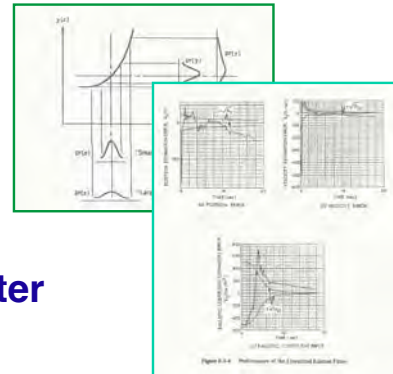


# Nonlinear State Estimation

## Extended Kalman Filters

Robert Stengel  
Optimal Control and Estimation, MAE 546  
Princeton University, 2015

- Deformation of the probability distribution
- Neighboring-optimal estimator
- Extended Kalman-Bucy filter
- Hybrid extended Kalman filter
- Quasilinear extended Kalman filter



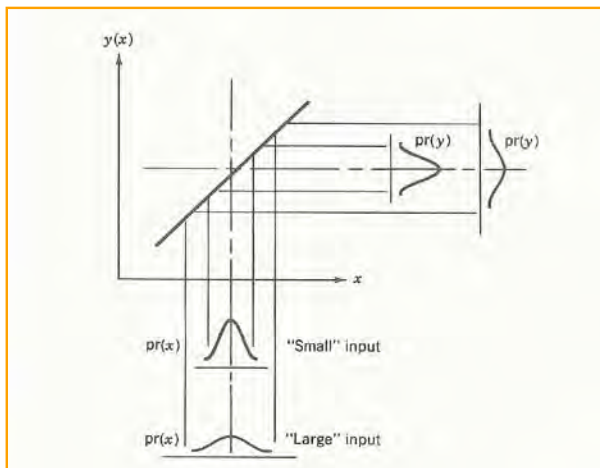
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<http://www.princeton.edu/~stengel/MAE546.html>  
<http://www.princeton.edu/~stengel/OptConEst.html>

1

## Linear Transformation of a Probability Distribution

- Linear transformation does not change the shape of a probability distribution

$$y = kx$$



$$\begin{aligned} E(y) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y \, \text{pr}(x) \, dx = \bar{y} \\ &= k \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \, \text{pr}(x) \, dx = k \bar{x} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E[(y - \bar{y})^2] &= \sigma_y^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (y - \bar{y})^2 \, \text{pr}(x) \, dx \\ &= k^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \bar{x})^2 \, \text{pr}(x) \, dx = k^2 \sigma_x^2 \\ \sigma_y &= k \sigma_x \end{aligned}$$

... and higher central moments scale as well

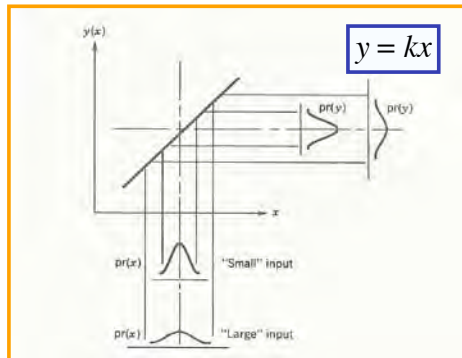
2

# Linear Transformation of a Gaussian Probability Distribution

- Probability distribution of **y** is Gaussian as well

$$\text{pr}(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sigma_x} e^{-\frac{(x-\bar{x})^2}{2\sigma_x^2}}$$

$$\text{pr}(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sigma_y} e^{-\frac{(y-\bar{y})^2}{2\sigma_y^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} k\sigma_x} e^{-\frac{(y-k\bar{x})^2}{2k^2\sigma_x^2}}$$



Skew is zero :

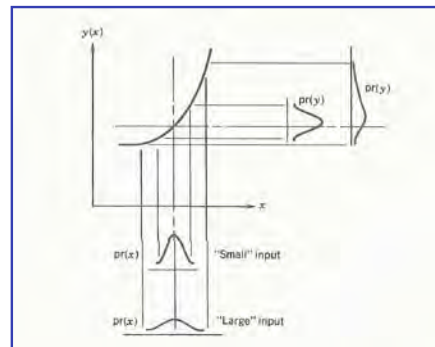
$$\begin{aligned} E[(y - \bar{y})^3] &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (y - \bar{y})^3 \text{pr}(x) dx \\ &= k^3 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \bar{x})^3 \text{pr}(x) dx = 0 \end{aligned}$$

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# Nonlinear Transformation of a Probability Distribution

$$y = f(x)$$

$$\begin{aligned} y(x) &= y(x_o) + \Delta y(\Delta x) \\ &= f(x_o) + \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right|_{x=x_o} \Delta x + \dots \\ \therefore \Delta y(\Delta x) &\approx \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right|_{x=x_o} \Delta x \end{aligned}$$

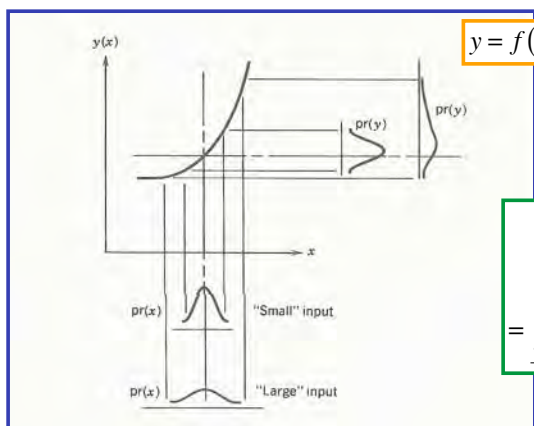


$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[y(x_o), y(x_o + \Delta x)] y(x) &= \Pr[x_o, x_o + \Delta x] \\ \text{pr}[y(x_o)] \Delta y &= \text{pr}[y(x_o)] \left( \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right|_{x=x_o} \Delta x \right) = \text{pr}[x_o] \Delta x \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \text{in the limit } \Delta x \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow \text{pr}[y(x_o)] = \frac{\text{pr}[x_o]}{\left| \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)_{x=x_o} \right|}$$

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# Nonlinear Transformation of a Gaussian Probability Distribution



$$E(y) = \bar{y} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y \, \text{pr}(x) dx$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \, \text{pr}(x) dx \neq k\bar{x} \quad (\text{in general})$$

$$E[(y - \bar{y})^2] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (y - \bar{y})^2 \, \text{pr}(x) dx$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [f(x) - \bar{y}]^2 \, \text{pr}(x) dx \neq k^2 (x - \bar{x})^2 \quad (\text{in general})$$

**Skew :**  $E[(y - \bar{y})^3] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (y - \bar{y})^3 \, \text{pr}(x) dx$

$$\neq 0 \quad (\text{in general})$$

Probability distribution of **y** is not Gaussian

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## Nonlinear Dynamic Systems with Random Inputs and Measurement Error

Continuous-time system with random inputs and measurement error

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{f}[\mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t), \mathbf{w}(t), t], \quad \mathbf{x}(0) \text{ given}$$

$$\mathbf{z}(t) = \mathbf{h}[\mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t), \mathbf{n}(t)]$$

$$E[\mathbf{w}(t)\mathbf{w}^T(\tau)] = \mathbf{Q}'_c \delta(t - \tau)$$

$$E[\mathbf{n}(t)\mathbf{n}^T(\tau)] = \mathbf{R}_c \delta(t - \tau)$$

$$E[\mathbf{w}(t)\mathbf{n}^T(\tau)] = 0$$

Discrete-time system with random inputs and measurement error

$$\mathbf{x}(t_{k+1}) = \mathbf{f}[\mathbf{x}(t_k), \mathbf{u}(t_k), \mathbf{w}(t_k), t], \quad \mathbf{x}(0) \text{ given}$$

$$\mathbf{z}(t) = \mathbf{h}[\mathbf{x}(t_k), \mathbf{u}(t_k), \mathbf{n}(t_k)]$$

$$E(\mathbf{w}_j \mathbf{w}_k^T) = \mathbf{Q}'_k \delta_{jk}$$

$$E(\mathbf{n}_j \mathbf{n}_k^T) = \mathbf{R}_k \delta_{jk}$$

$$E(\mathbf{w}_j \mathbf{n}_k^T) = 0$$

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# State Propagation for Nonlinear Dynamic Systems

## Continuous-time system

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) &= \mathbf{f}[\mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t), \mathbf{w}(t), t], \quad \mathbf{x}(0) \text{ given} \\ \mathbf{x}(t_{k+1}) &= \mathbf{x}(t_k) + \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} \mathbf{f}[\mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t), \mathbf{w}(t), t] dt \\ &= \mathbf{x}(t_k) + \Delta \mathbf{x}(t_k)\end{aligned}$$

Explicit numerical integration

## Discrete-time system

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x}(t_{k+1}) &= \mathbf{f}[\mathbf{x}(t_k), \mathbf{u}(t_k), \mathbf{w}(t_k), t], \quad \mathbf{x}(0) \text{ given} \\ \mathbf{x}(t_{k+1}) &= \mathbf{x}(t_k) + \Delta \mathbf{f}[\mathbf{x}(t_k), \mathbf{u}(t_k), \mathbf{w}(t_k), t_k] \\ &= \mathbf{x}(t_k) + \Delta \mathbf{x}(t_k)\end{aligned}$$

Explicit numerical summation

In both cases, the state propagation can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{x}(t_{k+1}) = \mathbf{x}(t_k) + \Delta \mathbf{x}(t_k)$$

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# Nonlinear Propagation of the Mean

## The underlying deterministic model

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x}(t_{k+1}) &= \mathbf{x}(t_k) + \Delta \mathbf{f}[\mathbf{x}(t_k), \mathbf{u}(t_k), \mathbf{w}(t_k), t_k] \\ &= \mathbf{x}(t_k) + \Delta \mathbf{x}(t_k)\end{aligned}$$

**Propagation of the mean  
(continuous- or discrete-time)  
for a random variable**

$$\begin{aligned}E[\mathbf{x}(t_{k+1})] &\triangleq \bar{\mathbf{x}}(t_{k+1}) = E[\mathbf{x}(t_k) + \Delta \mathbf{x}(t_k)] \\ &= E[\mathbf{x}(t_k)] + E[\Delta \mathbf{x}(t_k)] \triangleq \bar{\mathbf{x}}(t_k) + \Delta \bar{\mathbf{x}}(t_k)\end{aligned}$$

**“State Estimate” usually defined as an estimate of the mean of the associated (non-Gaussian) random process**

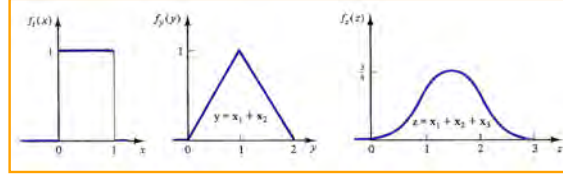
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# Probability Distribution Propagation for Nonlinear Dynamic Systems

Consequently

$$\bar{\mathbf{x}}(t_{k+n}) = \bar{\mathbf{x}}(t_k) + \Delta\bar{\mathbf{x}}(t_k) + \Delta\bar{\mathbf{x}}(t_{k+1}) + \dots + \Delta\bar{\mathbf{x}}(t_{k+n-1})$$

**Central limit theorem:** probability distribution of  $\mathbf{x}(t_{k+n})$  approaches a Gaussian distribution for large  $k+n$



...even if  $\text{pr}[\Delta\mathbf{x}(t_{k+1}, t_k)]$  is not Gaussian

**Mean and variance** are dominant measures of the probability distribution of a system's state,  $\mathbf{x}(t)$

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## Nonlinear Propagation of the Covariance

Second central moment

$$\begin{aligned} E\left\{\left[\mathbf{x}(t_{k+1}) - \bar{\mathbf{x}}(t_{k+1})\right]\left[\mathbf{x}(\tau_{k+1}) - \bar{\mathbf{x}}(\tau_{k+1})\right]^T\right\} &\triangleq \mathbf{P}(t_{k+1}) \\ = E\left\{\left[\mathbf{x}(t_k) + \Delta\mathbf{x}(t_k) - \bar{\mathbf{x}}(t_k) - \Delta\bar{\mathbf{x}}(t_k)\right]\left[\mathbf{x}(\tau_k) + \Delta\mathbf{x}(\tau_k) - \bar{\mathbf{x}}(\tau_k) - \Delta\bar{\mathbf{x}}(\tau_k)\right]^T\right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \delta\mathbf{x}(t_k) &\triangleq \mathbf{x}(t_k) - \bar{\mathbf{x}}(t_k) \\ \mathbf{P}(t_{k+1}) &= E\left\{\left[\delta\mathbf{x}(t_k) + \delta[\Delta\mathbf{x}(t_k)]\right]\left[\delta\mathbf{x}(\tau_k) + \delta[\Delta\mathbf{x}(\tau_k)]\right]^T\right\} \end{aligned}$$

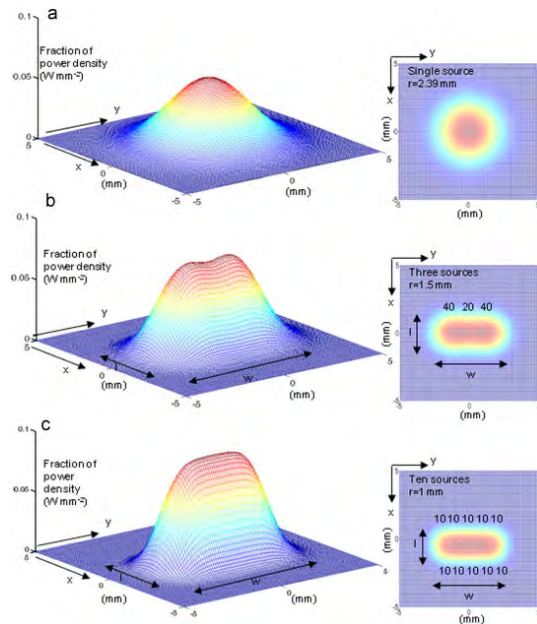
Covariance matrix

$$\begin{aligned} &= E\left[\delta\mathbf{x}(t_k)\delta\mathbf{x}^T(\tau_k)\right] + E\left\{\delta\mathbf{x}(t_k)\delta[\Delta\mathbf{x}(\tau_k)]\right\} + E\left\{\delta[\Delta\mathbf{x}(t_k)]\delta\mathbf{x}^T(\tau_k)\right\} + E\left\{\delta[\Delta\mathbf{x}(t_k)]\delta[\Delta\mathbf{x}(\tau_k)]\right\} \\ &\triangleq \mathbf{P}(t_k) + \mathbf{M}(t_k) + \mathbf{M}^T(t_k) + \Delta\mathbf{P}(t_k) \end{aligned}$$

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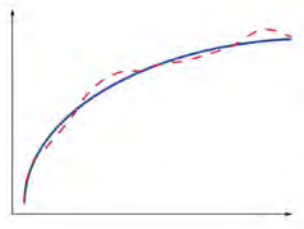
# Gaussian and Non-Gaussian Probability Distributions

- (Almost) all random variables have means and standard deviations
- Minimizing estimate error covariance tends to minimize the “spread” of the error in many (but not all) non-Gaussian cases
- Central Limit Theorem implies that estimate errors tend toward normal distribution



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*Neighboring-Optimal Estimator*



## Neighboring-Optimal Estimator

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) &= \mathbf{f}[\mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t), \mathbf{w}(t), t] \\ \mathbf{z}(t) &= \mathbf{h}[\mathbf{x}(t)] + \mathbf{n}(t)\end{aligned}$$

- **Assume**
  - Nominal solution exists
  - Disturbance and measurement errors are small
  - State stays close to the nominal solution
  - Mean and variance are good approximators of probability distribution

$$\mathbf{x}_o(t), \mathbf{u}_o(t), \mathbf{w}_o(t) \text{ known in } [0, t_f]$$

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\mathbf{x}}_o(t) + \Delta \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) &= \mathbf{f}[\mathbf{x}_o(t), \mathbf{u}_o(t), \mathbf{w}_o(t), t] + [\mathbf{F}(t)\Delta \mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{G}(t)\Delta \mathbf{u}(t) + \mathbf{L}(t)\Delta \mathbf{w}(t)] \\ \mathbf{z}_o(t) + \Delta \mathbf{z}(t) &= \mathbf{h}[\mathbf{x}_o(t)] + \mathbf{n}_o(t) + [\mathbf{H}(t)\Delta \mathbf{x}(t) + \Delta \mathbf{n}(t)]\end{aligned}$$

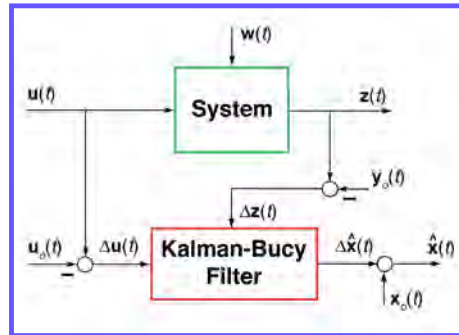
**Jacobian matrices evaluated along the nominal path**

$$\mathbf{F}(t) \triangleq \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{x}}[\mathbf{x}_o(t), \mathbf{u}_o(t), \mathbf{w}_o(t)]; \quad \mathbf{G}(t) \triangleq \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{u}}[\mathbf{x}_o(t), \mathbf{u}_o(t), \mathbf{w}_o(t)]; \quad \mathbf{L}(t) \triangleq \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{w}}[\mathbf{x}_o(t), \mathbf{u}_o(t), \mathbf{w}_o(t)]$$

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## Neighboring-Optimal Estimator

**Estimate the perturbation from the nominal path**



$$\Delta \dot{\hat{\mathbf{x}}}(t) = \mathbf{F}(t)\Delta \hat{\mathbf{x}}(t) + \mathbf{G}(t)\Delta \mathbf{u}(t) + \mathbf{K}_C(t)[\Delta \mathbf{z}(t) - \mathbf{H}(t)\Delta \hat{\mathbf{x}}(t)]$$

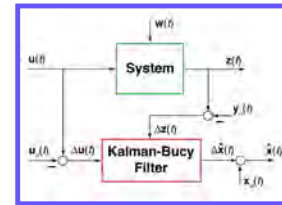
$\mathbf{K}_C(t)$  is the LTV Kalman-Bucy gain matrix  
LTV Kalman filter could be used to estimate the state at discrete instants of time

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}(t) \simeq \mathbf{x}_{Nom}(t) + \Delta \hat{\mathbf{x}}(t)$$

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# Neighboring-Optimal Estimator Example

(from Gelb, 1974)



## Radar tracking a falling body (one dimension)

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_1(t) \\ \dot{x}_2(t) \\ \dot{x}_3(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_2(t) \\ d - g \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}; \quad \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{altitude} \\ \text{velocity} \\ \text{ballistic coefficient, } \beta \end{bmatrix}$$

$$z(t) = x_1(t) + n(t)$$

where

$$\text{Drag} = d = \frac{\rho V^2(t)}{2\beta(t)} = \frac{\rho x_2^2(t)}{2x_3(t)}$$

$$\text{Density} = \rho = \rho_o e^{-\text{altitude}/k} = \rho_o e^{-x_1(t)/k}$$

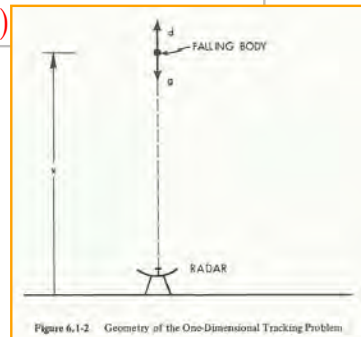


Figure 6.1-2 Geometry of the One-Dimensional Tracking Problem

## Estimate Error for Example

(from Gelb, 1974)

$$\mathbf{P}(0) = \begin{bmatrix} 500 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 20,000 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2.5 \times 10^5 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Pre-computed nominal trajectory
- Filter gains also may be pre-computed
- Position and velocity errors diverge
- Ballistic coefficient estimate error exceeds filter estimate
- Example of parameter estimation

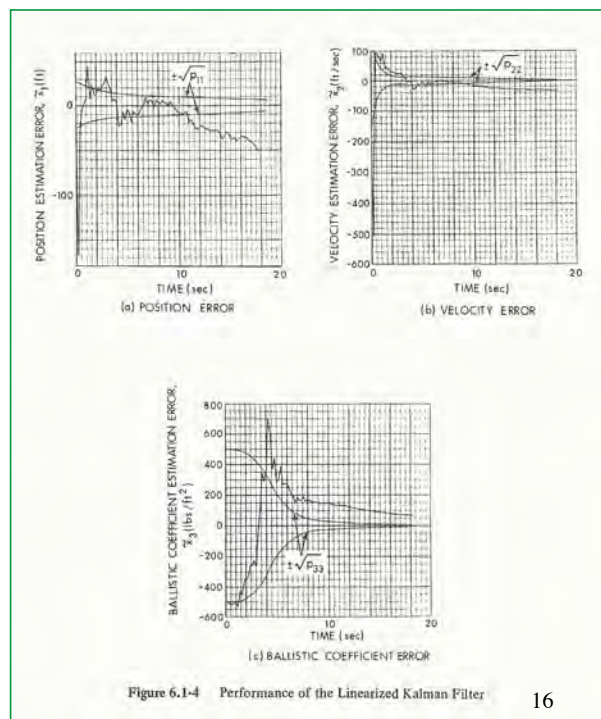


Figure 6.1-4 Performance of the Linearized Kalman Filter



# *Extended Kalman Filters*

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## Extended Kalman-Bucy Filter

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) &= \mathbf{f}[\mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t), \mathbf{w}(t), t] \\ \mathbf{z}(t) &= \mathbf{h}[\mathbf{x}(t)] + \mathbf{n}(t)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{F}(t) &\triangleq \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{x}}[\mathbf{x}_o(t), \mathbf{u}_o(t), \mathbf{w}_o(t)]; & \mathbf{G}(t) &\triangleq \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{u}}[\mathbf{x}_o(t), \mathbf{u}_o(t), \mathbf{w}_o(t)]; \\ \mathbf{L}(t) &\triangleq \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{w}}[\mathbf{x}_o(t), \mathbf{u}_o(t), \mathbf{w}_o(t)]; & \mathbf{H}(t) &\triangleq \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}}{\partial \mathbf{x}}[\mathbf{x}_o(t), \mathbf{u}_o(t), \mathbf{w}_o(t)]\end{aligned}$$

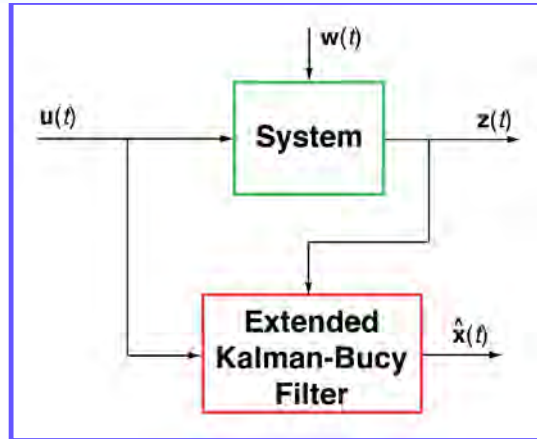
- **Assume**
  - No nominal solution is reliable or available
  - Disturbances and measurement errors may not be small



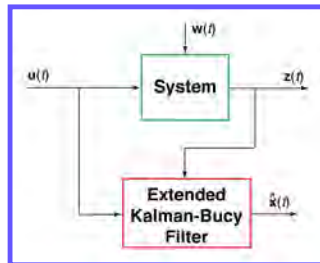
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# Extended Kalman-Bucy Filter

- In the estimator
  - Replace the linear dynamic model by the **nonlinear model**
  - Compute the **filter gain matrix** using the **linearized model**
  - Make **linear update** to the state estimate propagated by the **nonlinear model**



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## Extended Kalman-Bucy Filter

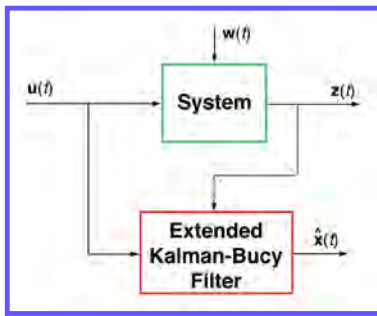
**State Estimate: Nonlinear propagation plus linear correction**

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\hat{\mathbf{x}}}(t) &= \mathbf{f}[\hat{\mathbf{x}}(t), \mathbf{u}(t), t] + \mathbf{K}_c(t) \{ \mathbf{z}(t) - \mathbf{h}[\hat{\mathbf{x}}(t)] \} \\ \mathbf{x}(t_{k+1}) &= \hat{\mathbf{x}}(t_k) + \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} \left\langle \mathbf{f}[\hat{\mathbf{x}}(t), \mathbf{u}(t), t] + \mathbf{K}_c(t) \{ \mathbf{z}(t) - \mathbf{h}[\hat{\mathbf{x}}(t)] \} \right\rangle dt\end{aligned}$$

**Filter Gain**

$$\mathbf{K}_c(t) = \mathbf{P}(t) \mathbf{H}^T [\hat{\mathbf{x}}(t), \mathbf{u}(t)] \mathbf{R}_c^{-1}(t)$$

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## Extended Kalman-Bucy Filter

Covariance Estimate

$$\dot{\mathbf{P}}(t) = \mathbf{F}[\hat{\mathbf{x}}(t), \mathbf{u}(t)]\mathbf{P}(t) + \mathbf{P}(t)\mathbf{F}^T[\hat{\mathbf{x}}(t), \mathbf{u}(t)] + \mathbf{L}[\hat{\mathbf{x}}(t), \mathbf{u}(t)]\mathbf{Q}'_c(t)\mathbf{L}^T[\hat{\mathbf{x}}(t), \mathbf{u}(t)] - \mathbf{K}_c(t)\mathbf{H}[\hat{\mathbf{x}}(t), \mathbf{u}(t)]\mathbf{P}(t)$$

- **Linear Kalman-Bucy filter**
  - State estimate **is** affected by the covariance estimate
  - Covariance estimate **is not** affected by the state estimate
  - Consequently, the covariance estimate **is unaffected** by the output,  $\mathbf{z}(t)$
- **Extended Kalman-Bucy filter**
  - State estimate **is** affected by the covariance estimate
  - Covariance estimate **is** affected by the state estimate
  - Therefore, the covariance estimate **is affected** by the output,  $\mathbf{z}(t)$

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## Extended Kalman-Bucy Filter Example

(from Gelb, 1974)

- Early tracking error is large
- Position, velocity, and ballistic coefficient errors converge to estimated bounds
- Filter gains must be computed on-line

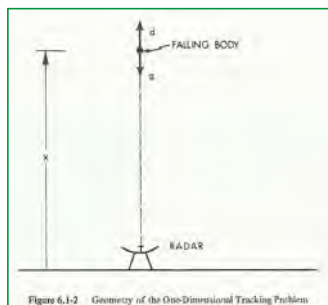


Figure 6.1-2 Geometry of the One-Dimensional Tracking Problem

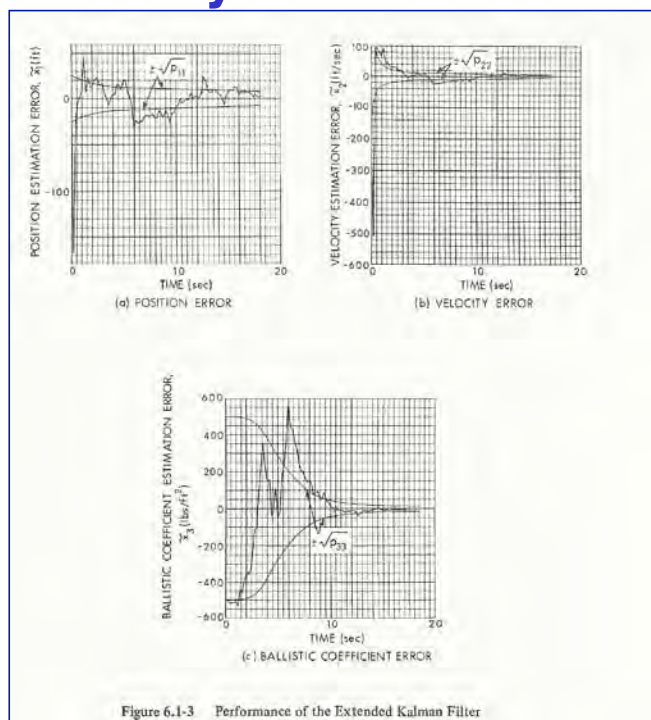


Figure 6.1-3 Performance of the Extended Kalman Filter

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# Hybrid Extended Kalman Filter

## Numerical integration of propagation equations

State Estimate (-)

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}[t_k(-)] = \mathbf{x}[t_{k-1}(+)] + \int_{t_{k-1}}^{t_k} \mathbf{f}[\hat{\mathbf{x}}[\tau(+)], \mathbf{u}(\tau)] d\tau$$

Covariance Estimate (-)

$$\mathbf{P}[t_k(-)] = \mathbf{P}[t_{k-1}(+)] + \int_{t_{k-1}}^{t_k} [\mathbf{F}(\tau)\mathbf{P}(\tau) + \mathbf{P}(\tau)\mathbf{F}^T(\tau) + \mathbf{L}(\tau)\mathbf{Q}'_c(\tau)\mathbf{L}^T(\tau)] d\tau$$

*Jacobian matrices must be calculated*

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# Hybrid Extended Kalman Filter

## Recursive estimate updates

Filter Gain

$$\mathbf{K}(t_k) = \mathbf{P}[t_k(-)]\mathbf{H}^T(t_k) [\mathbf{H}(t_k)\mathbf{P}[t_k(-)]\mathbf{H}^T(t_k) + \mathbf{R}(t_k)]^{-1}$$

State Estimate (+)

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}[t_k(+)] = \hat{\mathbf{x}}[t_k(-)] + \mathbf{K}(t_k) \langle \mathbf{z}(t_k) - \mathbf{h}\{\hat{\mathbf{x}}[t_k(-)]\} \rangle$$

Covariance Estimate (+)

$$\mathbf{P}[t_k(+)] = [\mathbf{I}_n - \mathbf{K}(t_k)\mathbf{H}(t_k)]\mathbf{P}[t_k(-)]$$

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# Iterated Extended Kalman Filter

(Gelb, 1974)

Re-apply the update equations to the updated solution  
to improve the estimate before proceeding

Re-linearize output matrix before each new update

State Estimate (+)

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k,i+1}(+) = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k(-) + \mathbf{K}_{k,i} \left\{ \mathbf{z}_k - \mathbf{h}[\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k,i}(+)] - \mathbf{H}_k[\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k,i}(+)] [\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k(-) - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k,i}(+)] \right\}, \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k,0}(+) = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k(-)$$

Arbitrary # of iterations:  $i = 0, 1, \dots$

Filter Gain

$$\mathbf{K}_{k,i} = \mathbf{P}_k(-) \mathbf{H}_k^T [\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k,i}(+)] \left\{ \mathbf{H}_k [\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k,i}(+)] \mathbf{P}_k(-) \mathbf{H}_k^T [\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k,i}(+)] + \mathbf{R}_k \right\}^{-1}$$

Covariance Estimate (+)

$$\mathbf{P}_{k,i+1}(+) = \left\{ \mathbf{I}_n - \mathbf{K}_{k,i} \mathbf{H}_k [\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k,i}(+)] \right\} \mathbf{P}_k(-)$$

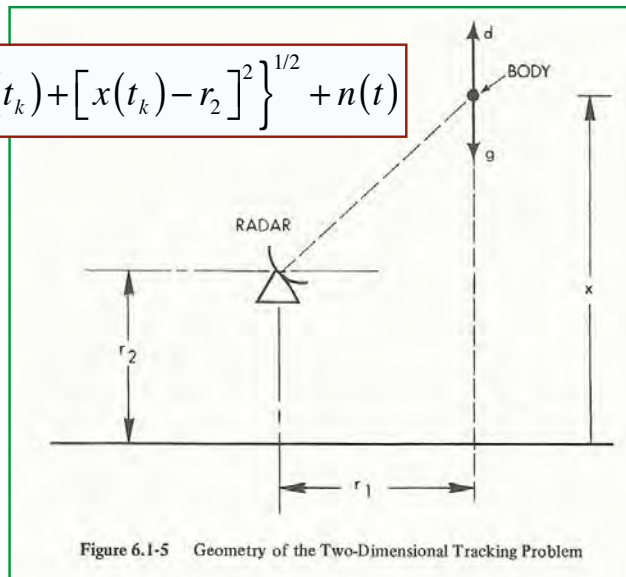
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## Two-Dimensional Example

(from Gelb, 1974)

Same falling sphere dynamics, with offset radar

$$z(t_k) = \left\{ r_1^2(t_k) + [x(t_k) - r_2]^2 \right\}^{1/2} + n(t)$$

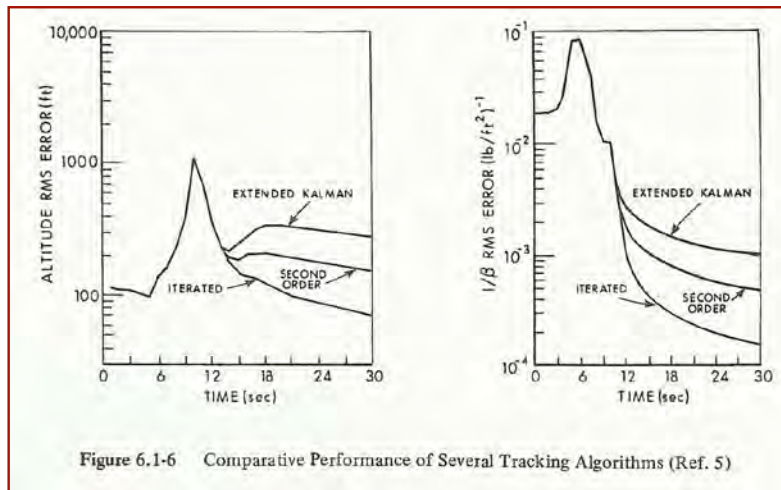


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# Two-Dimensional Example

(from Gelb, 1974)

Comparison of alternative nonlinear estimators  
100-trial Monte Carlo evaluation



Second-order filter includes additional terms in  $\mathbf{f}[\cdot]$  and  $\mathbf{h}[\cdot]$

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## Quasilinearization (Describing Functions)

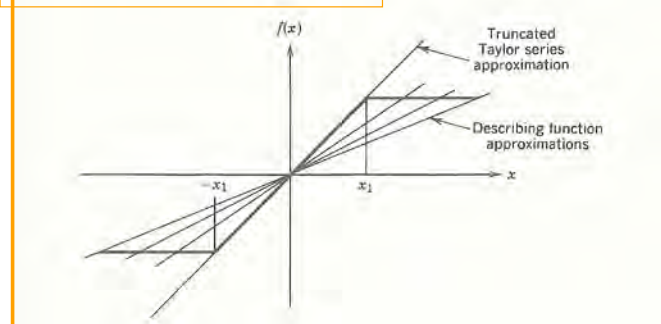
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# Quasilinearization

- **True linearization**: slope of a nonlinear curve at the evaluation point
- **Quasilinearization**: amplitude-dependent slope of a nonlinear curve at the evaluation point
- **Describing function**: quasilinear function of affine form:

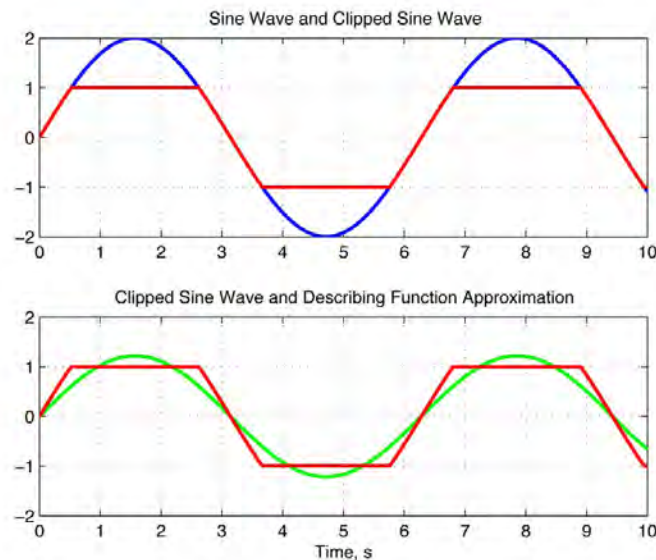
$$\text{Describing Function} = \text{Bias} + \text{Scale Factor}(x - x_o)$$

Saturation (Limiting) Nonlinearity



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## Comparison of Clipped Sine Wave with Describing Function Approximation

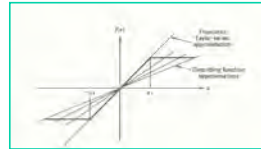


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# Deterministic Describing Function of the Saturation Function

- Describing function depends on wave form and amplitude of the input
- Saturation function

$$y = f(x) = \begin{cases} a, & x \geq a \\ x, & -a < x < a \\ -a, & x \leq -a \end{cases}$$



- Describing function input = Nonlinear function input
- Sinusoidal input

$$x(t) = A \sin \omega t$$

- Clipped sine wave

$$y(t) = f[A \sin \omega t] = \begin{cases} a, & x \geq a \\ A \sin \omega t, & -a < x < a \\ -a, & x \leq -a \end{cases}$$

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## Sinusoidal-Input Describing Function of the Saturation Function (from Graham and McRuer, 1961)

- Approximate nonlinear function by linear function

$$f(x) \approx d_0 + d_1(x - x_0)$$

- Most readily calculated as the first term of a Fourier series for  $y(t)$
- For symmetric input ( $x_0 = 0$ ) to symmetric nonlinearity,  $d_0 = 0$ , and

$$d_1 = \frac{2A}{\pi} \left[ \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{a}{A} \right) + \left( \frac{a}{A} \right) \sqrt{1 - \left( \frac{a}{A} \right)^2} \right]$$

$a$ : Saturation limit  
 $A$ : Input amplitude

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# Sinusoidal-Input Describing Function of the Saturation Function

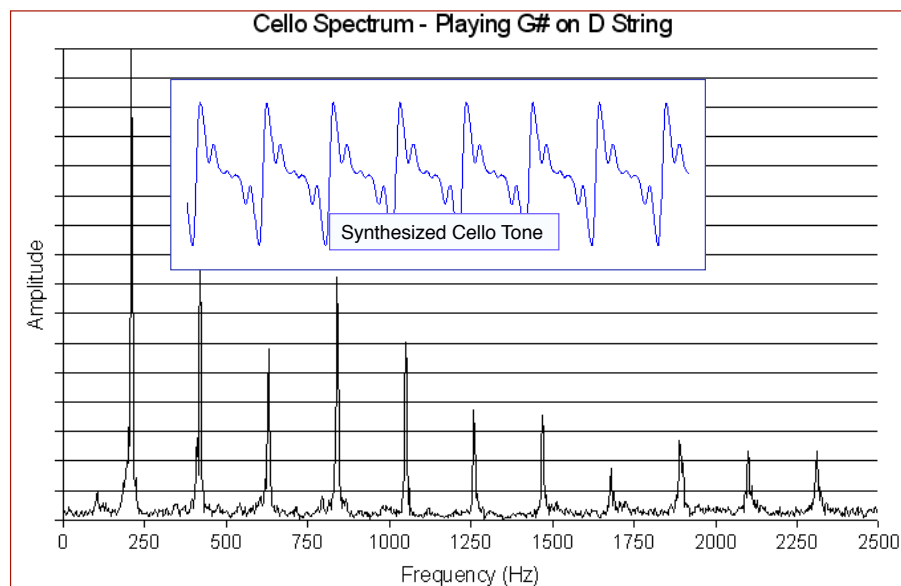
## Describing function output

$$y_D(t) = d_1 \sin \omega t = \left\{ \frac{2A}{\pi} \left[ \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{a}{A} \right) + \left( \frac{a}{A} \right) \sqrt{1 - \left( \frac{a}{A} \right)^2} \right] \right\} \sin \omega t$$

See “Describing Function Analysis of Nonlinear Simulink Models” in *Simulink Control Design 3.1*

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## Nonlinearity Introduces Harmonics in Output

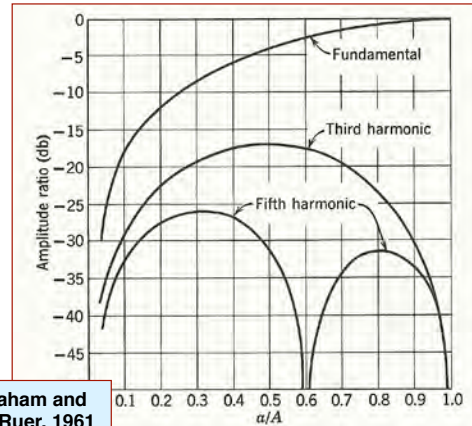
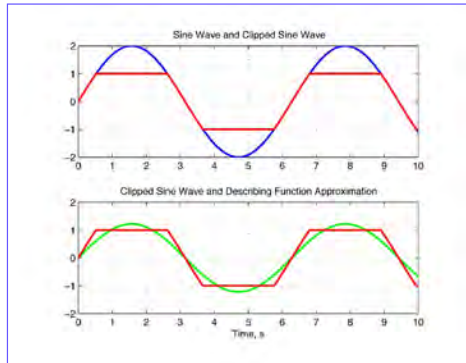


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# Harmonic Describing Functions of Saturation

Fourier series of symmetrically clipped sine wave includes symmetric harmonic terms

$$y_D(t) = d_1 \sin \omega t + d_3 \sin(3\omega t + \varphi_3) + d_5 \sin(5\omega t + \varphi_5) + \dots$$



Graham and McRuer, 1961

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## Describing Function Derived from Expected Values of Input and Output

$$\text{Describing Function} = \text{Bias} + \text{Scale Factor}(x - x_o)$$

Approximate nonlinear function by linear function

$$f(x) \approx d_0 + d_1(x - x_o)$$

Statistical representation of fit error

$$J = E \left\{ \left[ f(x) - d_0 - d_1(x - x_o) \right]^2 \right\}$$

Minimize fit error to find  $d_0$  and  $d_1$

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial d_0} = 0; \quad \frac{\partial J}{\partial d_1} = 0$$

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## Random-Input Describing Function

$$\tilde{x} \triangleq x - x_o$$

**Bias and scale factor**

$$d_0 = E[f(x)] - d_1 E[\tilde{x}]$$

$$d_1 = \frac{E[\tilde{x}f(x)] - d_0 E[\tilde{x}]}{E[\tilde{x}^2]}$$

**by elimination**

$$d_0 = \frac{E[\tilde{x}^2]E[f(x)] - E[\tilde{x}]E[\tilde{x}f(x)]}{E[\tilde{x}^2] - E^2[\tilde{x}]}$$

$$d_1 = \frac{E[\tilde{x}f(x)] - E[\tilde{x}]E[f(x)]}{E[\tilde{x}^2] - E^2[\tilde{x}]}$$

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## Random-Input Describing Function

**If  $f(x)$  and  $\tilde{x}$  both have zero mean**

$$d_0 = 0$$

$$d_1 = \frac{E[\tilde{x}f(x)]}{E[\tilde{x}^2]} = \frac{E[xf(x)]}{E[x^2]}$$

**Describing function for symmetric function**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Describing Function} &= d_0 + d_1(x - x_o) = d_1 x \\ &= \frac{E[xf(x)]}{E[x^2]} x \end{aligned}$$

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# Random-Input Describing Function for the Saturation Function

(from Graham and McRuer, 1961)

Describing function input: White noise with standard deviation,  $\sigma$

$x(t) \sim N(0, \sigma) \sim$  Zero-mean white noise with standard deviation,  $\sigma$

**Describing function output**

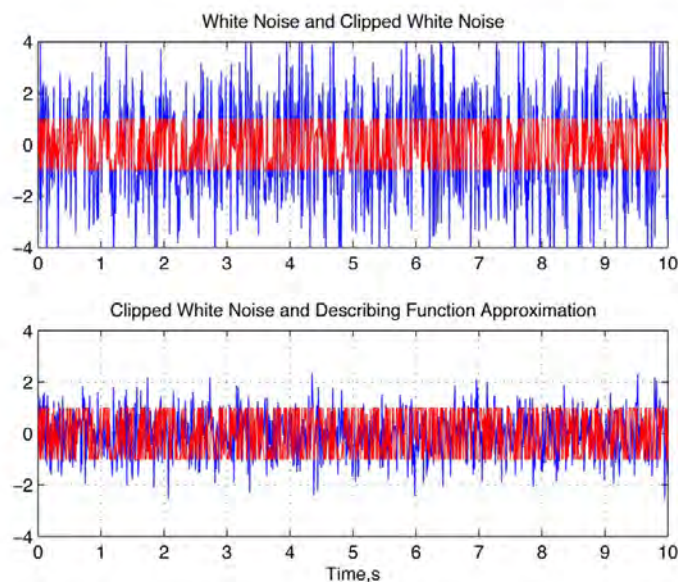
$$y_D(t) = \frac{E[\tilde{x}f(x)]}{E[\tilde{x}^2]} x(t) = d_1 x(t) = \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{a}{\sqrt{2}\sigma}\right) x(t)$$

where the **error function**,  $\operatorname{erf}(\cdot)$ , is

$$\operatorname{erf}(z) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^z e^{-\lambda^2} d\lambda$$

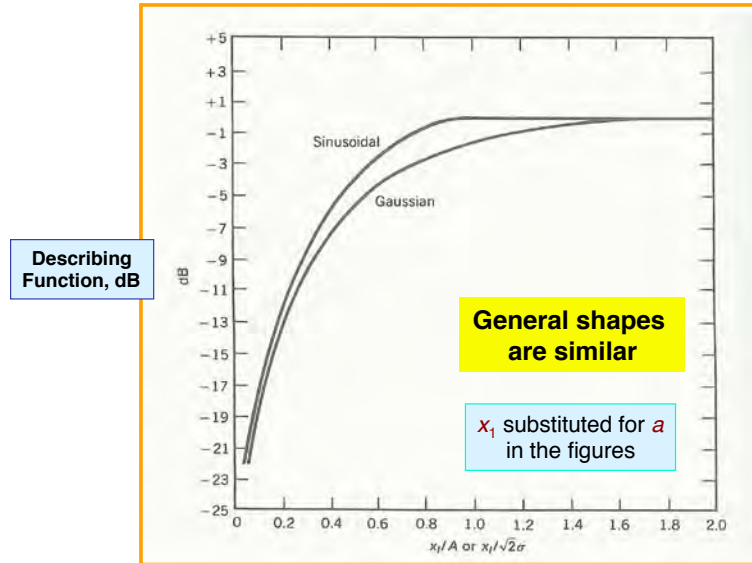
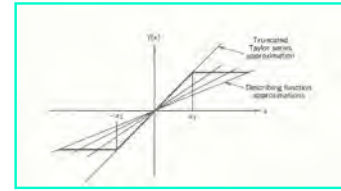
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## Comparison of Clipped White Noise with Describing Function Approximation



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# Random-Input and Sinusoidal Describing Functions of the Saturation Function



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## Multivariate Describing Functions

- Let  $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})$  be a nonlinear vector function of a vector
- The quasilinear describing function approximation is

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) \approx \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}})$$

where  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = E(\mathbf{x})$

- Cost function = Trace of the error covariance matrix

$$J = E \left[ \text{Tr} \left\{ \left[ \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}) \right] \left[ \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}) \right]^T \right\} \right]$$

$$= E \left[ \text{Tr} \left\{ \left[ \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}) \right]^T \left[ \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}) \right] \right\} \right]$$

- **Quasilinear extended Kalman-Bucy filter**
  - $\mathbf{F}$ ,  $\mathbf{G}$ , and  $\mathbf{L}$  replaced by describing function matrices

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# Describing Function Matrices for State Estimation

Minimize fit error to find **b** and **D**

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial \mathbf{b}} = \mathbf{0}; \quad \frac{\partial J}{\partial \mathbf{D}} = \mathbf{0}$$

Describing function bias (see text)

$$\mathbf{b} = E[\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})] \triangleq \hat{\mathbf{f}}(\mathbf{x})$$

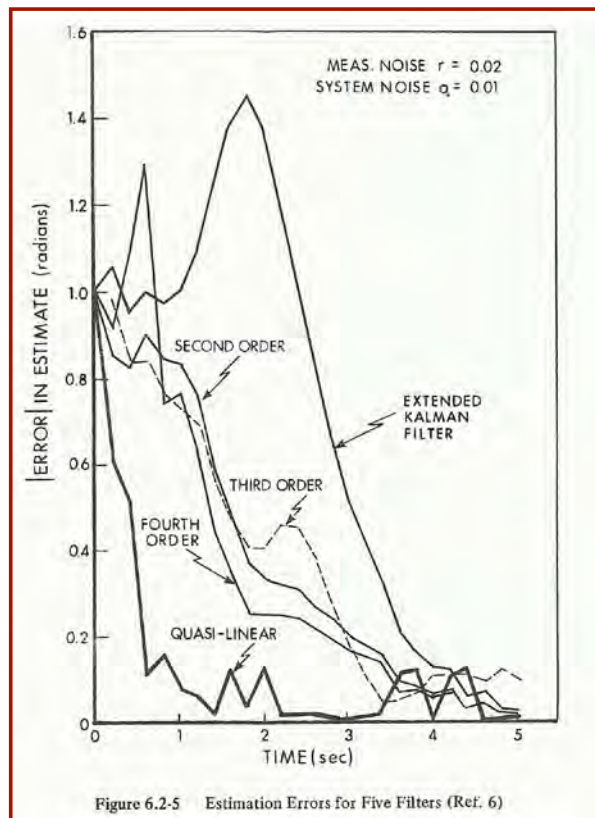
Describing function scaling matrix is a function  
of the **covariance inverse** (see text)

$$\mathbf{D} = E\left\{[\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})\tilde{\mathbf{x}}^T] - E[\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})]\tilde{\mathbf{x}}^T\right\}\mathbf{P}^{-1}$$

where

$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}; \quad \mathbf{P} = E(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}\tilde{\mathbf{x}}^T)$$

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**Monte Carlo  
Comparison of  
Quasilinear Filter  
with Extended  
Kalman Filter and  
Three Others**  
(from Gelb, 1974)

$$\dot{x}(t) = -\sin x(t) + w(t)$$

$$z(t) = 0.5 \sin(2x_k) + n_k$$

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***Next Time:***  
***Sigma Points (Unscented  
Kalman) Filters***  
***plus Brief Introduction to Particle,  
Batch Least-Squares, Backward-  
Smoothing, Gaussian Mixture Filters***

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***Supplemental Material***

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# Quasilinear Filter Propagation Equations

True linearization Jacobians replaced by  
quasilinear (describing function) Jacobians

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}[t_k(-)] = \mathbf{x}[t_{k-1}(+)] + \int_{t_{k-1}}^{t_k} \mathbf{f}[\hat{\mathbf{x}}[\tau(+)], \mathbf{u}(\tau)] d\tau$$

$$\mathbf{P}[t_k(-)] = \mathbf{P}[t_{k-1}(+)] + \int_{t_{k-1}}^{t_k} [\mathbf{D}_F(\tau)\mathbf{P}(\tau) + \mathbf{P}(\tau)\mathbf{D}_F^T(\tau) + \mathbf{D}_L(\tau)\mathbf{Q}'_c(\tau)\mathbf{D}_L^T(\tau)] d\tau$$

$\mathbf{D}_F$ : ( $n \times n$ ) Stability matrix of  $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})$  containing describing function elements

Covariance propagation is state-dependent

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## Quasilinear System Stability Matrix

True linearization of nonlinear system equation

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\mathbf{x}}_o(t) + \Delta\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) &\approx \mathbf{f}[\mathbf{x}_o(t), \mathbf{u}_o(t), t] + \mathbf{F}[\mathbf{x}_o(t), \mathbf{u}_o(t), t] \Delta\mathbf{x}(t) + \dots \\ &= \mathbf{f}[\mathbf{x}_o(t), \mathbf{u}_o(t), t] + \mathbf{F}(t) \Delta\mathbf{x}(t) + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Quasilinearization of nonlinear system equation

Some or all elements of stability matrix are state-dependent

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\mathbf{x}}_o(t) + \Delta\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) &\approx \mathbf{f}[\mathbf{x}_o(t), \mathbf{u}_o(t), t] + \mathbf{F}[\mathbf{x}_o(t), \mathbf{u}_o(t), t] \Delta\mathbf{x}(t) + \dots \\ &= \mathbf{f}[\mathbf{x}_o(t), \mathbf{u}_o(t), t] + \mathbf{D}_F[E[\Delta\mathbf{x}(t)], \mathbf{x}_o(t), \mathbf{u}_o(t), t] \Delta\mathbf{x}(t) + \dots \end{aligned}$$

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# Quasilinear Filter Gain and Updates

## Filter Gain

$$\mathbf{K}(t_k) = \mathbf{P}[t_k(-)] \mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{H}}^T(t_k) [\mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{H}}(t_k) \mathbf{P}[t_k(-)] \mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{H}}^T(t_k) + \mathbf{R}(t_k)]^{-1}$$

## State Estimate Update

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}[t_k(+)] = \hat{\mathbf{x}}[t_k(-)] + \mathbf{K}(t_k) \langle \mathbf{z}(t_k) - \mathbf{h}\{\hat{\mathbf{x}}[t_k(-)]\} \rangle$$

## Covariance Estimate Update

$$\mathbf{P}[t_k(+)] = [\mathbf{I}_n - \mathbf{K}(t_k) \mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{H}}(t_k)] \mathbf{P}[t_k(-)]$$

$\mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{H}}$  : Output matrix of  $\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})$  containing describing function elements