
**NONPARAMETRIC REGRESSION WITH
MEASUREMENT ERROR: SOME RECENT PROGRESS**

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(These transparencies, preprints, and references are available at the
link to “Recent Talks” and “Recent Papers” on the website.)

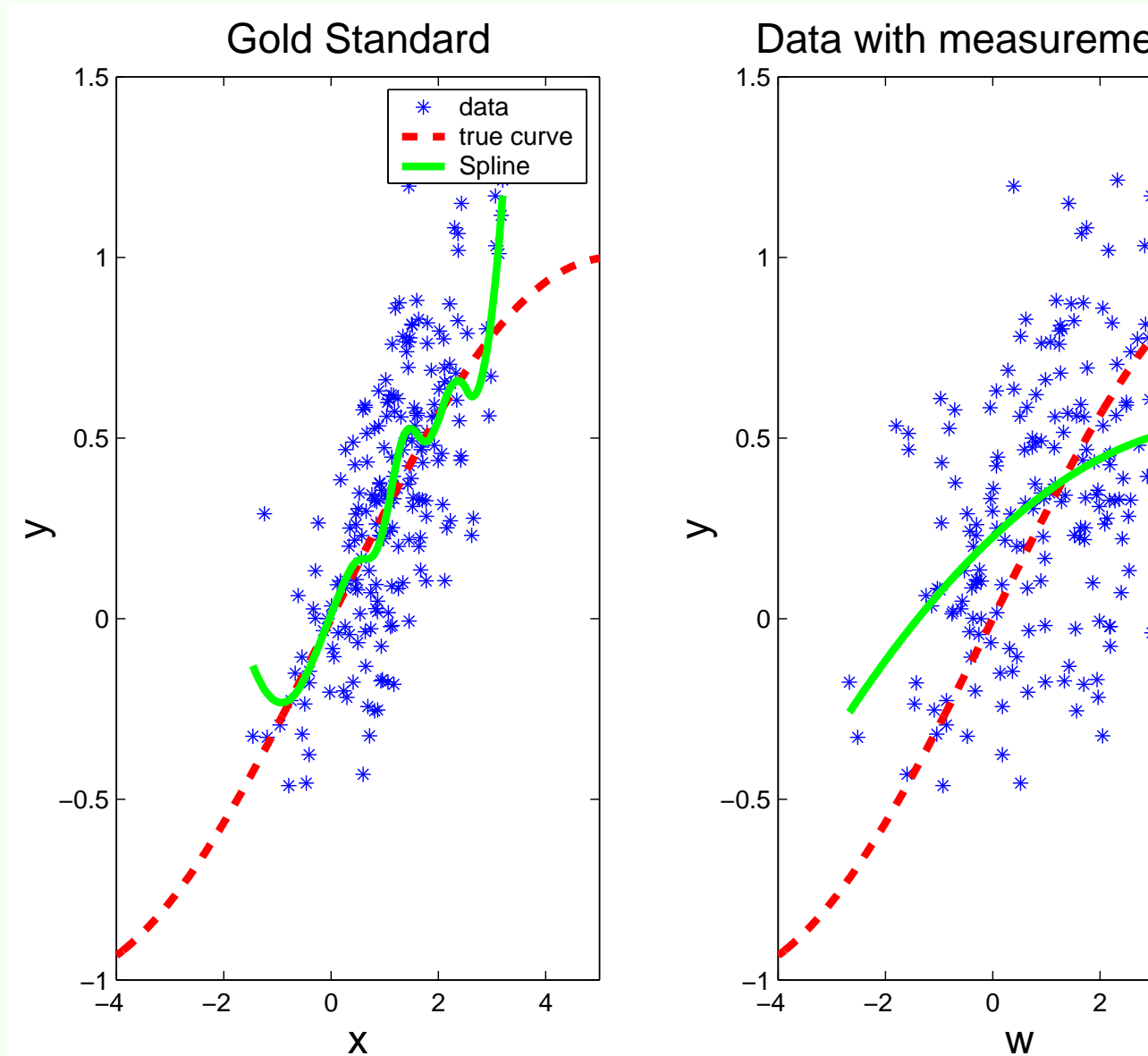
Work done jointly with
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R. J. Carroll, Texas A & M
Jeff Maca, Novartis
John Staudenmayer, U Mass

OUTLINE

- The problem — nonparametric regression with error
- Review of the currently available estimators
- New Bayesian spline approach (Berry, Carroll, 2002, JASA)
- Simulation results

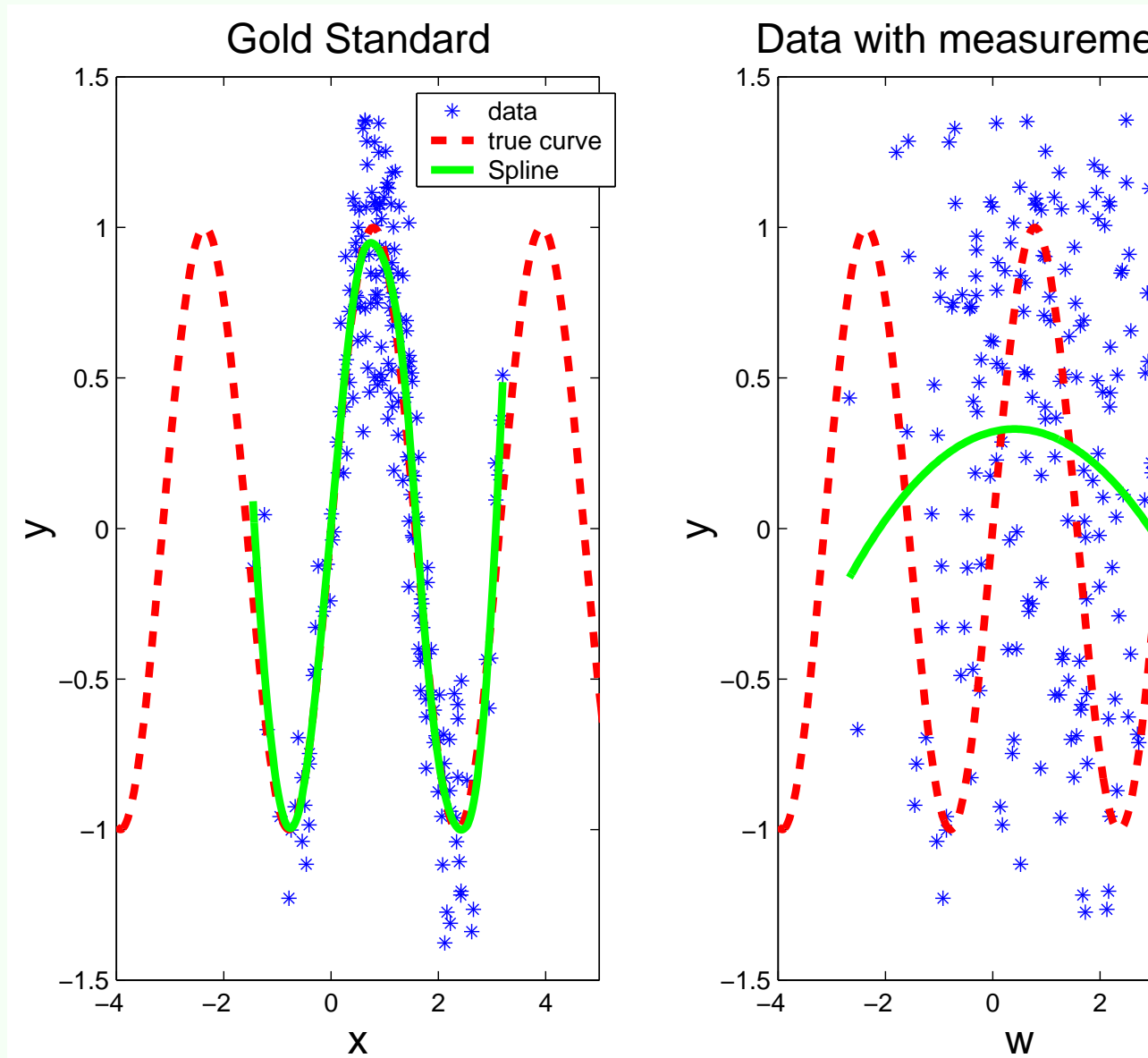
THE PROBLEM OF MEASUREMENT ERROR

ILLUSTRATION



THE PROBLEM OF MEASUREMENT ERROR

ILLUSTRATION



THE PROBLEM OF MEASUREMENT ER

- The regression model is

$$Y = m(X) + \epsilon$$

where m is only known to be smooth

- Observe

Y and $W = X + U$, where

- $E(U|X) = 0$

- $\text{var}(U|X) = \sigma_u^2$

- $U|X$ normally distributed

- Measurement error variance σ_u^2 is estimated from cate data. (Observe W_{ij} , $j = 1, \dots, n_i$.)

THE PROBLEM OF MEASUREMENT ERROR

- Measurement error occurs in a wide variety of processes
 - Measuring nutrient intake
 - Measuring airborne lead exposure
 - Measuring blood pressure
 - C_{14} dating
- The effects of measurement error are:
 - biased estimates of the regression curve
 - increase in the perceived variability about the regression curve

THE PROBLEM OF MEASUREMENT ERROR

- Other than the work of Fan and Truong (1993, *A*), had been little done on nonparametric regression with measurement error until
 - Carroll, Maca, and Ruppert (1999, *Biometrika*)
 - Berry, Carroll, Ruppert (2002, *JASA*) (**BCR**)

REVIEW OF CURRENT ESTIMATORS

- Globally consistent nonparametric regression by kernels (Fan and Truong, 1993, *Annals*)
 - does not work so well
 - * Fan & Truong show very poor asymptotic rate of convergence
 - * we have simulations showing poor finite-sample performance
 - no methodology for bandwidth selection or inference

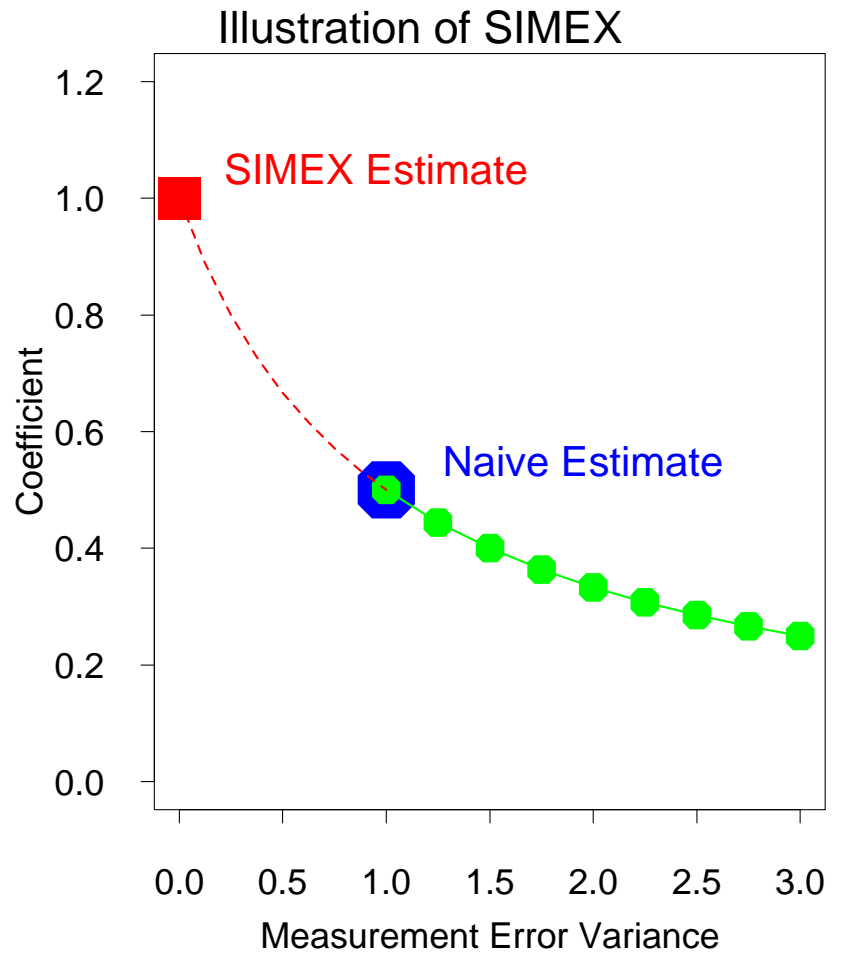
REVIEW OF CURRENT ESTIMATORS

- Standard measurement error method: SIMEX
 - functional — no assumptions on $[X]$
 - very general — can be applied to nearly any error problem, parametric or nonparametric
- Structural Spline
 - Regression splines for basic regression model
 - Mixtures of normals for covariate density model
 - Emphasis is on flexible parametric modeling, nonparametric modeling. (Little or no difference in practice.)

SIMEX

- The SIMEX method is due to Cook & Stefanski (1992)
 - The theory is in Carroll, et al. (1996, *JASA*)
 - Also see Carroll, Ruppert, and Stefanski (1995, *Error in Nonlinear Models*)
- SIMEX has been previously applied to parametric models
 - makes no assumptions about the true X 's. (*Functional Data Analysis*)
 - results in estimators which are *approximately* consistent at least to order $O(\sigma_u^6)$.
- Here is the method, defined via a graph.

SIMEX, ILLUSTRATED



SIMEX

- **CMR** applied the SIMEX to nonparametric regression
- **CMR** have asymptotic theory in the local polynomial (LPR) context.
 - The estimators have the usual rates of convergence
 - They are approximately consistent, to order $O(\alpha)$
- An asymptotic theory with rates seems very difficult
 - but, simulations in **CMR** indicate that SIMEX/spline is a little *better* than SIMEX/kernel
 - problem seems due to undersmoothing

SIMEX

- Staudenmayer (2000, Cornell PhD thesis) looked at bandwidth selection for SIMEX/LPR.
 - With better bandwidth selection, SIMEX/LPR performs better than other methods.

STRUCTURAL MODELING

- The regression of Y on the observed W is

$$E(Y|W) = E\{m(X)|W\} = \int m(x)f(x|W)$$

- If we had a model $m(X; \beta)$ for $m(X)$ and if we knew $f(x|W)$, we could estimate $m(X; \beta)$ by minimizing over the

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \left\{ Y_i - \int m(x; \beta) f(x|W_i) dx \right\}^2 .$$

- We need two things to make this work:
 - convenient flexible form for $m(x; \beta)$
 - convenient flexible distribution for X .

REGRESSION SPLINES

- Model

$$E(Y|X) = m(X; \boldsymbol{\beta}) := \sum_{j=0}^J \beta_j X^j + \sum_{j=1}^K \beta_{j+J} (X - X_j)_+^{j-1}$$

- The key remaining issue: the joint distribution of X
 - **CMR** used a mixtures of normals for $[X]$ and G to estimate the parameters.
 - * This is an extension to measurement error
Roeder & Wasserman (*JASA*, 1997).

FULLY BAYESIAN MODEL

What's New?

Answer: Fully Bayesian MCMC method in **BCR**

- Uses splines
 - smoothing or penalized
 - P-splines in this talk
- Structural
 - X_i are iid normal
 - but seems robust to violations of normality

FULLY BAYESIAN MODEL

- Smoothing parameter is automatic
- Inference adjusts for the data-based smoothing parameter for measurement error
- Allow global confidence bands

FULLY BAYESIAN MODEL — PARAMETERS

- **Regression Model**

$$Y_i = m(x_i; \beta) + \epsilon_i$$

- $m(x_i; \beta)$ is a P-spline

- ϵ_i iid $N(0, \sigma_\epsilon^2)$

- **Measurement Error Model**

$$W_{ij} = X_i + U_{ij} \text{ where } U_{ij} \text{ iid } N(0, \sigma_u^2)$$

- **Structural Model**

$$X_i \text{ iid } N(\mu_x, \sigma_x^2)$$

- **Parameters:** $\beta, \sigma_\epsilon^2, \sigma_u^2, \mu_x, \sigma_x^2$

FULLY BAYESIAN MODEL — PARAMETERS

● Priors

– β is $N(0, (\gamma \mathbf{K})^{-1})$ where \mathbf{K} is known. [$\alpha := \gamma \sigma_e^2$ scaling parameter.]

– γ is $\text{Gamma}(A_\gamma, B_\gamma)$

– σ_e^2 is $\text{Inv-Gamma}(A_e, B_e)$

– σ_u^2 is $\text{Inv-Gamma}(A_u, B_u)$

– μ_x is $N(d_x, t_x^2)$

– σ_x^2 is $\text{Inv-Gamma}(A_x, B_x)$

● Hyperparameters: $A_e, B_e, A_u, B_u, A_x, B_x, d_x, t_x^2, A_\gamma$

– all fixed at values making the priors noninformative

* E.g., $t_x^2 = 10^6$.

GIBBS SAMPLING

- Iterate through $\beta, \sigma_e^2, \sigma_u^2, \sigma_x^2, \mu_x, \gamma, X_1, \dots, X_n$.
- All steps except one are easy, either gamma, inverse gamma, or normal
 - E.g.,

$[\beta | \text{other parameters}, \mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{W}] \sim \text{Normal}$

$$\text{Mean} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} + \gamma \mathbf{K})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{Y}$$

$$\text{Cov} = \sigma_e^2 (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} + \gamma \mathbf{K})^{-1}.$$

- * Here \mathbf{X} is one of the “other parameters”
- * Essentially we’re fitting a spline to the imputed and observed Y ’s

GIBBS SAMPLING

* Estimate of β , call it $\hat{\beta}$, is

$$(\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} + \gamma \mathbf{K})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{Y}$$

averaged over γ and \mathbf{X} .

GIBBS SAMPLING

- The exception to the sampling being quick and easy is when a Metropolis-Hastings step is needed for X_1, \dots, X_n

$$\begin{aligned} & [X_i | \mu_x, \sigma_x^2, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma_e^2, \sigma_u^2, \mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{W}] \\ & \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma_u^2} \sum_{j=1}^{m_i} (W_{ij} - X_i)^2\right) \\ & \quad -\frac{1}{2\sigma_\epsilon^2} \{Y_i - m(X_i; \boldsymbol{\beta})\}^2 - \frac{1}{2\sigma_x^2} (X_i - \mu_x)^2 \end{aligned}$$

BAYESIAN INFERENCE

- Let \tilde{X} be the spline basis function evaluated on a some interval, $[a, b]$.
- $\tilde{X}\beta$ is the curve on $[a, b]$..
- $\tilde{X}\hat{\beta}$ is the estimated curve.
- Let K_α be the $(1 - \alpha)$ MCMC sample quantile of

$$\max_{\text{grid}} \left\{ \frac{\tilde{X}(\beta - \hat{\beta})}{\text{SD}(\tilde{X}\beta)} \right\}.$$

- Then,

$$\tilde{X}\hat{\beta} \pm K_{.95} \text{SD}(\tilde{X}\beta)$$

is a $100(1 - \alpha)\%$ simultaneous confidence band for $[a, b]$.

BAYESIAN INFERENCE

- Let \tilde{X}' be derivatives of the spline basis function on a fine grid over $[a, b]$.
- $\tilde{X}'\beta$ is the curve's derivative on $[a, b]$.
- $\tilde{X}'\hat{\beta}$ is the estimated derivative.
- Let K'_α be the $(1 - \alpha)$ MCMC sample quantile of

$$\max_{\text{grid}} \left\{ \frac{\tilde{X}'(\beta - \hat{\beta})}{\text{SD}(\tilde{X}'\beta)} \right\}.$$

- Then,

$$\tilde{X}'\hat{\beta} \pm K'_{.95} \text{SD}(\tilde{X}'\beta)$$

is a $100(1 - \alpha)\%$ simultaneous confidence band for the derivative on $[a, b]$.

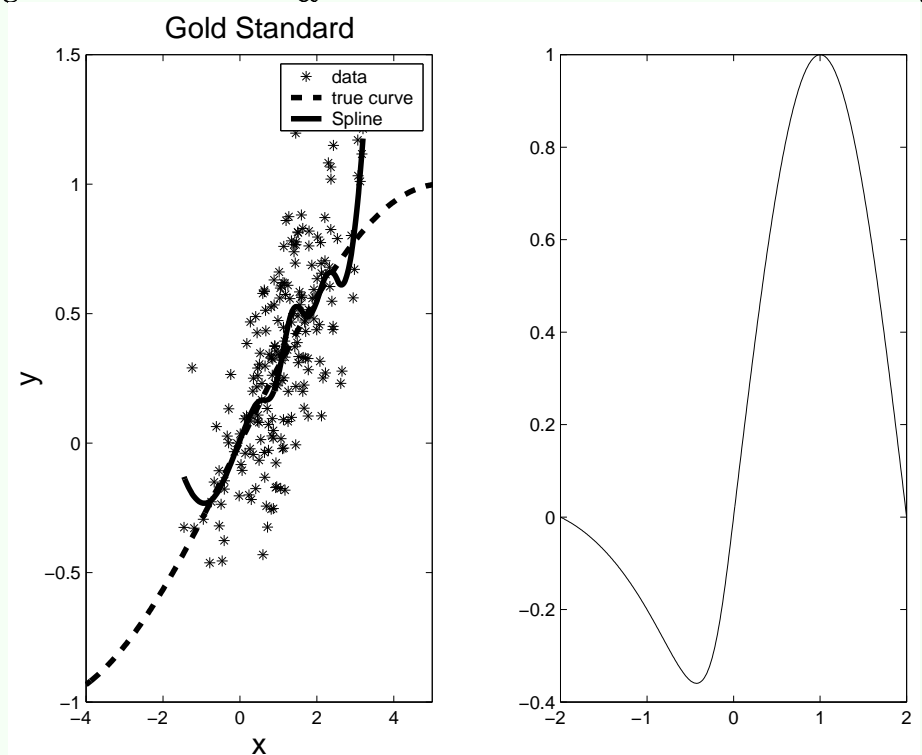
SIMULATIONS

The six cases were considered. $n_i \equiv 2$ in each case

Case 1 The regression function is

$$m(x) = \frac{\sin(\pi x/2)}{1 + 2x^2\{\text{sign}(x) + 1\}}.$$

with $n = 100$, $\sigma_\epsilon^2 = 0.3^2$, $\sigma_u^2 = 0.8^2$, $\mu_x = 0$ and $\sigma_x^2 =$



Case 2 Same as Case 1 except $n = 200$.

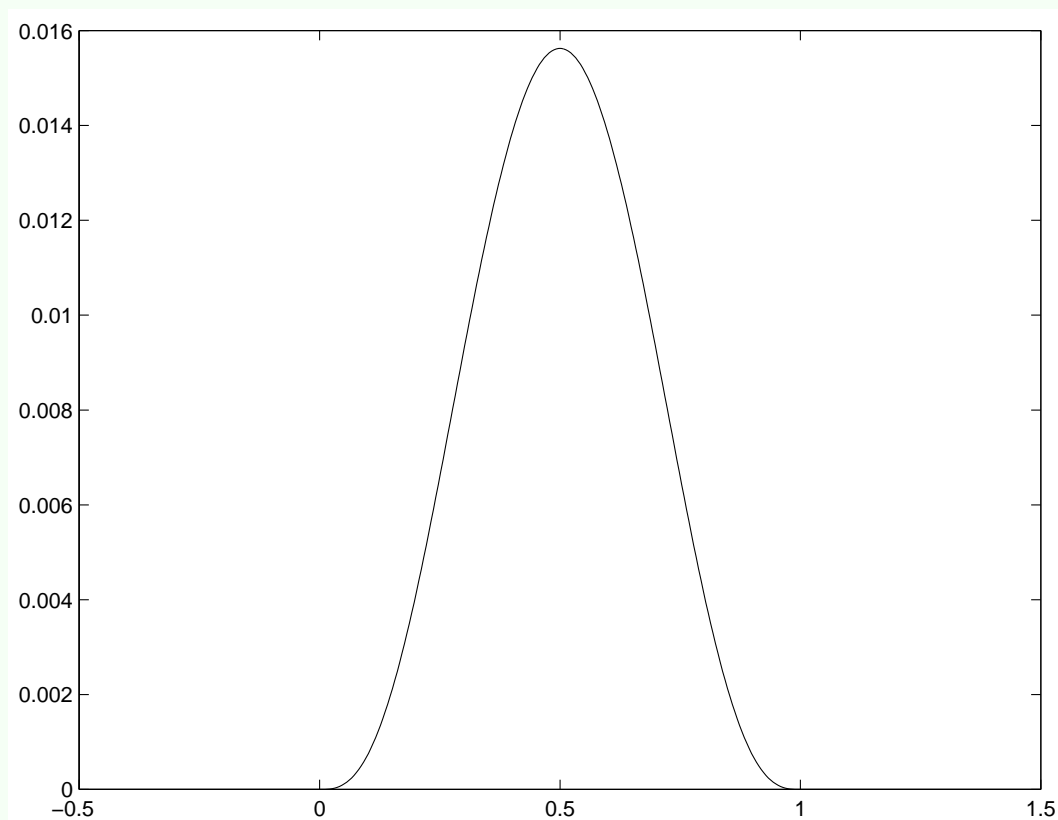
Case 3 A modification of Case 1 above except that n

Case 4 Case 1 of CMR so that

$$m(x) = 1000x_+^3(1-x)_+^3,$$

$x_+ = xI(x > 0)$, with $n = 200$, $\sigma_\epsilon^2 = 0.0015^2$,

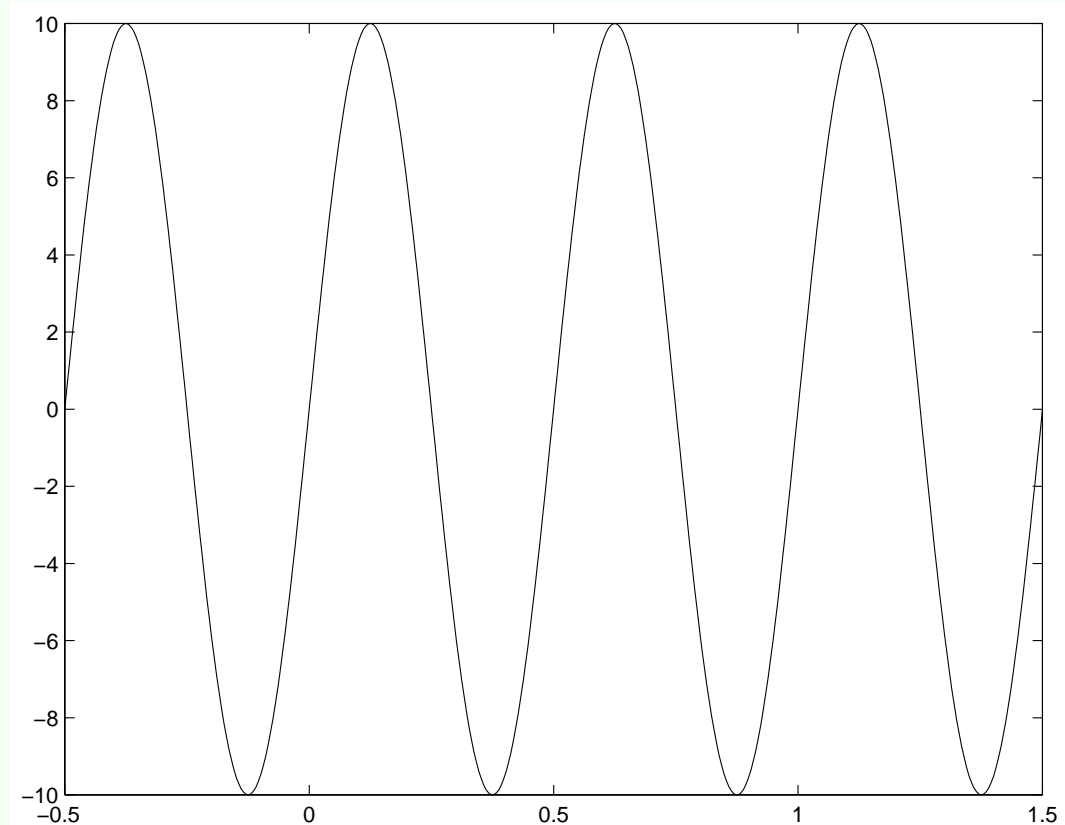
$\mu_x = 0.5$ and $\sigma_x^2 = 0.25^2$.



Case 5 A modification of Case 4 of **CMR** so that

$$m(x) = 10 \sin(4\pi x),$$

with $n = 500$, $\sigma_\epsilon^2 = 0.05^2$, $\sigma_u^2 = 0.141^2$, $\mu_x = 0.5$ and



Case 6 The same as Case 1 above except that X is chi-square(4) random variable. (Tests robustness of the structural assumptions.)

Mean Squared Bias $\times 10^2$					
Method	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4	Case 5
Naive	5.59	4.92	5.21	1,108	3.8
Bayes	0.78	0.38	1.04	17.4	4.2
Structural, 5 knots	1.38	0.62	0.46	3.7	8.1
Structural, 15 knots	1.44	0.60	0.66	3.3	2.1

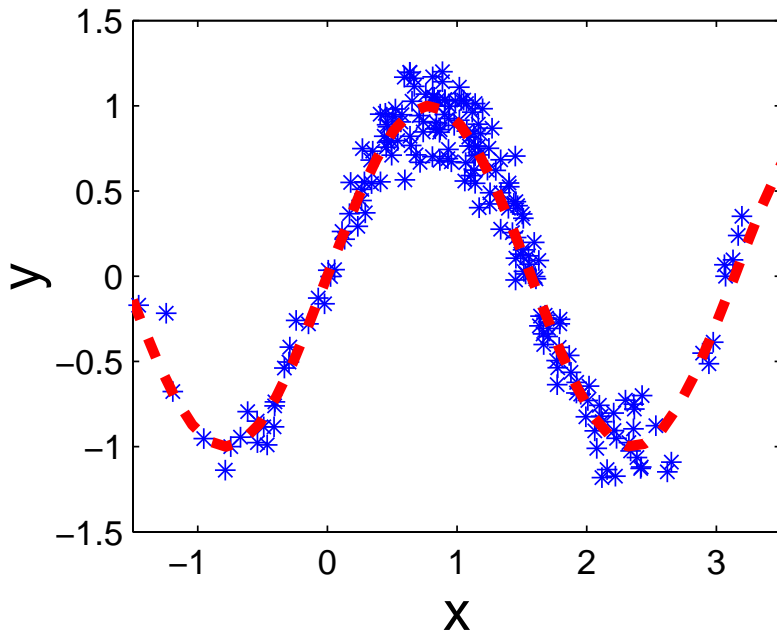
Mean Squared Error $\times 10^2$					
Method	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4	Case 5
Naive	6.91	5.57	5.38	1,155	3.8
Bayes	2.84	1.56	1.47	195	1.9
Structural, 5 knots	8.17	3.82	1.73	217	2.1
Structural, 15 knots	9.90	5.40	1.85	237	7.1

Results based on 200 Monte Carlo simulations for each case. The value for Case 5 was not included in the table — it was not among the best results.

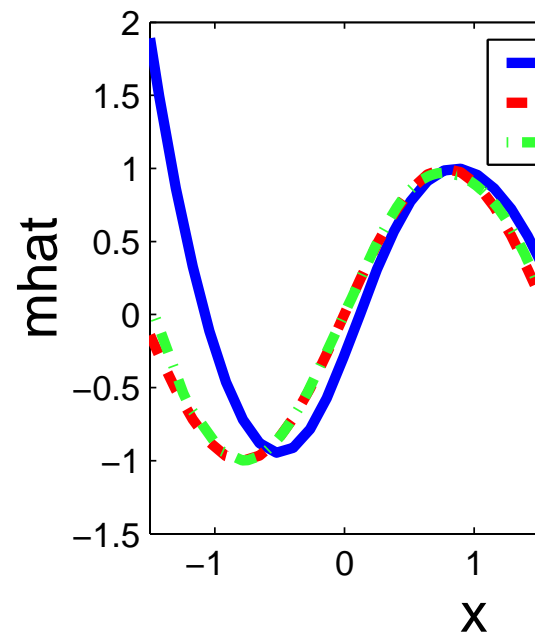
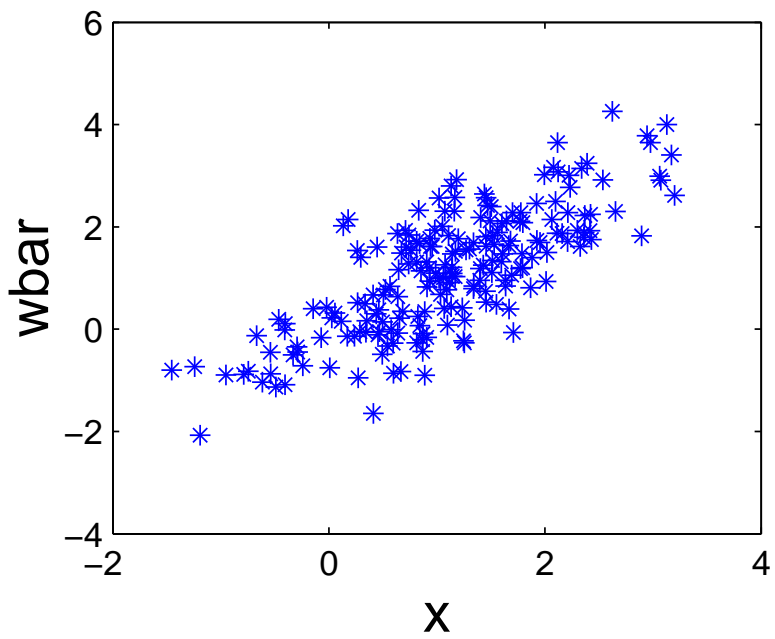
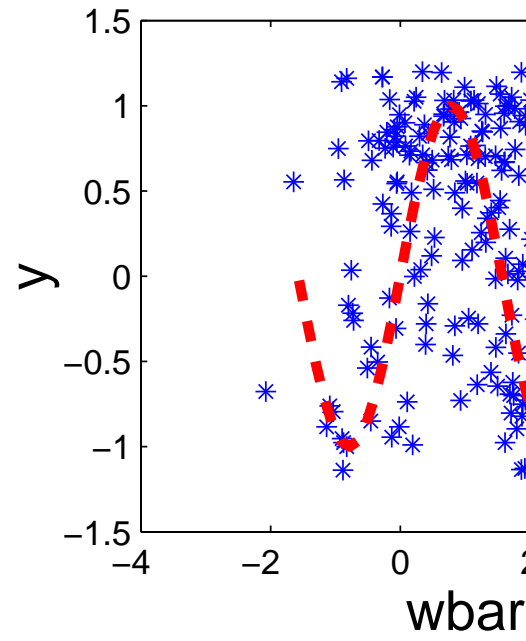
EXAMPLE — SIMULATED

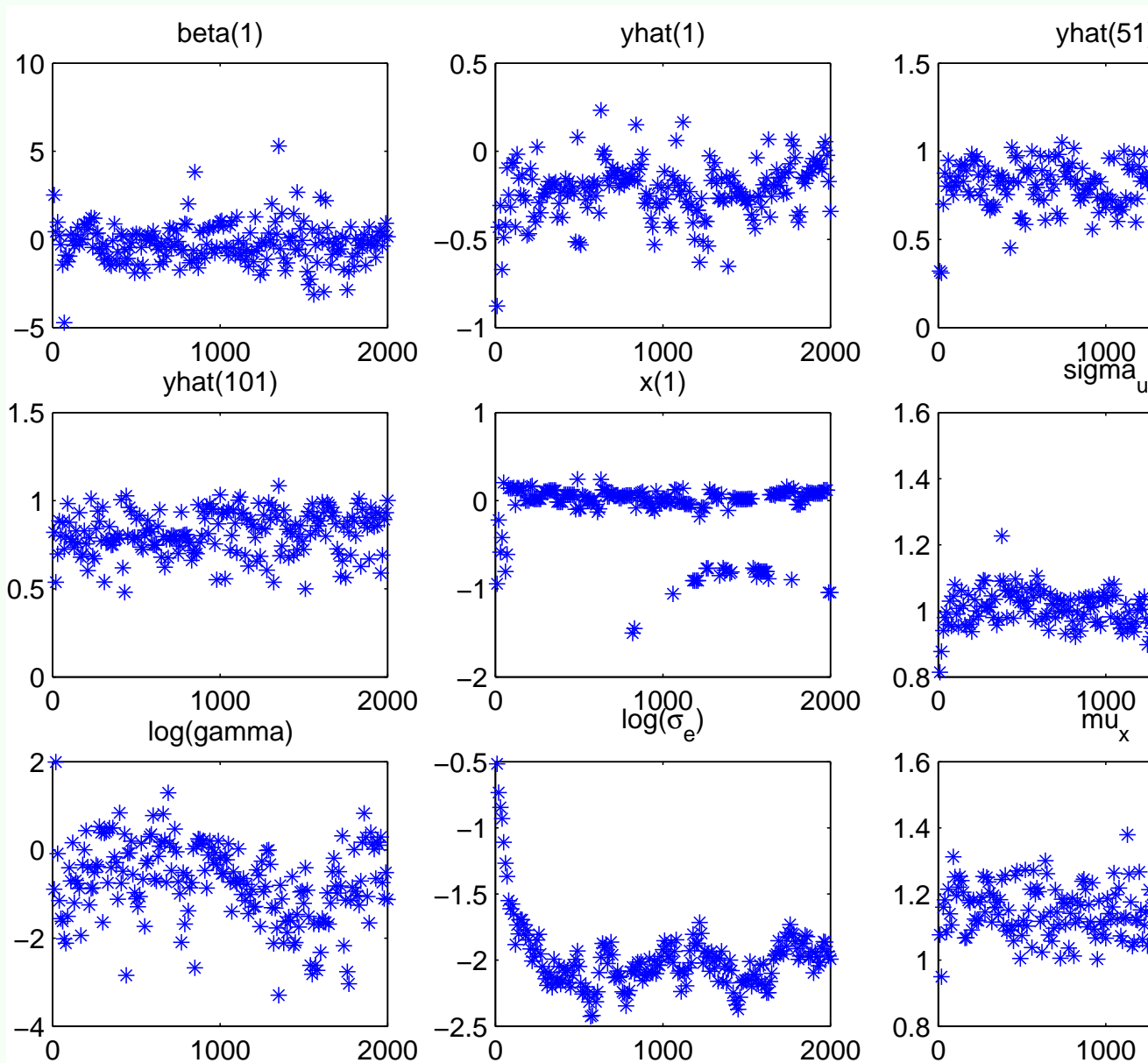
- $Y = \sin(2X) + \epsilon$
- X is $N(1, 1)$
- $\sigma_u = 1$
- $\sigma_e = 0.15$
- $n = 201$
- $n_i = 2$ for all i
- 15 knot quadratic P-splines
- 2,000 iterations of Gibbs. First 667 deleted as burn

Gold Standard



Data with measurement noise





Results of Gibbs Sampling. Every twentieth iteration is plotted.

Note: $X(1) = -1.45$ and $\bar{W}(1) = -0.8$. Also, $\log(\sigma_e)$

EXAMPLE — SIMULATED

What does the Bayes approach work so well? Here's
tion:

**Bayes uses all possible information to estimate
cially, $m(X)$.**

- $\|m(X) - E\{m(X)|\mathbf{W}, \mathbf{Y}, \text{other param.}\}\|$
 $\approx \|m(X) - \text{ave}\{m(\hat{X})\}\| = 2.47$
- $\|m(X) - m(E\{X|\mathbf{W}, \mathbf{Y}, \text{other param.}\})\|$
 $\approx \|m(X) - m(\text{ave}\{\hat{X}\})\| = 4.67$
- $\|m(X) - m(E(X|\overline{W}))\| = 10.25$
- $\|m(X) - m(\overline{W})\| = 12.36$

DISCUSSION

- With the work of **CMR** and **BCR** we now have more efficient estimators for nonparametric regression with measurement error.
 - SIMEX (LPR and splines) — in **CMR**
 - (Flexible) Structural splines — in **CMR**
 - Fully Bayesian (hardcore structural) — in **BCR**

DISCUSSION

- With **BCR** we have a methodology that
 - automatically selects the amount of smoothing
 - estimates the unknown X 's
 - allows inference that takes account of the effects of parameter selection and measurement error
- Most efficient methods appear to be structural, though they may be competitive
 - hardcore structural methods seem reasonably robust