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## UNIVARIATE TIME SERIES ANALYSIS OF SIMULATED ANNEALING DATA

by

Gregory Sorkin

Memorandum No. UCB/ERL M90/5

10 January 1990

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#### 1 Introduction

Simulated annealing (SA) is a recent technique for finding good solutions to a wide variety of combinatorial optimization problems. Given is a graph with an energy E assigned to each node. In simulated annealing parlance, the nodes are called 'states', the arcs represent 'moves' from one state to a neighboring state, and the energy is sometimes called 'cost'. A typical application is a placement problem, say that of placing 100 circuits on a 10 × 10 grid. Here a state is a permutation of the numbers from 1 to 100, representing a placement. A move could consist of interchanging any two circuits. Thus each state would have  $C_2^{100} = 4950$  neighbors. We will also define the distance between any two states as the length of a shortest path connecting them.

The simulated algorithm is as given in figure 0.

The temperature T is a parameter of the algorithm. It is always decreased gradually as the annealing proceeds, but the optimal control of T is not understood.

It can easily be shown that this process is equivalent to that of a random walk on the graph, with self-loop edges present, with random selection of an edge out of a node in proportion to the weight of that edge, and with the edge weights determined by the temperature T.

While annealing works well on a wide variety of practical problems, it cannot work well on arbitrary graphs, nor on any graph with an arbitrary energy function. The goal of my research has been to characterize the energy landscape itself (the graph and energy function) and the behavior of the annealing algorithm.

```
state = random initial state
repeat (until done) {
    T = new temperature
    repeat (until inner-loop criterion) {
        newstate = random neighbor(state)
        \Delta E = E(newstate) - E(state)
        If \Delta E \leq 0, state = newstate.
        Else state = newstate with probability e^{-\Delta E/T}
}
```

#### Figure 0: Annealing algorithm.

Because the energy landscape itself is terrifically complex, we have focused on the energy trajectory, i.e. the sequence of energies following each move accepted.

#### 2 Background

}

We chose a simplified version of circuit placement for experimental analysis. The problems considered consist of unit-square circuits, with n circuits to be placed on a grid of size  $1 \times n$  ('one-dimensional placement') or size  $\sqrt{n} \times \sqrt{n}$  ('two-dimensional placement'). The cost of a placement is the total Manhattan length of wire required to connect the circuits; a netlist defines which circuits are to be connected. Since the structure of the netlist may influence the nature of the cost function and the behavior of annealing itself, 3 different netlists were considered. The first, r, came from a real sample of VLSI logic. The second, f, specifies interconnections between randomly-selected pairs of circuits. That is, the graph whose vertices are circuits and whose edges are those circuits to be connected is a random graph. The third, h, was constructed in a random but hierarchical fashion. That is, the graph of circuits/nets has cut-edge sets of size  $\propto m^{2/3}$  to isolate vertex sets of size m.

For each netlist, both 1- and 2- dimensional energy functions were examined.

Each netlist and energy function was annealed at a number of temperatures, and the resulting energies

as a function of time constitute the data sets. The temperatures used were infinity (which is well-defined in the annealing context since it is really 1/T that is used), 100, 10, and 1. These temperatures were chosen to match the energy scale of these problems: typical energy changes are in the thousands, while the minimum nonzero energy change possible is 1.

Finally, time can be defined as the number of moves attempted or the number of moves accepted.

Thus there are 48 data sets available for analysis:  $\{r,h,f\} \times \{\dim=1,2\} \times \{T = \infty, 100, 10, 1\} \times \{\text{accepted}, attempted}\}$ . For the time being we have looked primarily at timeseries with time defined as moves accepted, though attempted move data has been looked at for one or two cases. The data sets have names such as 'r13': 'r' means the 'real' netlist, the first '1' means 1 dimensional placement, and the final digit maps to temperature by  $0 \mapsto \infty, 3 \mapsto 100, 2 \mapsto 10, 1 \mapsto 1$ . An 'a' as the final character of a dataset means time is defined by attempted moves rather than accepted moves.

Our analysis is guided by a few basic facts. First, there is reason to expect that annealing is useful on spaces which have a fractal energy structure. This belief is supported by a recent proof that for a family of deterministic 1-dimensional fractals, annealing can give good results, requiring run time polynomial in the size of the problem (log number of states) and in the 'quality' of the anneal – the inverse of the expected final cost, assuming the absolute minimum cost is 0 [2].

Unfortunately it is difficult to test directly whether combinatorial problems have fractal structure; even the definition of fractalness in this context is problematical. In Euclidean space, a random self-affine fractal  $f: X \mapsto Y, X = \Re^n, Y = \Re$ , has the defining property that as surfaces in  $\Re^{n+1}$ ,  $\{(X, f(X))\}$  and  $\{(r_x X, r_y f(X))\}$  are statistically identical for appropriate scaling constants  $r_x$  and  $r_y$ . Because the space X of interest for annealing may be the permutation space previously described, the rescaling of X is not a simple matter, and the 'similarity' of a subspace of X to X itself is difficult to define.

However, an implication of the definition of fractalness is that for points  $x_1, x_2 \in X$ ,  $E\{(y_1-y_2)^2 | d(x_1, x_2)\} \propto d(x_1, x_2)^{2H}$  where  $2H = r_y / \ln r_x$ . This is a property that can be checked directly for the combinatorial spaces of interest. Results for the real netlist and 1 dimensional placement energy function are shown in figures 1-2. Random walks of length 200 moves were taken from some 500 different starting points, and the starting point paired with every fifth generated point defines the samples. Almost all point pairs in this permutation space on 105 objects have distance close to the average distance of about 99.5; the diameter of the space is 104, very close to the average distance. The 200-long walk was sufficiently long to generate point pairs

at distances covering the full range, with each run generating pairs around 100 apart. Of course, each run in its earlier steps also generates pairs with distance about 5, 10, and so forth, so each distance range in the scatter plot is covered by at least 500 samples. Despite the overwhelming noise, it can be seen that the mean square energy differences of these random point pairs are approximately polynomially related to their distances.

Another property of fractals in Euclidean space is that a random walk on such a fractal yields fractal Brownian motion [4]. Fractional Brownian motion (fBm) is a fractal on  $X = Y = \Re$ , and is characterized by the parameter 2*H*. (An example is the drunkard's walk, where 2H = 1.) Fractals on permutation space, defined by the property  $E\{(y_1 - y_2)^2 | d(x_1, x_2)\} \propto d(x_1, x_2)^{2H}$ , also satisfy the property that random walks yield fBm, with the power law relation holding at least for short time scales. Since the power spectrum of fBm satisfies  $f_{YY}(\lambda) \propto 1/\lambda^{\beta}$  with  $\beta = 2H + 1$  [4], it is easy to check whether a time series is fBm. It will be shown that the data sets analyzed here do appear to be fBm. In fact, as their  $\beta$  seems to be in the range of 1.7 to 2, corresponding to *H* around .35 to .5, very likely they are simple random walks. This point will be discussed a bit more, but for the theoretical analysis of annealing in [2, 1] it is only important that some power law relation holds; it is immaterial whether the process is fBm or simple Brownian motion.

\_ Finally, it is worth noting that in the definition of the annealing algorithm, only the energy changes matter: the absolute value of the energy function is irrelevant. (The same property is almost always true as well of computer programs for annealing, which compute the energy change directly rather than by computing the energy itself and subtracting.) Thus it may be natural to consider the first differences of the timeseries rather than the series itself.

In particular, we might hope that these differences are uncorrelated noise. A little thought reveals that this cannot quite be the case. Because of the finiteness of the problem space, annealing at a given temperature is (after equilibrium is reached!) a stationary process; uncorrelated first differences would give nonstationarity. Stationarity does hold if the process is defined not by  $X(t) = X(t-1) + \epsilon(t)$  but by  $X(t) = \alpha X(t-1) + \epsilon(t)$  with  $\alpha$  close to 1 but  $\alpha < 1$ . Such a first-order autoregressive model will be shown to describe the data well.

#### 3 Methodology

Figures 3-8 show the raw energy vs. accepted move data for each dataset. Because each run was started in a fairly low energy state, the runs at high temperatures take some time to reach equilibrium. Because the initial state was not of extremely low energy, some of the runs at low temperatures also took some time to equilibrate. Each run consisted of 15,000 accepted moves. Visual inspection of the datasets was used to estimate starting times by which the process seemed to be stationary, ranging from 2000 to 4000. (The h11 dataset continues to show a downward trend and large, low-frequency oscillations suggesting nonstationarity, and indeed the estimated  $\alpha$  had value greater than 1.) Starting and stopping times for the datasets are indicated in the same figures; stopping times were 15,000 in all cases. The data before the start time were discarded and time was shifted to start from 0; it is this data that will be considered henceforth.

Because we were looking for evidence of fractalness we began with a periodogram estimate of the spectrum. There are a few choices to be made in the computation of the spectrum: whether to prewhiten the spectrum; what order smoothing to use; and how much of the data to taper. r13 was arbitrarily chosen as the guinea pig to resolve this. The first row of figure 9 (or figure 10, if one prefers a point plot of the periodogram) shows the results of using a few different tapers, all with no smoothing to avoid losing detail. We note that there does not appear to be any particular period in the data: no peaks stand out in the unsmoothed periodogram. As the differences caused by taper values seem minimal (not surprising considering the length of the series), a taper of 0.1 was chosen. The second row of the figure shows the results of various smoothers in combination with the .1 taper. Order 10 seems to be too small, leaving a substantial amount of noise. Order 100 can be seen to shift the apparent breakpoint between where the spectrum is constant and where it is power law. Because the spectrum is basically power-law, the large values are much larger than the nearby smaller ones, and, as long as there are any of them present, they dominate the average in the smoothing. Order 20 appears to be a reasonable compromise. Thus, tapering 10% of the data and smoothing the periodogram with a 20-point moving average was taken as the default method of estimating the spectrum.

Figure 11 compares the spectrum computed by this default method with the spectrum obtained from prewhitening the data by taking residuals after fitting an AR(1) model. The first frame shows the spectrum computed the standard way. The second shows the spectrum of the filtered (whitened) series, which was computed with taper .1 and smoothing order 20. It is plotted on a linear scale to emphasize its apparent uniformity (whiteness), indicating that the prewhitening should be successful. The third frame shows the

frequency response function of the filter. Note that because the autoregressive parameter is near 1 but not exactly 1, the response is not quite 0 at frequency 0, so the division of the whitened spectrum by the response function is possible (though in any case the power at frequency 0 is not visible on the log-log scale used). The final frame shows the spectrum obtained by the prewhitening. Figure 12 superposes the spectrum computed the default way (solid) with that computed by prewhitening (dashed), and they are seen to be virtually identical. Figure 13 is of the same type as figure 11, and confirms a similar result for the timeseries f12. Given this fact, for simplicity the rest of the spectra were computed without prewhitening.

For the 1-dimensional data, figures 14-16 show the spectral estimate, the non-constant portion of the spectrum estimated by an autoregressive fit of the logarithm of power against that of frequency, and the spectrum from an AR(1) model fitted to the data.

The power-law fit was done using points where spectral density was a factor of 10 or more below the density of the constant portion (the maximum density) as this was an easily systematized and consistent procedure which seemed to attend to the correct portion of the spectrum. This fit, interpreted as seen on the log-log scale, is influenced more by the high-frequency end of the spectrum than by the low-frequency end, as there are more points packed into that region by the log function. It is unclear what the 'proper' fit for the power law would be, and by inspection, the fit done seems close to what one would hope for, so no further refinements were made. Remember that a slope of -2 would be indicative of a random walk, within the limitations imposed by the finiteness of the space. The actual measured slopes of about -1.8 seem ambiguous.

One property of a random walk, or of fBm with  $\beta = 2$ , is that X(t)|X(t-1) is independent of  $\{X(t-2), X(t-3), \ldots\}$ . This can be tested directly by the partial autocorrelation coefficients and so the partial autocorrelation function (pacf) was computed. This information was used to round out the frequency-side analysis: the third line superposed in figures 14-16 is the spectrum computed from the pacf and the prediction error. It is a close fit to the measured spectrum.

Because the power-law fit was deemed less important than the AR(1) spectral fit, it is not shown for other than the r10, h10, and f10 samples of figures 14-16.

Instead, a different set of statistics is collected into each of the 24 figures 17-40 (one figure for each accepted-move timeseries). The first frame of each figure each shows the data itself (between times *start* and *end*.

The second frame shows the spectrum and the spectrum of a fitted AR(1) process (Splus's program ar was used).

The third frame displays the pacf itself up to lag 50. Independently, the pacf was also computed using the Akaike information criterion (AIC) to determine the order; the order returned was 1 in most cases, though it was 2 for a good number. Since the AIC is something of a black box (at least at this point), the display of the pacf to the relatively large lag of 50 gives a better feel for what is going on. The pacf(1) values are all close to 1; as previously mentioned they cannot quite be 1 for a stationary process. By contrast, all later values of the pacf are comparitively tiny, generally in the range of 0.01 and inconsistent in sign. Confidence intervals for the pacf's were not computed. However, their standard deviations should be  $O(1/\sqrt{T})$  – roughly O(0.08) for timeseries of this length. That and the seemingly random mix of positive and negative values suggests that the true pacf does fall to 0 for lags greater than 1.

If the pacf is  $\alpha$  for lag 1 and 0 elsewhere, it follows immediately that the acf at lag u is  $\alpha^{u}$ . Thus in these cases the acf decays very slowly (this was confirmed by looking at it for a number of the datasets), and is not interesting until viewed over lags over 100. The acf tools in Splus compute the direct estimate, and thus take time  $O(\max \log \times T)$  which proves to be prohibitive for lags over about 50. The frequency-domain estimate of acf was coded as an S macro, but for reasons as yet not understood gave incorrect results. Because of these practical difficulties in estimating the acf over an interesting range and because the form of the acf is clearly dictated by the pacf, we have not shown the acfs.

The next step in evaluating the quality of the AR(1) model suggested by the very crisp pacfs is to compute the residuals. [Incidentally, it was verified experimentally that the pacf, autoregressive parameters, and residual produced by Splus's ar function are unaffected by the mean of the data.] Residuals for dataset r10 are shown in figure 41; they are not shown in general because their noisy appearance does not lend itself to meaningful interpretation.

Instead, the fifth frame on the figures shows the spectrum of the residuals; this is of course the same as the 'whitened' spectra constructed earlier for the two datasets used to test our spectrum estimation procedure. These residual spectra are shown on a linear scale because the spectrum should be uniform noise from end to end, a feature distorted by logarithmic plotting.

In the sixth and seventh frames are shown the pacf and the autocovariance function are of the residuals. If the residuals are indeed pure noise the pacf should be 0 for all lags greater than 0, as should the autocovariance. In fact the pacfs are generally of magnitude less than 0.02, with sign varying seemingly randomly, and our interpretation is that they are simply noise. We interpret the autocovariance similarly, as it is miniscule compared with the variance. Error estimates for the pacf and acf should be used as a more scientific test for whether their measured values are consistent with 0-mean noise; this is planned.

The crispness with which the pact of the original timeseries falls to 0, the whiteness of the power spectrum of residuals, and the pact and act of the residuals, all seem to give strong evidence that the process is AR(1). One consequence of this is that in the region where the original spectrum obeys a power law, the power must be -2. The theoretical (not estimated) spectrum of any AR(1) has power = frequency<sup>-2</sup> for higher frequencies, so it is important to resolve why the estimated powers were only about -1.8. Reexamination of figures 14-16 does show the deviation between the spectrum computed from the autoregressive parameters and the regression-fitted line; the former generally seems to better approximate the estimated spectrum. While the slope difference appears small, it in fact is precisely the discrepancy between -2 and -1.8. While the fit could perhaps be improved, it seems silly at best, and perhaps even dishonest, to try different fitting techniques, each equally reasonable *a priori*, until finding one giving us the result we now know we want.

Many results in annealing theory rely on knowing the density of states of the problem [5]. This is the same as the density of X for a  $T = \infty$  annealing. It is generally assumed that the density of states is either Gaussian or Beta. The density at any other temperature follows from the  $T = \infty$  density from Boltzmann's law, and in particular if the density is either Gaussian or Beta at  $T = \infty$ , it also has Gaussian (respectively Beta) density at all other temperatures. Quantile-quantile (qq) plots of each timeseries against a normal distribution (frames 4 of figures 17-40) indicate that this assumption is not too far from the truth, although the small deviations from normality are probably significant given the volume of data.

Finally, the distribution of residuals is that of the noise in the process, so qq plots were made of it too for all datasets (frames 8). The noise seems not to be Gaussian, a fact whose significance is not clear.

#### 4 Attempted-move data

While some mention has been made of attempted move data, only a small amount of analysis has been done on it. The annealing program actually produces a vector of energies and a vector of attempted move numbers at which these energies were accepted; an S macro was written which expands this into a vector of energies for attempted move numbers 1, 2, .... Since at low temperatures the number of moves attempted before 15,000 moves are accepted can be in the hundreds of thousands, these vectors are restricted to a given maximum length.

This was done for r12 and r11; to produce timeseries r12a and r11a of lengths 32,768. The same analyses were applied to them (figures 42-43) and yield generally similar results, though of course the time scale is greatly expanded.

The approach was not pursued further at this time for two reasons. First, the volume of data is potentially even larger than that for the accepted move paradigm, and the processing is quite time-consuming. More importantly, it seems that other methods of analysis may be easier and more revealing. If the timeseries of the number of moves attempted until one is accepted were understood, that would probably lead directly to an understanding of the attempted-move process. For example, if the number of attempts is uncorrelated with itself (and with the energy), then one would guess that the attempted-move spectrum is identical to that of the accepted-move spectrum but for rescaling. In short, it may be more productive to treat this as an issue in bivariate time series analysis than to treat the attempted- and accepted-move processes as if they were unrelated.

#### 5 Interpretation of Results

Simulated annealing is a random process which by construction is Markov on the state space consisting of all possible solutions of the given optimization problem. Viewed on the reduced state space defined by the energies alone, it is not clear whether the process will still be Markov. Some approaches to the automatic control of the cooling schedule get all their information from the energies seen, and implicitly rely upon the process being Markov in energy.

The partial autocorrelation function (pacf) provides a partial answer to the question of whether the process is Markov in energy: Restricting our attention to linear predictors of the energy, the fact that the pacf falls to 0 for times greater than 1 means that old energies do not improve the prediction of future energies, and the process is seemingly Markov. This is not a necessary nor obvious conclusion. A simple 4-state space can be constructed on which annealing at low temperature is not Markov in energy, and in general we might expect for example that observation of a number of low energies would indicate the process

is in a low-lying region of the state space, so that future energies will also be low.

The characterization of the energy trajectory as an autoregressive means quite simply that, at least as far as energy is concerned, we know everything about annealing at a fixed temperature. If we could extend this understanding to the transition from one temperature to a slightly lower one we would have a complete characterization of the timeseries of energies as a function of the cooling schedule, which would enable computation of a good cooling schedule.

A characterization of this sort would rely on knowledge of the space such as that acquired here at great computaional expense (both in the annealing itself and in the data analysis) and thus may seem infeasible. However, one of the most important properties of the data apparent from this analysis is its uniformity. The different netlists all produce qualitatively similar timeseries data. So do the runs of annealing at different temperatures, where the spectra seem to have different power scales (i.e. they are shifted vertically on a log scale) but similar shapes and even similar roll-off frequencies. (Figures 44-49 show superposed spectra for each netlist and cost function at all 4 temperatures.)

This last fact is surprising. When annealing is run at low temperature, moves are accepted very rarely, and energy changes seen are small. While the fact that we are looking only at *accepted* moves means that the low acceptance rate has been factored out, the fact that energy changes are small suggests that many such changes need to be made before the energy limits of the problem itself are approached. Another way to put it is that the low-frequency power is related to the variance of the process. If the variance of energy at low annealing temperatures were the same as that at high temperature, then it would take longer for low-temperature anneals to reach this energy scale. The fact that the time required is about the same means that the energy scale is smaller.

This too may relate to a fundamental fractal property of the space: If the problem is fractal, restriction to a subspace corresponds to scaling down the energy. Thus if the temperature is scaled down, the timeseries may be just a rescaled version of that at higher temperature, the annealing process being essentially the same but with smaller energy and distance scales. This similarity would explain the similarity of time scale, though it is still not obvious why the roll-off frequency, which is related to the finiteness of the problem rather than to its fractalness over some energy/distance range, is approximately the same for all temperatures.

Another small mystery of these superposed spectra is that the  $T = \infty$  and T = 100 spectal estimates often intersect. Since the energies are generally smaller at lower temperatures, along with their variances, one would expect lower-temperature spectra to lie strictly below higher-temperature ones, as is in fact the case for most of the temperatures. Whether this is significant, or even whether it is an artifact of the spectral estimation (as opposed to the true spectrum) is not yet understood.

#### 6 Summary

A simulated annealing for placement was run on 3 different netlists, each at 4 different temperatures (including  $T = \infty$ , a random walk), and using two different cost functions corresponding to 1- and 2-dimensional placements. In each of these 24 cases, recording the energy after each accepted move yields a timeseries.

Another 24 timeseries could be obtained by recording the energy after each attempted move rather than just after the accepted moves. This was done for a couple of cases.

For each timeseries selected we performed a number of analyses. The timeseries itself was plotted to confirm stationarity and to reveal any obvious properties. A smoothed periodogram was constructed. In all cases it revealed a power law relationship between spectral energy and frequency, except at low frequencies where the spectral energy levels off to a constant. Such spectra are typical of real-world fractals where there is some limit to the frequency range.

The partial autocorrelation function (pacf) was constructed. In all cases the lag 1 value was close to 1, while the value at all other lags was near 0. This was taken as evidence that the process was a first-order autoregressive (AR(1)). Overlaying the power spectrum of the AR(1) model over that of the process itself supports this hypothesis. For more detailed verification, we took the residuals after this autoregressive fit and subjected them to analyses like those used for the series itself. The periodogram of the residuals appears to be purely noise, indication that the residuals themselves are uncorrelated. The pacf and acf of the residuals are close to 0 for all lags, indicating that no further ARMA modeling of the residuals is possible.

Thus the processes were concluded to satisfy an AR(1) model.

A couple of additional observations were made. For each timeseries, the energy values were examined on a q-q normal plot; they seem to be approximately normal. Since the distribution of energies is one of the central quantities used in the study of simulated annealing, it is useful to know that the energies do seem to follow this simple distribution. Also the distribution of residuals was examined in the same fashion. The fact that it does not seem to be normal means that while the process may be AR(1), the underlying noise process is not Gaussian white noise. The significance of this is unknown.

Finally, for each netlist and cost function, the spectra of the AR(1) fitted processes (used as smooth versions of the true spectra) at all 4 temperatures were plotted together. Since they are all AR(1) spectra they are guaranteed to have a similar overall shape, but they are also seen to have similar rolloff points. This indicates a common time scale to annealing at any temperature, a surprising result.

### Acknowledgements

Following my interest in simulated annealing, I did this work as the midterm project for a U.C. Berkeley course in timeseries analysis taught in Spring 1989 by Prof. David R. Brillinger. I am most grateful his guidance and interest. Following his suggestions, some of the weaknesses of this work (notably the absence of confidence intervals) are remedied in [3].

I would also like to acknowledge the financial support IBM Research, as well as that of MICRO, AT&T Bell Laboratories, Hughes Aircraft, Intel, LSI Logic, Philips Research Laboratory, and Rockwell International.

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E<sup>2</sup> vs. Distance



dist





fig 3



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f11: data; range for analysis





fig6









r21: data; range for analysis





fig 7





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fig IZ











fig 13



- <u>8</u>

-8

-8

- 8





r12 : spectrum; ar(1) spectrum; power= -1.766484



r11 : spectrum; ar(1) spectrum; power= -1.756193



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f11 : spectrum; ar(1) spectrum; power= -1.798595



fig 15



h12 : spectrum; ar(1) spectrum; power= -1.76758



h11 : spectrum; ar(1) spectrum; power= -1.768908









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f.g 22

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fig25a









f10 : ar(1)-residual spectrum

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fig 26 b

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accepted move 1001:15000

# residual Real 1D T=inf, AR(1) fit

fig 41







Fig 429

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r12a : ar(1)-residual spectrum









q-q normal plot















Gg 43b

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94 by



r2T: ar1-estimated spectra for each T

7-

t d



5 e-3 0.01

5 e-4

5 e-5 1 0-4 1 e-3 h2T: ar1-estimated spectra for each T

Fig 48

0.5

0.05

0.1





Fig 49