

1. (10 points) Application of Dynamic Programming
Our goal is to solve the following problem:

$$\max_{U_0} J, \quad s.t. \quad u(i) \geq 0, \quad \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} u(i) = x_f \quad (1)$$

where $J := \prod_{i=0}^{N-1} u(i)$ and $U_k = [u(k), u(k+1), \dots, u(N-1)]$.

Define

$$J_k(x(k)) : = \prod_{i=k}^{N-1} u(i) \quad (2)$$

$$J_k^o(x(k)) : = \max_{U_k} \prod_{i=k}^{N-1} u(i) \quad (3)$$

$$\implies J_{N-1}^o(x(N-1)) = u(N-1) = x_f - x(N-1) \quad (4)$$

The central idea in dynamic programming is to express the optimal cost at time step k as a function of the optimal cost at time step $k+1$ so that a backward recursive scheme may be used. In other words,

$$J_k^o(x(k)) : = \max_{U_k} \prod_{i=k}^{N-1} u(i) \quad (5)$$

$$= \max_{u(k), U_{k+1}} u(k) \prod_{i=k+1}^{N-1} u(i) \quad (6)$$

$$= \max_{u(k)} u(k) \max_{U_{k+1}} \prod_{i=k+1}^{N-1} u(i) \quad (7)$$

$$= \max_{u(k)} (u(k) J_{k+1}^o(x(k+1))) \quad (8)$$

You would need to convince yourself about some of the intermediate steps in the above set of equations. Consider:

$$J_{N-2}^o(x(N-2)) = \max_{U_{N-2}} (u(N-2) J_{N-1}^o(x(N-1))) \quad (9)$$

$$\implies u^o(N-2) = \arg \max_{u(N-2)} \left(u(N-2) J_{N-1}^o(x(N-1)) \right) \quad (10)$$

$$= \arg \max_{u(N-2)} \left(u(N-2) (x_f - x(N-1)) \right) \quad (11)$$

$$= \arg \max_{u(N-2)} \left(u(N-2) (x_f - x(N-2) - u(N-2)) \right) \quad (12)$$

$$= \frac{x_f - x(N-2)}{2} \quad (13)$$

Similarly,

$$u_o(N-3) = \arg \max_{u(N-3)} (u(N-3) J_{N-1}^o(x(N-2))) = \frac{x_f - x(N-3)}{3} \quad (14)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vdots &= \vdots \\ u^o(0) &= \arg \max_{u(0)} (u(0) J_{N-1}^o(x(N - (N-1)))) = \frac{x_f - x(0)}{N} = \frac{x_f}{N} \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

Given $u^o = \frac{x_f}{N}$, the above set of equations yield $u(i) = \frac{x_f}{N}$ for all i .

Note: when deriving the optimal control law for $k = N - 3, N - 4, \dots$, the cost $J(N - k)$ is no longer a quadratic function of the control input. However, after some computation, you can find that there are at most two points that make $\partial J(N - k)/\partial u(N - k) = 0$. Easy evaluation at these points and the boundary points ($0 \leq u(k) \leq x_f$) can tell you that $(x_f - x(N - k))/k$ is the one that gives you the maximum value.

2. (15 points) Optimal Tracking Problem

The LQ tracking problem is formulated as follow:

$$\min_{U_0} J := \frac{1}{2} [y_d(N) - y(N)]^T S [y_d(N) - y(N)] + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \left([y_d(k) - y(k)]^T Q_y [y_d(k) - y(k)] + u(k)^T R u(k) \right) \quad (16)$$

subject to $x(k+1) = Ax(k) + Bu(k); y(k) = Cx(k); x(0) = x_0$ with $y_d(k)$ specified for all k and $U_k := [u(k) \ u(k+1) \ \dots \ u(N-1)]$. Define the “cost to go”:

$$J_k = \frac{1}{2} [y_d(N) - y(N)]^T S [y_d(N) - y(N)] + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=k}^{N-1} \left([y_d(i) - y(i)]^T Q_y [y_d(i) - y(i)] + u(i)^T R u(i) \right) \quad (17)$$

Using Bellman’s principle of optimality, we can obtain a recursive relation between $J_k^o(x(k))$ (the optimal cost to go from $x(k)$ to $x(N)$), and $J_{k+1}^o(x(k+1))$ as:

$$J_k^o(x(k)) = \min_{u(k)} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} [y_d(k) - y(k)]^T S [y_d(k) - y(k)] + \frac{1}{2} u(k)^T R u(k) + J_{k+1}^o(x(k+1)) \right\} \quad (18)$$

We use the hint regarding the structure of J_k . Starting at $k = N$:

$$\begin{aligned} J_N^o(x(N)) &= \frac{1}{2} \{ [y_d(N) - y(N)]^T S [y_d(N) - y(N)] \} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} x^T(N) C^T S C x(N) - y_d^T(N) S C x(N) + \frac{1}{2} y_d^T(N) S y_d(N) \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

Define $P(N) := C^T S C$, $b(N) := -y_d^T(N) S C$, $c(N) := \frac{1}{2} y_d^T(N) S y_d(N)$. Then the optimal J_N is:

$$J_N^o(x(N)) = \frac{1}{2} x^T(N) P(N) x(N) + b(N) x(N) + c(N) \quad (20)$$

Now we use the recursive relation for $k = N - 1$ to determine $u^o(N - 1)$. The following general results are now useful: consider the quadratic function

$$f(u) = \frac{1}{2} u^T R u + p^T u + q \quad (21)$$

The optimal (maximum when R is negative definite; minimum when R is positive definite) is achieved when

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial u} = 0 \Rightarrow R u^o + p = 0 \Rightarrow u^o = -R^{-1} p \quad (22)$$

and the optimal cost is

$$f^o = f(u^o) = -\frac{1}{2} p^T R^{-1} p + q \quad (23)$$

For the LQ problem

$$J_{N-1} = \min_{u(N-1)} \left\{ J_N^o(x(N)) + \frac{1}{2} [y(N-1) - y_d(N-1)]^T Q_y [y(N-1) - y_d(N-1)] + u(N-1)^T R u(N-1) \right\}$$

Substituting in the system dynamic equation and after some algebra, we get

$$\begin{aligned} J_{N-1} = & \frac{1}{2} u^T(N-1) (B^T P(N)B + R) u(N-1) + u^T(N-1) B^T (P(N)Ax(N-1) + B^T b(N)) \\ & + \frac{1}{2} x^T(N-1) A^T P(N) Ax(N-1) + b^T(N) Ax(N-1) + c(N) \\ & + \frac{1}{2} (Cx(N-1) - y_d(N-1))^T Q_y (Cx(N-1) - y_d(N-1)) \end{aligned}$$

Regarding the above as a quadratic function of $u(N-1)$ and using the results of (21)-(23), we can get

$$u^o(N-1) = -[R + B^T P(N)B]^{-1} B^T [P(N)Ax(N-1) + b^T(N)] \quad (24)$$

$$\begin{aligned} J_{N-1}^o(x(N-1)) = & \frac{1}{2} \left\{ y_d^T(N-1) Q_y y_d(N-1) \right. \\ & + 2(-y_d^T(N-1) Q_y C + b(N) \{A - B(R + B^T P(N)B)^{-1} B^T P(N)A\}) x(N-1) \\ & + x^T(N-1) (C^T Q_y C + A^T P(N)A - A^T P(N)B [R + B^T P(N)B]^{-1} B^T P(N)A) x(N-1) \\ & \left. - b(N)B [R + B^T P(N)B]^{-1} B^T b^T(N) + 2c(N) \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

Repeating this recursively for $k = N-2, \dots, 1$ results in:

$$u^o(k) = -[R + B^T P(k+1)B]^{-1} B^T [P(k+1)Ax(k) + b^T(k+1)] \quad (26)$$

$$J_k^o(x(k)) = \frac{1}{2} x^T(k) P(k) x(k) + b(k)x(k) + c(k) \quad (27)$$

where $P(k)$, $b(k)$, $c(k)$ satisfy:

$$P(k) = C^T Q_y C + A^T P(k+1)A - A^T P(k+1)B [R + B^T P(k+1)B]^{-1} B^T P(k+1)A \quad (28)$$

$$b(k) = -y_d^T(k) Q_y C + b(k+1) \{A - B(R + B^T P(k+1)B)^{-1} B^T P(k+1)A\} \quad (29)$$

$$c(k) = c(k+1) + \frac{1}{2} y_d^T(k) Q_y y_d(k) - \frac{1}{2} b(k+1)B [R + B^T P(k+1)B]^{-1} B^T b(k+1) \quad (30)$$

with the initial conditions for the backward recursion being:

$$P(N) = C^T S C \quad (31)$$

$$b(N) = -y_d^T(N) S C \quad (32)$$

$$c(N) = \frac{1}{2} y_d^T(N) S y_d(N) \quad (33)$$

Note: strictly speaking, the equation for $c(k)$ is not needed for computing the optimal control law. It is however beneficial to derive the full results for better understanding of the problem.

Understanding the solution: from the update equations, $b(N)$ and $c(N)$ depend on $y_d(N)$; $b(k)$ and $c(k)$ depend on $y_d(k)$, $b(k+1)$ and $c(k+1)$. Hence $b(0)$ and $c(0)$ depends on $y_d(0)$, $y(1)$, ..., $y_d(N)$, i.e., the full desired trajectory should be available to compute the initial control input. This makes intuitive sense, that to obtain the best strategy we would need to know a full “map” of the route we are planning to follow.

3. (10 points) Given that X_1 , X_2 and X_3 are three independent random variables uniformly distributed over $[0, 1]$, we need to obtain the probability distribution functions(pdf's) of:

$$Y : = X_1 + X_2 \quad (34)$$

$$Z : = X_1 + X_2 + X_3 \quad (35)$$

First, let us consider the problem of computing the pdf of Y . The key to this problem is to note that, if given value $X_1 = x_1$, then Y becomes $Y = x_1 + X_2$, i.e. random variable $Y|_{X_1=x_1}$ looks exactly like random variable X_2 shifted by x_1 .

Therefore the pdf of $Y|_{X_1=x_1}$ is easy to calculate.

If F and p stand for cumulative distribution function(cdf) and pdf respectively,

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_{Y|_{X_1=x_1}}(y) &= P(Y|_{X_1=x_1} < y) \\
 &= P(X_2 + x_1 \leq y) \\
 &= P(X_2 \leq y - x_1) \\
 &= F_{X_2}(y - x_1) \\
 \implies p_{Y|_{X_1=x_1}} &= p_{X_2}(y - x_1)
 \end{aligned} \tag{36}$$

Convince yourself that:

$$p_{X_2}(y - x_1) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } -1 + y \leq x_1 \leq y \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \tag{37}$$

Consider the joint distribution of the pair of random variables (Y, X_1) . Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
 p_Y(y) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p_{Y,X_1}(y, x_1) dx_1 \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p_{Y|_{X_1=x_1}}(y) p_{X_1}(x_1) dx_1 \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p_{X_2}(y - x_1) p_{X_1}(x_1) dx_1 \\
 &= \begin{cases} \int_0^y dx_1 & \text{for } 0 \leq y \leq 1 \\ \int_{y-1}^1 dx_1 & \text{for } 1 \leq y \leq 2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\
 &= \begin{cases} y & \text{for } 0 \leq y \leq 1 \\ 2 - y & \text{for } 1 \leq y \leq 2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
 \end{aligned} \tag{38}$$

Follow a similar procedure to get the pdf of Z . Using $p_Z(z) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p_{X_3}(z - y) p_Y(y) dy$ and eq. (5), we will get

$$p_Z(z) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}z^2 & \text{for } 0 \leq z \leq 1 \\ 3z - z^2 - \frac{3}{2} & \text{for } 1 \leq z \leq 2 \\ \frac{1}{2}z^2 - 3z + \frac{9}{2} & \text{for } 2 \leq z \leq 3 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \tag{39}$$

Note that the shape of Y looks triangular and that of Z will be quadratic with a hump. As you compute the sum of a large number, if independent, identically distributed(IID) random variable, you can expect the shape of the pdf of the sum of random variables to look like a Gaussian.

4. (5 points) Positive Semi-definite Property of Covariance Matrix

We need to show that the covariance matrix is positive semi-definite, i.e. we need to show that $Z :=$

$E[(X - m_x)(X - m_x)^T]$ is p.s.d. Consider,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \alpha^T Z \alpha &= \alpha^T \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - m_x)(x - m_x)^T p_X(x) dx \right) \alpha \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \alpha^T (x - m_x)(x - m_x)^T \alpha p_X(x) dx \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} q^T q p_X(x) dx, \quad \text{where } q := (x - m_x)^T \alpha \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \|q\|_2^2 p_X(x) dx \\
 &\geq 0 \quad \text{since } \|q\|_2 \geq 0 \quad (\text{for all } q), \quad p_X(x) \geq 0
 \end{aligned} \tag{40}$$

That is, $\alpha^T Z \alpha \geq 0$, for all α and this means Z is p.s.d.

For the second part, we notice that for any deterministic α , $\alpha^T Z \alpha$ is the variance of $\alpha^T(x - m_x)$, since $E[\alpha^T(x - m_x)] = 0$. So if the variance is positive for any nonzero deterministic α , Z is positive definite.

5. (15 points) Computing the autocorrelation function of the response of an LTI system to a wide-sense stationary (WSS) input

The response of an LTI system to a WSS random process is WSS at the steady state. In this problem, the discrete-time LTI system is described by $y(k) - 0.8y(k-1) = e(k) + 0.5e(k-1)$.

Also given: $e(k)$ is a zero mean white noise process.

The transfer function of the above LTI system is $G(z) = \frac{z+0.5}{z-0.8}$. Therefore the spectral density looks like:

$$\Phi_{yy}(e^{j\omega}) = G(z)G(z^{-1})|_{z=e^{j\omega}} \Phi_{ee}(e^{j\omega}) = \frac{1.25 + 0.5e^{-j\omega} + 0.5e^{j\omega}}{1.64 - 0.8e^{-j\omega} - 0.8e^{j\omega}} \times 1 = \frac{1.25 + \cos\omega}{1.64 - 1.6\cos\omega} \tag{41}$$

We have three different methods to compute the autocovariance of $y(k)$:

Method 1: Define $\Phi_{yy}(z)$ as the Z transform of $X_{yy}(k)$. $\Phi_{yy}(z)$ is related to $\Phi_{yy}(\omega)$ by $\Phi_{yy}(z) = \Phi_{yy}(\omega)|_{e^{j\omega}=z}$. Doing a partial fraction expansion of $\Phi_{yy}(z)$, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Phi_{yy}(z) &= -\frac{5}{8} \left(1 - \frac{91}{9} \frac{0.8z^{-1}}{1 - 0.8z^{-1}} + \frac{91}{9} \frac{\frac{1}{0.8}z^{-1}}{1 - \frac{1}{0.8}z^{-1}} \right) \\
 X_{yy}(k) &= \mathcal{Z}^{-1}(\Phi_{yy}(z)) = -\frac{5}{8} \left(\delta(k) - \frac{91}{9} 0.8^k u(k-1) - \frac{91}{9} \left(\frac{1}{0.8} \right)^k u(-k) \right),
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$u(k) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } k \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{for } k < 0 \end{cases}$$

Alternatively, you can just perform an inverse discrete-time Fourier transform on the spectral density function of y , which will give the same result.

Method 2: Suppose we have a system described by

$$\begin{aligned}
 x(k+1) &= Ax(k) + Be(k) \\
 y(k) &= Cx(k) + De(k) \quad \text{where } E[e(k)], E[e(k)e^T(k+l)] = W\delta(l) = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

We want to determine $X_{yy}(l)$ at the steady state. As described in the notes, $X_{xx}(0)$ can be obtained by solving

$$X_{ss} = AX_{ss}A^T + BWB^T \tag{42}$$

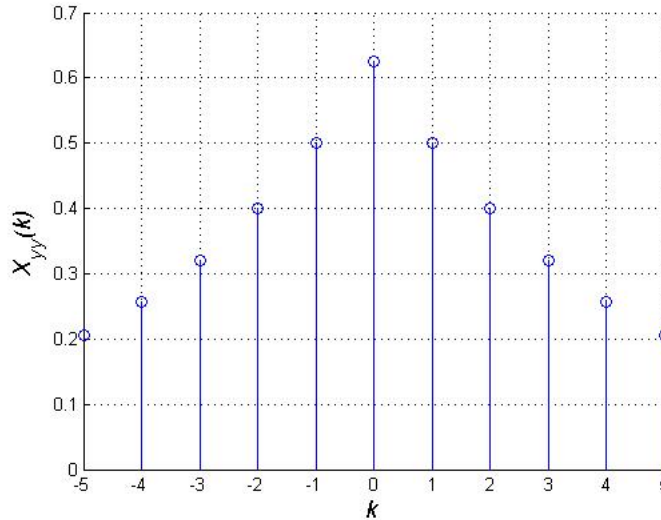


Figure 1: Autocorrelation function

To obtain $X_{yy}(l)$, $l \geq 0$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 X_{yy}(l) &= E[y(k)y^T(k+l)] \\
 &= E[(Cx(k) + De(k))(Cx(k+l) + De(k+l))^T] \\
 &= E[Cx(k)x^T(k+l)C^T] + E[Cx(k)e^T(k+l)D^T] + E[De(k)x^T(k+l)C^T] + E[De(k)e^T(k+l)D^T] \\
 &= CX_{xx}(l)C^T + 0 + DE[e(k)x^T(k+l)]C^T + 0
 \end{aligned}$$

The second and fourth terms are zero based on the causality of the system and the whiteness of $e(k)$. The third term is computed as shown below.

$$\begin{aligned}
 E[e(k)x^T(k+l)] &= E\left[e(k)\left(A^l x(k) + \sum_{j=0}^{l-1} A^{l-j-1} B e(k+j)\right)^T\right] \\
 &= E[e(k)x^T(k)] + \sum_{j=0}^{l-1} E[e(k)(A^{l-j-1} B e(k+j))^T] \\
 &= 0 + E[e(k)(A^{l-1} B e(k))^T] = WB^T(A^T)^{l-1}
 \end{aligned}$$

Again, we have used causality and whiteness of $e(k)$ in the last step. Therefore $X_{yy}(l) = CX_{xx}(A^T)^l C^T + DWB^T(A^T)^{l-1}C^T$ if $l > 0$. We can use the fact that $X_{yy}(-l) = X_{yy}(l)^T$ to obtain the case for which $l < 0$. Finally for the case when $l = 0$, $X_{yy}(0) = CX_{xx}C^T + DW D^T$.

For this problem, A, B, C, D are 0.8, 1, 1.3, 1 (Use any method to obtain the state space representation of the difference equation given). Solving for X_{ss} by hand or by using the MATLAB command *lyap*, we

get $X_{ss} = \frac{25}{9}$. $X_{yy}(0) = 5.59$. Further,

$$\begin{aligned} X_{yy}(k) &= 1.3 \times \frac{25}{9} \times 0.8^k \times 1.3 + 0.8^{k-1} \times 1.3 \\ &= \frac{189}{36} (0.8)^k + (0.8)^{k-1} \text{ when } k > 0 \end{aligned}$$

You can verify that this answer is consistent with the answer obtained from the first method.

Method 3: $X_{yy}(k)$ can also be computed using convolution.

The inverse Z transform of the transfer function $G(z) = \frac{z+0.5}{z-0.8} = 1 + \frac{1.3z^{-1}}{1-0.8z^{-1}}$ gives the impulse response

$$g(i) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } i = 0 \\ \frac{1.3}{0.8} (0.8)^i & \text{for } i > 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

The cross-covariance of y and e is

$$\begin{aligned} X_{ye}(l) &= E[y(k)e(k+l)] = E \left[\left(\sum_{i=-\infty}^{\infty} g(i)e(k-i) \right) e(k+l) \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=-\infty}^{\infty} \{g(i)E[e(k-i)e(k+l)]\} = \sum_{i=-\infty}^{\infty} \{g(i)\delta_{-i,l}\} \\ &= g(-l) \end{aligned}$$

The covariance of y or the autocovariance of y at zero time difference is

$$\begin{aligned} X_{yy}(0) &= \sum_{i=-\infty}^{\infty} g(i)X_{ye}(-i) = \sum_{i=-\infty}^{\infty} g(i)g(i) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} [g(i)^2] = 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} [g(i)^2] \\ &= 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \left[\left(\frac{1.3}{0.8} \right)^2 (0.8)^{2i} \right] \\ &= 1 + \frac{\left(\frac{1.3}{0.8} \right)^2 (0.8)^2}{1 - (0.8)^2} \\ &= \frac{205}{36} \end{aligned}$$

For $l > 0$, the autocovariance of y is computed by

$$\begin{aligned} X_{yy}(l) &= \sum_{i=-\infty}^{\infty} g(i)X_{ye}(l-i) = \sum_{i=-\infty}^{\infty} [g(i)g(i-l)] \\ &= \sum_{i=l}^{\infty} [g(i)g(i-l)] = \frac{1.3}{0.8} (0.8)^l + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \left[\left(\frac{1.3}{0.8} \right)^2 (0.8)^{2i+l} \right] \\ &= \frac{1.3}{0.8} (0.8)^l + \frac{\left(\frac{1.3}{0.8} \right)^2 (0.8)^{2+l}}{1 - (0.8)^2} \\ &= \frac{455}{72} (0.8)^l \end{aligned}$$

Similarly to method 2, $X_{yy}(l)$ for $l < 0$ is found by

$$X_{yy}(l) = X_{yy}(-l) = \frac{455}{72} (0.8)^{-l}$$

You can verify that this answer is consistent with the answers obtained from the first and the second methods.

6. (15 points) Given a system as:

$$\dot{x} = Ax + B_w w = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -2 & -3 \end{bmatrix} x + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} w \quad (43)$$

$$y = Cx = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix} x \quad (44)$$

Since this is an LTI system, the steady state covariance of x satisfies the following Lyapunov Equation:

$$AX_{ss} + X_{ss}A^T = -B_w W B_w^T = - \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \implies X_{ss} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{12} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{6} \end{bmatrix} \quad (45)$$

Therefore, For $\tau \geq 0$,

$$X_{ss}(\tau) = X_{ss} e^{A^T \tau} = X_{ss} V \begin{bmatrix} e^{-\tau} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-2\tau} \end{bmatrix} V^{-1}, \quad \text{with } V = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (46)$$

$$Y_{ss}(\tau) = C X_{ss}(\tau) C^T = C X_{ss} V \begin{bmatrix} e^{-\tau} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-2\tau} \end{bmatrix} V^{-1} C^T = \frac{1}{8} e^{-\tau} \quad (47)$$

Hence, $Y_{ss}(\tau) = \frac{1}{8} e^{-\tau}$ for $\tau \geq 0$, $Y_{ss}(\tau) = \frac{1}{8} e^{\tau}$ for $\tau < 0$. The variance is $Y_{ss}(0) = \frac{1}{8}$. The spectral density is:

$$\Phi_{yy}(\omega) = \mathfrak{F}\{Y_{ss}(\tau)\} = \frac{1}{8} \left(\frac{1}{1+j\omega} + \frac{1}{1-j\omega} \right) = \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{1+\omega^2} \quad (48)$$