

43. **Tichonov estimate with model uncertainty.** (p.189). We wish to choose the slope,  $s$ , of a linear scalar model:

$$y = sx \tag{133}$$

We have a prior estimate of the slope,  $\tilde{s}$ , and we have data,  $(x_i, y_i)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, M$ . The Tichonov estimate of  $s$  minimizes:

$$T = \lambda(\tilde{s} - s)^2 + (1 - \lambda) \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M (y_i - sx_i)^2 \tag{134}$$

where  $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$ . We will assume that  $x$  and  $y$  are dimensionless quantities.<sup>4</sup>

- (a) Derive an expression for the estimate of  $s$  which minimizes  $T$ .  
 (b) Now consider model uncertainty, with two different info-gap models:

$$\mathcal{U}(h) = \{y = sx + u : |u| \leq h\}, \quad h \geq 0 \tag{135}$$

$$\mathcal{U}(h) = \{y = sx + ux^2 : |u| \leq h\}, \quad h \geq 0 \tag{136}$$

For each info-gap model, derive an expression for the robustness of an estimate of the slope. How does the robust-satisficing estimate differ between the two models? How do they differ from the Tichonov estimate? Note that, because  $x$  and  $y$  are dimensionless, the horizons of uncertainty in these two info-gap models are also dimensionless. This makes the robustnesses which are evaluated with these two info-gap models comparable.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> If  $x$  and  $y$  have units, and even if they have the same units, then the units of  $T$  in eq.(134) are undefined. This means that the relative weights of the two terms in  $T$  are controlled by the units, not by the value of  $\lambda$ .

<sup>5</sup> If  $x$  and  $y$  have units then it is necessary to calibrate the two robustnesses, which requires judgment and cannot be done uniquely. However, if  $x$  and  $y$  have units then we also face a different problem, noted in footnote 4.