

Research Article

Models and Algorithms for Tracking Target with Coordinated Turn Motion

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Tracking target with coordinated turn (CT) motion is highly dependent on the models and algorithms. First, the widely used models are compared in this paper—coordinated turn (CT) model with known turn rate, augmented coordinated turn (ACT) model with Cartesian velocity, ACT model with polar velocity, CT model using a kinematic constraint, and maneuver centered circular motion model. Then, in the single model tracking framework, the tracking algorithms for the last four models are compared and the suggestions on the choice of models for different practical target tracking problems are given. Finally, in the multiple models (MM) framework, the algorithm based on expectation maximization (EM) algorithm is derived, including both the batch form and the recursive form. Compared with the widely used interacting multiple model (IMM) algorithm, the EM algorithm shows its effectiveness.

1. Introduction

The problem of tracking a single target with coordinated turn (CT) motion is considered. The motion of a civil aircraft can usually be modeled as moving by constant speed in straight lines and circle segments. The former is known as constant velocity (CV) model and the latter is coordinated turn model. In tracking applications, only the position part of the state can be measured by the sensor and the turn rate ω is often unknown. So the measurement data can be seen as the incomplete data. This is a resource-constrained problem for tracking target with coordinated turn motion.

CT model is highly dependent on the choice of state components [1]. The turn rate ω can be augmented in the CT model, called ACT model. There are two types of ACT models: ACT model with Cartesian velocity and ACT model with polar velocity. The state vectors are $[x, y, \dot{x}, \dot{y}, \omega]'$ and $[x, y, v, \phi, \omega]'$, respectively. The two are both nonlinear models and have been compared in [2, 3] based on EKF. For unscented Kalman filter (UKF) is a very efficient tool for nonlinear estimation [4, 5], here the two models are compared based on UKF.

When the target with CT motion has a constant speed, it satisfies a kinematic constraint: $V \cdot A = 0$, where V is the target

velocity vector and A is the target acceleration vector. If the dynamic model incorporates the constraint directly, it will become a highly nonlinear one. To avoid this nonlinearity, the kinematic constraint was incorporated into a pseudomeasurement model [6–8].

A maneuver-centered model is introduced in [9]. The state components are $[r, \theta, \omega]'$. The model's state equation has a linear form, but its measurement equation is pseudolinear because the noise covariance is actually state dependent [10]. The center of the turn should be accurately determined, which is inherently a nonlinear problem.

Target dynamic models and tracking algorithms have intimate ties [1]. In the single model tracking framework, the tracking algorithms are interpreted and compared.

The interacting multiple model (IMM) approach has been generally considered to be the mainstream approach to maneuvering target tracking. It utilizes a bank of N Kalman filters, each designed to model a different maneuver [11]. IMM algorithm is a suboptimal algorithm based on the minimum mean square error (MMSE) criterion. Under the MMSE criterion, to get the optimal estimation of the target state, the computational load grows exponentially when the measurements are increasing. In recent years, tracking target based on maximum a posteriori (MAP) criterion has received a lot of

interest [12–17]. Expectation maximization (EM) algorithm is the state estimation approach based on MAP criterion. Using EM algorithm, the computational load grows linearly during per iteration and the optimal estimation based on MAP criterion can be achieved finally.

The existing EM algorithm to track maneuvering target can be classified into two categories: one formulates the maneuver as the unknown input [12–14] and the other formulates the maneuver as the system's process noise [15]. Aiming at the problem to track a target with CT maneuver, an EM algorithm is presented. The maneuver is formulated by the turn rate. First, the turn rate sequence is estimated using the EM algorithm. Then, with the estimated turn rate sequence, the target state sequence is estimated accurately.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents all the CT models' state equations and measurement equations. The tracking algorithms based on single model are interpreted in Section 3; the simulations are also presented. In Section 4, the batch and recursive EM algorithms are derived and compared with the IMM algorithm in simulation. Section 5 provides the paper's conclusions.

2. Dynamic Models for CT Motion

A maneuvering target can be modeled by

$$\begin{aligned} X_{k+1} &= f_k(X_k) + w_k, \\ z_k &= h_k(X_k) + e_k, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where X_k and z_k are target state and observation, respectively, at discrete time t_k ; w_k and e_k are process noise and measurement noise sequences, respectively; f_k and h_k are vector-valued functions.

2.1. CT Model with Known Turn Rate. The coordinated turn motion can be described by the following equation:

$$X_{k+1} = F(\omega_k) X_k + w_k. \quad (2)$$

The measurement equation is:

$$z_k = H_{CT} X_k + e_k. \quad (3)$$

The components of state are $X = [x \ \dot{x} \ y \ \dot{y}]'$. ω_k stands for the turn rate in time k .

Where

$$F(\omega_k) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{\sin(\omega_k T)}{\omega_k} & 0 & -\frac{1 - \cos(\omega_k T)}{\omega_k} \\ 0 & \cos(\omega_k T) & 0 & -\sin(\omega_k T) \\ 0 & \frac{1 - \cos(\omega_k T)}{\omega_k} & 1 & \frac{\sin(\omega_k T)}{\omega_k} \\ 0 & \sin(\omega_k T) & 0 & \cos(\omega_k T) \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

$$w = [w_x \ w_y]'$$

$$E[w_k] = 0, \quad E[w_k w_l'] = Q_{CT} \delta_{kl}.$$

Assume only position could be measured, where

$$H_{CT} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

$$E[e_k] = 0, \quad E[e_k e_l'] = R \delta_{kl}.$$

This model assumes that the turn rate is known or could be estimated. When the range rate measurements are available, the turn rate could be estimated by using range rate measurements [18, 19]. The tracking performance will be deteriorated when the assumed turn rate is far away from the true one. This model is usually used as one of the models in a multiple models framework.

2.2. ACT Model with Cartesian Velocity. In this model, the state vector is chosen to be $X = [x, y, \dot{x}, \dot{y}, \omega]'$; the state space equation can be written as

$$X_{k+1} = f_{ACT1}(X_k) + G_{ACT1} w_k, \quad (6)$$

where

$$f_{ACT1}(X) = \begin{bmatrix} x + \frac{\dot{x}}{\omega} \sin(\omega T) - \frac{\dot{y}}{\omega} (1 - \cos(\omega T)) \\ y + \frac{\dot{x}}{\omega} (1 - \cos(\omega T)) + \frac{\dot{y}}{\omega} \sin(\omega T) \\ \dot{x} \cos(\omega T) - \dot{y} \sin(\omega T) \\ \dot{x} \sin(\omega T) + \dot{y} \cos(\omega T) \\ \omega \end{bmatrix}, \quad (7)$$

$$G_{ACT1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{T^2}{2} & 0 & T & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{T^2}{2} & 0 & T & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}', \quad (8)$$

$$w = [w_x \ w_y \ w_\omega]', \quad (9)$$

$$E[w_k] = 0, \quad E[w_k w_l'] = Q_{ACT1} \delta_{kl}. \quad (10)$$

Assume only position could be measured, the measurement equation can be written as

$$z_k = H_{ACT1} X_k + e_k, \quad (11)$$

where

$$H_{ACT1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (12)$$

$$E[e_k] = 0, \quad E[e_k e_l'] = R \delta_{kl}. \quad (13)$$

2.3. ACT Model with Polar Velocity. This model's state vector is $X = [x, y, v, \phi, \omega]'$, and the dynamic state equation is given by

$$X_{k+1} = f_{ACT2}(X_k) + G_{ACT2} w_k, \quad (14)$$

where

$$f_{\text{ACT2}}(X) = \begin{bmatrix} x + \left(\frac{2v}{\omega}\right) \sin\left(\frac{\omega T}{2}\right) \cos\left(\phi + \frac{\omega T}{2}\right) \\ y + \left(\frac{2v}{\omega}\right) \sin\left(\frac{\omega T}{2}\right) \sin\left(\phi + \frac{\omega T}{2}\right) \\ v \\ \phi + \omega T \\ \omega \end{bmatrix} \quad (15)$$

$$G_{\text{ACT2}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & T^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{T^2}{2} & T^2 \end{bmatrix}'$$

$$w = [w_v \ w_\omega]'$$

$$E[w_k] = 0, \quad E[w_k w_l'] = Q_{\text{ACT2}} \delta_{kl}.$$

However the measurement equation is the same as (11) to (13).

2.4. Kinematic Constraint Model. For a constant speed target, the acceleration vector is orthogonal to the velocity vector:

$$C(X) = V \cdot A = 0, \quad (16)$$

where V is the target velocity vector and A is the target acceleration vector.

This kinematic constraint can be used as a pseudomeasurement. The state vector is chosen to be $X = [x \ \dot{x} \ \ddot{x} \ y \ \dot{y} \ \ddot{y}]'$. So the dynamic model is the constant acceleration (CA) model, given by

$$X_{k+1} = FX_k + Gw_k, \quad (17)$$

where

$$F = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & T & \frac{T^2}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & T & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & T & \frac{T^2}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & T \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (18)$$

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{T^2}{2} & T & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{T^2}{2} & T & 1 \end{bmatrix}'$$

$$w = [w_x \ w_y]'$$

$$E[w_k] = 0, \quad E[w_k w_l'] = Q_{\text{CA}} \delta_{kl}.$$

The measurement equation is given by

$$z_k = Hx_k + e_k, \quad (19)$$

where

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (20)$$

$$E[e_k] = 0, \quad E[e_k e_l'] = R \delta_{kl}.$$

The pseudomeasurement is

$$\frac{V_{k|k}}{S_{k|k}} \cdot A_k + \mu_k = 0, \quad (21)$$

where $V_{k|k} = [\dot{x}_{k|k} \ \dot{y}_{k|k}]'$ and $A_k = [\ddot{x}_k \ \ddot{y}_k]'$.
 $S_{k|k}$ is the filtered speed at time k :

$$S_{k|k} = \sqrt{\dot{x}_{k|k}^2 + \dot{y}_{k|k}^2}, \quad (22)$$

$$\mu_k \sim N(0, R_k^\mu), \quad (23)$$

$$R_k^\mu = r_1(\delta)^k + r_0, \quad 0 \leq \delta < 1, \quad (24)$$

where r_1 is chosen to be large for initialization and r_0 is chosen for steady-state conditions.

2.5. Maneuver-Centered CT Model. This model's state vector is given by $X = [r \ \theta \ w]'$. The process state space equation is

$$X_{k+1} = \Phi X_k + \Gamma w_k, \quad (25)$$

where

$$\Phi = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & T \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Gamma = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{T}{2} \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (26)$$

$$w = [w_r \ w_\theta]'$$

$$E[w_k] = 0, \quad E[w_k w_l'] = Q_m \delta_{kl}.$$

Assume the center of the CT motion is (\hat{x}_c, \hat{y}_c) . The transformation between Cartesian coordinates and maneuver-centered coordinates is given by

$$r = \sqrt{(x - \hat{x}_c)^2 + (y - \hat{y}_c)^2} \quad (27)$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{y - \hat{y}_c}{x - \hat{x}_c} \right).$$

So the measurement equation is given by

$$z_k = H^m X_k + e_k, \quad (28)$$

where

$$H^m = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (29)$$

$$E[e_k e_l'] = R^m = J_{r\theta} R J_{r\theta}'.$$

$J_{r\theta}$ is the Jacobian matrix based on (27), which leads to

$$J_{r\theta} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \frac{\theta}{r} & \cos \frac{\theta}{r} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (30)$$

3. Tracking Algorithms in a Single Model Framework

3.1. UKF Filter with ACT Models. If the turn rate is augmented to the state vector, it will become a nonlinear problem. The extended Kalman filter (EKF) has been used to track this kind of motion. Since unscented Kalman filter (UKF) is very suitable for nonlinear estimation [4, 5], here the UKF algorithm is introduced.

(i) *Calculate the Weights of Sigma Points*

$$\begin{aligned} W_0^m &= \frac{\lambda}{(n + \lambda)} W_0^c \\ &= \frac{\lambda}{(n + \lambda)} + (1 - \alpha^2 + \beta) W_i^m \\ &= W_i^c = \frac{0.5}{(n + \lambda)}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, 2n, \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

where n is the dimension of the state vector. $\lambda = \alpha^2(n + \kappa) - n$ is a scaling parameter. α determines the sigma points around \bar{x} and is usually set to a small positive value (e.g., $1e - 3$). κ is a secondary scaling parameter which is usually set to 0, and $\beta = 2$ is optimal for Gauss distributions. Where the $(\sqrt{(n + \lambda)P_x})_i$ is the i th row of the matrix square root.

(ii) *Calculate the Sigma Points*

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_{k-1|k-1}^0 &= \widehat{X}_{k-1|k-1} \\ \xi_{k-1|k-1}^{(i)} &= \widehat{X}_{k-1|k-1} + \left(\sqrt{(n + \lambda)P_x} \right)_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n \\ \xi_{k-1|k-1}^{(i)} &= \widehat{X}_{k-1|k-1} - \left(\sqrt{(n + \lambda)P_x} \right)_i \\ & \quad i = n + 1, n + 2, \dots, 2n. \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

(iii) *Time Update*

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_k^{(i)} &= f_k \left(\xi_{k-1|k-1}^{(i)} \right), \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, 2n \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{2n} W_i^m \xi_k^{(i)} P_{k|k-1} \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{2n} W_i^c \left(\xi_k^{(i)} - \widehat{X}_{k|k-1} \right) \left(\xi_k^{(i)} - \widehat{X}_{k|k-1} \right)' + GQ_{k-1}G'. \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

(iv) *Measurement Update.* Because we assume the measurement equation is linear, the following is just the same as the traditional Kalman filter:

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{z}_{k|k-1} &= H\widehat{X}_{k|k-1}S_k \\ &= HP_{k|k-1}H' + R_kK_k \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= P_{k|k-1}H'S_k^{-1}\widehat{X}_{k|k} \\ &= \widehat{X}_{k|k-1} + K_k(z_k - z_{k|k-1})P_{k|k} \\ &= P_{k|k-1} - K_kS_kK_k'. \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

For the cases where the measurement equation is also nonlinear, the measurement update can be referred to [10] for details.

3.2. Kinematic Constraint Tracking Filter. The Kalman filtering equations for processing this kinematic constraint as a pseudomeasurement are given below, where the filtered state estimate and error covariance after the constraint have been applied are denoted by $X_{k|k}^C$ and $P_{k|k}^C$, respectively [8].

(i) *Time Update*

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{X}_{k|k-1} &= F\widehat{X}_{k-1|k-1}^C \\ P_{k|k-1} &= FP_{k-1|k-1}^CF' + GQ_{k-1}G'. \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

(ii) *Measurement Update.* The measurement update is the same as (34).

(iii) *Constraint Update*

$$\begin{aligned} K_k^C &= P_{k|k}C_k^T[C_kP_{k|k}C_k' + R_k^\mu]^{-1}\widehat{X}_{k|k}^C \\ &= [I - K_k^CC_k]\widehat{X}_{k|k}P_{k|k}^C \\ &= [I - K_k^CC_k]P_{k|k}, \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

where

$$C_k = \frac{1}{S_{k|k}} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \widehat{x}_{k|k} & 0 & 0 & \widehat{y}_{k|k} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (37)$$

3.3. Maneuver-Centered Tracking Filter

(i) *Estimating Center of Maneuver.* The center of the maneuver should be estimated from the measurements. It can be estimated through least square method which requires an iterative search procedure. The following simple geometrically oriented procedure of estimating the center was proposed in [9]. The main idea is as follows: if two points are on a circle then the perpendicular bisector of the chord between those points will pass through the center of the circle. The slope (m) and y intercept (b) of the perpendicular bisector is given by

$$\begin{aligned} m &= \frac{(x_1 - x_2)}{(y_2 - y_1)} \\ b &= \frac{(y_1 + y_2)}{2} - m \frac{(x_1 + x_2)}{2}, \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

where (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) are the coordinates of the two points. The center can be given by

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{x}_c &= \frac{(b_1 - b_2)}{(m_2 - m_1)} \\ \hat{y}_c &= \frac{(m_1 b_2 - m_2 b_1)}{(m_1 - m_2)}.\end{aligned}\quad (39)$$

(ii) *Maneuver Detection.* In the absence of a maneuver, the target is assumed to be traveling in a straight line and modeled by a constant velocity (CV) motion. (CV model is very simple and commonly used, which will not be listed here.) When the maneuver is detected, the filter switches to the maneuver-center CT model. While the end of a maneuver is detected, the filter will then switch back to CV model.

Here a fading memory average of the innovations is used to detect if a maneuver occurs. The equation is given by

$$u_k = \rho u_{k-1} + d_k \quad (40)$$

with

$$d_k = v_k' S_k^{-1} v_k, \quad (41)$$

where $0 < \rho < 1$, v_k is the innovation vector, and S_k is its covariance matrix.

u_k will have a chi-squared distribution with degrees

$$n_u = n_z \frac{1 + \rho}{1 - \rho}, \quad (42)$$

where n_z is the dimension of the measurement vector. When u_k exceeds a threshold (e.g., 95% or 99% confidence interval), then a maneuver onset is declared. The end time of a maneuver will be determined in a similar fashion. The procedure can be referred to [9] for details.

3.4. Simulation Results

(i) *The Scenario.* The scenario simulated here is very similar to that described in [20]. It includes few rectilinear stages and few CT maneuvers. Four consecutive 180° turns with rates $\omega = 1.87, -2.8, 5.6, -4.68$ are simulated, respectively, for scans [56, 150], [182, 245], [285, 314], and [343, 379]. The target trajectory can be seen in Figure 1.

The initial target position and velocities are $X_0 = 60$ km, $Y_0 = 40$ km, $\dot{X}_0 = -172$ km, and $\dot{Y}_0 = 246$ km. It is assumed that the sensor measures Cartesian coordinates X and Y directly. It is also assumed that $\sigma_X = \sigma_Y = 100$ m and the sample rate $T = 1$.

(ii) *Algorithms' Parameters.* UKF controlled ACT model's parameter:

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha &= 10^{-3}, \quad \beta = 2, \quad \kappa = 0 \\ Q_{ACT1} &= \text{diag}\{1 \ 1 \ 10^{-4}\} \\ Q_{ACT2} &= \text{diag}\{1 \ 10^{-4}\}.\end{aligned}\quad (43)$$

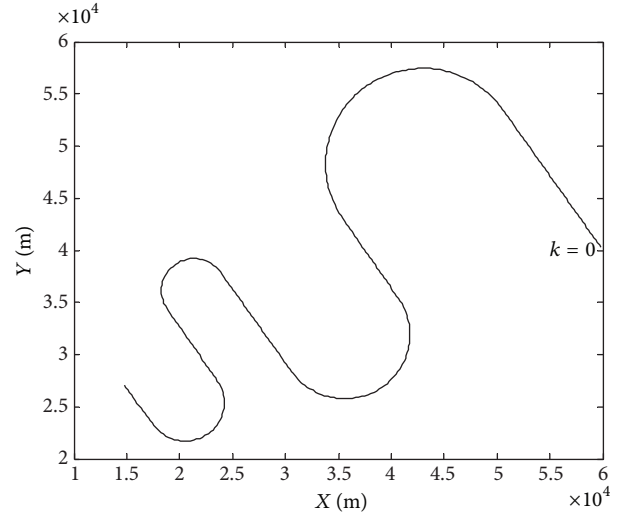


FIGURE 1: The test trajectory.

Kinematic constraint model's parameter:

$$\begin{aligned}Q_{CA} &= \text{diag}\{1 \ 1\} \\ \delta &= 0.92, \quad r_0 = 1, \quad r_1 = 200.\end{aligned}\quad (44)$$

Maneuver centered model's parameter:

$$\begin{aligned}Q_m &= \text{diag}\{10^6 \ 10^{-4}\} \\ \rho &= 0.8.\end{aligned}\quad (45)$$

(iii) *Results.* The four models are listed as follows.

Method 1: ACT model with Cartesian velocity.

Method 2: ACT model with polar velocity.

Method 3: kinematic constraint model.

Method 4: maneuver-centered CT model.

Root mean squared errors (RMSE) are used here for comparison. The RME position errors are defined as follows:

$$\text{RMS.P.E.}(k) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M [(x_k^i - \hat{x}_k^i)^2 + (y_k^i - \hat{y}_k^i)^2]}, \quad (46)$$

where $M = 200$ are the Monte-Carlo simulation runs. x_k^i and y_k^i stand for the true position, while $\hat{x}_{k|k}^i$ and \hat{y}_k^i are the position estimates.

The RMS position errors of all but the first ten are shown in Figure 2.

Table 1 summarizes the average RMS of the position errors.

Table 2 summarizes the relative computational complexity, normalized to method 4.

It can be seen from the figure and tables that method 2 has the best performance and its computational load is roughly

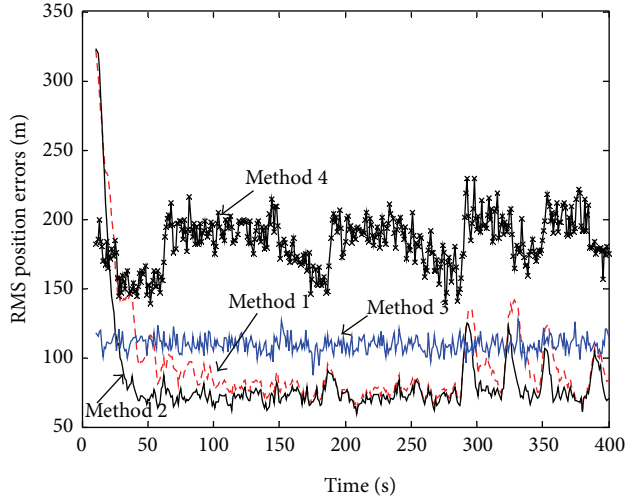


FIGURE 2: RMS position errors of the four methods.

TABLE 1: Average RMS of position errors.

Method	Average RMS of position errors (m)
1	94.26
2	81.57
3	109.51
4	183.46

TABLE 2: Relative computational load.

Method	Relative computational load
1	7.26
2	7.07
3	1.42
4	1

the same as method 1. So we can conclude that ACT model with polar velocity is better than ACT model with Cartesian velocity. Method 4 has the least computational load but its performance is poor. Method 3 is slightly more complex than method 4 but can decrease the error greatly. So if the computational load is of great concern, kinematic constraint model is a good choice.

4. The Expectation Maximization (EM) Algorithm for Tracking CT Motion Target

In this part, the model in Section 2.1 is used.

The turn rate ω_k can be described by a Markov chain [21, 22] and has r possible values:

$$\omega_k \in M_r = \{\omega(1), \omega(2), \dots, \omega(r)\}. \quad (47)$$

Assume the initial probability τ_i and the one-step transition matrix are known, as follows:

$$\tau_i = p(\omega_0 = \omega(i)), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, r$$

$$\pi_{i,j} = p(\omega_{k+1} = \omega(j) | \omega_k = \omega(i)), \quad i, j = 1, 2, \dots, r. \quad (48)$$

The measurement sequence is defined by $Z_{1:N} = \{z_1, z_2, \dots, z_N\}$, state sequence is $X_{1:N} = \{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_N\}$, and maneuver sequence is $\Omega_{1:N} = \{\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_N\}$.

4.1. Batch EM Algorithm. Assume the measurement sequence is known, this algorithm focuses on finding the best maneuver sequence based on MAP criterion. There is one best maneuver sequence $\Omega_{1:N}^{(B)}$ in r^N possible sequences that makes the conditional probability density function be the maximum. When $\Omega_{1:N}^{(B)}$ is achieved, the state sequence $X_{1:N}$ can be estimated accurately.

According to EM algorithm, $Z_{1:N}$ is considered to be the incomplete data, $X_{1:N}$ to be the “lost” data, and $\Omega_{1:N}$ to be the data that needs to be estimated. EM algorithm carries out the following two steps iteratively.

(1) *Expectation Step (E step)*

$$J(\Omega_{1:N}, \Omega_{1:N}^{(j)}) = E_{X_{1:N}} \left\{ \ln p(X_{1:N}, Z_{1:N}, \Omega_{1:N}) | Z_{1:N}, \Omega_{1:N}^{(j)} \right\}, \quad (49)$$

where $J(\Omega_{1:N}, \Omega_{1:N}^{(j)})$ is defined as the cost function, $\Omega_{1:N}^{(j)}$ is the maneuver sequence estimation after j times iteration.

(2) *Maximization step (M step)*

$$\Omega_{1:N}^{(j+1)} = \arg \max_{\Omega_{1:N}} J(\Omega_{1:N}, \Omega_{1:N}^{(j)}). \quad (50)$$

If the initial value is given, the above E step and M step are carried out repeatedly, until convergence.

(i) *E step.* The union probability density function can be decomposed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} p(X_{1:N}, Z_{1:N}, \Omega_{1:N}) &= \prod_{k=1}^N p(z_k | X_k) \times \prod_{k=1}^N p(X_k | X_{k-1}, \omega_{k-1}) \times p(X_0) \\ &\quad \times \prod_{i=1}^N p(\omega_i | \omega_{i-1}) \times p(\omega_0). \end{aligned} \quad (51)$$

$p(X_k | X_{k-1}, \omega_{k-1})$ and $p(\omega_i | \omega_{i-1})$ rely on the maneuver sequence $\Omega_{1:N}$. The state equation is Gaussian distribution:

$$p(X_k | X_{k-1}, \omega_{k-1}) = N\{X_k - F(\omega_{k-1})X_{k-1}, Q_k\}, \quad (52)$$

where $N\{\mu; \Sigma\}$ is the Gaussian probability density function with mean μ and covariance Σ .

From the above analysis,

$$\begin{aligned}
 J(\Omega_{1:N}, \Omega_{1:N}^{(j)}) &= E_{X_{1:N}} \left\{ \ln p(X_{1:N}, Z_{1:N}, \Omega_{1:N} | Z_{1:N}, \Omega_{1:N}^{(j)}) \right\} \\
 &= \sum_{k=1}^N \left\{ \ln p(\omega_k | \omega_{k-1}) - \frac{1}{2} (\widehat{X}_{k|N} - F(\omega_{k-1}) \widehat{X}_{k-1|N})' \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \times Q_k^{-1} (\widehat{X}_{k|N} - F(\omega_{k-1}) \widehat{X}_{k-1|N}) \right\}, \quad (53)
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\widehat{X}_{k|N} = E[X_k | Z_{1:N}, \Omega_{1:N}^{(j)}]. \quad (54)$$

Those terms which are independent of $\Omega_{1:N}$ are omitted here.

In the E step, if $\Omega_{1:N}^{(j)}$ is given, the cost function can be achieved using Kalman smoothing algorithm.

(ii) *M step*. In the maximization step, a new $\Omega_{1:N}$ is chosen for a higher conditional probability. Then a better parameter estimation is achieved compared to the former iteration. The following Viterbi algorithm can solve this problem perfectly.

Viterbi algorithm is a recursive algorithm looking for the best path. As shown in Figure 3, the path connects the adjacent points with the weights to be the logarithm function of the likelihood, named cost. The path's total cost is the sum of its each point's cost. The best path has the maximum cost. The detailed method to find the best path can be found in [12].

(iii) *Calculating Algorithm*

- (1) *Initialization*: the initial maneuver sequence $\Omega_{1:N}^{(1)}$ and threshold ε should be given.
- (2) *Iteration*: for each circle ($j = 1, 2, \dots$), carry out the following steps: (1) E step, according to (53), calculate the cost between the adjacent point. (2) M step, according to Viterbi algorithm, find a better maneuver sequence.
- (3) *Stop*: if $\|\Omega_{1:N}^{(j+1)} - \Omega_{1:N}^{(j)}\| \leq \varepsilon$, then stop the iteration. The best maneuver sequence is $\Omega_{1:N}^{(B)} = \Omega_{1:N}^{(j+1)}$; then the state estimation sequence is calculated according to $\Omega_{1:N}^{(B)}$.

4.2. Recursive EM Algorithm. In target tracking applications, the target's state always needs online estimation. So a recursive EM algorithm is needed for calculating ω_k .

(i) *Recursive Equation*. Under the MAP criterion,

$$\Omega_{1:k}^{(B)} = \arg \max_{\Omega_{1:k}} \{p(\Omega_{1:k} | Z_{1:k})\}, \quad (55)$$

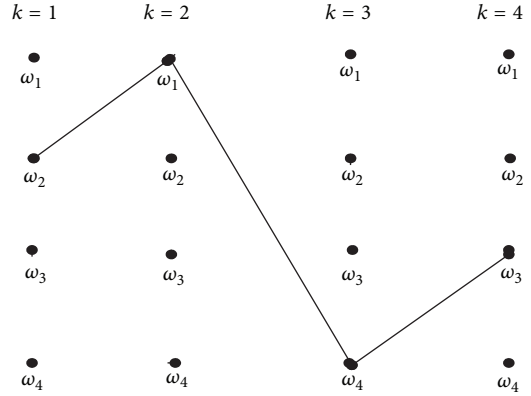


FIGURE 3: Viterbi algorithm for path following.

where $p(\Omega_{1:k} | Z_{1:k})$ can be calculated online.

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(\Omega_{1:k} | Z_{1:k}) &= p(\Omega_{1:k} | z_k, Z_{1:k-1}) \\
 &= \frac{p(z_k | \Omega_k, Z_{1:k-1}) p(\Omega_k | Z_{1:k-1})}{p(z_k | \Omega_{1:k-1})} \\
 &= p(z_k | \Omega_{1:k}, Z_{1:k-1}) p(\omega_k | \Omega_{1:k-1}) \\
 &\quad \times p(\Omega_{1:k-1} | Z_{1:k-1}) (p(z_k | Z_{1:k-1}))^{-1}. \quad (56)
 \end{aligned}$$

Because $\Omega_{1:k}$ is Markov chain,

$$p(\omega_k | \Omega_{1:k-1}) = p(\omega_k | \omega_{k-1}). \quad (57)$$

The possible maneuver sequence grows exponentially as the time grows. For the computation to be feasibility, it is assumed that

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(z_k | \Omega_{1:k}, Z_{1:k-1}) &\approx p(z_k | \omega_k, Z_{1:k-1}) \\
 &= N(\mathbf{v}_k, \mathbf{S}_k), \quad (58)
 \end{aligned}$$

where \mathbf{v}_k is the Kalman filter's innovation and \mathbf{S}_k is the covariance of the innovation.

The cost function is defined as

$$J(\omega_k(i)) = \ln p(\Omega_{1:k}, \omega_k(i) | Z_{1:k}), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, r, \quad (59)$$

which stands for the cost to model i until time k .

From (57) to (59),

$$\begin{aligned}
 J(\omega_k(j)) &= J(\omega_{k-1}(i)) + \ln \pi_{ij} \\
 &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{v}_k'(i, j) \mathbf{S}_k^{-1}(i, j) \mathbf{v}_k(i, j) \quad i, j = 1, 2, \dots, r, \quad (60)
 \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathbf{v}_k(i, j)$ stands for the innovation when model i is chosen in time $k-1$ and model j is chosen in time k . $\mathbf{S}_k(i, j)$ is the corresponding covariance.

Because of using the assumption (58), the iteration algorithm is not the optimal algorithm under MAP criterion, but a suboptimal one.

(ii) *Calculating Algorithm.* Only one-step iteration is listed here.

- (1) *E Step Calculation.* Using (10), calculate each cost from time $k - 1$ to k ; r^2 costs are needed.
- (2) *M Step Calculation.* According to Viterbi algorithm, find out the maximum cost $J_{\max}(\omega_k(i))$ related to each model. $J_{\max}(\omega_k(i))$ is the initial value to be the next iteration.
- (3) *Filtering.* According to the path which reaches each model, calculate each model's state estimation $\hat{X}_k(i)$ and covariance $P_{k|k}(i)$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, r$.
- (4) *The Final Results.* From $J_{\max}(\omega_k(i))$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, r$, choose the maximum one as the final filtering result:

$$j = \arg \max_i \{J_{\max}(\omega_k(i))\}_{i=1}^r. \quad (61)$$

$$\hat{X}_k^{(B)} = \hat{X}_k(j), \quad P_{k|k}^{(B)} = P_{k|k}(j). \quad (62)$$

4.3. Simulation Results

(i) *Simulation Scenario.* Target initial state is $X_0 = [60000 \text{ m} \ -172 \text{ m/s} \ 40000 \text{ m} \ 246 \text{ m/s}]'$. The sample rate $T = 1 \text{ s}$. The covariance of process noise

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} Q_x & 0 \\ 0 & Q_y \end{bmatrix}, \quad Q_x = Q_y = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{T^4}{3} & \frac{T^3}{2} \\ \frac{T^3}{2} & T^2 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (63)$$

Assume only position can be measured, the measurement equation is the following:

$$z_k = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} X_k + v_k. \quad (64)$$

The covariance of measurement noise $R = 2500\mathbf{I}$, where \mathbf{I} is the 2×2 unit matrix.

The simulation lasts for 300 s. Target's true turn rate is

$$\omega_k = \begin{cases} 0 & 0 \leq k < 103 \\ 0.033 \text{ rad/s} & 104 \leq k < 198 \\ 0 & 198 \leq k < 300. \end{cases} \quad (65)$$

Figure 4 gives the target's true trajectory.

Assume target's maximum centripetal acceleration is 30 m/s^2 . Under the speed 300 m/s , the corresponding turn rate is 0.1 rad/s . Seven models are used for this simulation. From -0.1 to 0.1 , the seven models are distributed evenly. Their values are -0.1 , -0.067 , -0.033 , 0 , 0.033 , 0.067 , and 0.1 . The initial probability matrix is

$$\tau = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{7} & \frac{1}{7} & \frac{1}{7} & \frac{1}{7} & \frac{1}{7} & \frac{1}{7} & \frac{1}{7} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (66)$$

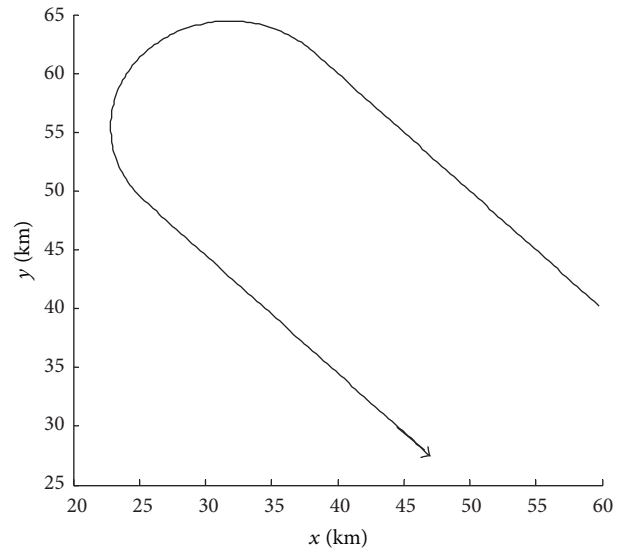


FIGURE 4: Target trajectory.

The model transition matrix is

$$\pi_{i,j} = \begin{cases} 0.7 & i = j \\ 0.05 & i \neq j \end{cases} \quad (67)$$

$i, j = 1, 2, \dots, 7.$

(ii) *Simulation Results and Analysis.* Batch EM algorithm, recursive algorithm, and IMM algorithm are compared in this scenario. Root mean squared errors (RMSE) are used here for comparison. The RME position errors are defined as (46) and velocity error are defined as follows:

$$\text{RMS.V.E}(k) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M \left[(\dot{x}_k^i - \hat{\dot{x}}_k^i)^2 + (\dot{y}_k^i - \hat{\dot{y}}_k^i)^2 \right]}, \quad (68)$$

where $M = 200$ are Monte-Carlo simulation runs and \dot{x}_k^i, \dot{y}_k^i and $\hat{\dot{x}}_k^i, \hat{\dot{y}}_k^i$ stand for the true and estimated velocity at time k in the i th simulation runs, respectively.

Figures 5 and 6 show the position and velocity performance comparison. It can be concluded that the batch EM algorithm has much less tracking errors compared to IMM algorithm. During maneuver onset time and termination time, the IMM algorithm is better than recursive EM algorithm. But on stable period, the recursive EM algorithm performs better.

5. Conclusions

Aiming at the CT motion target tracking, several models and algorithms are introduced and simulated in this paper.

In single model framework, four CT models have been compared for tracking applications: ACT model with Cartesian velocity, ACT model with polar velocity, kinematic constraint model, and maneuver-centered model. The Monte-Carlo simulations show that the ACT model with polar

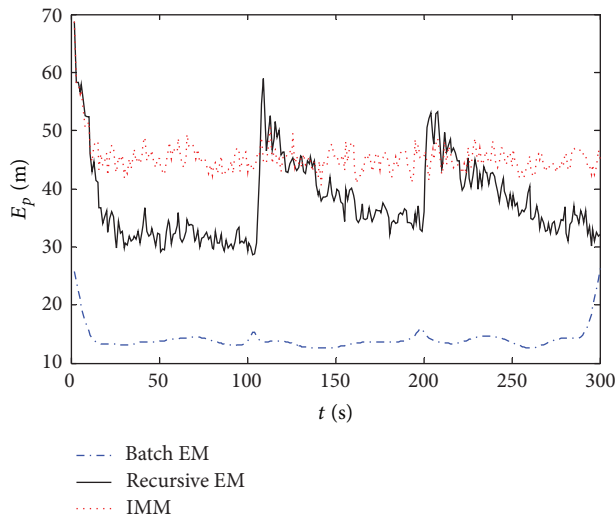


FIGURE 5: Position performance comparison.

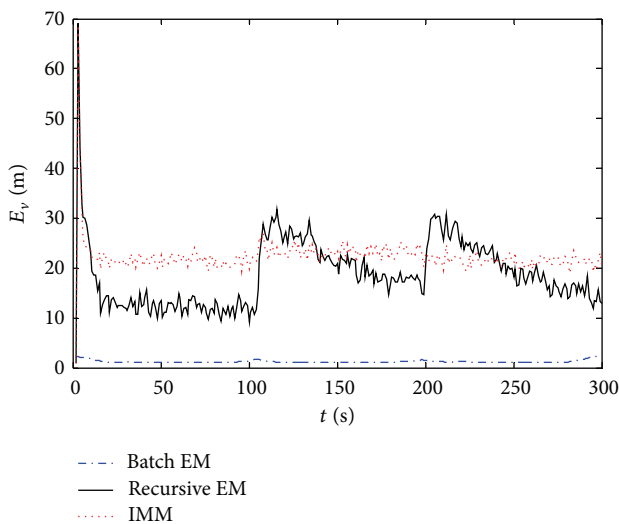


FIGURE 6: Velocity performance comparison.

velocity has the best tracking performance but the computational load is a bit heavier. The kinematic constraint model has a moderate tracking performance, but its computational load decreases greatly compared with UKF controlled ACT model. So if the computational load is of a great concern, the kinematic constraint model is suggested. If the tracking performance is very important and the computational load is not a problem, the ACT model with polar velocity is suitable.

In multiple models framework, EM algorithm is used for tracking CT motion target. First a batch EM algorithm is derived. The turn rate is acted as the maneuver sequence and estimated based on the MAP criterion. Under the E step, the cost function is calculated using the Kalman smoothing algorithm. Under the M step, Viterbi algorithm is used for path following to find out the path with maximum cost. Simulation results show that the Batch EM algorithm has better tracking performance than IMM algorithm. Through modification of

the cost function, a recursive EM algorithm is presented. The algorithm can track the target online. Compared with the IMM algorithm, on the stable period, the recursive EM algorithm has better tracking performance.

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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