

# Hierarchical least squares based iterative estimation algorithm for multivariable Box–Jenkins-like systems using the auxiliary model

Zhening Zhang<sup>a</sup>, Jie Jia<sup>b</sup>, Ruifeng Ding<sup>b,c,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Key Laboratory of Advanced Process Control for Light Industry (Ministry of Education), Jiangnan University, Wuxi 214122, PR China

<sup>b</sup> Institute of Aerospace Information and Security Technology, Nanchang Hangkong University, Nanchang 330063, PR China

<sup>c</sup> School of Internet of Things Engineering, Jiangnan University, Wuxi 214122, PR China

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## ABSTRACT

This paper presents a hierarchical least squares iterative algorithm to estimate the parameters of multivariable Box–Jenkins-like systems by combining the hierarchical identification principle and the auxiliary model identification idea. The key is to decompose a multivariable systems into two subsystems by using the hierarchical identification principle. As there exist the unmeasurable noise-free outputs and noise terms in the information vector, the solution is using the auxiliary model identification idea to replace the unmeasurable variables with the outputs of the auxiliary model and the estimated residuals. A numerical example is given to show the performance of the proposed algorithm.

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## 1. Introduction

Parameter estimation is a basic method for system modelling and signal filtering [1–4]. The recursive or iterative algorithms can estimate the system parameters or find the solutions of matrix equations [5–13]. Recently, parameter estimation of multivariable systems has received much attention in system identification [14–18]. For example, Ding et al. presented a gradient based and a least squares based iterative estimation algorithms for multi-input multi-output systems [19]; Xiang et al. proposed a hierarchical least squares algorithm for single-input multiple-output systems [20]; Han and Ding studied the convergence of the multi-innovation stochastic gradient algorithm for multi-input multi-output systems [18]; Bao et al. presented a least squares based iterative parameter estimation algorithm for multivariable controlled autoregressive moving average systems [21]. Liu et al. studied the convergence of stochastic gradient estimation algorithm for multivariable ARX-like systems [22].

Furthermore, Wang presented a least squares-based recursive and iterative estimation for output error moving average (OEMA) systems using data filtering [23]; Wang and Ding derived an input–output data filtering based recursive least squares parameter estimation for CARARMA systems [24]; Ding et al. proposed a gradient based and a least-squares based iterative identification methods for OE and OEMA systems [25] and several recursive and iterative identification methods for Hammerstein systems [26]. Other identification methods can be found for Hammerstein OEMA systems, Hammerstein OEAR systems and Wiener systems in [27–34] and for linear regressive models [35–40].

Some novel identification methods are born often, e.g., the multi-innovation identification methods for linear and pseudo-linear regression models [18,41–51], the auxiliary model based identification methods and the hierarchical identification methods for dual-rate and non-uniformly sampled-data systems or missing-data systems [49,52–64].

\* Corresponding author at: School of Internet of Things Engineering, Jiangnan University, Wuxi 214122, PR China.

E-mail addresses: [zhening\\_zhang@163.com](mailto:zhening_zhang@163.com) (Z. Zhang), [jiajie757@126.com](mailto:jiajie757@126.com) (J. Jia), [rfding@yahoo.cn](mailto:rfding@yahoo.cn) (R. Ding).

Hierarchical identification is based on the decomposition and can deal with parameter estimation for multivariable systems. Ding et al. proposed a hierarchical gradient iterative algorithm and a hierarchical least squares iterative algorithm for multivariable discrete-time systems [65,66]; Han et al. presented a hierarchical least-squares based iterative identification algorithm for multivariable CARMA-like model [67]; Zhang et al. studied the hierarchical gradient based iterative estimation algorithm for multivariable output error moving average systems (i.e., multivariable OEMA-like systems) [67,68]. On the basis of the work in [68], this paper considers the identification problem of general stochastic multivariable Box–Jenkins-like systems with an ARMA noise disturbance.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the problem formulation related to the multivariable Box–Jenkins-like systems. Section 3 derives the hierarchical least squares iterative algorithm for the multivariable Box–Jenkins-like systems. Section 4 provides a numerical example to illustrate the proposed method. Finally, we offer some concluding remarks in Section 5.

## 2. System description

Recently, Han et al. presented a hierarchical least squares based iterative identification algorithm for multivariable CARMA-like systems with moving average noises [67]:

$$a(z)y(t) = Q(z)u(t) + D(z)v(t).$$

Zhang et al. derived a hierarchical gradient based iterative parameter estimation algorithm for multivariable output error moving average systems (i.e., multivariable OEMA systems [68]):

$$y(t) = \frac{Q(z)}{a(z)}u(t) + D(z)v(t).$$

On the basis of the work in [67,68], this paper considers the following multivariable Box–Jenkins-like system (i.e., multivariable BJ-like model) shown in Fig. 1,

$$y(t) = \frac{Q(z)}{a(z)}u(t) + \frac{D(z)}{C(z)}v(t), \quad (1)$$

where  $y(t) \in \mathbb{R}^m$  is the system output vector,  $u(t) \in \mathbb{R}^r$  is the system input vector,  $v(t) \in \mathbb{R}^m$  is a stochastic white noise vector with zero mean and variance  $r^2$ ,  $a(z)$  is a monic polynomial in the unit backward shift operator  $z^{-1}$  [ $z^{-1}y(t) = y(t-1)$ ],  $Q(z)$  is a matrix polynomial in  $z^{-1}$ ,  $C(z)$  and  $D(z)$  is a polynomial in  $z^{-1}$ , and are defined by

$$\begin{aligned} a(z) &:= 1 + a_1z^{-1} + a_2z^{-2} + \cdots + a_nz^{-n}, \quad a_i \in \mathbb{R}^1, \\ Q(z) &:= Q_1z^{-1} + Q_2z^{-2} + \cdots + Q_nz^{-n}, \quad Q_i \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}, \\ C(z) &:= 1 + c_1z^{-1} + c_2z^{-2} + \cdots + c_{n_c}z^{-n_c}, \quad c_i \in \mathbb{R}^1, \\ D(z) &:= 1 + d_1z^{-1} + d_2z^{-2} + \cdots + d_{n_d}z^{-n_d}, \quad d_i \in \mathbb{R}^1. \end{aligned}$$

The objective of this paper is to derive a hierarchical least squares based iterative estimation algorithm to identify the parameters or parameter matrix ( $a_i$ ,  $Q_i$ ,  $c_i$ ,  $d_i$ ) from given input–output data  $\{u(t), y(t): t = 1, 2, \dots\}$ .

## 3. The hierarchical least squares based iterative algorithm

Let

$$x(t) := \frac{Q(z)}{a(z)}u(t) \in \mathbb{R}^m, \quad (2)$$

$$w(t) := \frac{D(z)}{C(z)}v(t) \in \mathbb{R}^m. \quad (3)$$

Substituting (2) and (3) into (1) gives

$$y(t) = x(t) + w(t). \quad (4)$$

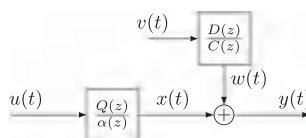


Fig. 1. The multivariable systems based on Box–Jenkins-like model.

Define the parameter vectors  $\mathbf{a}$ ,  $\mathbf{c}$ ,  $\mathbf{d}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\vartheta}$ , the parameter matrix  $\mathbf{h}$ , the input information vector  $\mathbf{u}(t)$  and the information matrices  $\mathbf{U}(L)$  and  $\mathbf{W}(L)$  as follows

$$\mathbf{a} := \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad \mathbf{c} := \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_{n_c} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_c}, \quad \mathbf{d} := \begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \\ \vdots \\ d_{n_d} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_d},$$

$$\boldsymbol{\vartheta} := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a} \\ \mathbf{c} \\ \mathbf{d} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{n+n_c+n_d},$$

$$\mathbf{h}^T := [\mathbf{Q}_1, \mathbf{Q}_2, \dots, \mathbf{Q}_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times (nr)},$$

$$\mathbf{u}(t) := [\mathbf{u}^T(t-1), \mathbf{u}^T(t-2), \dots, \mathbf{u}^T(t-n)]^T \in \mathbb{R}^{(nr)},$$

$$\boldsymbol{\chi}(t) := [\boldsymbol{\chi}(t-1), \boldsymbol{\chi}(t-2), \dots, \boldsymbol{\chi}(t-n)] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n},$$

$$\mathbf{w}(t) := [\boldsymbol{\chi}(t), \mathbf{w}(t-1), \mathbf{w}(t-2), \dots, \mathbf{w}(t-n_c), -\mathbf{v}(t-1), -\mathbf{v}(t-2), \dots, -\mathbf{v}(t-n_d)] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times (n+n_c+n_d)}.$$

From (1)–(4), we have

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = -\boldsymbol{\chi}(t)\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{u}(t), \quad (5)$$

and

$$\mathbf{y}(t) + \mathbf{w}(t)\boldsymbol{\vartheta} = \mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{u}(t) + \mathbf{v}(t). \quad (6)$$

The identification model in (6) contain both a parameter vector  $\boldsymbol{\vartheta}$  and a parameter matrix  $\mathbf{h}$ . Define the matrix norm  $\|\mathbf{X}\|^2 := \text{tr}[\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^T]$ . Next, we use the hierarchical identification principle in [65,66] and define two criterion function,

$$J(\boldsymbol{\vartheta}, \mathbf{h}) := \sum_{j=1}^L \|\mathbf{y}(j) + \mathbf{w}(j)\boldsymbol{\vartheta} - \mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{u}(j)\|^2$$

Let  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , be an iteration variable,  $\mathbf{l}_k$  be the time-varying convergence factor, and  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_k := \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{a}}_k \\ \hat{\mathbf{c}}_k \\ \hat{\mathbf{d}}_k \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{h}}_k$  be the parameter

estimates of  $\boldsymbol{\vartheta} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a} \\ \mathbf{c} \\ \mathbf{d} \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{h}$  at iteration  $k$ , respectively. Using the Newton method and minimizing  $J(\boldsymbol{\vartheta}, \mathbf{h})$  leads to the iterative algorithm of estimating  $\boldsymbol{\vartheta}$  and  $\mathbf{h}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_k &= \hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_{k-1} - \mathbf{l}_k \left[ \frac{\partial^2 J(\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_{k-1}, \hat{\mathbf{h}}_{k-1})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\vartheta} \partial \boldsymbol{\vartheta}^T} \right]^{-1} \frac{\partial J(\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_{k-1}, \hat{\mathbf{h}}_{k-1})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\vartheta}} \\ &= \hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_{k-1} - \mathbf{l}_k \left[ \sum_{t=1}^L \mathbf{w}^T(t) \mathbf{w}(t) \right]^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^L \mathbf{w}^T(t) [\mathbf{y}(t) + \mathbf{w}(t)\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_{k-1} - \hat{\mathbf{h}}_{k-1}^T \mathbf{u}(t)], \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mathbf{h}}_k &= \hat{\mathbf{h}}_{k-1} - \mathbf{l}_k \left[ \frac{\partial^2 J(\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_{k-1}, \hat{\mathbf{h}}_{k-1})}{\partial \mathbf{h} \partial \mathbf{h}^T} \right]^{-1} \left[ \frac{\partial J(\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_{k-1}, \hat{\mathbf{h}}_{k-1})}{\partial \mathbf{h}} \right]^T \\ &= \hat{\mathbf{h}}_{k-1} + \mathbf{l}_k \left[ \sum_{t=1}^L \mathbf{u}(t) \mathbf{u}^T(t) \right]^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^L \mathbf{u}(t) [\mathbf{y}(t) + \mathbf{w}(t)\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_{k-1} - \hat{\mathbf{h}}_{k-1}^T \mathbf{u}(t)]^T. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

However, the information vector  $\mathbf{w}(t)$  contains the unknown inner vectors  $\boldsymbol{\chi}(t-i)$  and the unknown noise vectors  $\mathbf{w}(t-i)$  and  $\mathbf{v}(t-i)$ , the algorithm in (7) and (8) cannot be implemented. The solution here is based on the auxiliary model identification idea to construct an auxiliary model [52,55,63], and the  $\boldsymbol{\chi}(t-i)$  is replaced with the output  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k(t-i)$  of the auxiliary model (refer to  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k(t-i)$  to the estimates of  $\boldsymbol{\chi}(t-i)$  at iteration  $k$ ), and the unknown noise terms  $\mathbf{w}(t-i)$  and  $\mathbf{v}(t-i)$  are replaced with their estimates  $\hat{\mathbf{w}}_k(t-i)$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{v}}_k(t-i)$ , respectively. Let

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mathbf{w}}_k(t) &:= [\hat{\boldsymbol{\chi}}_k(t), \hat{\mathbf{w}}_{k-1}(t-1), \hat{\mathbf{w}}_{k-1}(t-2), \dots, \hat{\mathbf{w}}_{k-1}(t-n_c), \\ &\quad -\hat{\mathbf{v}}_{k-1}(t-1), -\hat{\mathbf{v}}_{k-1}(t-2), \dots, -\hat{\mathbf{v}}_{k-1}(t-n_d)] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times (n+n_c+n_d)}, \\ \hat{\boldsymbol{\chi}}_k(t) &:= [\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1}(t-1), \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1}(t-2), \dots, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1}(t-n)] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}. \end{aligned}$$

Replacing  $\lambda(t)$ ,  $\mathbf{h}$  and  $\mathbf{a}$  in (5) with  $\hat{\lambda}_k(t)$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{h}}_k(t)$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{a}}_k$  gives the estimate  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k(t)$  of  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  can be computed by

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k(t) = -\hat{\lambda}_k(t)\hat{\mathbf{a}}_k + \hat{\mathbf{h}}_k^T \mathbf{u}(t),$$

From (4) and (6), we have

$$\mathbf{w}(t) = \mathbf{y}(t) - \mathbf{x}(t), \quad (9)$$

$$\mathbf{V}(t) = \mathbf{y}(t) + \mathbf{w}(t)\boldsymbol{\vartheta} - \mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{u}(t). \quad (10)$$

Replacing  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  in (9) with  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k(t)$ , and replacing  $\mathbf{w}(t)$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\vartheta}$ , and  $\mathbf{h}$  in (10) with  $\hat{\mathbf{w}}_k(t)$ ,  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_k$ , and  $\hat{\mathbf{h}}_k$ , respectively, the estimates  $\hat{\mathbf{w}}_k(t)$  of  $\mathbf{w}(t)$  and the estimates  $\hat{\mathbf{V}}_k(t)$  of  $\mathbf{V}(t)$  can be computed by

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}}_k(t) = \mathbf{y}(t) - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k(t),$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{V}}_k(t) = \mathbf{y}(t) + \hat{\mathbf{w}}_k(t)\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_k - \hat{\mathbf{h}}_k^T \mathbf{u}(t).$$

The convergency factor  $\mathbf{l}_k$  is taken as  $\mathbf{l}_k = 1$ , referring to as Lemma 2 in [7].

Replacing  $\mathbf{w}(t)$  in (7) with  $\hat{\mathbf{w}}_k(t)$ , we can obtain the hierarchical least squares based iterative algorithm for multivariable Box–Jenkins-like systems (the BJ-like-HLSI algorithm for short)

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_k = \hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_{k-1} - \left[ \sum_{t=1}^L \hat{\mathbf{w}}_k^T(t) \hat{\mathbf{w}}_k(t) \right]^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^L \hat{\mathbf{w}}_k^T(t) [\mathbf{y}(t) + \hat{\mathbf{w}}_k(t) \hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_{k-1} - \hat{\mathbf{h}}_{k-1}^T \mathbf{u}(t)], \quad (11)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{h}}_k = \hat{\mathbf{h}}_{k-1} + \left[ \sum_{t=1}^L \mathbf{u}(t) \mathbf{u}^T(t) \right]^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^L \mathbf{u}(t) [\mathbf{y}(t) + \hat{\mathbf{w}}_k(t) \hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_{k-1} - \hat{\mathbf{h}}_{k-1}^T \mathbf{u}(t)]^T, \quad (12)$$

$$\mathbf{u}(t) = [\mathbf{u}^T(t-1), \mathbf{u}^T(t-2), \dots, \mathbf{u}^T(t-n)]^T, \quad (13)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}}_k(t) = [\hat{\lambda}_k(t), \hat{\mathbf{w}}_{k-1}(t-1), \hat{\mathbf{w}}_{k-1}(t-2), \dots, \hat{\mathbf{w}}_{k-1}(t-n_c), -\hat{\mathbf{V}}_{k-1}(t-1), -\hat{\mathbf{V}}_{k-1}(t-2), \dots, -\hat{\mathbf{V}}_{k-1}(t-n_d)], \quad (14)$$

$$\hat{\lambda}_k(t) = [\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1}(t-1), \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1}(t-2), \dots, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1}(t-n)], \quad (15)$$

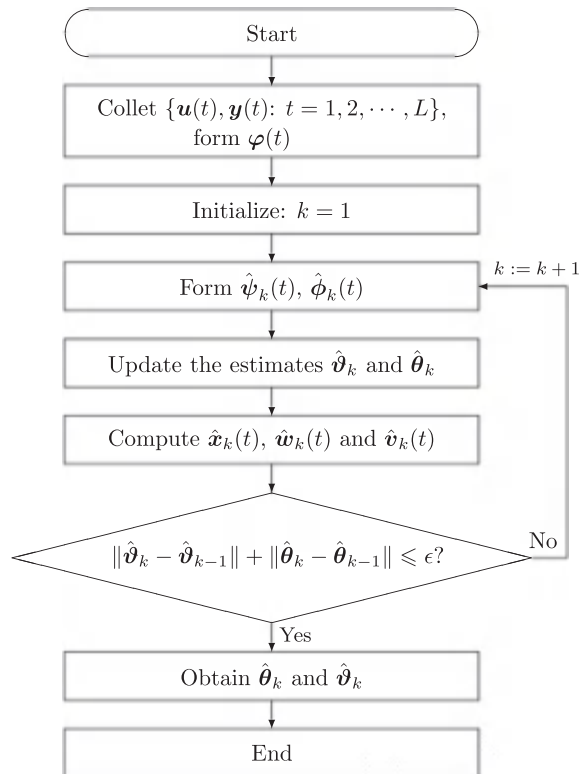


Fig. 2. The flowchart of computing the BJ-like-HLSI estimates  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_k$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{h}}_k$ .

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_k = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{a}}_k \\ \hat{\mathbf{c}}_k \\ \hat{\mathbf{d}}_k \end{bmatrix}, \quad (16)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k(t) = -\hat{\gamma}_k(t)\hat{\mathbf{a}}_k + \hat{\mathbf{h}}_k^T \mathbf{u}(t), \quad (17)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}}_k(t) = \mathbf{y}(t) - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k(t), \quad (18)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{v}}_k(t) = \mathbf{y}(t) + \hat{\mathbf{w}}_k(t)\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_k - \hat{\mathbf{h}}_k^T \mathbf{u}(t). \quad (19)$$

To summarize, we list the steps of computing the parameter estimation  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_k$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{h}}_k$  in the HLSI algorithm as follows.

1. Collect the input/output data  $\{u(t), y(t): t = 1, 2, \dots, L\}$  ( $L$  is the data length), give a small positive number  $\epsilon$  and form  $\mathbf{u}(t)$  by (13).
2. Let  $k = 1$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_0(t) = \mathbf{1}_{m \times 1}/p_0$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{w}}_0(t) = \mathbf{1}_{m \times 1}/p_0$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{v}}_0(t) = \mathbf{1}_{m \times 1}/p_0$ ,  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_k = \mathbf{1}_{n+n_c+n_d}/p_0$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{h}}_k^T = \mathbf{1}_{m \times (nr)}/p_0$ , with  $\mathbf{1}_{m \times nr}$  being an  $m \times nr$  matrix whose elements are 1.
3. Form  $\hat{\gamma}_k(t)$  by (15) and  $\hat{\mathbf{w}}_k(t)$  by (14).
4. Update the estimates  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_k$  by (11) and  $\hat{\mathbf{h}}_k$  by (12).
5. Read  $\hat{\mathbf{a}}_k$  from  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_k$  by (16), and compute  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k(t)$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{w}}_k(t)$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{v}}_k(t)$  by (17) to (19), respectively.
6. Compare  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_k$  with  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_{k-1}$ , and  $\hat{\mathbf{h}}_k$  with  $\hat{\mathbf{h}}_{k-1}$ , respectively, if

$$\|\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_k - \hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_{k-1}\| + \|\hat{\mathbf{h}}_k - \hat{\mathbf{h}}_{k-1}\| \leq \epsilon,$$

we terminate this process and obtain the estimates  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_k$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{h}}_k$ ; otherwise, increase  $k$  by 1 and go to step 3.

The flowchart of computing the parameter estimates  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_k$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{h}}_k$  in the HLSI algorithm in (11)–(19) is shown in Fig. 2.

#### 4. Example

This section provides an example to illustrate the performance of the BJ-like-HLSI algorithm. Consider the following two-input and two-output system

$$\mathbf{y}(t) = \frac{\mathbf{Q}(z)}{\mathbf{a}(z)} \mathbf{u}(t) + \frac{\mathbf{D}(z)}{\mathbf{C}(z)} \mathbf{v}(t),$$

$$\mathbf{y}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} y_1(t) \\ y_2(t) \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{u}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} u_1(t) \\ u_2(t) \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} v_1(t) \\ v_2(t) \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{a}(z) = 1 + 0.60z^{-1}, \quad \mathbf{C}(z) = 1 + 0.2z^{-1}, \quad \mathbf{D}(z) = 1 - 0.9z^{-1},$$

$$\mathbf{Q}(z) = \begin{bmatrix} 2.00 & 1.00 \\ 1.00 & 2.00 \end{bmatrix} z^{-1}.$$

**Table 1**

The parameter estimates and errors ( $L = 1000$ ).

$k$	$\mathbf{a}_1$	$\mathbf{Q}_1(1,1)$	$\mathbf{Q}_1(1,2)$	$\mathbf{Q}_1(2,1)$	$\mathbf{Q}_1(2,2)$	$c_1$	$d_1$	d (%)
1	0.60235	1.94132	1.03767	1.26255	1.96989	0.21428	−0.86360	8.24653
2	0.59693	1.98971	1.04391	1.12488	1.99465	0.20691	−0.84962	4.25064
3	0.59633	1.98696	1.04291	1.13051	1.99795	0.17751	−0.90067	4.17800
4	0.59652	1.98987	1.04616	1.12979	1.99195	0.18593	−0.89469	4.15793
5	0.59651	1.98946	1.04615	1.12946	1.99266	0.18826	−0.89306	4.14426
True values	0.60000	2.00000	1.00000	1.00000	2.00000	0.20000	−0.90000	

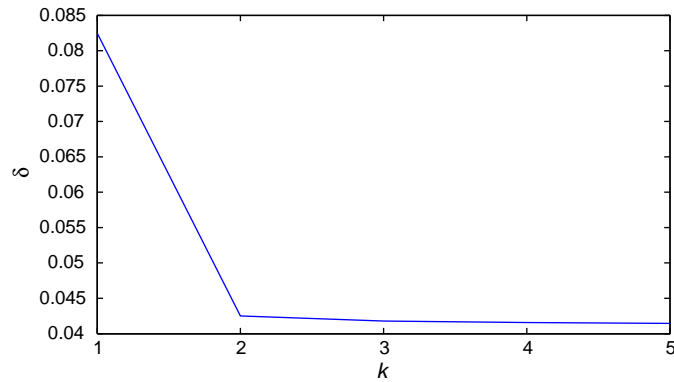
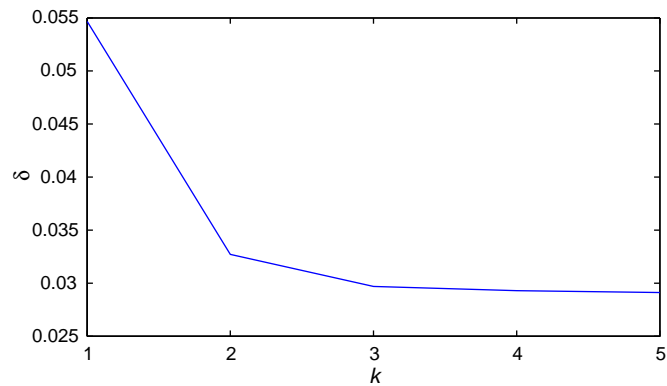
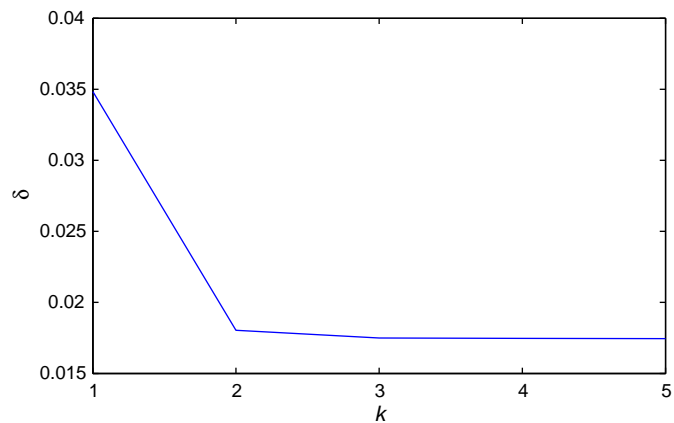
**Table 2**

The parameter estimates and errors ( $L = 2000$ ).

$k$	$\mathbf{a}_1$	$\mathbf{Q}_1(1,1)$	$\mathbf{Q}_1(1,2)$	$\mathbf{Q}_1(2,1)$	$\mathbf{Q}_1(2,2)$	$c_1$	$d_1$	d (%)
1	0.61989	1.94420	0.96592	0.97183	2.16081	0.22393	−0.85987	5.46714
2	0.61039	1.96661	0.92295	0.98233	2.03346	0.20750	−0.84217	3.27086
3	0.60866	1.96600	0.92226	0.97964	2.03347	0.18133	−0.87310	2.96893
4	0.60837	1.96594	0.92239	0.98093	2.03460	0.17523	−0.88627	2.92891
5	0.60832	1.96589	0.92246	0.98116	2.03473	0.17769	−0.88585	2.91163
True values	0.60000	2.00000	1.00000	1.00000	2.00000	0.20000	−0.90000	

**Table 3**The parameter estimates and errors ( $L = 3000$ ).

$k$	$a_1$	$Q_1(1,1)$	$Q_1(1,2)$	$Q_1(2,1)$	$Q_1(2,2)$	$c_1$	$d_1$	$d$ (%)
1	0.58546	1.94664	0.96540	0.90672	1.97771	0.18887	−0.89512	3.48343
2	0.58953	1.96579	0.96459	0.99421	1.96899	0.19017	−0.89527	1.80384
3	0.59137	1.96593	0.96496	0.99460	1.97106	0.19024	−0.89771	1.74927
4	0.59167	1.96583	0.96476	0.99490	1.97108	0.19182	−0.89627	1.74719
5	0.59171	1.96591	0.96482	0.99487	1.97104	0.19223	−0.89576	1.74460
True values	0.60000	2.00000	1.00000	1.00000	2.00000	0.20000	−0.90000	

**Fig. 3.** The parameter estimation errors  $d$  versus  $k$  ( $L = 1000$ ).**Fig. 4.** The parameter estimation errors  $d$  versus  $k$  ( $L = 2000$ ).**Fig. 5.** The parameter estimation errors  $d$  versus  $k$  ( $L = 3000$ ).

In simulation, the inputs  $\{u_1(t)\}$  and  $\{u_2(t)\}$  are taken as two independent persistent excitation signal sequences with zero mean and unit variance, and  $\{v_1(t)\}$  and  $\{v_2(t)\}$  as two white noise sequences with zero mean and variances  $r_1^2 = r_2^2 = 2.00^2$ . We apply the proposed BJ-like-HLSI algorithm in (11)–(19) to estimate the parameters of this example system. The parameter estimates and their errors with different data lengths  $t = L = 1000, 2000$  and  $3000$  are shown in Tables 1–3, and the parameter estimation errors

$$d := \sqrt{\frac{\|\hat{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}_k - \boldsymbol{\vartheta}\|^2 + \|\hat{\mathbf{h}}_k - \mathbf{h}\|^2}{\|\boldsymbol{\vartheta}\|^2 + \|\mathbf{h}\|^2}}$$

versus  $k$  are shown in Figs. 3–5.

- The parameter estimation errors  $d$  given by the BJ-like-HLSI algorithm gradually become small as the iteration  $k$  increases.
- When the noise variances are certain, the parameter estimation errors  $d$  become small as the data length  $L$  increases.

## 5. Conclusions

This paper derives a hierarchical least squares algorithm for multivariable Box–Jenkins-like systems. The simulation results show that the proposed algorithm can estimate the parameters of multivariable systems. The proposed method can combine other multi-innovation identification methods [69–72] to study identification problems of linear or nonlinear systems with colored noises.

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