

# Simplified Access to the Power of PEST through PEST++ and keyPEST


Randy Hunt  
USGS Wisconsin Water Science Center  
Friday Cleanup - AWRA

Mike Fienen  
USGS Wisconsin WSC

Jeremy White  
USGS Florida WSC


Dave Welter  
Computational Water  
Resource Engineering.

John Doherty  
Watermark Numerical  
Computing &  
National Centre for  
Groundwater Research and  
Training



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

**Approaches in Highly Parameterized Inversion:  
PEST++, a Parameter ESTimation Code Optimized for Large  
Environmental Models**

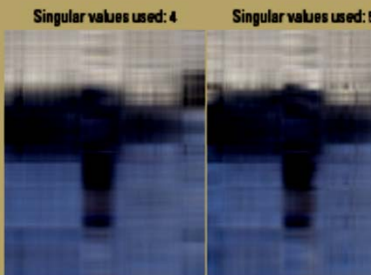


Techniques and Methods, Book 7, Section C5

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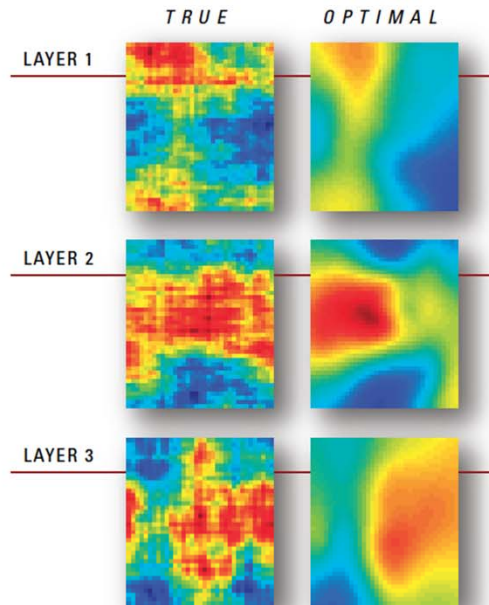
**Approaches to Highly Parameterized Inversion:  
A Guide to Using PEST for Groundwater**



Scientific Investigations Report 2011-5002

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**Approaches in Highly Parameterized Inversion:  
bgaPEST, a Bayesian Geostatistical Approach  
Implementation with PEST—Documentation and  
Instructions**

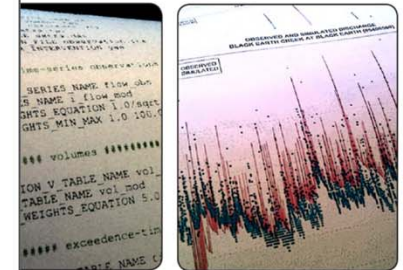


Techniques and Methods, Book 7, Section C9

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**Approaches in Highly Parameterized Inversion:  
General Time-Series Processor  
for Model Calibration and  
Parameterization**

Computer Programs  
Related Data Processing and Computations



Techniques and Methods 7-C7

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**Approaches in Highly Parameterized Inversion:  
PESTCommander, a Graphical User Interface  
for File and Run Management Across Networks**



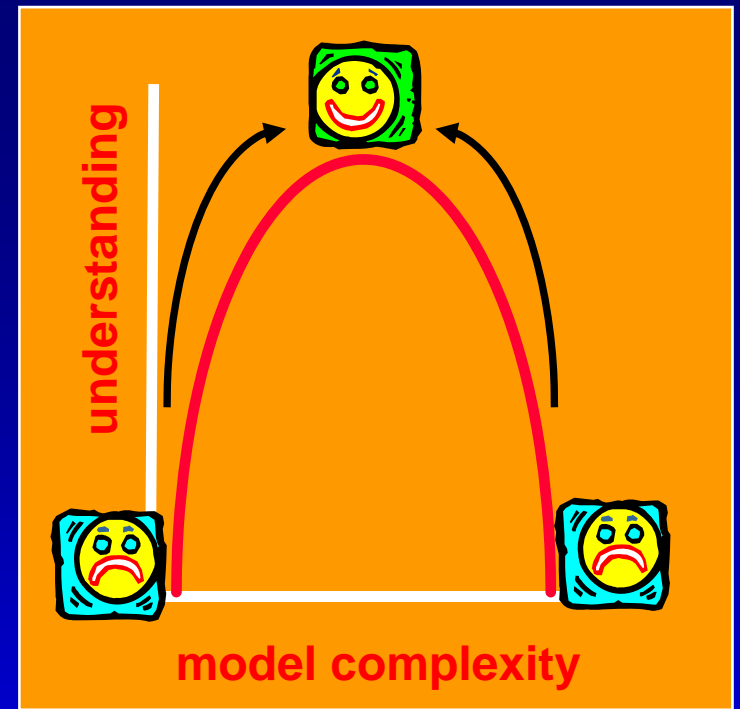
Techniques and Methods Book 7, Chap. C8

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Goal of all models =  
“Parsimony”

*“Simple as possible...*

*...but not simpler.”*



Thus oversimplified models *are not* parsimonious!

Need to identify “sweet spot” on simplification



ground  
water

PE-methods

Pointy-headed?

Are Models Too Simple? Arguments for  
Increased Parameterization

by Randall J. Hunt<sup>1</sup>, John Doherty<sup>2</sup>, and Matthew J. Tonkin<sup>3,4</sup>

User-friendly Software

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Abstract

The idea that models should be as simple as possible is often accepted without question. However, too much simplification and parsimony may degrade a model's utility. Models are often constructed to make predictions; yet, they are commonly parameterized with a focus on calibration, regardless of whether (1) the calibration data can constrain simulated predictions or (2) the number and type of calibration parameters are commensurate with the hydraulic property details on which key predictions may depend. Parameterization estimated through the calibration process is commonly limited by the necessity that the number of calibration parameters be smaller than the number of observations. This limitation largely stems from historical restrictions in calibration and computing capability; we argue here that better methods and computing capabilities are now available and should become more widely used. To make this case, two approaches to model calibration are contrasted: (1) a trad-

## No free lunch, all models of the nat'l world:

- are non-unique (ill-posed/underdetermined)
- are unstable
- take longer to calibrate/run uncertainty

### *What approaches are robust (=90% of problems)?*

- *Don't* artificially limit numbers of parameters  
(=reduce model structural error)
- *Add soft-knowledge* as fallback-position to constrain inestimable parameters (= Tikhonov Regularization)
- *Reduce model dimensionality* (= Singular Value Decomposition)
- Run the model on *lots of machines* (= Parallel Processing)



[edit]

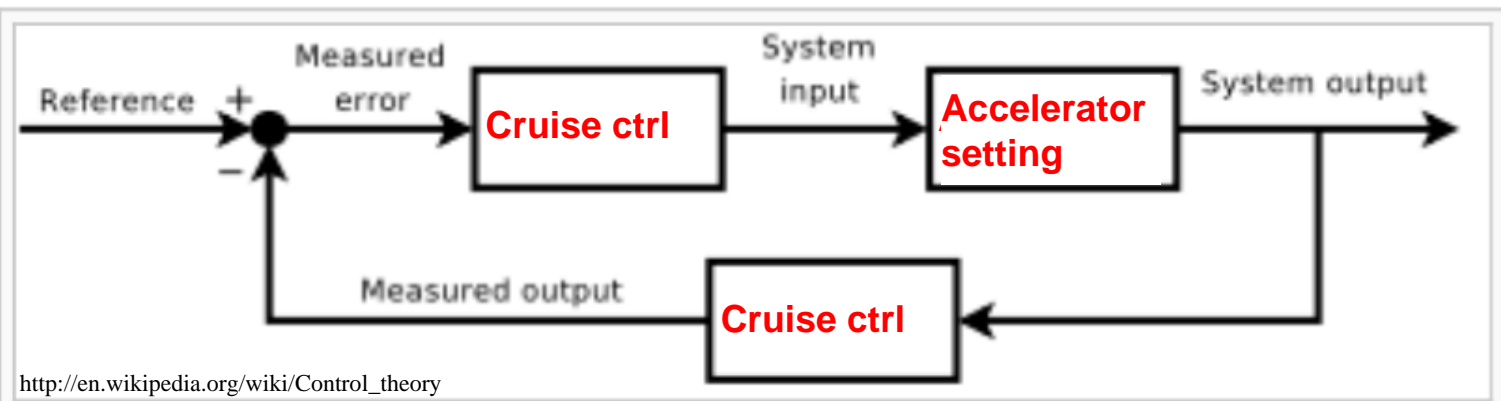
reference value  $r(t)$ . The controller  $C$  outputs  $u$  to the system under feedback controller.

(Multi-Output) systems, with more **vectors** instead of simple **scalar** (typically functions).

(i.e., elements of their **transfer** and using the **Laplace transform** on

Solving for  $Y(s)$  in terms of  $R(s)$  gives:

$$Y(s) = \frac{R(s)P(s)C(s)}{1 + P(s)C(s)}$$



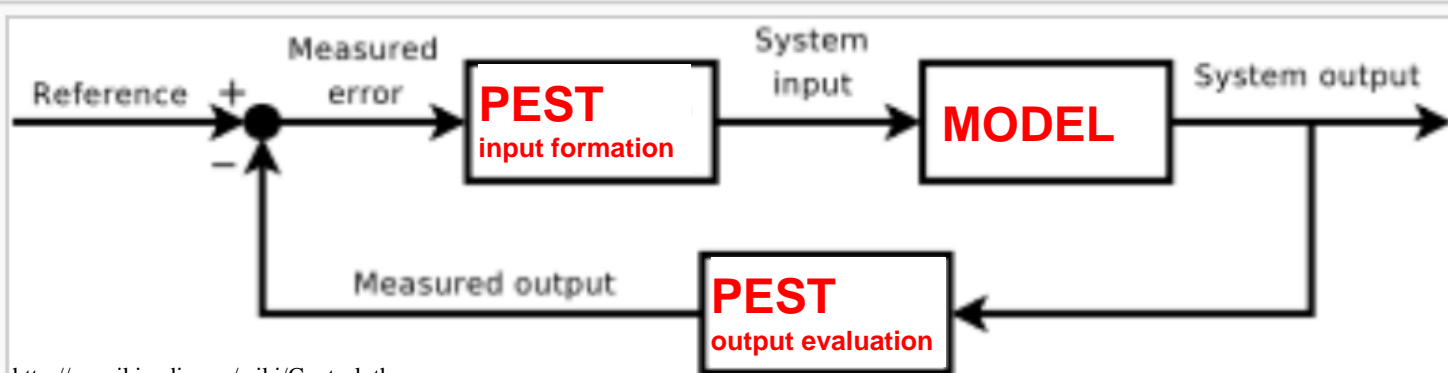
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Control\\_theory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Control_theory)



cruise control

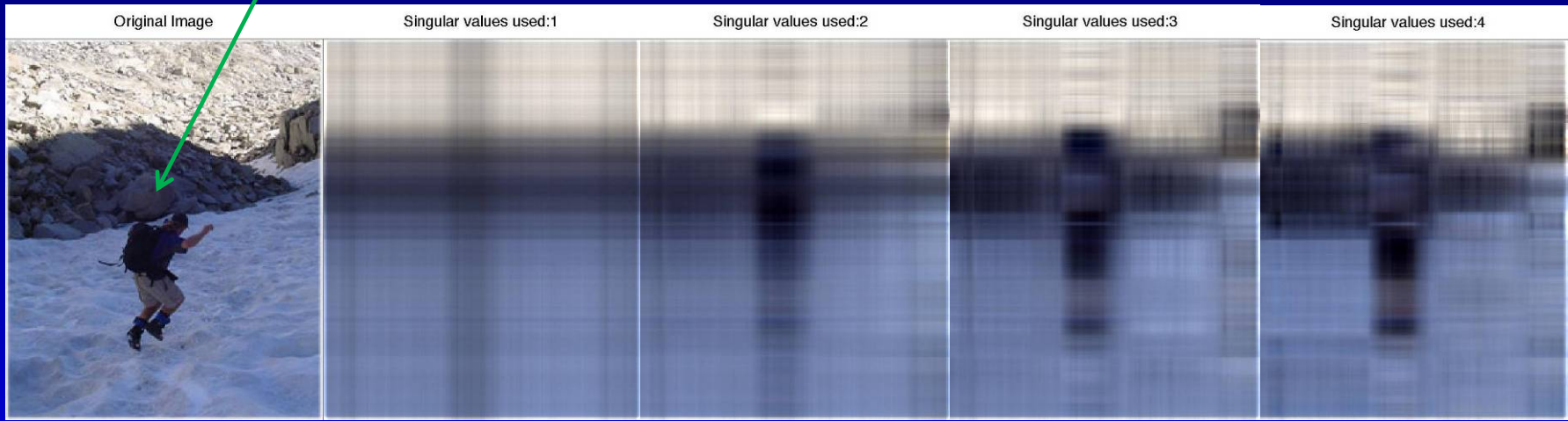
Bad Analogy?  
"Cruising" to  
calibration?

At this speed?



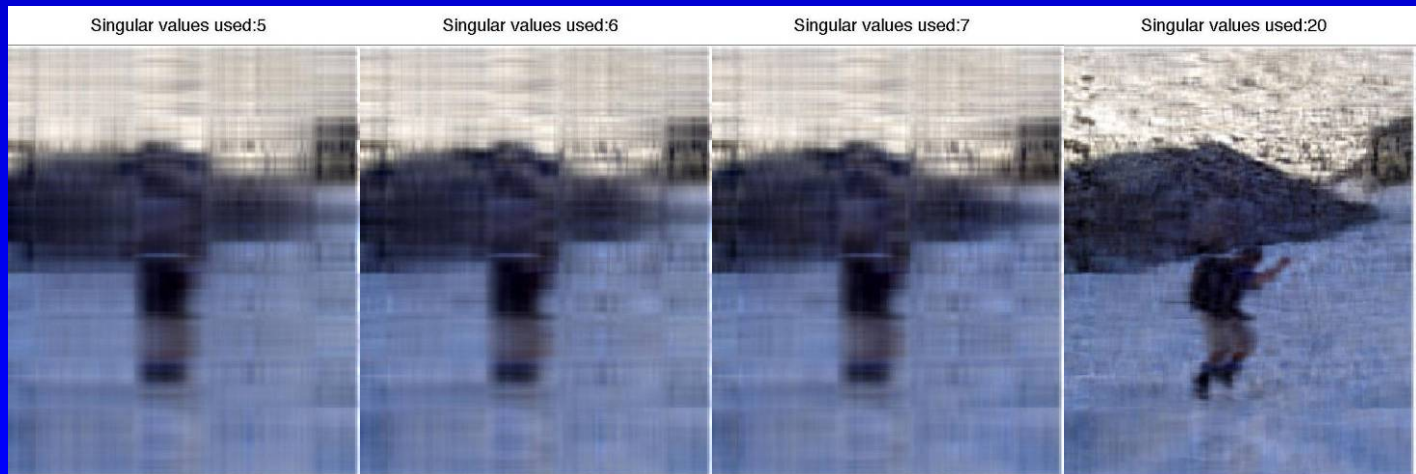
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Control\\_theory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Control_theory)

# If Mike Fiene was displayed in Google Earth...



## Modeling Analogy:

If you use too few = degrade fit and increase structural error





# What to remember

- SVD allows you to “move directly to calibration and collect \$200”.
- But, recognize what the SVD cruise control is doing:
  - For **Insensitive Parameters**: outputs optimal parameters = initial value (same as you would)
  - For **Correlated Parameters**: outputs optimal parameters with the same ratio as the initial values (same as you would)

Therefore - highly parameterized problems are not as robust to bad guesses of initial values



## Why PEST++? (POINTY HEAD ALERT)

PEST++ extends SVD and replaces GML (see Appendix 3)

PEST++ speeds up SVD via PROPACK

PEST++ automatically switches between SVD-Assist and SVD

Perturbation of singular values adjusted by highest base parameter (helps avoid bounds, normalize perturbation across singular values)

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Techniques and Methods, Book 7, Section C5

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What the user needs to know to invoke these enhancements:

# Why keyPEST? Typical PEST Control File:

```
pcf
* control data
restart estimation
1 283 1 0 1
1 1 single point 1 0 0
1.000000e+001 2.000000e+000 3.000000e-001 1.000000e-002 7 999
1.000000e+001 1.000000e+001 1.000000e-003
1.000000e-001 noai
-2 1.000000e-002 3 3 1.000000e-002 3
0 0 0
```

Set ● NOPTMAX to -2:  
(all we need is the Jacobian  
Matrix \*.jco file to do SVD)

Basic Options	Targets	Groups	Parameters	Printing
Regularisation	Run Termination	Structures	Prediction	
Maximum Optimization Iterations (NOPTMAX)				
Objective Func. Criterion (PHIREDSTP)				
Max. PHIREDSTP Iterations (NPHISTP)				
Max. Rel. Par. Change (RELPARSTP)				
Max. RELPARSTP Iterations (NRELPAR)				
Max Failed Iterations (NPHINORED)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use Broyden's Jacobian Update Procedure				
Broyden value (JACUPDATE)				

# PEST++ Control File CONTROL DATA SECTION

```
pcf
* control data
restart estimation
1 283 1 0 1
1 1 single point 1 0 0
1.000000e+001 2.000000e+000 3.000000e-001 1.000000e-002 7 999
1.000000e+001 1.000000e+001 1.000000e-003
1.000000e-001 noaut
-2 1.000000e-002 3 3 1.000000e-002 3
0 0 0
```

Set ● NOPTMAX to -2:

(all we need is the Jacobian Matrix \*.jco file to do SVD)

NECESSARY FOR SEAMLESS HANDOFF TO  
PEST for the problems that are not the 90%

## keyPEST input:

```
begin control_data KEYWORDS  
    noptmax = -2  
KEYWORDS
```

# Magic!

All other values are either:

1. calculated by keyPEST (all the NPAR, NOBS, etc.)
2. have been assigned default values by keyPEST or
3. are optional

Fienen, M.N., Hunt, R.J., and White., J.T., in prep, Approaches in Highly Parameterized Inversion: keyPEST, A Keyword Input Reader for PEST++ and PEST, USGS Techniques and Methods Report

# Your mission, if you choose to accept it....

Help us beta test these new tools! Drop us  
a line at:

[rjhunt@usgs.gov](mailto:rjhunt@usgs.gov)

[mnfienen@usgs.gov](mailto:mnfienen@usgs.gov)