The Kalman filter and the square root Kalman filter

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Introduction

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A linear Gaussian state space model

A linear Gaussian state space model is defined by the following two equations.

$$x_t = Fx_{t-1} + Eu_t + w_t$$

and

$$y_t = Hx_t + v_t,$$

where x_t is the $(k \times 1)$ state vector , y_t is the $(l \times 1)$ observation vector, u_t is the $(n \times 1)$ exogenous vector, v_t is the $(k \times 1)$ state noise, $w(t)$ is the $(l \times 1)$ observation noise, t is a time index. The Kalman Filter is used to estimate the state vector x_t given the observations y_t.

The Kalman filter is implemented using the following recursion:

1. Prediction step:

    1. $x_{t|t-1} = Fx_{t-1|t-1} + Eu_t$
    2. $P_{t|t-1} = FP_{t-1|t-1}F^t + V$

2. Innovation step:

    1. $e_t = y_t - Hx_{t|t-1}$
    2. $s_t = HP_{t-1|t-1}H^t + W$

3. Update step:

    1. $K_t = P_{t|t-1}H^t s_t^{-1}$

    2. $x_{t|t} = x_{t|t-1} + K_t e_t$

    3. $P_{t|t} = (I - K_t H)P_{t|t-1}$

where $x_{t|t}$ is the estimated state vector at, P_t is the estimated state covariance matrix, and K_t is the Kalman gain at time t. See Kitagawa, (2010) for more details.

The square root Kalman filter using only QR decompositions

The square root Kalman filter is an alternative to the Kalman filter that is numerically more stable. The square root Kalman filter is implemented using the following recursion. Tracy (2022) proposes the following recursion for the square root Kalman filter using only QR decompositions (The QR Kalman filter).

The QR Kalman filter is implemented using the following recursion

1. Prediction step

    1. $x_{t|t-1} = Fx_{t-1|t-1} + Eu_t$

    2. $\Sigma_{t|t-1} = gr_r(\Sigma_{t-1|t-1}F^t, \Gamma_v)$

2. Innovation step:

    1. $e_t = y_t - Hx_{t|t-1}$

    2. $G_t = gr_r(\Sigma_{t|t-1}H^t, \Gamma_w)$

3. Update step:

    1. $K_t = [G_t^{-1}(G_t^{-t}H)\Sigma_{t|t-1}{}^t(\Sigma_{t|t-1})]^t$

    2. $x_{t|t} = x_{t|t-1} + K_t e_t$

    3. $\Sigma_{t|t} = gr_r(\Sigma(t|t-1)(I - K(t)H)^t, \Gamma_w K(t)^t)$

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