



ARAŞTIRMA MAKALESİ | RESEARCH ARTICLE

Process Noise Source Localization Using Kalman Filter

*Yalçın Bulut, ¹Barış Ünal

* Managing Director, MATRiSEB Engineering and Consultancy, Ankara, Turkey

¹ Technical Manager, MATRiSEB Engineering and Consultancy, Ankara, Turkey

Sorumlu Yazar / Corresponding author : ybulut@matriseb.com Y. Bulut, orcid.org/0000-0003-1115-4278 ¹ B. Ünal, orcid.org/0000-0001-7038-1206	Geliş Tarihi / Received Date : 25 June 2020 Kabul Tarihi / Accepted Date : 24 September 2020 Yayın Tarihi / Published Date : 21 November 2020
Alıntı / Citation : Bulut Y., Ünal B., (2020), <i>Process Noise Source Localization Using Kalman Filter</i> , Journal of Science, Technology and Engineering Research, 1(2):19-24, DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.4048219	

Kalman Filtresi Kullanılarak Sistem Gürültüsünün Kaynağının Tespiti

Özet –Kontrolör ve gözlemci tasarımında ihtiyaç duyulan sistem gürültüsünü kaynaklarının dağılımı sistemin kompleks olması nedeniyle nadiren bilinmektedir. Bu çalışmada Kalman Filtresi teorisine dayanan filtre kalıntısı korelasyon yöntemi kullanılarak proses gürültülerinin kaynağı ölçüm verisi ile hesaplanmıştır. Bu yöntemde rastgele bir filtre kazancı ile elde edilen filtre kalıntıları kovaryans matrisleri hesaplanır. Bu makale filtre kalıntıları korelasyonları yaklaşımını irdeler ve sistem gürültülerinin kaynaklarının hesaplanmasındaki performansını değerlendirir. Sayısal sonuçlar, bu yöntemin proses gürültüsünün kaynağının tespiti ve gürültü kovaryans matrislerinin tahmini için etkili bir şekilde kullanılabilceğini göstermektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler- Gürültü kaynağının tespiti, Kalman filtresi, Ölçüm gürültüsü, Proses gürültüsü

Abstract— Due to complexity in the systems, spatial distribution of unmeasured process noise that is required for the controller and observer design are often unknown. In this study an innovations correlations approach developed in Kalman Filter theory is used to localize the process noise from output measurements. The approach calculates covariance matrices from analysis of resulting innovations from an arbitrary filter gain. Aim of this paper is to review the innovation correlations approach and to evaluate its performance for localization of the process noise. Numerical results suggest that the method can be effectively used for source localization of process noise as well as estimation of noise covariance matrices.

Index Terms - Disturbance Localization, Kalman Filter, Measurement Noise, Process Noise, Process Noise Localization.

I. INTRODUCTION

THE basic idea in estimation theory is to obtain approximations of the true response by using information from a model and from any available measurements. The mathematical structure used to perform estimation is known as an observer. The optimal observer for linear systems subjected to broad band disturbances is the Kalman Filter (KF), [1]. In the classical Kalman filter theory, one of the key assumptions is that a priori knowledge of the spatial distribution of process noise and noise covariance matrices are known without uncertainty. In reality, due to the complexity in the systems, this information is seldom known a priori. The objective of this study is to estimate the spatial distribution of process noise and the

noise covariance matrices using correlations approaches. The two correlations approaches that have received most attention in the noise covariance estimation problem are based on: 1) correlations of the innovation sequence and 2) correlations of the output. In the innovations approach one begins by "guessing" a filter gain and then the approach calculates the noise covariance matrices from analysis of the resulting innovations. The correlations approaches to estimate the covariance matrices of process and measurement noise for Kalman Filtering from the measured data began soon after introduction of the filter. One of the most widely quoted strategies to carry out the estimation of noise covariance matrices are due to Mehra [2] and the subsequent paper by Carew and Bellanger [3]. A noteworthy contribution from this early work is the contributions by Neethling and Young [4], who suggested some computational adjustments that could be used to improve accuracy. Recently, some other contributions to the Mehra's approach on the estimation of noise covariance matrices are presented. Odelson, Rajamani and Rawlings applied the suggestions of Neethling and Young's on Mehra's approach and used the vector operator solution for state error covariance Riccati equation of suboptimal filter, [5]. Akesson et al. extended their work for mutually correlated process and measurement noise case, [6]. Bulut, Vines-Cavanaugh and Bernal compared the performance of the output and innovations correlations approaches to estimate noise covariance matrices, [7]. In their study Bulut and Bayat [8] estimated a set of covariance matrices in order to characterize the uncertainty in the erroneous models using Kalman Filter based correlations approach. In this paper the same approach is utilized to estimate process and measurement noise covariances and to localize process noise using a model that is known without uncertainty.

The paper is organized as follows: the next section provides a brief summary of the KF particularized to a time invariant linear system with stationary disturbances (which is a condition we have implicitly assumed throughout the previous discussion). The following section reviews the innovations correlations approach for disturbance localization and the paper concludes with a numerical example.

II. THE KALMAN FILTER

Consider a time invariant linear system with unmeasured disturbances $w(t)$ and available measurements $y(t)$ that are linearly related to the state vector $x(t)$. The system has the following description in sampled time

$$x_{k+1} = Ax_k + Bw_k \quad (1)$$

$$y_k = Cx_k + v_k \quad (2)$$

where $A \in R^{n \times n}$, $B \in R^{n \times r}$ and $C \in R^{m \times n}$ are the transition, input to state, and state to output matrices, $y_k \in R^{m \times 1}$ is the measurement vector and $x_k \in R^{n \times 1}$ is the state. The sequence $w_k \in R^{r \times 1}$ is the disturbance known as the process noise and $v_k \in R^{m \times 1}$ is the measurement noise. In the treatment here, it is assumed that these are mutually correlated Gaussian stationary white noise sequences with zero mean and known covariance matrices, namely

$$E(w_k) = 0 \quad (3)$$

$$E(v_k) = 0 \quad (4)$$

and

$$E(w_k w_j^T) = Q \delta_{kj} \quad (5)$$

$$E(v_k v_j^T) = R \delta_{kj} \quad (6)$$

$$E(w_k v_j^T) = S \delta_{kj} \quad (7)$$

where δ_{kj} denotes the Kronecker delta function, and $E(\cdot)$ denotes expectation. Q and R are covariance matrices of the process and measurement noise and S is cross-covariance between them. For the system in Eqs.1 and 2, the KF estimate of the state can be computed from

$$\hat{x}_{k+1} = A\hat{x}_k + K(y_k - C\hat{x}_k) \quad (8)$$

where \hat{x}_k is the estimate of x_k and K is the (steady state) KF gain that can be expressed in a number of alternative ways, a popular one is

$$K = (APC^T + BS)(CPC^T + R)^{-1} \quad (9)$$

where P , the steady state covariance of the state error, is the solution of the Riccati equation

$$P = APA^T - (APC^T + BS)(CPC^T + R)^{-1}(APC^T + BS)^T + BQB^T \quad (10)$$

The KF provides an estimate of the state for which trace of is minimal. The difference between measured and estimated output, namely $e_k = y_k - C\hat{x}_k$ in Eq.8 is known as innovations sequence of the filter which is a white process. The filter is initialized as follows

$$\hat{x}_0 = E(x_0) \quad (11)$$

III. INNOVATIONS CORRELATIONS APPROACH

We begin with the expression for the covariance function of the innovation process (e_k) for any stable observer with gain K_0 . As initially shown by Mehra [2] this function is

$$L_j = C \bar{P} C^T + R \quad j = 0 \quad (12)$$

$$L_j = C \bar{A}^j \bar{P} C^T + C \bar{A}^{j-1} \bar{B} \bar{S} - C \bar{A}^{j-1} K_0 R \quad j > 0 \quad (13)$$



where \bar{P} the covariance of the state error in the steady state, is the solution of the Riccati equation

$$\bar{P} = \bar{A}\bar{P}\bar{A} + K_0RK_0^T + BQB^T - K_0SB^T - BS^TK_0^T \quad (14)$$

and

$$\bar{A} = A - K_0C \quad (15)$$

Applying *vec* operator to both sides of the auto-correlation function of the innovations in Eqs.12-13 one obtains

$$vec(L_j) = (C \otimes C)vec(\bar{P}) + vec(R) \quad j = 0 \quad (16)$$

$$vec(L_j) = (C\bar{A}^j \otimes C)vec(\bar{P}) + (B^T \otimes C\bar{A}^{j-1})vec(S) - (I \otimes C\bar{A}^{j-1}K_0)vec(R) \quad j > 0 \quad (17)$$

and applying *vec* operator to error covariance equation in Eq.14, one has

$$vec(\bar{P}) = [I - (\bar{A} \otimes \bar{A})]^{-1}[(K_0 \otimes K_0)vec(R) + B \otimes Bvec(Q) - (B \otimes K_0)vec(S) - (K_0 \otimes B)vec(S^T)] \quad (18)$$

Substituting Eq.25 into Eqs.23 and 24 , and adding the terms related to S^T to the terms related to S and canceling S^T , one finds

$$vec(L_j) = [h_j^Q h_j^S h_j^R] \begin{bmatrix} vec(Q) \\ vec(S) \\ vec(R) \end{bmatrix} \quad (19)$$

where

$$h_j^Q = (C \otimes C)[I - (\bar{A} \otimes \bar{A})]^{-1}(B \otimes B) \quad j = 0 \quad (20)$$

$$h_j^Q = (C \otimes C\bar{A}^j)[I - (\bar{A} \otimes \bar{A})]^{-1}(B \otimes B) \quad j > 0 \quad (21)$$

$$h_j^S = -2I(C \otimes C)[I - (\bar{A} \otimes \bar{A})]^{-1}(B \otimes K_0) \quad j = 0 \quad (22)$$

$$h_j^S = (B^T \otimes C\bar{A}^{j-1}) - 2I[(C \otimes C\bar{A}^j)[I - (\bar{A} \otimes \bar{A})]^{-1}(B \otimes K_0)] \quad j > 0 \quad (23)$$

$$h_j^R = (C \otimes C)[I - (\bar{A} \otimes \bar{A})]^{-1}(K_0 \otimes K_0) + I \quad j = 0 \quad (24)$$

$$h_j^R = (C \otimes C\bar{A}^j)[I - (\bar{A} \otimes \bar{A})]^{-1}(K_0 \otimes K_0) - (I \otimes C\bar{A}^{j-1}K_0) \quad j > 0 \quad (25)$$

Listing explicitly the correlation functions in Eq.26 for $lagsj = 1, 2, \dots, p$ and writing in matrix form one has

$$HX = L \quad (26)$$

where

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} h_0^Q & h_0^S & h_0^R \\ h_1^Q & h_1^S & h_1^R \\ h_2^Q & h_2^S & h_2^R \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ h_p^Q & h_p^S & h_p^R \end{bmatrix}, L = \begin{bmatrix} vec(L_0) \\ vec(L_1) \\ vec(L_2) \\ \vdots \\ vec(L_p) \end{bmatrix}, X = \begin{bmatrix} vec(Q) \\ vec(S) \\ vec(R) \end{bmatrix} \quad (27)$$

Estimates of Q , S and R can be obtained from Eq.26. From its inspection, one finds that H has dimensions $m^2px(r^2 + m^2 + mr)$. The sufficient condition for the uniqueness of the solution of Eq.26 is defined as follows in the general case; the number of unknown parameters in Q and S have to be smaller than the product of number of measurements and the state. The error in solving Eq.26 for X is entirely connected to the fact that the L is approximate since it is constructed from sample correlation functions of the innovations which are estimated from finite duration signals, namely

$$\hat{L}_j \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} E(e_k e_{k-j}^T) = \frac{1}{N-j} \sum_{k=1}^{N-j} e_k e_{k-j}^T \quad (28)$$

where N is the number of time steps. Substituting \hat{L} as the estimate of L , the solution of Eq.26 can be presented as in the following.

$$\text{Case \#1 } mn \geq (r^2 + mr) \quad (29)$$

In this case H is full rank and there exists a unique minimum norm solution for a weighting matrix I given in the following,

$$\hat{X} = (H^T H)^{-1} H^T \hat{L} \quad (30)$$

$$\text{Case\#2 } mn < (r^2 + mr) \quad (31)$$

In this case the matrix is rank deficient, and the size of null space of H can be calculated from $t = r^2 - mn$. The solution is written as follows,

$$\hat{X} = \hat{X}_0 + null(H)Y \quad (32)$$

where \hat{X}_0 is the minimum norm solution given in Eq.30 and $Y \in R^{tx1}$ is an arbitrary vector. Therefore, we conclude Eq.26 has infinite solution when $mn < (r^2 + mr)$. We note that the

innovations correlations approach allows to enforce the positive semi-definiteness when solving for Q , S and R from Eq.26.

IV. NUMERICAL EXPERIMENT: FIVE-DOF SPRING MASS SYSTEM

In this numerical experiment we use the five-DOF spring mass system depicted in Fig.1 in order to examine the innovations correlations approach for the estimation of spatial distribution of process noise and noise covariance matrices. We assume that true stiffness and mass values of the spring-mass system are given in consistent units as $k_1, k_3, k_5, k_7 = 100$, $k_2, k_4, k_6 = 120$ and $m_i = 0.05$, respectively. The un-damped frequencies of the system are depicted in Table I. We obtain results for output sensors at the third masses, which are recording velocity data at 100Hz sampling.

Case I: (Q and R are unknown, B is known)

The unmeasured disturbances are acting on the masses #2 and #4. The measurement noise is prescribed to have a root-mean-square (RMS) equal to approximately 10% of the RMS of the response measured ($R=0.090$). Unmeasured disturbances and measurement noise are assumed to be mutually uncorrelated, with the covariance matrices,

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} 15 & 0 \\ 0 & 30 \end{bmatrix} \quad R = 0.090 \quad S = 0$$

The arbitrary filter gain K_0 , that is chosen such that eigenvalues of the matrix $(A - K_0C)$ are assumed to have the same phase as those of A but with a 20% smaller radius. 80 lags of correlation functions of innovations process is taken into consideration and the sample innovation correlations functions are calculated using 200 seconds of data. 100 simulations are carried out and the disturbance covariance matrices are calculated from innovations correlations approach based on the assumption that the distribution of the unmeasured disturbances, namely input to state matrix (B) is known. The process noise covariance estimates (\hat{Q}_{11} , and \hat{Q}_{22}) obtained from the innovations correlations approach are presented in Fig.2. The mean value of the process noise covariance and measurement matrices obtained from 100 simulations are

$$\hat{Q} = \begin{bmatrix} 14.82 & 0 \\ 0 & 30.14 \end{bmatrix} \quad \hat{R} = 0.084$$

Case II: (Q , R and B are unknown)

The unmeasured disturbances are acting on the masses #2 and #4, however, it's assumed that the locations of the disturbances are unknown. In this case, as the distribution of process noise is unknown the input to state matrix is used as identity ($I_{5 \times 5}$).

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 15 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 30 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad R = 0.090 \quad S = 0$$

The mean value of the process and measurement noise covariance matrices obtained from 100 simulations are

$$\hat{Q} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.23 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 14.73 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.02 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 29.74 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.16 \end{bmatrix} \quad \hat{R} = 0.085$$

As seen in Fig.2. an identity of input to state matrix (B) lead to additional unknowns in the process noise covariance matrix ($\hat{Q}_{11}, \hat{Q}_{22}, \hat{Q}_{33}, \hat{Q}_{44}, \hat{Q}_{55}$). However, the large diagonal elements corresponding to the masses #2 and #4 show that the process noise source are located at these positions.

V. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper innovations correlation approach based on Kalman Filter for estimation of noise covariance matrices is described. The classical innovations correlations method to estimate the noise covariance matrices from output measurements is reviewed. This method produces a linear system of equations, based on innovations correlation function which are calculated from measurements. The method assumes that the system is subjected to unmeasured Gaussian stationary process and measurement noise, which are mutually correlated and the system is linear time invariant. The numerical examinations showed that when the duration is 300 times the fundamental period the mean of 100 simulations proved in good agreement of estimates with the noise covariance matrices. Numerical results suggest that the method can be effectively used for source localization of process noises as well as estimation of noise covariance matrices.

APPENDIX

Fig. 1. Five-DOF spring mass system, $m_i = 0.05$, $k_1, k_3, k_5, k_7 = 100$, $k_2, k_4, k_6 = 120$ (inconsistent units). Damping is 2% in all modes.

Fig. 2. Process Noise and Measurement Noise Covariance Estimates for 100 Simulations

Table I: The un-damped frequencies of the spring mass system.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Kalman R. E. "A new approach to linear filtering and prediction problems." *ASME Journal of Basic Engineering*, 82:35-45, 1960.
- [2]. Mehra, R. K. "On the identification of variance and adaptive Kalman filtering." *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, 15:175-184, 1970.
- [3]. Carew B. and Belanger P. R. "Identification of Optimum Filter Steady-State Gain for Systems with Unknown Noise



Covariances.” *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, 18:582-587, 1974.

[4]. Neethling C. and Young P. “Comments on identification of optimum filter steady-state gain for systems with unknown noise covariances.” *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, 19:623-625, 1974.

[5] Odelson B. J. and Rajamani M. R. and Rawlings J. B. “A new autocovariance least-squares method for estimating noise covariances.” *Automatica*, 42(2):303-308, February 2006.

[6]. Akesson B. M. and Jørgensen J. B. and Poulsen N. K. and Jørgensen S. B. . “A generalized autocovariance least-squares method for Kalman filter tuning.” *Journal of Process Control*, 42(2), June 2007.

[7]. Bulut Y. and Vines-Cavanaugh D. and Bernal D. “Process and Measurement Noise Estimation for Kalman Filtering.” *IMAC XXVIII, A Conference and Exposition on Structural Dynamics*, February, 2010.

[8]. Bulut Y., Bayat O., “Kalman Filtering with Model Uncertainties.” *Topics in Modal Analysis I, Volume 5. Conference Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Mechanics Series*. Springer, New York, NY 2012.



Yalçın Bulut was born in Ankara, Turkey in 1980. He received the B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the Yıldız Technical University, Istanbul, in 2002 and M.S. degree in Earthquake Engineering from the Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, in 2005. He holds PhD degree in Structural Engineering from the Northeastern University, Boston in 2011 with an emphasis on Kalman Filter Theory.

From 2010 to 2014, he was employed at Rizzo Associates and Jensen Hughes (previously Stevenson Associates) where he involved in the US nuclear industry projects as a Senior Engineer. He co-founded the MATRiSEB Engineering & Consultancy in Ankara, Turkey in 2015 and acting as the Managing Director since 2018. His research interests include inverse problems in experimental mechanics and structural health monitoring.



Barış Ünal was born in Konak, İzmir, Turkey in 1990. He received the B.S. degree in Civil Engineering and M.S. degree in Earthquake Engineering from the Middle East Technical University, Ankara, in 2012 and in 2015 respectively. He is a PhD. candidate at Structural Engineering Division in Civil Engineering Department, Middle East Technical University, Ankara.

From 2013 to 2015, he was a Research Assistant with the Earthquake Studies Department. From 2016 to 2019, he was a structural engineering analyst at MATRiSEB, Ankara. Since 2019, he has been the technical manager at MATRiSEB, Ankara.

APPENDIX

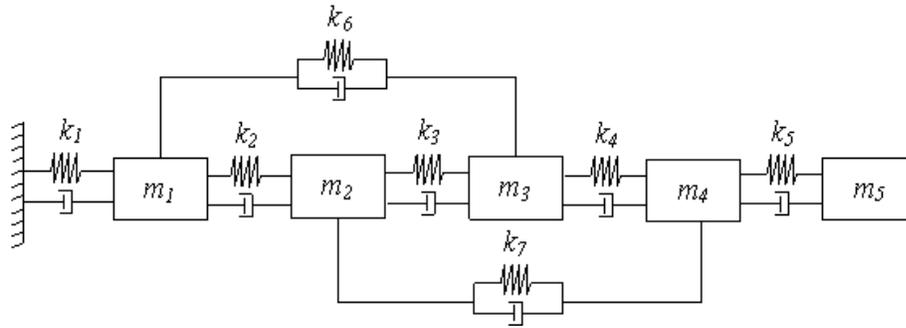


Fig. 1. Five-DOF spring mass system, $m_i = 0.05$, $k_1, k_3, k_5, k_7 = 100$, $k_2, k_4, k_6 = 120$ (inconsistent units). Damping is 2% in all modes.

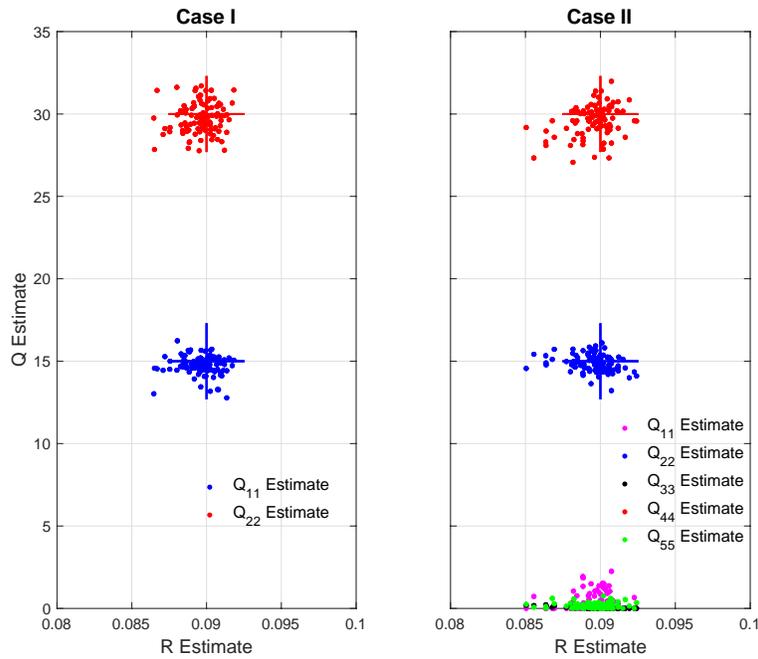


Fig. 2. Process Noise and Measurement Noise Covariance Estimates for 100 Simulations

Table I: The un-damped frequencies of the spring mass system.

Frequency No.	Frequency (Hz)
1	2.666
2	7.208
3	13.306
4	14.745
5	16.304