

Kerr Linear Inversion in bayRing

Kerr-only model. For a Kerr ringdown without tail terms or quadratic amplitudes, and with the non-amplitude Kerr quantities fixed, the complex strain is linear in the QNM amplitudes:

$$h(t_j) = h_{\text{fixed}}(t_j) + \sum_{k=1}^N C_k q_k(t_j), \quad C_k = A_k e^{i\phi_k}. \quad (1)$$

Here $q_k(t)$ is the Kerr basis waveform for mode $k = (\ell, m, n)$, including the fixed Kerr frequency and damping time. The term h_{fixed} contains any constant offset or already-fixed mode amplitudes. In the simplest `QNM-modes = 220` example, the only unknown is $C_{220} = A_{220} e^{i\phi_{220}}$.

Because the model is linear in the complex amplitudes C_k , we do not need to do stochastic inference or non-linear minimization in this case. Once the non-amplitude quantities are fixed, the amplitudes follow from one deterministic linear-algebra solve.

Real weighted system. The code solves for real and imaginary amplitude parts,

$$x = (\text{Re } C_1, \text{Im } C_1, \dots, \text{Re } C_N, \text{Im } C_N)^T. \quad (2)$$

After subtracting h_{fixed} , the real and imaginary data components are stacked and divided by their corresponding errors. The same weighting is applied to the basis columns, giving a real design matrix B and data vector d :

$$d \simeq Bx. \quad (3)$$

For each Kerr mode, B has two columns: the weighted waveform generated by $C_k = 1$ and by $C_k = i$, where i is the complex unit, $i^2 = -1$.

Closed-form solve. The weighted least-squares normal equations are

$$Fx = r, \quad F = B^T B, \quad r = B^T d. \quad (4)$$

The implementation symmetrizes F , diagonalizes it, and floors small eigenvalues using the configured tolerance ϵ :

$$F = V \Lambda V^T, \quad \hat{x} = V \text{diag} \left[\frac{1}{\max(\lambda_i, \epsilon)} \right] V^T r. \quad (5)$$

Each recovered complex amplitude $\hat{C}_k = \hat{x}_{2k-1} + i\hat{x}_{2k}$ is then written back in the `bayRing` parameterization,

$$\ln A_k = \log |\hat{C}_k|, \quad \phi_k = \arg(\hat{C}_k) \bmod 2\pi. \quad (6)$$

The corresponding one-sigma error estimate is obtained from the same weighted Fisher matrix. In Cartesian amplitude coordinates the covariance is

$$\Sigma_x = V \text{diag} \left[\frac{1}{\max(\lambda_i, \epsilon)} \right] V^T. \quad (7)$$

The code then propagates Σ_x to the $(\ln A_k, \phi_k)$ parameterization using the local Jacobian of the polar transformation.

Configuration. Use `method = Linear-inversion`. For the Kerr-only setup discussed here, leave each $\ln A, \phi$ amplitude pair free, and fix or omit all nonlinear parameters. The eigenvalue floor is set by the configured linear inversion tolerance. A minimal example is

```
config_files/config_SXS_0305_Kerr_220_
linear_inversion.ini
```