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You can download the sources of this presentation here: github.com/severin-lemaignan/module-mobile-and-humanoid-robots

ROBOTICS WITH PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY

ROCO318 Mobile and Humanoid Robots

Part 3 - Kalman filters

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PART 3 – KALMAN FILTERS

For further reading, see:

- Welch and Bishop (2001) An introduction to the Kalman filter, SIGGRAPH 2001, ACM.
- Autonomous Mobile Robots, chapter 5.6.8

WHAT IS A KALMAN FILTER?

For example: speed, height, position, acceleration, ...

- Developed by Rudolph E. Kalman in 1960.
- Mathematical tool that estimates the real state of a system based on uncertain sensor readings.
- It assumes the system is linear and noise is normal (aka Gaussian).
- Gives past, present and future estimations.
- Still very effective and useful for all other classes of systems.
- Hugely popular in digital control systems.

APPLICATIONS OF KALMAN FILTERS

- Estimating critical flight parameters for guidance of missiles.
- Sensor fusion in aircraft.
- Fusion of localisation estimates in GPS.
- o Estimating game controller sensor information.
- o Prediction of ball position in robot football.
- Prediction of head and hands position and orientation in 3D body posture capture system.
- Prediction of the stock market.

0 ..



SOME KALMAN FILTER FACTS

It is a filter? Not really, it does more than filters do

- Taking into account sensor measurements and process variables.
- o Prediction forwards (and backwards if needed) in time.
- No explicit frequency response

Kalman Filter is recursive

 It start with initial estimates and continuously updates these estimates according to the process model and sensor measurements coming in.

Highly efficient: Polynomial in measurement dimensionality k and state dimensionality n: $O(k^{2.376} + n^2)$

Optimal, i.e. there is no way of doing better.



STATE

The **state** of a process is a vector of real numbers capturing the relevant information describing the process. $\mathbf{x} = \mathbb{R}^n$

For example

- $\circ~$ The position and speed of a wheeled robot: $\mathbf{x} = [x,y, heta,\dot{x},\dot{y},\dot{ heta}]$
- \circ The speed of a missile: $\mathbf{x} = [v, t_{thurst}]$

STOCHASTICITY

The true state of a system is unknown

 We don't know the true speed of an aircraft, or the true location of the robot.

This is due to **stochastic** (= random) noise in the measurements and the process.

- Measurement noise example: the air pressure meter reading fluctuates, even at the same altitude.
- Process noise example: even if we keep the accelerator in the same position the car never goes at exactly 60 mph.

LINEAR SYSTEM

A linear equation is a sum of input variables

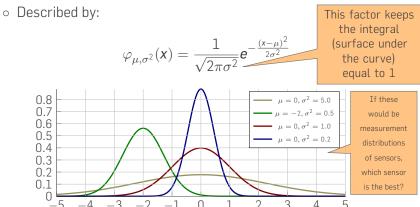
- For example f(x) = 5x + 3 is linear, f(x) = cos(x) is not.
- o A linear system can be written in matrix form as $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{x}$ or

$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1m} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & \cdots & a_{nm} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_m \end{bmatrix}$$

NORMAL DISTRIBUTION

Normal or Gaussian

• Symmetrical distribution, captured with two values: **mean** μ and variance σ^2 .



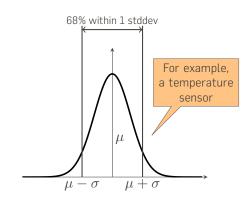
NORMAL DISTRIBUTION (2)

The Kalman Filter assumes that **measurement and process noise are normal** (also known as Gaussian) and **independent**.

Univariate

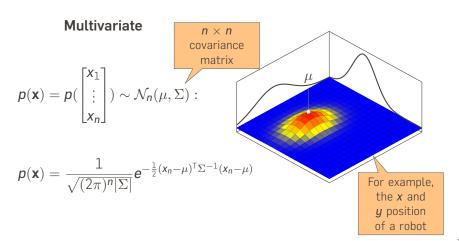
$$p(x) \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$$
 : Probability distribution

$$p(x) \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$



NORMAL DISTRIBUTION (2)

The Kalman Filter assumes that **measurement and process noise are normal** (also known as Gaussian) and **independent**.



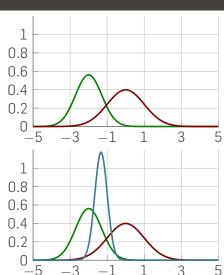
PRODUCT OF NORMAL DISTRIBUTIONS

Combining Gaussians (μ, σ^2) and (ν, r^2) :

$$\mu' = \frac{1}{\sigma^2 + r^2}(r^2\mu + \sigma^2\nu)$$

$$\sigma^{2\prime} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\sigma^2} + \frac{1}{r^2}}$$

Combining two Gaussians results in a Gaussian that has a *smaller standard* deviation.



Covariance: measure of how two variables change together.

Two series X and Y of values, each of size n.

$$cov(X,Y) = \overline{(X-\bar{X})(Y-\bar{Y})} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{(x_i - \bar{X})(y_i - \bar{Y})}{n}$$

If cov(X, Y) > 0, then X and Y tend move together. If cov(X, Y) < 0 then X and Y have an opposite effect on

eachother.

And
$$cov(X, Y) = 0$$
?

Covariance: measure of how two variables change together.

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Example:

$$X = [4, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5, 3, 1, 1, 2]$$

$$Y = [6, 4, 3, 5, 7, 8, 5, 3, 3, 2]$$

$$\bar{X} = 3$$

$$\bar{Y} = 4.6$$

$$X - \bar{X} = [1, -1, 0, 1, 2, 2, 0, -2, -2, -1]$$

$$Y - \bar{Y} = [1.4, -0.6, -1.6, 0.4, 2.4, 3.4, 0.4, -1.6, -1.6, -2.6]$$

$$(X - \bar{X})(Y - \bar{Y}) = [-0.84, 1.56, 2.56, -0.24, 0.96, 1.36, -0.64, 5.76, 5.76, 6.76]$$

 $cov(X, Y) = 2.3$

A covariance matrix is a matrix showing the covariance of two or more variables to each other.

- If one variable changes, does the other variable change as well and in what direction?
- o Example: altitude, temperature and air pressure

altitude	T ° C	pressure
0	20	1
1000	10	0.9
2000	0	0.8
3000	-10	0.7
4000	-20	0.5
5000	-30	0.3

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	alt.	Т	Р
alt.	2916667	-29166.7	-400
Т	-29166.7	291.667	4
Р	-400	4	0.057



THE BASICS

The Kalman filter needs a number of parameters to run.

These come from the **process equations**: equations that describe how the state of the system in the next time step depends on the current state and any changes that happen to the system.

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For example: a car drives down the road. Its position at time t+1 depends on its position at time t, the control input at t (is the car braking or accelerating) and system dynamics (it slows down due to friction).

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For example: a car drives down the road. Its position at time t+1 depends on its position at time t, the control input at t (is the car braking or accelerating) and system dynamics (it slows down due to friction).

Instead of t, we use k to denote *discrete time steps*.

The process is governed by a linear difference equation:

The state at time step
$$k$$

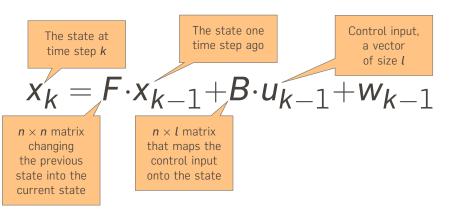
The state one time step ago

 $X_k = F \cdot X_{k-1} + B \cdot u_{k-1} + w_{k-1}$

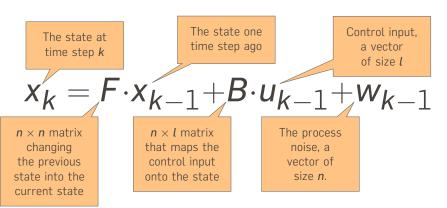
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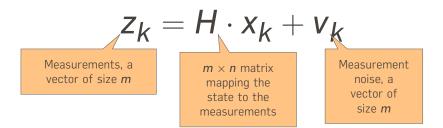
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We take m measurements which will be related to the state x according to:



THE PROCESS EQUATIONS: RECAP OF MAIN MODELS

- State transition model F: matrix $n \times n$ that describes how the state changes from k-1 to k without controls or noise.
- Control input model B: matrix $n \times l$ that describes how the control u_{k-1} changes the state from k-1 to k.
- **Observation model** H: Matrix $m \times n$ that describes how to map the state x_k to the measurements z_k .

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- **Observation model** H: Matrix $m \times n$ that describes how to map the state x_k to the measurements z_k .
- **Process noise model** w_k : a vector of size n
- Measurement noise model v_k : a vector of size m

The variables w_k and v_k contain the random noise on the state and measurements. They (are assumed to) have a **normal** distribution.

 $p(\mathbf{w}) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{Q})$ $p(\mathbf{v}) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{R})$

p means probability distribution \mathcal{N} is the notation for a normal distribution

With a covariance matrix of Q and R; this reflects the width of the normal distribution

The goal of a Kalman filter is to **estimate** the state x at each time step given

- noisy measurements,
- o control input,
- the process equations.

The state of the filter is represented by two variables:

- o $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k}$: the state estimate at time k given observations up to and including at time k
- \circ $\mathbf{P}_{k|k}$: the *error covariance matrix* (a measure of the estimated accuracy of the state estimate)

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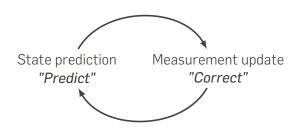
the notation $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|m}$ represents the **estimate** of \mathbf{x} at time n given observations up to and including at time $m \leq n$

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The Kalman filter continuously loops through two steps

- The state prediction step.
- o The measurement update step.



The **Prediction** step uses the state estimate from the previous timestep to produce an estimate of the state **at the current timestep**. This is called the **a priori** estimate

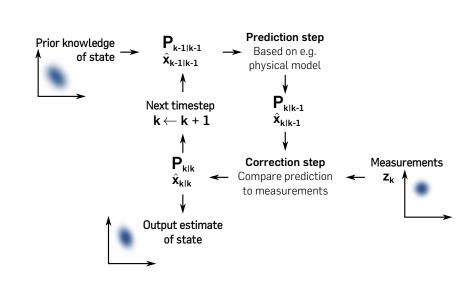
- A priori means that the estimate is taken before any new sensor measurements have come in.
- Notation: $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1}$

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- Notation: $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1}$

The **Correction** step is run after new measurements have come in an provide the **a posteriori** estimate.

- A posteriori because the estimate is made after new sensor measurements have come in.
- Notation: $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k}$



PREDICT STEP EQUATIONS

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1} = \mathbf{F} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1|k-1} + \mathbf{B} \cdot u_{k-1}$$

A priori estimate of the state at time k

A posteriori estimate of the state at time k-1

$$\mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} = \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{P}_{k-1|k-1} \cdot \mathbf{F}^{\mathsf{T}} + \mathbf{Q}$$

A priori estimate of the error co-variance at time k

A posteriori estimate of the error covariance at time k-1

Process noise

CORRECT STEP EQUATIONS (MEASUREMENT UPDATE)

$$\mathbf{K}_{k} = \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} \cdot \mathbf{H}^{\mathsf{T}} \cdot (\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} \cdot \mathbf{H}^{\mathsf{T}} + \mathbf{R})^{-1}$$

The **Kalman gain**, this needs to calculated first

Sensor noise

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1} + \mathbf{K}_k \cdot (\mathbf{z}_k - \mathbf{H} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1})$$

The *a posteriori* estimated state

$$\mathbf{P}_{k|k} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{K}_k \cdot \mathbf{H}) \cdot \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1}$$

The *a posteriori* estimated covariance of our state

CORRECT STEP EQUATIONS (MEASUREMENT UPDATE)

$$\mathbf{K}_{k} = \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} \cdot \mathbf{H}^{\mathsf{T}} \cdot (\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} \cdot \mathbf{H}^{\mathsf{T}} + \mathbf{R})^{-1}$$

estimated state at last step

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1} + \mathbf{K}_k \cdot (\mathbf{z}_k - \mathbf{H} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1})$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{k|k} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{K}_k \cdot \mathbf{H}) \cdot \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1}$$

CORRECT STEP EQUATIONS (MEASUREMENT UPDATE)

$$\mathbf{K}_k = \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} \!\cdot\! \mathbf{H}^{\mathsf{T}} \!\cdot\! (\mathbf{H} \!\cdot\! \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} \!\cdot\! \mathbf{H}^{\mathsf{T}} \!+\! \mathbf{R})^{-1}$$

(actual measurements - expected measurement) × Kalman gain

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1} + \mathbf{K}_k \cdot (\mathbf{z}_k - \mathbf{H}^{\vee} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1})$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{k|k} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{K}_k \cdot \mathbf{H}) \cdot \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1}$$

THE KALMAN FILTER LOOP



Prediction

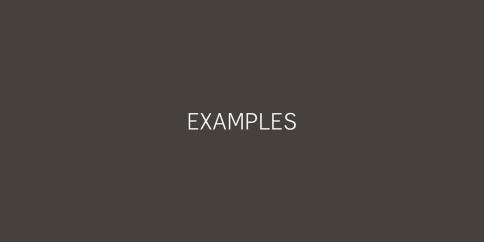
- 1. Project the state ahead $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1} = \mathbf{F} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1|k-1} + \mathbf{B} \cdot u_{k-1}$
- 2. Project the error covariance ahead

$$\mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} = \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{P}_{k-1|k-1} \cdot \mathbf{F}^{\mathsf{T}} + \mathbf{Q}$$

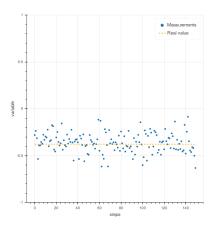


Initial estimates for $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1}$ and \mathbf{P}_{k-1}

- 1. Compute Kalman gain $\mathbf{K}_k = \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} \cdot \mathbf{H}^{\mathsf{T}} \cdot (\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} \cdot \mathbf{H}^{\mathsf{T}} + \mathbf{R})^{-1}$
- 2. Update estimate with measurements \mathbf{z}_k $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1} + \mathbf{K}_k \cdot (\mathbf{z}_k \mathbf{H} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1})$
- 3. Update the error covariance $\mathbf{P}_{k|k} = (\mathbf{I} \mathbf{K}_k \cdot \mathbf{H}) \cdot \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1}$

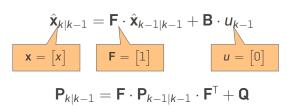


A Kalman filter to estimate the state of a system with **one variable**. For this demonstration, the variable remains **constant** (for example, measuring a voltage or a temperature).



$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1} = \mathbf{F} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1|k-1} + \mathbf{B} \cdot u_{k-1}$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} = \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{P}_{k-1|k-1} \cdot \mathbf{F}^{\mathsf{T}} + \mathbf{Q}$$



$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1} = \mathbf{F} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1|k-1} + \mathbf{B} \cdot u_{k-1} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1|k-1}$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} = \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{P}_{k-1|k-1} \cdot \mathbf{F}^{\mathsf{T}} + \mathbf{Q}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1} = \mathbf{F} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1|k-1} + \mathbf{B} \cdot u_{k-1} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1|k-1}$$

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observation matrix
$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{K}_k = \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} \cdot \mathbf{H}^{\mathsf{T}} \cdot (\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} \cdot \mathbf{H}^{\mathsf{T}} + \mathbf{R})^{-1}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1} + \mathbf{K}_k \cdot (\mathbf{z}_k - \mathbf{H} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1})$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{k|k} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{K}_k \cdot \mathbf{H}) \cdot \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1}$$

$$\mathbf{K}_{k} = \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} \cdot \mathbf{H}^{\mathsf{T}} \cdot (\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} \cdot \mathbf{H}^{\mathsf{T}} + \mathbf{R})^{-1}$$

$$= \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} \cdot (\mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} + \mathbf{R})^{-1}$$

$$= \mathbf{R}^{\mathsf{R}}$$

$$\mathbf{R} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.01 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1} + \mathbf{K}_{k} \cdot (\mathbf{z}_{k} - \mathbf{H} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1})$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{k|k} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{K}_k \cdot \mathbf{H}) \cdot \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{K}_k &= \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} \cdot \mathbf{H}^{\mathsf{T}} \cdot (\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} \cdot \mathbf{H}^{\mathsf{T}} + \mathbf{R})^{-1} \\ &= \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} \cdot (\mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} + \mathbf{R})^{-1} \\ &= \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} \cdot (\mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} + [0.01])^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1} + \mathbf{K}_k \cdot (\mathbf{z}_k - \mathbf{H} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1})$$

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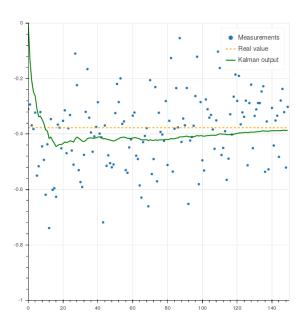
$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1} + \mathbf{K}_k \cdot (\mathbf{z}_k - \mathbf{H} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1}) = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1} + \mathbf{K}_k \cdot (\mathbf{z}_k - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k|k-1})$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{k|k} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{K}_k \cdot \mathbf{H}) \cdot \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} = ([1] - \mathbf{K}_k) \cdot \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1}$$

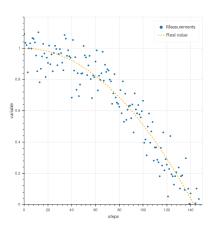
IN PYTHON...

```
from numpy.matlib import matrix
# initial state estimate
x = [matrix([0.1)]]
P = [matrix([0.001])]
k = 1 \# step
R = matrix([0.01]) # estimate of measurement noise
def kalman(k):
    # Prediction phase
    x_{prior} = x[k-1]
    P \text{ prior} = P[k-1]
    # Correction phase
    K = P_{prior} * (P_{prior} + R).I
    x.append(x_prior + K * (z[k] - x_prior))
    P.append((matrix([1.]) - K) * P_prior)
```

The complete examples are online.



A Kalman filter to estimate the state of a system with **one variable** (height). The variable **changes** under the effect of an external force (gravity).



Free fall equations

$$\begin{split} \ddot{y}(t) &= -g \\ \Rightarrow \dot{y}(t) &= \dot{y}(t_0) - g(t - t_0) \\ \Rightarrow y(t) &= y(t_0) + \dot{y}(t_0)(t - t_0) - \frac{g}{2}(t - t_0)^2 \end{split}$$

Free fall equations

$$\ddot{y}(t) = -g$$

 $\Rightarrow \dot{y}(t) = \dot{y}(t_0) - g(t - t_0)$
 $\Rightarrow y(t) = y(t_0) + \dot{y}(t_0)(t - t_0) - \frac{g}{2}(t - t_0)^2$

As a discrete time system, with time increment $t - t_0 = 1$:

$$y_k = y_{k-1} + \dot{y}_{k-1} - \frac{g}{2}$$

How to fit it into our process equations?

The trick consists in embedding the velocity in our state: $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} y \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix}$

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$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} y \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix}_{k|k-1} &= \mathbf{F} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} y \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix}_{k-1|k-1} + \mathbf{B} \cdot u_{k-1} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} y \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix}_{k-1|k-1} + \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot (-g) \end{aligned}$$

The trick consists in embedding the velocity in our state: $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} y \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} y \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix}_{k|k-1} = \mathbf{F} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} y \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix}_{k-1|k-1} + \mathbf{B} \cdot u_{k-1}
= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} y \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix}_{k-1|k-1} + \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot (-g)$$

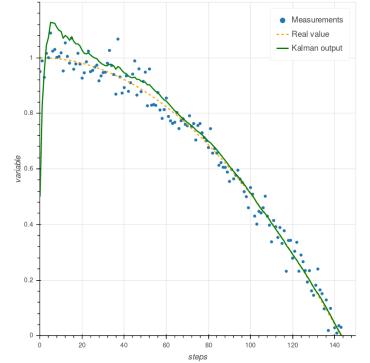
Measurements:

$$z_{k} = \mathbf{H} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} y \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix}_{k|k} + \mathbf{w}_{k}$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} y \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix}_{k|k} + \mathbf{w}_{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{F} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$u = \begin{bmatrix} -g \end{bmatrix}$$

IN PYTHON...

```
from numpy.matlib import matrix
x = [matrix([[0.5],[0.]])] # [y, dy]
P = [matrix([[0.001, 0.], [0., 0.001]])]
k = 1
F = matrix([[1.,1.],[0.,1.]]) # based on the free fall equations
B = matrix([[0.5],[1.]]) # the contribution of the gravity g
H = matrix([1.,0.]) # we only measure the height, not the velocity
Q = matrix([[0.],[0.]]) # no process noise
R = matrix([0.001]) # estimate of our measurement noise
u = matrix([-g]) # control input: gravity
def kalman(k):
    # Prediction phase
    x \text{ prior} = F * x[k-1] + B * u
    P_{prior} = F * P[k-1] * F.T + Q
    # Correction phase
    K = P_{prior} * H.T * (H * P_{prior} * H.T + R).I
    x.append(x_prior + K * (z[k] - H * x_prior))
    P.append((matrix([[1,0],[0,1]]) - K * H) * P prior)
```



FAQ

Is a Kalman Filter similar to complementary filters?

- Complementary filters are often used to combine accelerometer and gyro readings on an IMU.
- CF is simple (few lines of code, no matrices) and combines a high and low pass filter.
- o CF does not predict states into the future.

More about complementary filters

What if my problem is non-linear?

 There are alternative versions out there such as the Extended Kalman Filter (EKF) or Unscented Kalman Filter (UKF).

FURTHER READING

- A good presentation on Kalman filter
- Lesson 2 of Artificial Intelligence for Robotics at Udacity

Video demonstrations

Kalman filter on accelerometer and gyro to read stable angle

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJ71V wxtuU
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3TzhXYF0Lg

Kalman filter tracking an airplane

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0GSIKwfkFCA

That's all, folks!

Questions:

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Slides:

github.com/severin-lemaignan/module-mobile-and-humanoid-robots