

Problem 1

Suppose that a dynamic scalar system is given as $x_{k+1} = f_{x_k} + w_k$ where w_k is zero-mean white noise with variance q . Show that if the variance of x_k is σ^2 for all k , then it must be true that $f^2 = (\sigma^2 - q)/\sigma^2$. **Hint:** The problem says the variance of x_k is σ^2 for all time steps k . It does *not* say x_k is zero mean for all k .

If we start with the assumption that $x_k \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_k, \sigma^2)$ and $w_k \sim \mathcal{N}(0, q)$, then we can find the variance of x_{k+1} as the variance of the linear combination $f x_k + w_k$:

$$\sigma_{x_{k+1}}^2 = f^2 \sigma_{x_k}^2 + q$$

But since x_k has the same variance at all timesteps k the expression becomes $\sigma^2 = f^2 \sigma^2 + q$. If we solve this equation for f^2 we get

$$f^2 = \frac{\sigma^2 - q}{\sigma^2}$$

Problem 2

Given the random vector $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ (with some finite mean and covariance matrix) and the constant non-random matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ where $A = A^T$, find $\mathbb{E}[x^T A x]$. Be sure to show and properly explain all steps used to get your result. **Hint:** Ref lecture 2, slide 2. Think about the size of the result of the quadratic form to see the relevant connection. To use this fact, you should first prove that, if Z is a square matrix whose elements are random variables then $\mathbb{E}[\text{tr}(AZ)] = \text{tr}(A\mathbb{E}[Z])$.

$\mathbb{E}[x^T A x]$ can be broken down as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[x^T A x] &= \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_i x_j\right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \mathbb{E}[x_i x_j] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \left[\text{cov}(x_i x_j) + \mathbb{E}[x_i] \mathbb{E}[x_j] \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} (\sigma_{ji} + \mu_i \mu_j) \quad \text{noting: } \text{cov}(x_i x_j) = \text{cov}(x_j x_i) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \sigma_{ji} + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \mu_i \mu_j \\ &= \text{tr}(AP) + \mu^T A \mu \end{aligned}$$

where σ_{ij} is the covariance between x_i and x_j , P is the full covariance matrix of x , and μ is the expected value of x .

Problem 3

Consider the coordinated turning aircraft problem from homework 7. Assume again the dynamics are free of process noise,

$$x(k+1) = Fx(k)$$

for the F matrix and states as defined in homework 7 for some unknown turning rate Ω and discretization step ΔT . Now add measurements of the form

$$y(k+1) = Hx(k+1) + v(k)$$

$$\mathbb{E}[v(k)] = 0, \quad \mathbb{E}[v(k)v(j)^T] = \delta(k, j)R(k)$$

with additive white noise $v(k)$ and non-stationary noise covariance $R(k)$. For each part of this problem, it is desired to estimate the initial state $x(0) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ of a dynamical system consisting of either one or two turning aircraft at time $k = 0$ from noisy measurements $y(k) \in \mathbb{R}^p$ taken at time steps $k = 1, 2, \dots, T$.

part (a)

Derive an analytical expression for the batch estimator $\hat{x}(0)$ which minimizes the cost function

$$J(T) = \sum_{k=1}^T (y_k - \hat{y}_k)^T [R(k)]^{-1} (y_k - \hat{y}_k)$$

where \hat{y}_k is the time k estimator-based predicted measurement (a function of $\hat{x}(0)$) and y_k is the actual measurement at time k . Be sure to precisely and carefully define all matrices and vectors used by the estimator, for the case where x_k and y_k obey equations (1) and (2).

part (b)

Suppose a ground tracking station monitors aircraft A which is turning with $\Omega_A = 0.045$ rad/s and converts 3D range and bearing data into 2D pseudo-measurements $y_A(k)$ with the following DT measurement model

$$y_A(k) = Hx_A(k) + v_A(k)$$

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad R_A = \begin{bmatrix} 75 & 7.5 \\ 7.5 & 75 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 12.5 \sin(k/10) & 25.5 \sin(k/10) \\ 25.5 \sin(k/10) & 12.5 \cos(k/10) \end{bmatrix}$$

where R_A has units of m^2 . Using the data posted in `midterm2.problem3b.mat`, use your result from part (a) to compute the estimate $x_A(0)$, and report the final state estimation error covariance matrix. Note the data provided is for time steps $k \geq 1$ and each column k corresponds to a single y_k vector at step k .

part (c)

Suppose now there is a second aircraft B which is turning with $\Omega_B = -0.045$ rad/s. The tracking station can only directly sense one aircraft at a time, and thus cannot sense B while it senses A .

However, a transponder between A and B provides a noisy measurement $y_D(k)$ of the difference in their 2D positions as they are turning, $r_A = [\xi_A, \eta_A]^T$ and $r_B = [\xi_B, \eta_B]$,

$$y_D(k) = r_A(k) - r_B(k) + v_D(k)$$

$$R_D = \begin{bmatrix} 8000 & 500 \\ 500 & 8000 \end{bmatrix}$$

where R_D has units of m^2 and $v_D \sim \mathcal{N}(0, R_D)$ follows a stationary white noise process. Using the data posted in `midterm2_problem3c.mat` in the array 'yaugHist' (where each column contains a concatenated 4×1 vector $[y_A^T(k), y_D^T(k)]^T$ that includes a new set of $y_A(k)$ measurements for time steps $k \geq 1$), compute an RLLS estimate for $x(0) = [x_A(0), x_B(0)]^T$. In separate plots, show the evolution of each aircraft's state estimate vs k using 4 subplots per aircraft. Also on 4 separate subplots per aircraft show positive 2σ bounds ofr each estimated state vs k . Be sure to explain how you set up the RLLS estimator to estimate $x(0)$ and how you initialized the estimator.