

# Outliers Impact on Parameter Estimation of Gaussian and Non-Gaussian State Space Models: A Simulation Study <sup>†</sup>

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**Abstract:** State space models are powerful and quite flexible tools that allow systems that vary significantly over time due to their formulation to be dealt with, because the models' parameters vary over time. Assuming a known distribution of errors, in particular the Gaussian distribution, parameter estimation is usually performed by maximum likelihood. However, in time series data, it is common to have discrepant values that can impact statistical data analysis. This paper presents a simulation study with several scenarios to find out in which situations outliers can affect the maximum likelihood estimators. The results obtained were evaluated in terms of the difference between the maximum likelihood estimate and the true value of the parameter and the rate of valid estimates. It was found that both for Gaussian and exponential errors, outliers had more impact in two situations: when the sample size is small and the autoregressive parameter is close to 1, and when the sample size is large and the autoregressive parameter is close to 0.25.

**Keywords:** state space models; parameter estimation; outliers; simulation study



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## 1. Introduction

There are several books in the literature that describe state space models in detail [1–5]. A major advantage of these models is the possibility of explicitly integrating the unobservable components of a time series by relating to each other stochastically.

State space models have in their structure a latent process, the state, which is not observed. The Kalman filter is typically used to estimate it, as it is a recursive algorithm that, at each time, computes the optimal estimator in the sense that it has the minimum mean squared error of the state when the model is fully specified, and one-step-ahead predictions by updating and improving the predictions of the state vector in real time when new observations become available. The Kalman filter was originally developed by control engineering in the 1960s in one of Kalman's papers [6] describing a recursive solution to the linear filter problem for discrete time. Today, this algorithm is applied in various areas of study.

Usually, to estimate the unknown parameters of the model, the maximum likelihood method is used by assuming normality of the errors; however, this assumption cannot always be guaranteed. Non-parametric estimation methods can be a strong contribution when it comes to the initial values of iterative methods used to optimize the likelihood function, which often do not verify the convergence of the algorithms due to the initial choice of these parameters. For example, ref. [7] propose estimators based on the generalized method of moments, the distribution-free estimators, where these estimators do not depend on the distribution of errors.

Nevertheless, even if the assumption of normality of errors is not verified, the Kalman filter still returns optimal predictions within the class of all linear estimators. However, the optimal properties of Kalman filter predictors can only be ensured when all state space models' parameters are known. When the unknown parameter vector is replaced by its estimate, the mean squared error of the estimators is underestimated.

The analysis and modeling of dynamic systems through state space models has been quite useful given its flexibility. In its formulation, the state process is assumed to be a Markov process, allowing optimal predictions of the states and, consequently, observations based only on the optimal estimator of the current state to be obtained.

Despite these advantages, any prediction model is dependent on the quality of the data. Particularly, in many cases, meteorological time series are subject to higher uncertainties, and Kalman filter solutions can be biased [8].

In particular, outliers are an important issue in time series modeling. Time series data are typically dependent on each other and the presence of outliers can impact parameter estimates, forecasting and also inference results [9]. In the presence of incomplete data and outliers in the observed data, ref. [10] developed a modified robust Kalman filter. Ref. [11] showed that linear Gaussian state space models are suitable for estimating the unknown parameters and can consequently affect the state predictions, especially when the measurement error was much larger than the stochasticity of the process. Ref. [12] proposed a non-parametric estimation method based on statistical data depth functions to obtain robust estimates of the mean and the covariance matrix of the asset returns, which is more robust in the presence of outliers, and also does not require parametric assumptions.

This work arose from the project "TO CHAIR—The Optimal Challenges in Irrigation", in which short-term forecast models, with the state space representation, were developed to model the time series of maximum air temperature. For this project, we analyzed data provided by the University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, corresponding to the maximum air temperature observed in a farm, located in the district of Bragança, between 20 February and 11 October 2019, and data from the website weatherstack.com, corresponding to the forecasts with a time horizon of 1 to 6 days of the same meteorological variable for the same location. The main goal focused on improving the accuracy of the forecasts for the farm. However, there were some modeling problems, particularly regarding the convergence of the numerical method, which arose in the presence of outliers.

Therefore, to evaluate and compare the quality of the estimates of the unknown parameters of the linear invariant state space model in the presence of outliers, this paper presents four simulation studies: the first is based on the linear Gaussian state space model; the second is based on the linear Gaussian state space model with contaminated observations; the third is based on the linear non-Gaussian state space model with exponential errors; and the last one is based on the linear non-Gaussian state space model with exponential errors and contaminated observations. For each of the four studies, several scenarios were tested, in which 2000 samples with valid estimates of size  $n$  ( $n = 50, 200, 500$ ) were simulated. The results obtained were evaluated in terms of the difference between the maximum likelihood estimate and the true value of the parameter and the rate of valid estimates.

## 2. Simulation Design

In general, the linear univariate state space model is given as follows:

$$Y_t = \beta_t W_t + e_t, \text{ observation equation} \quad (1)$$

$$\beta_t = \mu + \phi(\beta_{t-1} - \mu) + \varepsilon_t, \text{ state equation} \quad (2)$$

where  $t = 1, \dots, n$  is the discrete time and

- $Y_t$  is the observed data;
- $W_t$  is a factor, assumed to be known, that relates the observation  $Y_t$  to the state  $\beta_t$  at time  $t$ ;

- $\{\beta_t\}_{t=1,\dots,n} \sim AR(1), -1 < \phi < 1, E(\beta_t) = \mu, \text{ and } var(\beta_t) = \frac{\sigma_\varepsilon^2}{1 - \phi^2};$
- $E(e_t) = 0, E(e_t e_s) = 0, \forall t \neq s, \text{ and } var(e_t) = \sigma_e^2;$
- $E(\varepsilon_t) = 0, E(\varepsilon_t \varepsilon_s) = 0, \forall t \neq s, \text{ and } var(\varepsilon_t) = \sigma_\varepsilon^2;$
- $E(e_t \varepsilon_s) = 0, \forall t, s.$

This paper aims to investigate under what conditions the presence of outliers affects the estimation of parameters and states in the state space model. Thus, we simulate time series of size  $n$  ( $n = 50, 200, 500$ ) using the model defined by Equations (1) and (2). For simplicity's sake, we consider for all simulation studies  $W_t = 1, \forall t$ , and  $\mu = 0$ , that is

$$Y_t = \beta_t + e_t, \tag{3}$$

$$\beta_t = \phi\beta_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t, \quad t = 1, \dots, n. \tag{4}$$

To create the contamination scenario, we study real time series concerning maximum air temperature. We used data from two different sources: the first corresponds to daily records of maximum air temperature between 20 February and 11 October 2019 (234 observations) through a portable weather station installed on a farm located in the Bragança district in northeastern Portugal; the second database corresponds to forecasts from the weatherstack.com website. These forecasts have a time horizon of up to 6 days; this means that, for a certain time  $t$ , we have forecasts given at times  $t - 6, t - 5, \dots, t - 1$ .

So, first we took the difference between the recorded/observed maximum temperature and the website's forecasts, say,  $\Lambda_{t,(h)}$ , where  $t$  is the time, in days, and  $h$  is the time horizon of the forecasts,  $h = 1, \dots, 6$  days. Next, we calculated the percentage of outliers of  $\Lambda_{t,(h)}$ , whose percentage was on average 5%. Regarding the variable  $\Lambda_{t,(h)}$ , outliers were removed and replaced by linear interpolation, say,  $\Lambda_{t,(h)}^*$ , in order to remove the contamination present in the data, and its mean was subtracted,  $\Lambda_{t,(h)}^* - mean(\Lambda_{t,(h)}^*)$ , so that it had zero mean. Then, for each time horizon  $h$  ( $h = 1, \dots, 6$ ), the model with a state space representation presented by Equations (3) and (4) was fitted to the data  $\Lambda_{t,(h)}^* - mean(\Lambda_{t,(h)}^*)$ .

In order to establish a relationship between the estimates of parameters  $\phi, \sigma_\varepsilon^2$  and  $\sigma_e^2$ , that were obtained from the "non-contaminated" data, and the magnitude of the outliers of  $\Lambda_{t,(h)}$ , the linear regression model was fitted, whose relationship is given by

$$k = 1.8874 + 3.5161 \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_\varepsilon^2}{1 - \phi^2} + \sigma_e^2} \tag{5}$$

where  $k = |\text{outliers of } \Lambda_{t,(h)} - \text{mean of } \Lambda_{t,(h)} \text{ without outliers}|$ , is the magnitude of the outliers, and  $\frac{\sigma_\varepsilon^2}{1 - \phi^2} + \sigma_e^2$  is the total variance of  $Y_t$ . In total,  $\Lambda_{t,(h)}$  ( $h = 1, \dots, 6$ ) shows 59 outliers.

In this work, four simulation scenarios were tested:

1. The first is based on the linear Gaussian state space model given by

$$Y_t = \beta_t + e_t, \quad e_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_e^2)$$

$$\beta_t = \phi\beta_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t, \quad \varepsilon_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_\varepsilon^2), \quad t = 1, \dots, n$$

2. The second is based on the linear Gaussian state space model with contaminated observations.

To contaminate the model, the deterministic factor  $k$ , given in (5), is added in this way

$$Y_t = \beta_t + e_t + I_t k, \quad e_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_e^2)$$

$$\beta_t = \phi \beta_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t, \quad \varepsilon_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_\varepsilon^2),$$

where  $I_t \sim \mathcal{B}(1, 0.05)$ .

3. The third is based on the linear non-Gaussian state space model with exponential errors defined by

$$Y_t = \beta_t + e_t, \quad e_t \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda_e) - \frac{1}{\lambda_e}$$

$$\beta_t = \phi \beta_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t, \quad \varepsilon_t \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda_\varepsilon) - \frac{1}{\lambda_\varepsilon}, \quad t = 1, \dots, n$$

4. The last one is based on the linear non-Gaussian state space model with exponential errors and contaminated observations. Similar to scenario 2, we have

$$Y_t = \beta_t + e_t + I_t k, \quad e_t \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda_e) - \frac{1}{\lambda_e}$$

$$\beta_t = \phi \beta_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t, \quad \varepsilon_t \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda_\varepsilon) - \frac{1}{\lambda_\varepsilon}, \quad t = 1, \dots, n$$

where  $I_t \sim \mathcal{B}(1, 0.05)$ , and  $k$  given in (5).

For each of the four scenarios, sample sizes of  $n = 50, 200, 500$  were simulated. In this study, a range of values were simulated for  $\phi$  (0.25, 0.75), and  $\sigma_\varepsilon^2$  and  $\sigma_e^2$  (0.10, 1.00, 5.00, 0.10, 2.00, 0.05). For each parameter combination, 2000 replicates with valid estimates were considered, i.e., estimates within the parameter space:  $-1 < \phi < 1$ ,  $\sigma_\varepsilon > 0$ , and  $\sigma_e > 0$ . In all simulations, we take the initial state  $\beta_0 = 0$  in the Kalman filter.

To evaluate the quality of the parameter estimates, we considered the Root Mean Square Error (RMSE),

$$\text{RMSE}(\Theta) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2000} \sum_{i=1}^{2000} (\Theta_i - \hat{\Theta}_i)^2}$$

the Mean Absolute Error (MAE),

$$\text{MAE}(\Theta) = \frac{1}{2000} \sum_{i=1}^{2000} |\Theta_i - \hat{\Theta}_i|$$

the Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE),

$$\text{MAPE}(\Theta) = \frac{1}{2000} \sum_{i=1}^{2000} \left| \frac{\Theta_i - \hat{\Theta}_i}{\Theta_i} \right| \times 100$$

$\Theta = (\phi, \sigma_\varepsilon^2, \sigma_e^2)$  and the convergence rate. The convergence rate provides information about the percentage of valid estimates among all simulations (simulations with valid and non-valid estimates). The convergence rate is given by the number of valid simulated estimates (in this case, 2000) divided by the number of total simulations.

To estimate the unknown parameters of the state space model (3) and (4)  $\Theta = (\phi, \sigma_\varepsilon^2, \sigma_e^2)$  of each simulation, the maximum likelihood method was used by assuming the normality of the disturbances for all four scenarios. Log-likelihood maximization was performed by the Newton–Raphson numerical method. In this study, the R package “*astsa*” was used [3,13,14].

### 3. Results

In this section, the simulation results are presented. Tables 1–3 present the results of the simulations in terms of the RMSE, MAE, MAPE (%) and the convergence rate (%) for sample sizes  $n = 50$ ,  $n = 200$  and  $n = 500$ , respectively, considering both non-contaminated (NC) and contaminated Gaussian errors. Tables 4–6 show the simulation results considering contaminated and non-contaminated exponential errors.

**Table 1.** RMSE, MAE, MAPE and convergence rate of  $\Theta$  with 2000 simulations of sample sizes  $n = 50$ , considering Gaussian errors (NC = Non-Contaminated; C = Contaminated).

Parameters			RMSE			MAE			MAPE (%)			Convergence Rate	
$\phi$	$\sigma_\xi^2$	$\sigma_e^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\xi^2$	$\sigma_e^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\xi^2$	$\sigma_e^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\xi^2$	$\sigma_e^2$	(%)	
0.25	0.10	0.05	NC	0.2542	0.0563	0.0502	0.1894	0.0484	0.0452	75.7423	48.3383	90.4927	2000/2679 $\simeq$ 75%
			C	0.3823	0.3325	0.3095	0.2983	0.2375	0.2052	119.3057	237.5420	410.4236	2000/3059 $\simeq$ 65%
	1.00	0.10	NC	0.2598	0.4638	0.3699	0.1934	0.3634	0.2632	77.3528	36.3408	263.1570	2000/2466 $\simeq$ 81%
			C	0.3514	1.3520	1.2319	0.2717	1.0957	0.7552	108.6993	109.5651	755.1521	2000/2295 $\simeq$ 87%
	5.00	2.00	NC	0.2880	2.7078	2.2864	0.2184	2.2837	1.9787	87.3520	45.6746	98.9341	2000/2515 $\simeq$ 80%
			C	0.3820	6.3580	5.6467	0.2994	5.1446	4.1499	119.7610	102.8927	207.4966	2000/2223 $\simeq$ 90%
	0.10	1.00	NC	0.3320	0.6580	0.6630	0.2634	0.4794	0.5380	105.3703	479.3548	53.7974	2000/3520 $\simeq$ 57%
			C	0.4851	1.5345	1.1760	0.3916	1.0672	0.9876	156.6558	1067.1860	98.7612	2000/2533 $\simeq$ 79%
	2.00	5.00	NC	0.3097	3.3616	3.3738	0.2404	2.6656	2.7813	96.1717	133.2785	55.6251	2000/3137 $\simeq$ 64%
			C	0.4735	6.8657	5.6124	0.3706	4.8976	4.7397	148.2420	244.8814	94.7940	2000/2265 $\simeq$ 88%
	0.05	0.10	NC	0.2672	0.0750	0.0727	0.2077	0.0621	0.0620	83.0659	124.1018	62.0471	2000/3015 $\simeq$ 66%
			C	0.4473	0.3198	0.3676	0.3585	0.2216	0.2602	143.4173	443.1005	260.2065	2000/3033 $\simeq$ 66%
0.75	0.10	0.05	NC	0.1595	0.0503	0.0367	0.1228	0.0413	0.0309	16.3687	41.2797	61.7597	2000/2265 $\simeq$ 88%
			C	0.4356	0.3444	0.5165	0.3019	0.1916	0.3533	40.2592	191.5928	706.5637	2000/3843 $\simeq$ 52%
	1.00	0.10	NC	0.1190	0.3430	0.1885	0.0917	0.2728	0.1408	12.2261	27.2783	140.7727	2000/2374 $\simeq$ 84%
			C	0.3056	1.3890	2.3812	0.2071	0.9184	1.7949	27.6161	91.8402	1794.8840	2000/2552 $\simeq$ 78%
	5.00	2.00	NC	0.1364	2.2249	1.5857	0.1062	1.8382	1.3111	14.1653	36.7633	65.5527	2000/2220 $\simeq$ 90%
			C	0.2899	6.8220	10.8105	0.1897	4.5106	8.5797	25.2983	90.2117	428.9829	2000/2192 $\simeq$ 91%
	0.10	1.00	NC	0.3152	0.4849	0.4972	0.2410	0.3009	0.3666	32.1341	300.8559	36.6612	2000/2695 $\simeq$ 74%
			C	0.5611	1.4225	1.4693	0.3981	0.8159	1.2037	53.0740	815.9315	120.3714	2000/2751 $\simeq$ 73%
	2.00	5.00	NC	0.2362	2.6149	2.4755	0.1784	1.8878	1.9114	23.7931	94.3914	38.2272	2000/2228 $\simeq$ 90%
			C	0.4479	6.7006	7.5337	0.3085	4.2198	6.1402	41.1287	210.9902	122.8036	2000/2302 $\simeq$ 87%
	0.05	0.10	NC	0.2296	0.0582	0.0526	0.1743	0.0429	0.0414	23.2456	85.7212	41.3812	2000/2223 $\simeq$ 90%
			C	0.5148	0.3089	0.4349	0.3731	0.1787	0.3175	49.7412	357.4894	317.4564	2000/3234 $\simeq$ 62%

As expected, contamination had an impact on the performance of the maximum likelihood estimators.

First, it is seen that for small sample sizes and non-contaminated errors, the convergence rate tends to decrease. For example, for  $n = 500$  in the case of non-contaminated Gaussian errors, the convergence rate was over 72%, while for  $n = 50$ , it was over 57%. For contaminated Gaussian and exponential errors, the convergence rate decreased compared to non-contaminated errors.

Overall, an improvement in the rate of valid estimates (convergence rate) is noticeable when  $\phi = 0.75$  compared to  $\phi = 0.25$  in the case of non-contaminated Gaussian and exponential errors. In the case of contaminated Gaussian and exponential errors, this behavior only occurred when  $n = 500$ .

**Table 2.** RMSE, MAE, MAPE and convergence rate of  $\Theta$  with 2000 simulations of sample sizes  $n = 200$ , considering Gaussian errors (NC = Non-Contaminated; C = Contaminated).

Parameters			RMSE			MAE			MAPE (%)			Convergence Rate	
$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	(%)	
0.25	0.10	0.05	NC	0.2125	0.0533	0.0486	0.1552	0.0481	0.0445	62.0843	48.0637	89.0227	2000/2142 $\simeq$ 93%
			C	0.4414	0.2937	0.3973	0.3511	0.2170	0.3170	140.4550	216.9786	634.0003	2000/3415 $\simeq$ 59%
	1.00	0.10	NC	0.1827	0.3872	0.3342	0.1263	0.2890	0.2466	50.5172	28.8980	246.6108	2000/2158 $\simeq$ 93%
			C	0.3302	1.2494	1.3655	0.2531	1.1183	0.8983	101.2448	111.8291	898.3335	2000/2339 $\simeq$ 86%
	5.00	2.00	NC	0.2257	2.4857	2.2298	0.1647	2.1584	1.9656	65.8709	43.1676	98.2816	2000/2114 $\simeq$ 95%
			C	0.3210	6.0353	5.7585	0.2525	5.2843	4.1940	101.0001	105.6860	209.6988	2000/2171 $\simeq$ 92%
	0.10	1.00	NC	0.3294	0.5910	0.5952	0.2693	0.4203	0.4418	107.7206	420.3230	44.1772	2000/3064 $\simeq$ 65%
			C	0.5079	1.1490	1.2565	0.4159	0.7094	1.1202	166.3406	709.3999	112.0214	2000/2934 $\simeq$ 68%
	2.00	5.00	NC	0.2942	3.1051	3.0346	0.2352	2.4888	2.4204	94.0959	124.4377	48.4077	2000/2432 $\simeq$ 82%
			C	0.4888	5.2005	5.9769	0.3932	3.6031	5.3909	157.2640	180.1539	107.8174	2000/2355 $\simeq$ 85%
	0.05	0.10	NC	0.2512	0.0690	0.0672	0.1992	0.0574	0.0555	79.6690	114.7299	55.4981	2000/2353 $\simeq$ 85%
			C	0.4992	0.2898	0.3841	0.4026	0.1951	0.3182	161.0268	390.1951	318.2143	2000/3550 $\simeq$ 56%
0.75	0.10	0.05	NC	0.0791	0.0306	0.0223	0.0613	0.0243	0.0177	8.1741	24.2574	35.4005	2000/2020 $\simeq$ 99%
			C	0.3249	0.1774	0.6307	0.1998	0.1042	0.5622	26.6395	104.1552	1124.3160	2000/5655 $\simeq$ 35%
	1.00	0.10	NC	0.0557	0.1838	0.1057	0.0442	0.1468	0.0859	5.8966	14.6823	85.8500	2000/2175 $\simeq$ 92%
			C	0.2726	0.7185	2.5998	0.1459	0.5113	2.3158	19.4529	51.1345	2315.7740	2000/3564 $\simeq$ 56%
	5.00	2.00	NC	0.0763	1.4259	0.9946	0.0596	1.1414	0.7971	7.9484	22.8271	39.8563	2000/2022 $\simeq$ 99%
			C	0.1241	3.4324	10.9591	0.0944	2.3950	10.0756	12.5843	47.8992	503.7812	2000/2054 $\simeq$ 97%
	0.10	1.00	NC	0.2457	0.3409	0.3348	0.1779	0.1836	0.2116	23.7169	183.5833	21.1571	2000/2139 $\simeq$ 94%
			C	0.4690	0.8662	1.5181	0.3137	0.4036	1.3994	41.8257	403.6151	139.9393	2000/2673 $\simeq$ 75%
	2.00	5.00	NC	0.1293	1.4609	1.3363	0.0943	1.0084	0.9691	12.5672	50.4175	19.3819	2000/2012 $\simeq$ 99%
			C	0.3233	3.2270	7.9895	0.1826	1.8840	7.3360	24.3493	94.1989	146.7208	2000/2320 $\simeq$ 86%
	0.05	0.10	NC	0.1246	0.0326	0.0291	0.0927	0.0232	0.0216	12.3547	46.3956	21.6304	2000/2025 $\simeq$ 99%
			C	0.3633	0.2014	0.4895	0.2410	0.1021	0.4373	32.1288	204.1943	437.3301	2000/4233 $\simeq$ 47%

When the errors are not contaminated, the RMSE, MAE and MAPE tend to decrease with increasing sample size. However, this premise is not true when the errors are contaminated. In fact, it was found that for both Gaussian and exponential errors, outliers had more impact in two situations: when  $\phi = 0.75$  and  $n = 50$  (Tables 1 and 4); and when  $\phi = 0.25$  and  $n = 500$  (Tables 3 and 6). This impact is reflected in the RMSE, MAE and MAPE, which produced very high values.

Furthermore, there are many cases where, for example, the RMSE of the estimators of the contaminated errors are 3 times higher than the RMSE of the non-contaminated errors. For example, in the case of the Gaussian errors with  $n = 500$ ,  $\phi = 0.25$ ,  $\sigma_\epsilon^2 = 0.10$  and  $\sigma_\epsilon^2 = 0.05$ , the RMSE of  $\phi$ ,  $\sigma_\epsilon^2$  and  $\sigma_\epsilon^2$  of the contaminated Gaussian errors were about 3, 6 and 11 times higher, respectively, compared to the non-contaminated Gaussian errors (Table 3).

On the other hand, comparing both the Gaussian and exponential error cases, we find that there are no significant differences in the convergence rate, as well as in the efficiency of the autoregressive  $\phi$  estimator. However, the RMSE, MAE and MAPE of the variance estimators,  $\sigma_\epsilon^2$  and  $\sigma_\epsilon^2$ , are in general higher in the case of exponential errors.

**Table 3.** RMSE, MAE, MAPE and convergence rate of  $\Theta$  with 2000 simulations of sample sizes  $n = 500$ , considering Gaussian errors (NC = non-contaminated; C = contaminated).

Parameters			RMSE			MAE			MAPE (%)			Convergence Rate	
$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	(%)	
0.25	0.10	0.05	NC	0.1670	0.0487	0.0451	0.1246	0.0440	0.0410	49.8262	43.9675	81.9983	2000/2090 $\simeq$ 96%
			C	0.5099	0.2843	0.4946	0.4266	0.2027	0.4261	170.6503	202.6937	852.1144	2000/3936 $\simeq$ 51%
	1.00	0.10	NC	0.1322	0.3212	0.2834	0.0926	0.2411	0.2142	37.0469	24.1096	214.2324	2000/2073 $\simeq$ 96%
			C	0.3757	1.0511	1.6760	0.2954	0.9210	1.3679	118.1795	92.1025	1367.9340	2000/2309 $\simeq$ 87%
	5.00	2.00	NC	0.1665	2.1973	2.0204	0.1219	1.9401	1.8018	48.7737	38.8022	90.0924	2000/2015 $\simeq$ 99%
			C	0.3571	5.2313	7.1197	0.2745	4.4927	6.0116	109.7836	89.8549	300.5794	2000/2154 $\simeq$ 93%
	0.10	1.00	NC	0.3186	0.5157	0.5157	0.2655	0.3497	0.3555	106.1993	349.7172	35.5477	2000/2793 $\simeq$ 72%
			C	0.5660	1.0072	1.2870	0.4735	0.5918	1.1856	189.3834	591.7733	118.5649	2000/2666 $\simeq$ 75%
	2.00	5.00	NC	0.2596	2.7002	2.6426	0.2080	2.1282	2.0529	83.2062	106.4111	41.0575	2000/2102 $\simeq$ 95%
			C	0.4327	4.9215	5.7057	0.3449	3.4861	5.2227	137.9698	174.3029	104.4536	2000/2347 $\simeq$ 85%
	0.05	0.10	NC	0.2375	0.0645	0.0628	0.1900	0.0528	0.0510	75.9833	105.5881	50.9948	2000/2082 $\simeq$ 96%
			C	0.5787	0.2691	0.4908	0.5039	0.1635	0.4430	201.5559	326.9245	443.0177	2000/4751 $\simeq$ 42%
0.75	0.10	0.05	NC	0.0477	0.0195	0.0142	0.0373	0.0154	0.0114	4.9771	15.3516	22.7729	2000/2003 $\simeq$ 100%
			C	0.1696	0.0817	0.6618	0.1106	0.0549	0.6455	14.7532	54.8753	1291.0500	2000/2501 $\simeq$ 80%
	1.00	0.10	NC	0.0395	0.1343	0.0782	0.0318	0.1081	0.0647	4.2341	10.8147	64.6665	2000/2090 $\simeq$ 96%
			C	0.0732	0.3663	2.5760	0.0587	0.2834	2.5003	7.8213	28.3405	2500.3230	2000/2815 $\simeq$ 71%
	5.00	2.00	NC	0.0474	0.9427	0.6600	0.0371	0.7485	0.5228	4.9477	14.9700	26.1379	2000/2005 $\simeq$ 100%
			C	0.0744	1.9273	10.4652	0.0578	1.4293	10.1291	7.7126	28.5863	506.4527	2000/2020 $\simeq$ 99%
	0.10	1.00	NC	0.1732	0.2068	0.2027	0.1219	0.1011	0.1174	16.2546	101.1061	11.7441	2000/2001 $\simeq$ 100%
			C	0.2439	0.5109	1.5706	0.2001	0.2151	1.5087	26.6834	215.1086	150.8725	2000/2390 $\simeq$ 84%
	2.00	5.00	NC	0.0723	0.7514	0.7300	0.0554	0.5623	0.5663	7.3812	28.1170	11.3252	2000/2000 $\simeq$ 100%
			C	0.1162	1.6095	7.9601	0.0903	1.0526	7.6541	12.0342	52.6321	153.0817	2000/2014 $\simeq$ 99%
	0.05	0.10	NC	0.0689	0.0175	0.0159	0.0528	0.0131	0.0122	7.0341	26.2519	12.2090	2000/2002 $\simeq$ 100%
			C	0.1914	0.1201	0.5832	0.1534	0.0547	0.5635	20.4470	109.4875	563.4770	2000/2293 $\simeq$ 87%

**Table 4.** RMSE, MAE, MAPE and convergence rate of  $\Theta$  with 2000 simulations of sample sizes  $n = 50$ , considering exponential errors (NC = non-contaminated; C = contaminated).

Parameters			RMSE			MAE			MAPE (%)			Convergence rate	
$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	(%)	
0.25	0.10	0.05	NC	0.2403	0.0621	0.0520	0.1799	0.0504	0.0457	71.9672	50.3763	91.4927	2000/2635 $\simeq$ 76%
			C	0.3995	0.3399	0.3274	0.3134	0.2428	0.2110	125.3731	242.7797	422.0013	2000/3048 $\simeq$ 66%
	1.00	0.10	NC	0.2591	0.5315	0.3983	0.1934	0.4320	0.2635	77.3567	43.2020	263.5235	2000/2442 $\simeq$ 82%
			C	0.3516	1.3525	1.3138	0.2744	1.0954	0.7735	109.7515	109.5363	773.5130	2000/2313 $\simeq$ 86%
	5.00	2.00	NC	0.2810	3.0601	2.4320	0.2140	2.4909	1.9947	85.6126	49.8187	99.7367	2000/2489 $\simeq$ 80%
			C	0.3788	6.3086	5.6419	0.2971	5.0720	4.0209	118.8333	101.4390	201.0444	2000/2221 $\simeq$ 90%
	0.10	1.00	NC	0.3352	0.7070	0.7121	0.2656	0.4958	0.6145	106.2327	495.7865	61.4506	2000/3845 $\simeq$ 52%
			C	0.4979	1.4952	1.2090	0.4045	1.0352	1.0202	161.7847	1035.2270	102.0164	2000/2500 $\simeq$ 80%
	2.00	5.00	NC	0.3036	3.5020	3.6159	0.2359	2.7018	3.0956	94.3541	135.0912	61.9127	2000/3273 $\simeq$ 61%
			C	0.4756	7.4254	5.7965	0.3764	5.2303	4.8901	150.5748	261.5164	97.8024	2000/2281 $\simeq$ 88%
	0.05	0.10	NC	0.2712	0.0818	0.0775	0.2089	0.0644	0.0676	83.5522	128.8785	67.6088	2000/3045 $\simeq$ 66%
			C	0.4505	0.3498	0.3421	0.3573	0.2485	0.2372	142.9146	496.9232	237.1900	2000/3014 $\simeq$ 66%

Table 4. Cont.

Parameters			RMSE			MAE			MAPE (%)			Convergence Rate	
$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_e^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_e^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_e^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_e^2$	(%)	
0.75	0.10	0.05	NC	0.1611	0.0564	0.0398	0.1246	0.0450	0.0322	16.6099	45.0059	64.3029	2000/2273 $\simeq$ 88%
			C	0.4359	0.3223	0.5405	0.3033	0.1875	0.3750	40.4453	187.5322	750.0313	2000/3694 $\simeq$ 54%
	1.00	0.10	NC	0.1175	0.4488	0.1929	0.0925	0.3574	0.1397	12.3275	35.7367	139.7342	2000/2364 $\simeq$ 85%
			C	0.3433	1.3662	2.5133	0.2284	0.9272	1.8790	30.4537	92.7218	1879.0050	2000/2470 $\simeq$ 81%
	5.00	2.00	NC	0.1448	2.7020	1.7189	0.1120	2.1216	1.3609	14.9294	42.4323	68.0429	2000/2181 $\simeq$ 92%
			C	0.3000	6.8179	11.0149	0.1977	4.5487	8.6278	26.3555	90.9748	431.3905	2000/2176 $\simeq$ 92%
	0.10	1.00	NC	0.3093	0.4945	0.5622	0.2368	0.3007	0.4524	31.5769	300.7228	45.2368	2000/2672 $\simeq$ 75%
			C	0.5765	1.3806	1.5393	0.4103	0.7817	1.2490	54.7124	781.7267	124.9006	2000/2792 $\simeq$ 72%
	2.00	5.00	NC	0.2394	2.8641	2.9144	0.1801	1.9810	2.3408	24.0172	99.0487	46.8162	2000/2221 $\simeq$ 90%
			C	0.4688	6.9340	7.5328	0.3241	4.3006	6.0393	43.2112	215.0307	120.7854	2000/2277 $\simeq$ 88%
	0.05	0.10	NC	0.2345	0.0614	0.0594	0.1767	0.0437	0.0484	23.5599	87.3926	48.3987	2000/2246 $\simeq$ 89%
			C	0.5399	0.3405	0.4259	0.4039	0.2083	0.3024	53.8548	416.5115	302.3952	2000/3314 $\simeq$ 60%

Table 5. RMSE, MAE, MAPE and convergence rate of  $\Theta$  with 2000 simulations of sample sizes  $n = 200$ , considering exponential errors (NC = non-contaminated; C = contaminated).

Parameters			RMSE			MAE			MAPE (%)			Convergence Rate	
$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_e^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_e^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_e^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\epsilon^2$	$\sigma_e^2$	(%)	
0.25	0.10	0.05	NC	0.2195	0.0567	0.0502	0.1605	0.0501	0.0458	64.1779	50.0747	91.6168	2000/2185 $\simeq$ 92%
			C	0.4489	0.2919	0.4062	0.3589	0.2159	0.3230	143.5695	215.8788	645.9832	2000/3303 $\simeq$ 61%
	1.00	0.10	NC	0.1942	0.4247	0.3510	0.1343	0.3304	0.2550	53.7222	33.0384	255.0102	2000/2194 $\simeq$ 91%
			C	0.3275	1.2229	1.3829	0.2520	1.0916	0.8967	100.8199	109.1563	896.7205	2000/2299 $\simeq$ 87%
	5.00	2.00	NC	0.2352	2.6233	2.2958	0.1709	2.2450	2.0030	68.3418	44.8991	100.1478	2000/2120 $\simeq$ 94%
			C	0.3157	6.0485	5.8589	0.2491	5.2427	4.2303	99.6284	104.8537	211.5132	2000/2170 $\simeq$ 92%
	0.10	1.00	NC	0.3263	0.6068	0.6071	0.2698	0.4264	0.4734	107.9090	426.4313	47.3421	2000/3235 $\simeq$ 62%
			C	0.5063	1.1797	1.2615	0.4136	0.7430	1.1099	165.4252	743.0232	110.9928	2000/2793 $\simeq$ 72%
	2.00	5.00	NC	0.2871	3.0873	3.0756	0.2286	2.4294	2.4630	91.4476	121.4710	49.2608	2000/2409 $\simeq$ 83%
			C	0.4800	5.3433	5.8893	0.3878	3.7179	5.2539	155.1106	185.8963	105.0775	2000/2349 $\simeq$ 85%
	0.05	0.10	NC	0.2547	0.0706	0.0689	0.2040	0.0582	0.0576	81.5998	116.3832	57.6243	2000/2381 $\simeq$ 84%
			C	0.4861	0.2824	0.3672	0.3959	0.1923	0.3042	158.3634	384.6917	304.2286	2000/3600 $\simeq$ 56%
0.75	0.10	0.05	NC	0.0796	0.0350	0.0233	0.0617	0.0274	0.0186	8.2315	27.4339	37.1357	2000/2037 $\simeq$ 98%
			C	0.3272	0.2014	0.6101	0.1953	0.1114	0.5404	26.0350	111.3510	1080.8030	2000/5646 $\simeq$ 35%
	1.00	0.10	NC	0.0597	0.2508	0.1085	0.0474	0.1994	0.0873	6.3241	19.9427	87.2755	2000/2177 $\simeq$ 92%
			C	0.2891	0.7251	2.6068	0.1467	0.5148	2.3368	19.5576	51.4762	2336.7630	2000/3530 $\simeq$ 57%
	5.00	2.00	NC	0.0746	1.6329	1.0466	0.0594	1.3146	0.8439	7.9157	26.2910	42.1946	2000/2025 $\simeq$ 99%
			C	0.1272	3.6999	10.6605	0.0940	2.5298	9.7850	12.5288	50.5952	489.2506	2000/2058 $\simeq$ 97%
	0.10	1.00	NC	0.2397	0.3397	0.3613	0.1728	0.1807	0.2566	23.0433	180.7138	25.6634	2000/2212 $\simeq$ 90%
			C	0.4477	0.8176	1.5542	0.3042	0.3849	1.4218	40.5591	384.9222	142.1828	2000/2667 $\simeq$ 75%
	2.00	5.00	NC	0.1296	1.5155	1.5429	0.0951	1.0538	1.1744	12.6814	52.6910	23.4870	2000/2015 $\simeq$ 99%
			C	0.3411	3.2286	8.1396	0.1906	1.8699	7.4604	25.4199	93.4933	149.2072	2000/2354 $\simeq$ 85%
	0.05	0.10	NC	0.1199	0.0326	0.0327	0.0888	0.0235	0.0253	11.8369	46.9942	25.2911	2000/2029 $\simeq$ 99%
			C	0.4057	0.1971	0.4953	0.2636	0.0980	0.4410	35.1415	196.0500	440.9552	2000/4253 $\simeq$ 47%



**Table 6.** RMSE, MAE, MAPE and convergence rate of  $\Theta$  with 2000 simulations of sample sizes  $n = 500$ , considering exponential errors (NC = non-contaminated; C = contaminated).

Parameters			RMSE			MAE			MAPE (%)			Convergence Rate	
$\phi$	$\sigma_\varepsilon^2$	$\sigma_\varepsilon^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\varepsilon^2$	$\sigma_\varepsilon^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\varepsilon^2$	$\sigma_\varepsilon^2$	$\phi$	$\sigma_\varepsilon^2$	$\sigma_\varepsilon^2$	(%)	
0.25	0.10	0.05	NC	0.1774	0.0502	0.0459	0.1295	0.0449	0.0415	51.8133	44.9298	83.0451	2000/2101 $\simeq$ 95%
			C	0.5105	0.2796	0.4923	0.4312	0.2000	0.4234	172.4715	200.0235	846.7976	2000/3882 $\simeq$ 52%
	1.00	0.10	NC	0.1360	0.3393	0.2890	0.0925	0.2583	0.2157	37.0141	25.8315	215.7496	2000/2068 $\simeq$ 97%
			C	0.3751	1.0426	1.6910	0.2938	0.9117	1.3735	117.5078	91.1686	1373.5180	2000/2331 $\simeq$ 86%
	5.00	2.00	NC	0.1704	2.2503	2.0470	0.1234	1.9625	1.8020	49.3534	39.2493	90.0986	2000/2017 $\simeq$ 99%
			C	0.3479	5.3039	7.0687	0.2679	4.5285	5.9227	107.1780	90.5707	296.1330	2000/2129 $\simeq$ 94%
	0.10	1.00	NC	0.3131	0.5300	0.5411	0.2597	0.3703	0.3968	103.8980	370.3198	39.6789	2000/2816 $\simeq$ 71%
			C	0.5597	1.0212	1.2769	0.4684	0.6074	1.1618	187.3698	607.3962	116.1793	2000/2652 $\simeq$ 75%
	2.00	5.00	NC	0.2601	2.7288	2.7233	0.2073	2.1620	2.1463	82.9108	108.0979	42.9251	2000/2126 $\simeq$ 94%
			C	0.4306	4.9082	5.7249	0.3452	3.5071	5.1919	138.0972	175.3540	103.8379	2000/2317 $\simeq$ 86%
	0.05	0.10	NC	0.2376	0.0645	0.0627	0.1901	0.0524	0.0510	76.0432	104.7235	50.9923	2000/2074 $\simeq$ 96%
			C	0.5858	0.2454	0.4984	0.5118	0.1446	0.4560	204.7275	289.2989	456.0194	2000/4715 $\simeq$ 42%
0.75	0.10	0.05	NC	0.0475	0.0231	0.0155	0.0372	0.0181	0.0123	4.9720	18.1002	24.5343	2000/2004 $\simeq$ 100%
			C	0.1591	0.0842	0.6609	0.1062	0.0545	0.6454	14.1550	54.5197	1290.8090	2000/2474 $\simeq$ 81%
	1.00	0.10	NC	0.0384	0.1704	0.0773	0.0307	0.1373	0.0643	4.0941	13.7260	64.3178	2000/2080 $\simeq$ 96%
			C	0.0721	0.3674	2.5627	0.0581	0.2882	2.4862	7.7527	28.8233	2486.2120	2000/2794 $\simeq$ 72%
	5.00	2.00	NC	0.0466	1.0946	0.6805	0.0370	0.8577	0.5377	4.9267	17.1536	26.8825	2000/2003 $\simeq$ 100%
			C	0.0724	1.9116	10.6844	0.0572	1.4456	10.3496	7.6297	28.9121	517.4798	2000/2039 $\simeq$ 98%
	0.10	1.00	NC	0.1725	0.1945	0.2149	0.1211	0.0988	0.1473	16.1486	98.8105	14.7318	2000/2010 $\simeq$ 100%
			C	0.2492	0.5142	1.5627	0.1972	0.2080	1.4974	26.2946	208.0308	149.7398	2000/2384 $\simeq$ 84%
	2.00	5.00	NC	0.0760	0.8252	0.9283	0.0576	0.6068	0.7308	7.6842	30.3421	14.6165	2000/2001 $\simeq$ 100%
			C	0.1204	1.7123	7.9869	0.0934	1.0745	7.6659	12.4592	53.7261	153.3177	2000/2013 $\simeq$ 99%
	0.05	0.10	NC	0.0684	0.0185	0.0190	0.0524	0.0138	0.0149	6.9855	27.6962	14.9040	2000/2001 $\simeq$ 100%
			C	0.1908	0.1162	0.5854	0.1535	0.0531	0.5665	20.4642	106.2381	566.4536	2000/2334 $\simeq$ 86%

#### 4. Discussion

In this work, outliers were found to impact the performance of the Maximum Likelihood estimators. In particular, it was found through the simulation study that outliers have a very significant impact in both cases: when the sample size is small and the autoregressive parameter is close to 1, and when the sample size is large and the autoregressive parameter is close to 0.25. This impact was reflected in the RMSE, MAE and MAPE values which, in many cases, were higher compared to the case of non-contaminated errors.

Moreover, we notice that the rate of valid estimates (convergence rate) is higher for large sample sizes, and is more evident for non-contaminated Gaussian and exponential errors. On the other hand, it is also important to have large sample sizes to avoid problems related to parameter estimation [11]. In general, the convergence rate is lower when Gaussian and exponential errors are contaminated.

Therefore, our next step is to develop methods to detect outliers in time series and/or to establish other estimation methods that are more robust, in the sense that they do not assume a distribution of the data and are less sensitive to outliers.

In this work, the outliers were generated from a regression model that established a linear relationship between the magnitude of the outliers and the total variance of the model with the state space representation of maximum air temperature real data. The rate of outliers from the real data was 5%; thus, this was the percentage used in this work.

In the literature, we did not find a unanimous approach for doing this. For example, ref. [15] contaminated the error of the zero-mean Gaussian equation of state by replacing the standard deviation of the observation error with a 10-times-higher standard deviation

with a probability of 10% (symmetric outliers). They also considered the case of asymmetric outliers, where the zero mean of the observation error was replaced with a value 10 times higher than the standard deviation with a probability of 10%. Ref. [16] followed the same line as [15], but in this case they call symmetric outliers “zero-mean” and asymmetric outliers “non-zero”, considering the probability of contamination to be 5%. Ref. [9] contaminated both the observation and state equation errors, considering the magnitude of the outliers equal to 2.5 the standard deviation from the diagonal elements of the observation and state covariance matrices, respectively.

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