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Forecasting COVID-19 with Importance Sampling and Path-Integrals

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Objective: Here, two basic algorithms, Adaptive Simulated Annealing (ASA) and path-integral codes PATHINT/PATHTREE (and their quantum generalizations qPATHINT/ qPATHTREE) are suggested as being useful to fit COVID-19 data and to help predict spread or control of this pandemic. Multiple variables are considered, e.g., potentially including ethnicity, population density, obesity, deprivation, pollution, race, environmental temperature.

Method: ASA and PATHINT/PATHTREE have been demonstrated as being effective to forecast properties in three disparate disciplines in neuroscience, financial markets, and combat analysis.

Results: Not only can selected systems in these three disciplines be aptly modeled, but results of detailed calculations have led to new results and insights not previously obtained.

Keywords: path integral, importance sampling, financial options, combat analysis.

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Lester Ingber

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Results: Not only can selected systems in these three disciplines be aptly modeled, but results of detailed calculations have led to new results and insights not previously obtained.

Conclusion: While optimization and path-integral algorithms are now quite well-known (at least to many scientists), these applications give strong support to a quite generic application of these tools to stochastic nonlinear systems.

Keywords: path integral, importance sampling, financial options, combat analysis.

I. INTRODUCTION

t is generally recognized that the spread of COVID-19 is affected by multiple variables, e.g., potentially including ethnicity, population density, obesity, deprivation, pollution, race, environmental temperature (Anastassopoulou et al, 2020; Bray et al, 2020; Li et al, 2020). Also, the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (CEBM) regularly cites papers on the dynamics of COVID-19 at https://www.cebm.net/evidence-synthesis/transmission-dynamics-of-covid-19/.

This proposal offers the application of two basic multivariate algorithms to fairly generic issues in forecasting. As such, they may be useful to fit COVID-19 data and to help predict upcoming spread and control of this pandemic.

(a) Adaptive Simulated Annealing (ASA) developed by the author (Ingber, 1993a) is an importancesampling optimization code usually used for nonlinear, nonequilibrium, non-stationary, multivariate systems.

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(b) PATHINT is a numerical path-integral PATHINT code developed by the author (Ingber, 1993b) used for propagation of nonlinear probability distributions, including discontinuities.

These codes were developed by the author and applied across multiple disciplines.

There is not "one size fits all" in forecasting different systems. This was demonstrated for three systems (Ingber, 2020b), where the author has addressed multiple projects across multiple disciplines using these tools: 72 papers/reports/lectures in neuroscience, e.g. (Ingber, 2018; Ingber, 2021), 31 papers/reports/lectures in finance, e.g. (Ingber & Mondescu, 2003; Ingber, 2020a), 24 papers/reports/lectures in combat analyses, e.g. (Ingber, 1993b; Ingber, 2015), and 11 papers/reports/lectures in optimization, e.g. (Atiya et al, 2003; Ingber, 2012), It is reasonable to expect that this approach can be applied to many other projects.

For example, the path-integral representation of multivariate nonlinear stochastic differential equations permits derivation of canonical momenta indicators (CMI) which are faithful to intuitive concepts like Force, Momenta, Mass, etc (Ingber, 1996; Ingber, 2015; Ingber & Mondescu, 2001). Correlations among variables are explicitly included in the CMI.

II. DATA

A large and updated database for COVID-19 is maintained by the John Hopkins University (JHU) at https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19/blob/master/archived_data/archived_daily_case_up-dates/01-21-2020_2200.csv. This database was used for a pilot study.

a) 50+ Locations

The data being used contains 3340 cities throughout the US and some territories. The locations have been broken into 57 States and Territories ready for production runs.

III. TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

If there is not time to process large data sets, then the data can be randomly sampled, e.g., as described in another paper, "Developing bid-ask probabilities for high-frequency trading" (Ingber, 2020a).

If the required forecast is longer than the distribution can sustain, conditional PATHINT/ PATHTREE can be used to propagate the distribution.

broken dataset should be independent Training and Testing subsets, to test the trained distribution. If this is not possible, e.g., because of data or time limitations, at the least experts can be used to judge if the model is ready for realtime applications, e.g., the Delphi method (Okoli & Pawlowski, 2004).

If an algorithm like ASA is to be used across a large class of problems, then it must be tunable to different classes. Over the 30+ years of ASA development, the author has worked with many volunteers who have contributed valuable ideas. modifications and corrections to this code. This has resulted in over 150 ASA options that can be used for additional timing additional tuning making it useful across many classes of problems.

The path integral algorithm includes its mathematical equivalents, a large class of stochastic differential equations and a large class of partial differential equations. The advantages of the path integral algorithm are:

- (a) Intuitive description in terms of classical forces, inertia, momentum, etc., leading to new indicators.
- (b) Delivering a cost function derived from a Lagrangian, or its Action (Lagrangian x dt). Sometimes constraints need to be added as Lagrange multipliers, as was required for normalization requirements in financial risk projects (Ingber, 2010).

PILOT STUDY IV.

The shape of the spread of this virus is clearly nonlinear. A simple model was used for a pilot study to at least capture some nonlinearity. For example, just using the daily number of total cases reported, C, the short-time conditional Probability P(t + 1|t) is given in terms of its effective Lagrangian L, P = $\exp (L_{eff}dt)$ (including the logarithm of the prefactor normalization as it may contain nonlinearities as modeled here):

$$\begin{split} L_{eff} &= \left[(x_{t+1} - x_t - g_x dt) g_{xx'}(x'_{t+1} - x'_t - g_{x'} dt) + 1/2 \log(2\pi dt g^2) \right. \\ g_x &= a \exp(x^b) \\ g_{xx'} &= c \exp(x^d) \\ g &= \det(g_{xx'}) \end{split}$$

with parameters to be fit to data {a, b, c, d}. This is a simple one-factor model. In more than one dimension, is the metric of this space, the inverse of the covariance matrix.

For the full data set, 100,000 generated-state iteration-s of this cost/objective function's states over the JHU data gave

$$a = 0.077, b = 0.874, c = 2.79, d = 0.845$$
 (2)

a) Comet Profile

These codes were run on XSEDE Comet, for 100000 generated states.

"Comet is a dedicated XSEDE cluster designed by Dell and SDSC delivering 2.0 petaflops, featuring Intel next-gen processors with AVX2, Mellanox FDR InfiniBand interconnects and Aeon storage. The standard compute nodes consist of Intel Xeon E5-2680v3 (formerly codenamed Haswell) processors, 128

GB DDR4 DRAM (64 GB per socket), and 320 GB of SSD local scratch memory. The GPU nodes contain four NVIDIA GPUs each. The large memory nodes contain 1.5 TB of DRAM and four Haswell processors each. The network topology is 56 Gbps FDR InfiniBand with rack-level full bisection bandwidth and 4:1 oversubscription cross-rack bandwidth. Comet has 7 petabytes of 200 GB/second performance storage and 6 petabytes of 100 GB/second durable storage. It also has dedicated gateway hosting nodes and a Virtual Machine repository. External connectivity to Internet2 and ESNet is 100 Gbps."

(1)

Comet is being phased out and users will soon be using the new Expanse platform.

b) Parallel Processing

"Parallel Processing for this project basically is similar to many projects developed by the author as Principal Investigator at the Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE.org) since February 2013. That is "trivial MPI" is used, wherein many simultaneous runs are achieved by simply reading in different data files to ASA, using the "array" feature offered by some XSEDE platforms. As offered in a previous XSEDE Extended Collaborative Support Service (ECSS) ticket:

Parallelization efficiency is 1 for jobs running on a single core that is max one could get. For multi-threaded apps one can get some to decent bump in speed using multiple cores up to some point before plateauing. However, speed bump with multiple cores often leads drop in parallelization efficiency.

Drawback of using single core is too long run time. Though in this case, you are running array jobs with single core and getting maximum efficiency. This is the ideal situation on 'Comet' because nodes on this machine can be shared. You should explain on Scaling and parallelization efficiency section that your application is not multi-threaded and you use single core on comet to run your jobs. This gives efficiency of 1, which is maximum value achievable. However, you run array of jobs in one submission and each job uses a single core. This is most efficient use of resources because node sharing is allowed on Comet. It won't hurt to write that you have consulted XSEDE staff on this matter."

c) Xeon Processor

The full US run was done on the author's P1 Gen 3 Thinkpad with a Xeon processor. Previous runs show full agreement between the Comet and the Thinkpad runs when "-ffloat-store" is added to the compile parameters. A full US run of 100,000 generated states with 3239 non-zero locations took 1 hr 47 min 17 sec. (All runs including subsets of the full US therefore took about twice that long.)

ALL RESULTS V

All locations were processed to exclude those with all "0" for all days, 99 of them.

Note that a few locations, those with just sublocation as it turned out, gave parameter values that hit boundaries of assigned parameter maximums or minimums. Since these were few exceptions, the decision was made to keep the default ranges given in Table 1.

Table 1

Par	Min	Max
0	-2	2
1	-2	2
2	0.1	2
3	-2	2

Final Results for all 58 Locations are given in Table 2.

Table 2

RUNS COVID/asa usr out 01-Alabama final cost value = 0.0006165903

Parameter	Value
0	0.07526909
1	0.7867917
2	0.1
3	1.036661

RUNS COVID/asa_usr_out_02-Alaska final cost value = 0.0008660421

arameter	Value
0	0.03041555
1	0.9221085
2	0.1
3	0.9276368

RUNS COVID/asa usr out 03-Arizona final cost value = 0.003912767

ameter	Value
0	0.08377208
1	0.818453
2	0.1
3	1.287453

RUNS COVID/asa usr out 04-Arkansas final cost value = 0.0004816542

ameter	Value
0	0.07941101
1	0.7750893
2	0.1
3	1.183597

RUNS COVID/asa usr out 05-California final cost value = 0.0009490655 Parameter Value

anneter	value
0	0.06696538
1	0.8527078
2	0.1
3	1.292374

RUNS COVID/asa usr out 06-Colorado final cost value = 0.000503892

arameter	Value
0	0.02576714
1	0.875757
2	0.1076587
3	1.033743

RUNS COVID/asa usr out 07-Connecticut final cost value = 0.006819112

	u 0.00.
Parameter	Value
0	0.03883795
1	0.7877583
2	0.1499112
3	1.133882

RUNS COVID/asa usr out 08-Delaware final cost value = 0.004949477

'arameter	Value
0	0.1227538
1	0.6899159
2	0.261152
3	0.9695861

RUNS COVID/asa usr out 09-Diamond Princess final cost value = -0.05391078

Parameter	Value
0	-4.98784e-07
1	-1.992295
2	0.1
3	-2

ACTUAL CONTRACTOR OF CONTRACTO	
RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_10-District_of_Columbia final cost value = 0.06929941 Parameter Value	RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_17-Illinois final cost value = 0.0004481785 Parameter Value
0 2	0 0.06157631
1 0.4060976	1 0.8171975
2 2	2 0.8193241
3 0.7794162	3 1.021197
RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_11-Florida final cost value = 0.0008101027 Parameter Value	RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_18-Indiana final cost value = 0.0003787652 Parameter Value
	0 0.0412226
0 0.0844608	1 0.8332504
1 0.8210241	
2 0.1	2 0.1
3 1.270596	3 0.9823153
RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_12-Georgia final cost value = 0.0002643592 Parameter Value	RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_19-lowa final cost value = 0.0003525547 Parameter Value
0 0.04424673	0 0.07068677
1 0.8548552	1 0.7683947
2 0.1	2 0.1387974
3 1.162738	3 1.049687
RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_13-Grand_Princess final cost value = -0.063622 Parameter Value 0 -6.538724e-08 1 -1.806268 2 0.1 3 -2	RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_20-Kansas final cost value = 0.0002747757 Parameter Value
RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_14-Guam final cost value = 0.0465182 Parameter Value	RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_21-Kentucky final cost value = 0.0002246308 Parameter Value
0 0.008877227	0 0.03505446
1 1.154289	
2 0.1	1 0.8823249
	2 0.1
3 1.147461	3 0.9808715
RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_15-Hawaii final cost value = 0.006862005 Parameter Value	RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_22-Louisiana final cost value = 0.0008015797 Parameter Value
0 0.01611866	0 0.1070208
1 1.050401	1 0.7072564
2 0.1	2 2
3 1.102763	3 0.7402889
DUNO COVID/see organist 40 Idelan	DUNG COMPA
RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_16-Idaho final cost value = 0.0007488098 Parameter Value	RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_23-Maine final cost value = 0.001441506 Parameter Value
0 0.05115676	0 0.03198315
1 0.8504985	1 0.7940144
max (4200)	

2

3

0.1823495

0.6823531

0.1

1.084733

2

3

RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_24-Maryland	RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_31-Nebraska
final cost value = 0.002061062	final cost value = 0.0003267622
Parameter Value	Parameter Value
0 0.0638636	0 0.04517647
1 0.7898237	1 0.8218373
2 0.1	2 0.1
3 1.089192	3 1.145402
RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_25-Massachusetts	RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_32-Nevada
final cost value = 0.004352416	final cost value = 0.001893444
Parameter Value	Parameter Value
0 0.06403747	0 0.03241173
1 0.7364045	1 0.9219539
2 0.1	2 0.1
3 1.128749	3 1.156847
RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_26-Michigan	RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_33-New_Hampshire
final cost value = 0.0004323011	final cost value = 0.003540204
Parameter Value	Parameter Value
0 0.04372185	0 0.05990541
1 0.7974153	1 0.713824
2 0.311704	2 1.999386
	3 0.5164278
3 0.8720471	3 0.5104276
RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_27-Minnesota	RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_34-New_Jersey
final cost value = 0.0004295167	final cost value = 0.003764219
Parameter Value	Parameter Value
0 0.06178572	0 2
1 0.8006544	1 0.3257865
	2 2
2 0.1	3 1.048204
3 1.253828	3 1.040204
RUNS COVID/asa usr out 28-Mississippi	RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_35-New_Mexico
final cost value = 0.000463057	final cost value = 0.001152665
Parameter Value	Parameter Value
0 0.1097083	0 0.1004785
1 0.6931913	1 0.695894
2 0.1054405	2 0.6817652
	3 0.7827343
3 0.9913985	
RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_29-Missouri	RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_36-New_York
final cost value = 0.000257466	final cost value = 0.0007147068
Parameter Value	Parameter Value
0 0.05215969	0 0.04110297
1 0.8596338	1 0.7541359
2 0.1	2 0.1
	3 1.054681
3 1.055173	A SHOREGIA AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AN
RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_30-Montana	RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_37-North_Carolina
final cost value = 0.0004428111	final cost value = 0.0003851502
Parameter Value	Parameter Value
0 0.03814208	0 0.08513204
1 0.899361	1 0.7664615
2 0.1	2 0.1
L 0.1	2 1,002619

3

3

0.9560651

1.003618

	final cost	OVID/asa_usr_out_38-North_Dakota value = 0.0003929314 er Value			
	0	0.04932907			
		0.8614704			
	2	0.1			
		0.9475553			
	final cost Paramete	OVID/asa_usr_out_39-Northern_Mariana_Islands value = 0.0110592 er Value			
		0.03284899			
		0.6745235			
	2	0.1			
	3	0.3440228			
	final cost Paramete	OVID/asa_usr_out_40-Ohio value = 0.0004090411 er Value 0.04184926			
		0.8463094			
	2	0.1			
	3				
	99 7 3				
	final cost	OVID/asa_usr_out_41-Oklahoma value = 0.0004630219 er Value			
	0	0.04501715			
		0.8799497			
		0.3494903			
		0.9048175			
	final cost	OVID/asa_usr_out_42-Oregon value = 0.0009208029 er Value			
	0	0.05225226			
	1	0.816799			
	2	0.2053155			
	3	0.9100787			
RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_43-Pennsylvania final cost value = 0.0005589026 Parameter Value					
	0	0.04241694			
	1	0.8052484			
	2	0.1			
	3	1.015383			
	RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_44-Puerto_Rico final cost value = 0.000312391 Parameter Value				
		400 to 8 (400 to 6) (400 to 6)			
	0	0.03449601			
	1	0.9045291			
	2	0.1			

final co	ost value = 0.01 eter Value 0.04708741 0.7901072 0.1	out_45-Rhode_Island 11474
final co Param	_COVID/asa_usr_ ost value = 0.0009 eter Value 0.09290075 0.7718165 0.1	out_46-South_Carolina 9722008
final co	ost value = 0.0000 eter Value 0.05975135 0.7782754	out_47-South_Dakota 3353859
final co Param 0	_COVID/asa_usr_ ost value = 0.0008 eter Value 0.09073933 0.7754924 2	out_48-Tennessee 5178384
final co	_COVID/asa_usr_ ost value = 0.000 eter Value 0.05172033 0.8703259 0.1	
RUNS final co Param 0 1 2 3	0.05285717 0.8271716 0.1090954	out_50-US 74e-05
final co	0.8573352	

1.088644

3

RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_52-Vermont final cost value = 0.0008160128

Parameter Value

0 0.006796208

1 0.9282152

2 0.1

3 0.4539584

RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_53-Virgin_Islands final cost value = 0.03999473

Parameter Value

0 0.06337426

1 0.8251611

2 0.1

3 1.064258

RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_54-Virginia final cost value = 0.0001637778

Parameter Value

0 0.05090517

1 0.8072254

2 0.1

3 0.9941458

RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_55-Washington final cost value = 0.0005114633

Parameter Value

0 0.05293824

1 0.8114288

2 0.1

3 1.026359

RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_56-West_Virginia final cost value = 0.0004020269

Parameter Value

0.02179989

1 0.9542683

2 0.1

3 0.8805843

RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_57-Wisconsin final cost value = 0.0005233912

Parameter Value

0 0.05836374

1 0.8373115

2 0.1

3 1.251952

RUNS_COVID/asa_usr_out_58-Wyoming final cost value = 0.0008048018

Parameter Value

0 0.05755666

1 0.7254984

3 0.8178418

VI. CONCLUSION

Two algorithms are suggested for fitting data and forecasting COVID-19, ASA for importance-sampling and fitting parameters to models, and PATHINT/PATHTREE. These algorithms have been applied to several disciplines — neuroscience, financial markets, combat analysis. While optimization and pathintegral algorithms are now quite well-known (at least to many scientists), these previous applications give strong support to application of these tools to COVID-19 data.

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