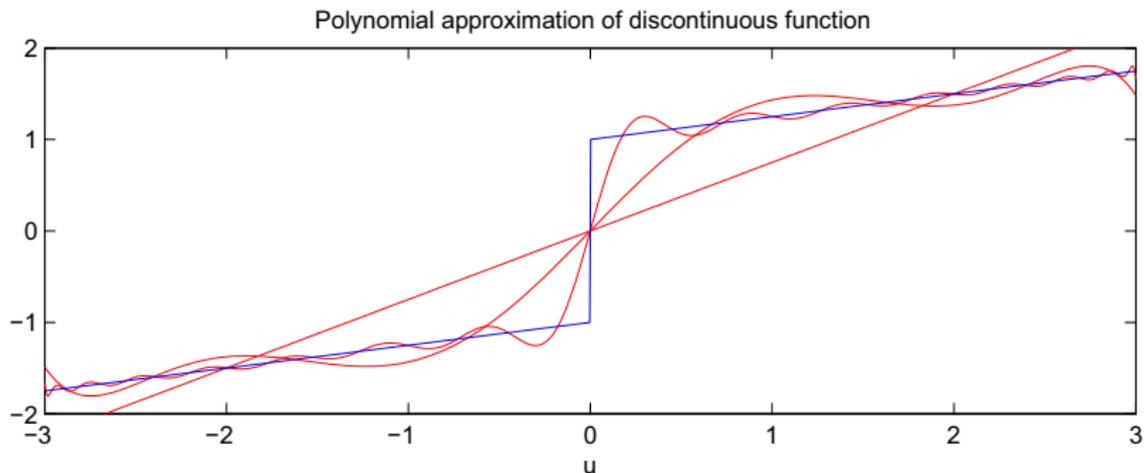
- convergence criterion
- approximation method
- excitation

### Class of nonlinear systems

### Linear identification in the presence of nonlinear distortions

- Understanding the impact of nonlinear distortions
- Nonparametric identification: FRF measurements
- Parametric identification

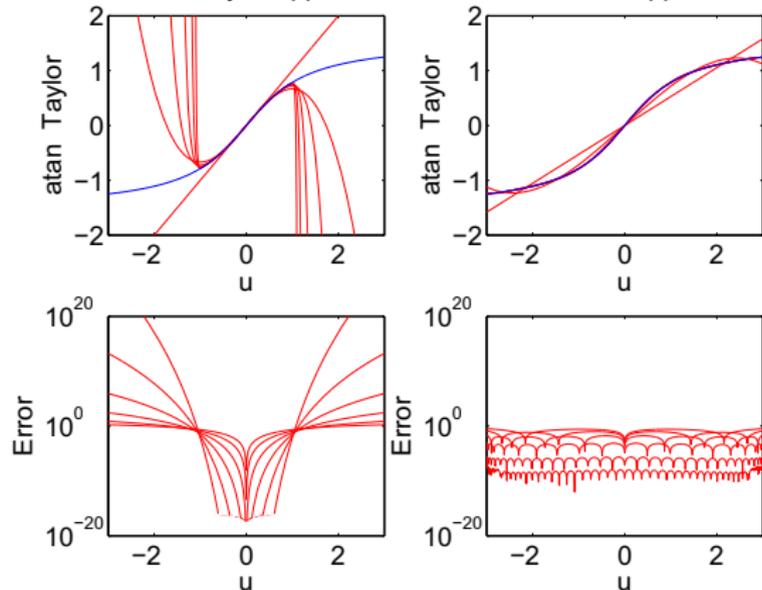
## User choices: convergence criterion



uniform convergence  $\neq$  point wise convergence

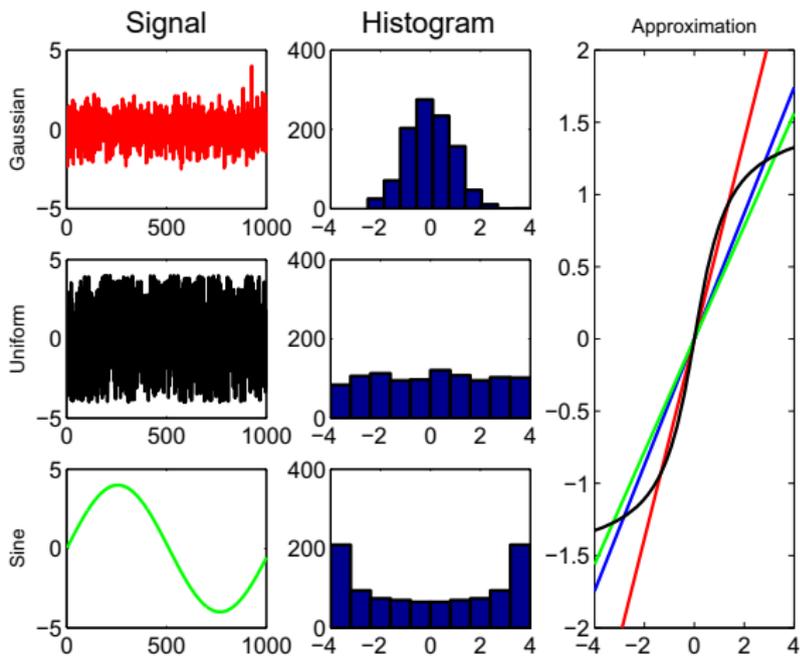
## User choices: Approximation method

atan and its Taylor approximation    atan and its LS approximation

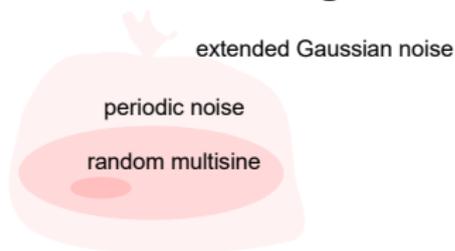


**Taylor  $><$  Least Squares**

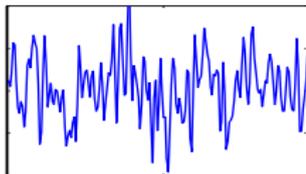
## User choices: Excitation



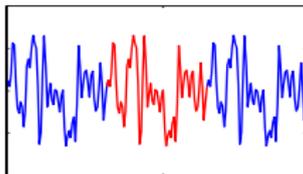
# Class of excitation signals



Gaussian noise

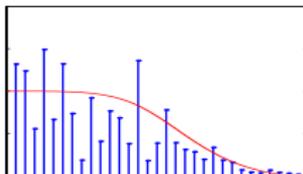
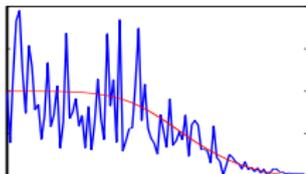
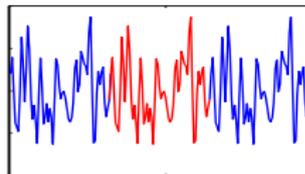


periodic noise

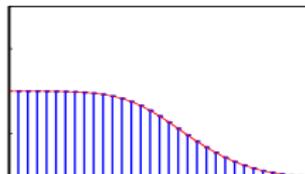


time

random multisine



frequency



$$u(t) = \frac{1}{F} \sum_{k=1}^F A_k \cos(2\pi k f_0 t + \varphi_k)$$

▶▶ return

# Linear identification in the presence of nonlinear distortions

## BLA: best linear approximation

User choices

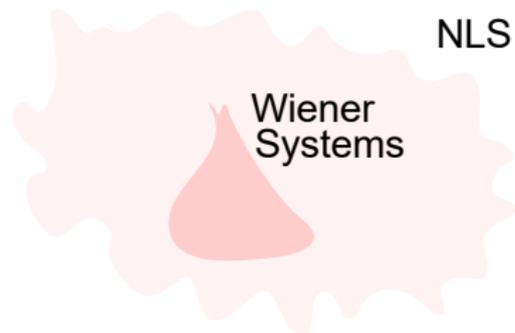
- convergence criterion
- approximation method
- excitation

Class of nonlinear systems

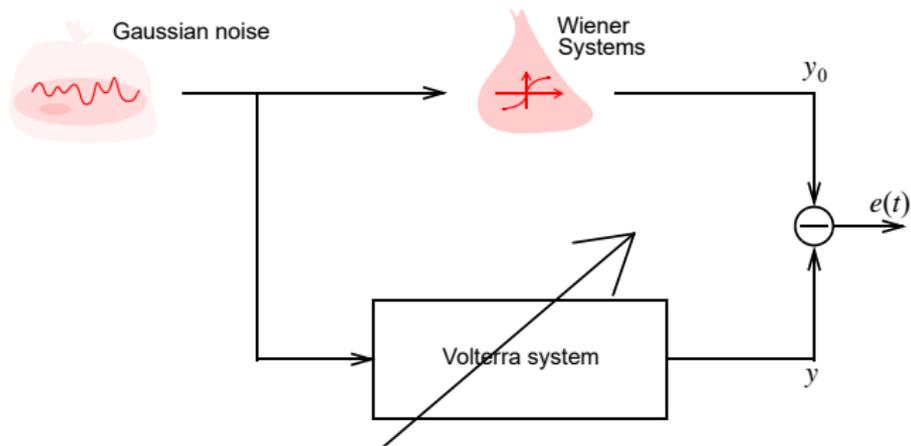
Linear identification in the presence of nonlinear distortions

- Understanding the impact of nonlinear distortions
- Nonparametric identification: FRF measurements
- Parametric identification

## Class of nonlinear systems



# Wiener systems?



$$\mathcal{E}_u\{e^2_{RMS}\} \rightarrow 0$$

## Major properties

- A periodic input  $\rightarrow$  a periodic output with the same period



- Approximates the output in mean squares sense

-  dynamic saturations
-  discontinuities
-  chaos

# Linear identification in the presence of nonlinear distortions

## BLA: best linear approximation

### User choices

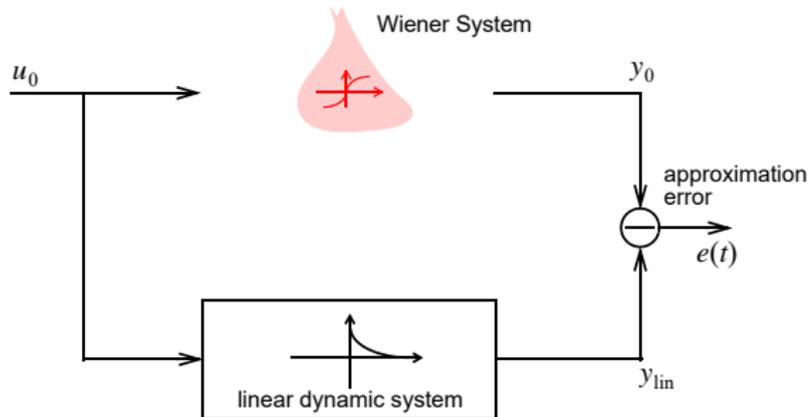
- convergence criterion
- approximation method
- excitation

### Class of nonlinear systems

### Linear identification in the presence of nonlinear distortions

- [Understanding the impact of nonlinear distortions](#)
- Nonparametric identification: FRF measurements
- Parametric identification

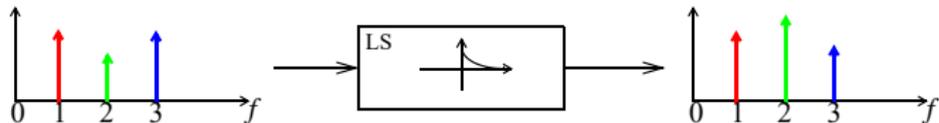
# Understanding the impact of nonlinear distortions on the linear framework



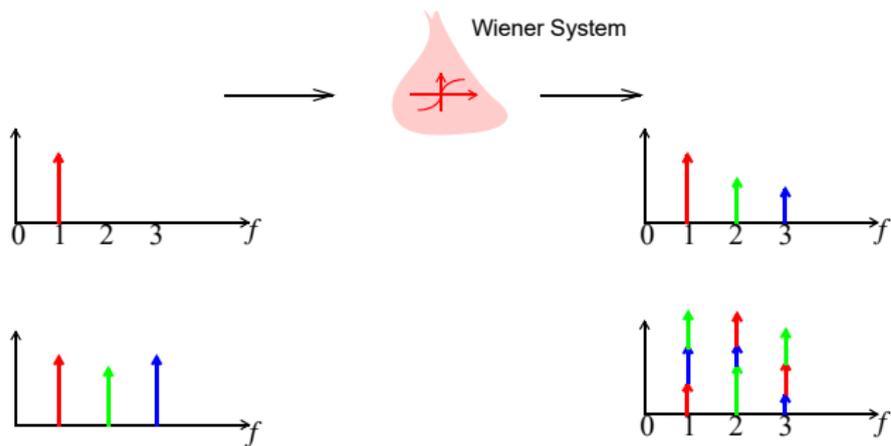
$$G_{BLA} = \arg \min_G E_U \{|Y - GU|^2\}$$

# Behaviour of a nonlinear system

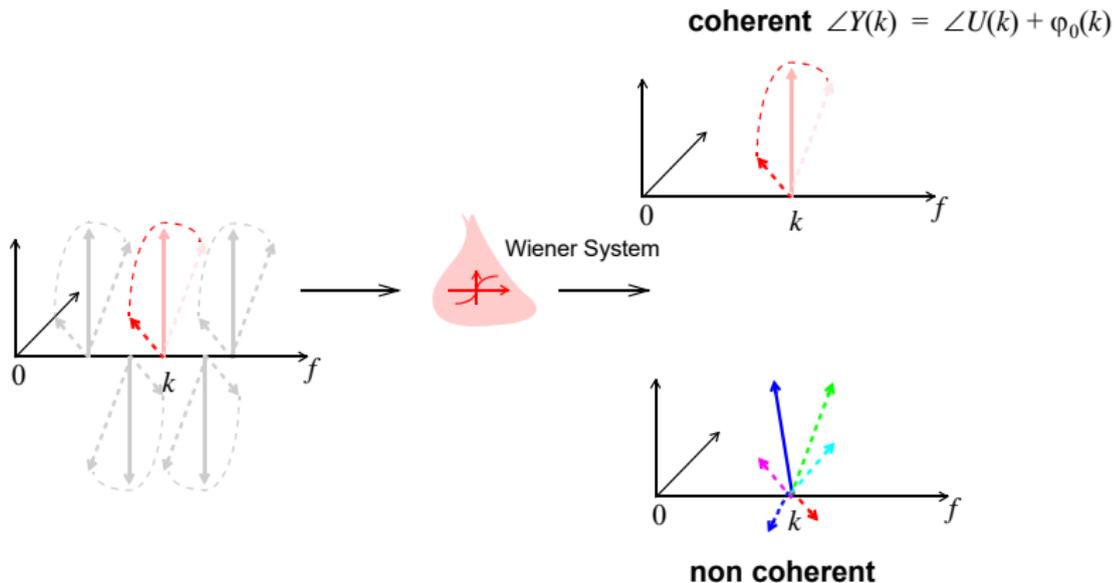
## A linear system



# A Nonlinear system



## Behaviour of a nonlinear system



## (non) Coherent contributions

Example: cubic contributions

$$Y^{[3]}(k) = \sum_{l_1} \sum_{l_2} H^{[3]}(l_1, l_2, k - l_1 - l_2) U(l_1) U(l_2) U(k - l_1 - l_2)$$

Frequency combinations s.t.  $\angle U(l_1) U(l_2) U(k - l_1 - l_2) = \angle U(k)$ ?

Yes

$$U(k) U(-l) U(l) = U(k) |U(l)|^2 \rightarrow \text{coherent contribution}$$

NO

$$U(k-2) U(1) U(1) \rightarrow \text{non coherent contribution}$$

## (non) Coherent contributions (Cont'd)

Example: quadratic contributions

$$Y^{[2]}(k) = \sum_{l_1} H^{[2]}(l_1, k - l_1) U(l_1) U(k - l_1)$$

Frequency combinations s.t.  $\angle U(l_1)U(k - l_1) = \angle U(k)$ ?

Yes

$U(k)U(0)$  --> coherent contribution requires DC

No

$U(k - 1)U(1)$  --> non coherent contribution

# (non) Coherent contributions

## Conclusions

Put  $U(0) = 0$

### Even nonlinearities

always non coherent

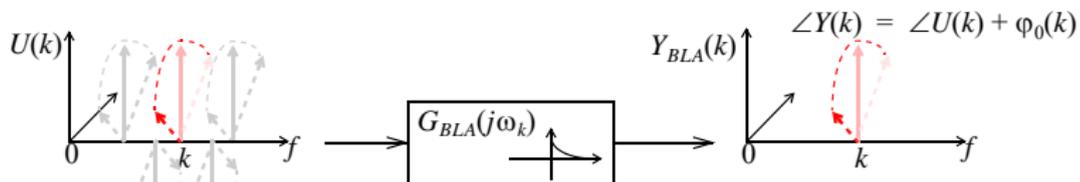
### Odd nonlinearities

coherent

+

non coherent contributions

## Coherent output

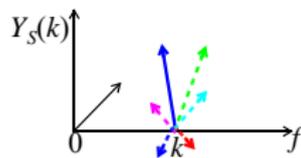
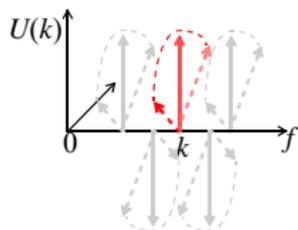


$$Y_{RBLA}(k) = G_{BLA}(j\omega_k)U(k)$$

$G_{BLA}(j\omega_k)$  is the best linear approximation

$G_{BLA}(j\omega_k)$  is a function of  $S_{UU}$

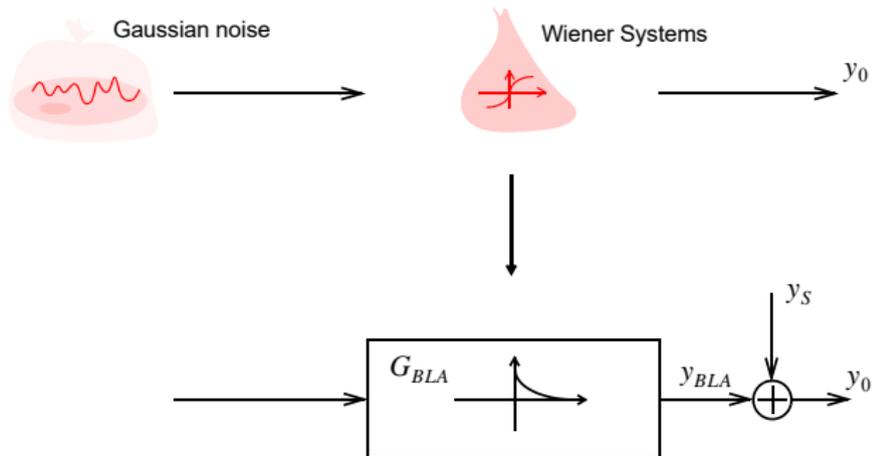
## Non coherent output



The phase of  $Y_S(k)$  depends on  $U(l)$   $l \neq k$

$Y_S(k)$  acts as a noise source

# A new paradigm



$$Y(k) = G_{BLA}(j\omega_k)U(k) + Y_S(k)$$

# A 'new' paradigm

## Properties

$$Y(k) = G_{BLA}(j\omega_k)U(k) + Y_S(k)$$

$G_{BLA}(j\omega_k)$  is the 'best linear approximation'

- smooth
- $O(N^0)$
- same for all excitations in the set (with same power spectrum)
- only odd nonlinearities contribute

$Y_S(k)$  is the 'nonlinear noise source'

- smooth power spectrum
- zero mean
- circular complex normally distributed
- $O(N^0)$
- same power spectrum for all excitations in the set
- even and odd nonlinearities contribute

## zero mean circular complex normally distributed

$$x = a + jb \in \mathbb{C}$$

Zero mean circular complex:  $E[x^2] \equiv 0$

$$E[(a + jb)^2] = E[a^2 - b^2 + 2jab] = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad E[a^2] = E[b^2] = \sigma^2 \text{ and } E[ab] = 0$$

Zero mean circular complex normally distributed:  $E[x^n] \equiv 0$

$x$  is a complex vector

- without a preferred direction
- no relation between amplitude and phase

# Linear identification in the presence of nonlinear distortions

## BLA: best linear approximation

### User choices

- convergence criterion
- approximation method
- excitation

### Class of nonlinear systems

### Linear identification in the presence of nonlinear distortions

- Understanding the impact of nonlinear distortions
- Nonparametric identification: FRF measurements
- Parametric identification

# Best Linear Approximation : Nonparametric measurement

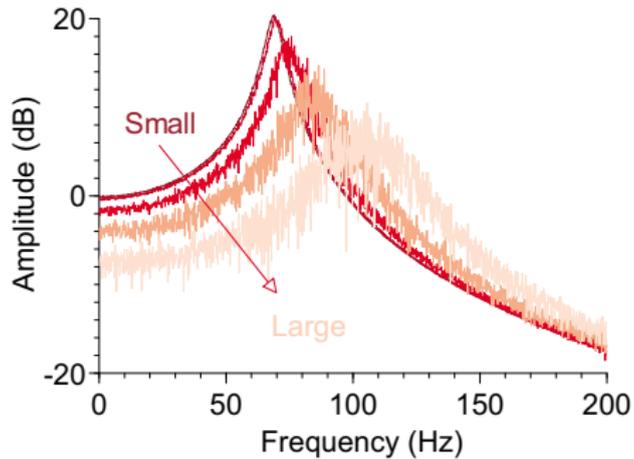
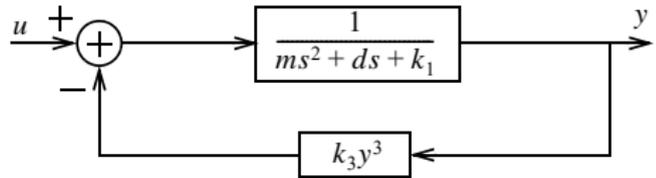
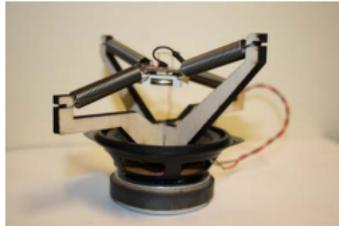
The classic linear equations still hold

$$G_{BLA}(\omega) = \frac{S_{YU}(\omega)}{S_{UU}(\omega)}$$

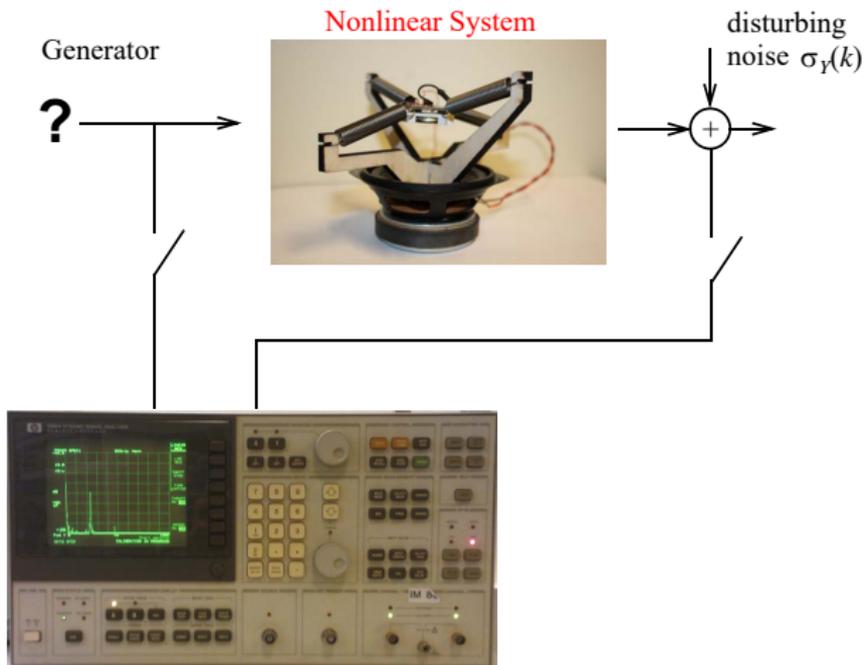
$$\sigma_{G_{BLA}}^2(\omega) = |G_{BLA}(\omega)|^2 \frac{1 - \gamma^2(\omega)}{\gamma^2(\omega)}$$



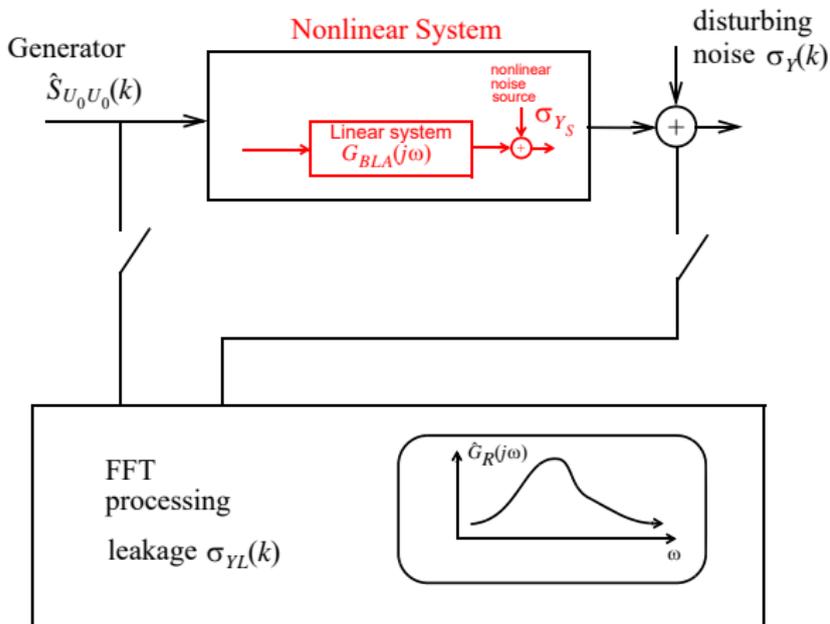
## Example : hardening spring



# FRF-measurements in the presence of NL-distortions



## FRF-measurements in the presence of NL-distortions



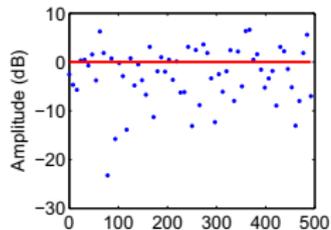
$$\sigma_{G_{BLA}}^2(k) = \frac{\sigma_{Y_L}^2(k) + \sigma_{Y_S}^2(k) + \sigma_Y^2(k)}{\hat{S}_{U_0 U_0}(k)}$$

## FRF-measurements in the presence of NL-distortions (Cont'd)

$$\sigma_{G_{BLA}}^2(k) = \frac{\sigma_{Y_L}^2(k) + \sigma_{Y_S}^2(k) + \sigma_{Y}^2(k)}{\hat{S}_{U_0 U_0}(k)}$$

Avoid dips in  $\hat{S}_{U_0 U_0}(k)$

deterministic signals  $\gg$  noise

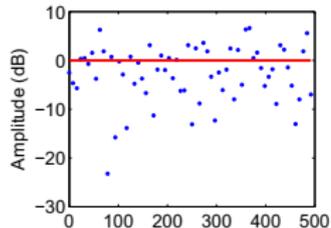


## FRF-measurements in the presence of NL-distortions (Cont'd)

$$\sigma_{G_{BLA}}^2(k) = \frac{\sigma_{\hat{Y}_L}^2(k) + \sigma_{\hat{Y}_S}^2(k) + \sigma_{\hat{Y}}^2(k)}{\hat{S}_{U_0 U_0}(k)}$$

Avoid dips in  $\hat{S}_{U_0 U_0}(k)$

deterministic signals  $\gg$  noise



Reduction of the leakage errors  $\sigma_{\hat{Y}_L}^2$

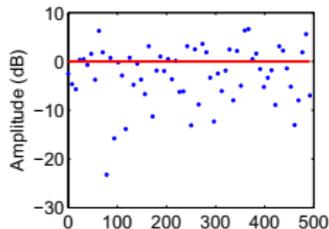
periodic signals

## FRF-measurements in the presence of NL-distortions (Cont'd)

$$\sigma_{G_{BLA}}^2(k) = \frac{\sigma_{\hat{Y}_L}^2(k) + \sigma_{\hat{Y}_S}^2(k) + \sigma_{\hat{Y}}^2(k)}{\hat{S}_{U_0 U_0}(k)}$$

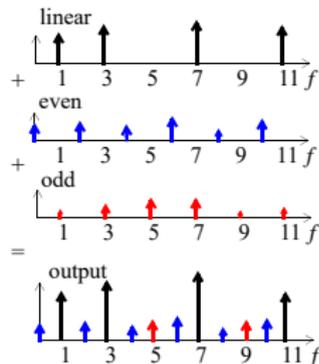
Avoid dips in  $\hat{S}_{U_0 U_0}(k)$

deterministic signals  $\gg$  noise



Reduction of the leakage errors  $\sigma_{\hat{Y}_L}^2$

periodic signals

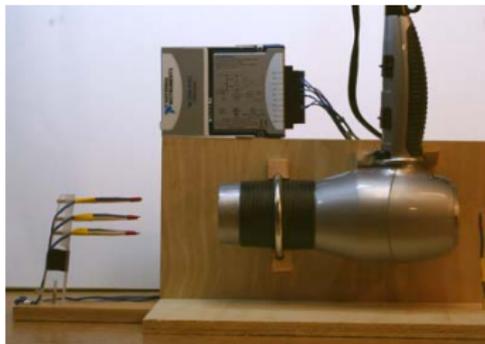
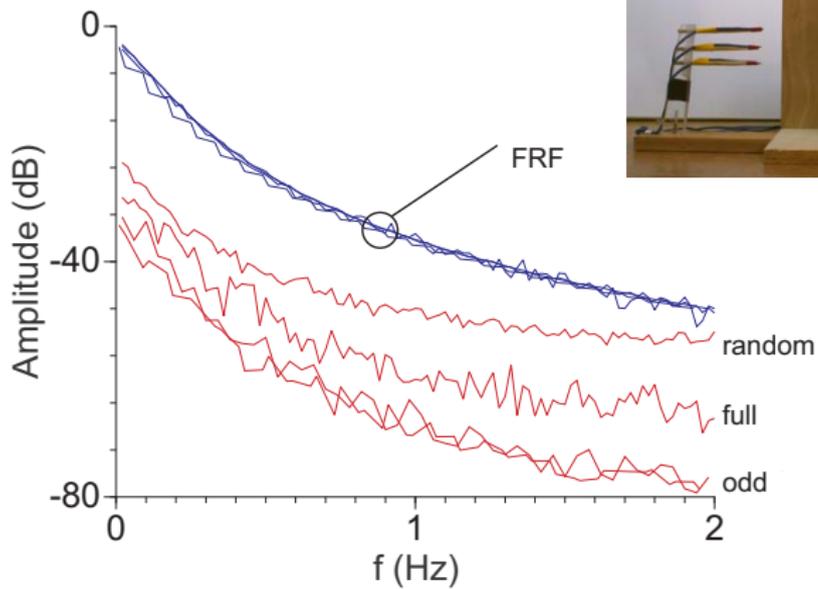


Reduction of the impact of nonlinear distortions  $\sigma_{\hat{Y}_S}^2$

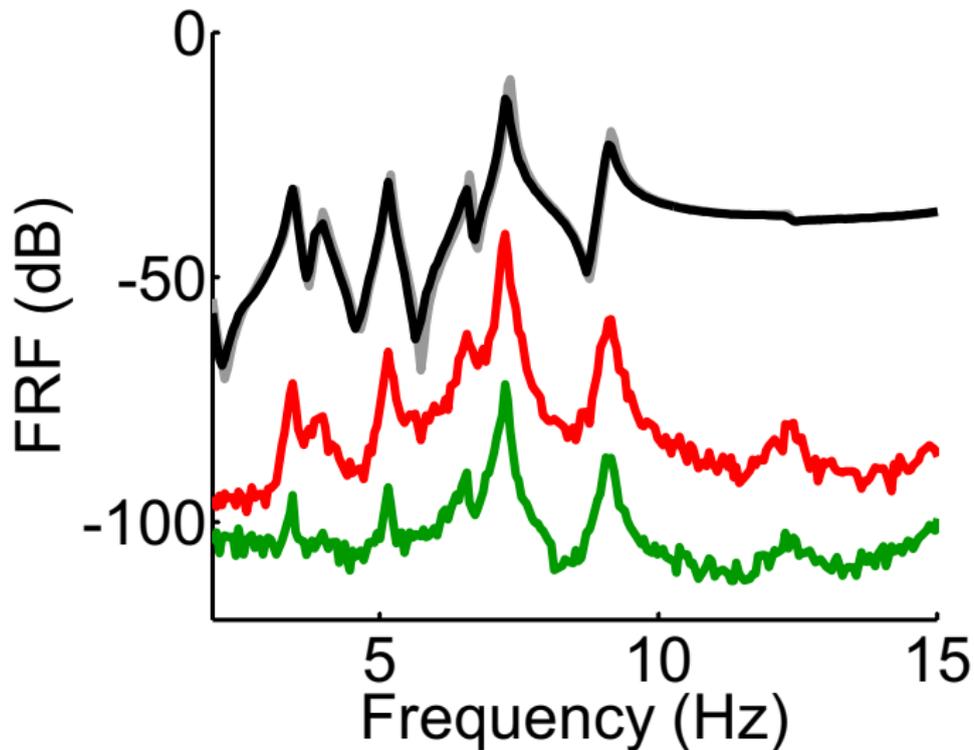
Odd excitations

▶ return

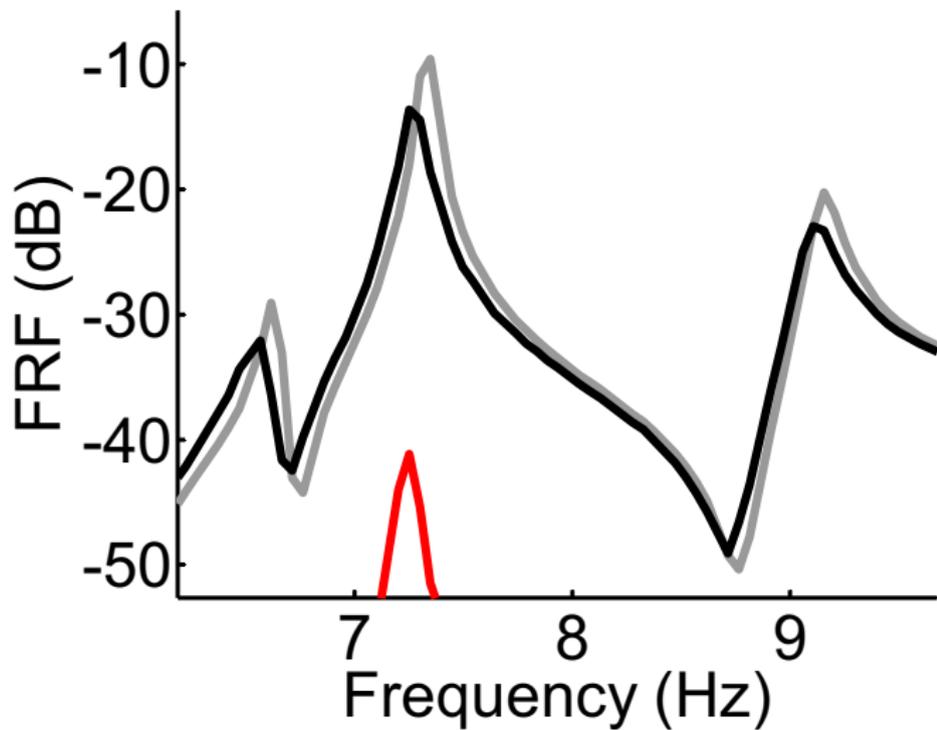
## Hair dryer experiment



## Example: F16-fighter measurements



## Example: zoom F16-fighter measurements



# Linear identification in the presence of nonlinear distortions

## BLA: best linear approximation

### User choices

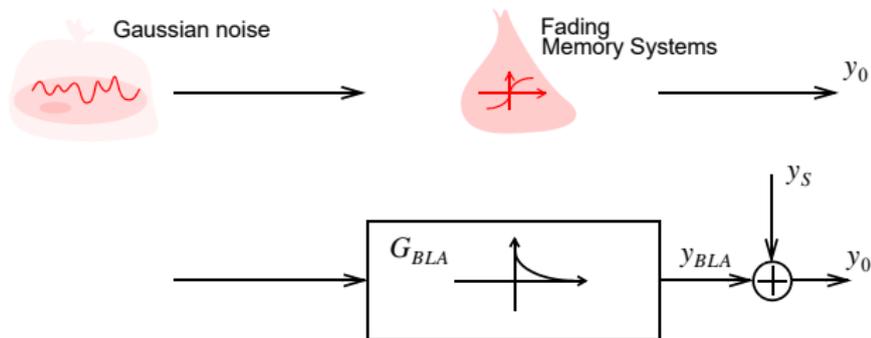
- convergence criterion
- approximation method
- excitation

### Class of nonlinear systems

### Linear identification in the presence of nonlinear distortions

- Understanding the impact of nonlinear distortions
- Nonparametric identification: FRF measurements
- [Parametric identification](#)

## Best Linear Approximation: Parametric modelling



$$Y(k) = G_{BLA}(j\omega_k)U(k) + Y_S(k)$$

Goal: find a parametric model  $G_{BLA}(j\omega, \theta)$  and its uncertainty bound

## Best Linear Approximation : Parametric modelling

$$G_{BLA}(j\omega, \theta)$$

Linear identification framework

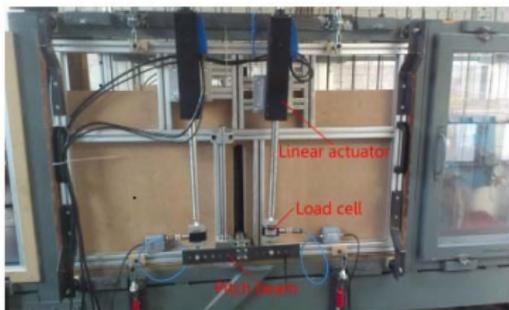
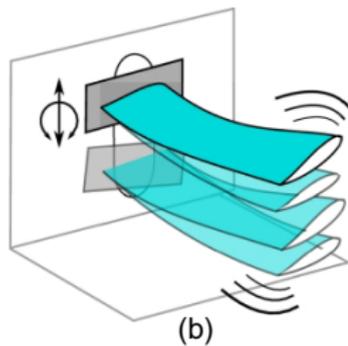
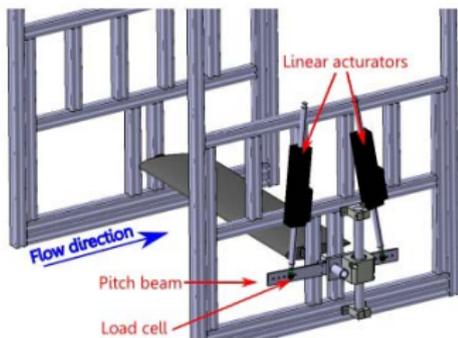
Consistent estimate

True model retrieved for large data sets

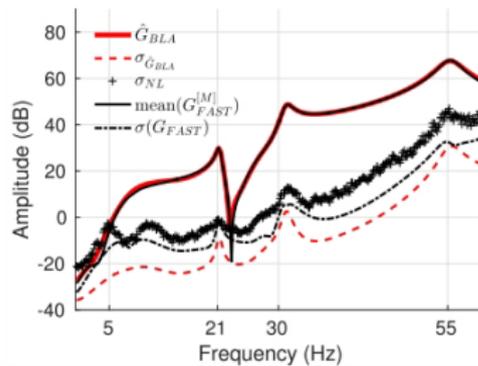
Uncertainty bounds are wrong

Nonlinear induced variance underestimated by factor 7 or more

## Example



(a)



(c)