

NOVEL APPROACH TO PARAMETER ESTIMATION OF A CLASS OF NONLINEAR SYSTEMS

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ABSTRACT

A new identification algorithm based on over-sampling scheme is proposed for a Hammerstein model which consists of a nonlinear element followed by a linear dynamic model. The unknown linear transfer function model can be identified by making use of the information obtained from an over-sampled output, and the intermediate input to the linear part can also be estimated as well as an arbitrary continuous or discontinuous function type of nonlinear element by a deconvolution approach. The *prior* information of the nonlinear element is not needed in the new algorithm.

1. INTRODUCTION

Generally nonlinear systems can only be characterized by a nonlinear model adequately, so nonlinear system identification becomes important in theory and practice. Since the Hammerstein model, which consists of a nonlinear memoryless element followed by a linear dynamic system, is particularly simple but can describe a class of nonlinear system efficiently, it has attracted much attention for a long time. However, in almost all previous algorithms [1]-[3], the nonlinear element is limited to the systems with parametric nonlinearity, *i.e.*, it can be characterized or approximated by a finite sum of polynomials or other known basic functions, which needs the *prior* information. Therefore the consistency of the parameters estimate of the linear part may not be ensured due to the affection of approximation errors of nonlinearity. In [4], an algorithm without requirement of nonlinearity information was presented, but it used a specific input test signal.

Estimation of the Hammerstein model can also be considered as a blind identification problem, however, the second-order cyclostationary statistics based approaches [5] have restricted availability to an FIR model. High order cumulants can also be used for a blind identification problem, but it requires a large number of data and its convergency is very slow.

The main purpose of this paper is to clarify how to estimate the parameters in the linear part when the *prior* information about the nonlinearity can not be available. In this algorithm, we employ an over-sampling scheme for observing the system output to estimate the linear transfer function model, then estimate the unknown input to the linear part to obtain a nonpara-

metric model of the nonlinear element. One of the distinctive features is that the nonlinear function may be an arbitrary nonlinear function which is not limited to a polynomial series expansion. The estimation of the linear part is not affected by the expression of the nonlinear part, and its consistency can be assured.

2. SYSTEM DESCRIPTION AND OVER-SAMPLING SCHEME

We deal with a Hammerstein model, which is frequently utilized to characterize a class of nonlinear system effectively. For the simplicity, we assume the system is an SISO system, $r(t)$, $y(t)$ are input, output respectively, $u(t)$ is its intermediate input to the linear part as well as the output of nonlinearity. Further we assume that the nonlinear element is described by $u = f(r)$, which is an unknown nonlinear function, and the linear part is described by a transfer function with the order n .

$r(t)$ is a discrete-time white random signal for the identification whose duration time is T . Now the problem is how to identify the nonlinear function and the linear dynamic model $G(z)$ by using only the accessible output signal $y(t)$.

Now we introduce an over-sampling scheme for observing the output signal $y(t)$. The sampling interval Δ is chosen such that $\Delta = T/p$, where $p \geq n + 1$. In the following discussion, we select $p = n + 1$, then the linear dynamics can be expressed by a linear discrete-time system with the sampling interval Δ as

$$y(k) + \sum_{i=1}^n a_i y(k-i) = \sum_{i=1}^n b_i u(k-i) + v(k) \quad (1)$$

where $u(k)$, $y(k)$ and $v(k)$ are the system input, output and noise at instant $k\Delta$ respectively. It can be noticed from the scheme of over-sampling that the corresponding intermediate input has the form as

$$u(k) = u_m \quad \text{for } k \in [mp + 1, \overline{m+1}p] \quad (2)$$

In the Hammerstein identification problem, $u(k)$ is not available, sometimes even $r(k)$ can not be observed directly, *eg.*, in blind communication systems. Since the nonlinear element $f(\cdot)$, the parameters $\{a_i, b_i\}$ of the linear dynamic model, and the input $u(k)$ are all unknown, therefore, it will be considered as a blind identification problem. In this paper, we present a new approach for a transfer function model in the presence

of noise, and clarify how to attain the consistency of the parameter estimates. Furthermore, by estimating the unknown input, we can identify a nonlinear function which is not necessarily a finite polynomial expansion.

For this kind of estimation problem, we have the following assumptions as

- A1. The signal $r(t)$ is a white random signal with duration T . As a consequence, the intermediate input $u(t)$ is also a white signal with duration T .
- A2. The discrete-time linear part can be described by (1), where its order n is known as *a priori*.
- A3. $v(k)$ is a stationary white noise with zero mean, finite variance and is independent to $u(k)$.

3. IDENTIFICATION OF THE LINEAR DYNAMICS VIA OVER-SAMPLING

Let the model parameters $\{a_i\}$, $\{b_i\}$ in (1) be denoted by the following vectors as

$$\theta_a = [a_1, \dots, a_n]^T, \quad \theta_b = [b_1, \dots, b_n]^T$$

In the following, we describe how to estimate the model parameters of θ_a and θ_b .

3.1. Estimation of $\{a_i\}$

Define the input and output regressor vectors as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y}_j &= [y(j), y(p+j), \dots, y(Mp+j)]^T \\ \mathbf{u}_j &= [u(j), u(p+j), \dots, u(Mp+j)]^T \\ \mathbf{v}_j &= [v(j), v(p+j), \dots, v(Mp+j)]^T \\ \Phi_1 &= [y_p, y_{p-1}, \dots, y_2]^T \\ \Phi_2 &= [y_{p-1}, y_{p-2}, \dots, y_1]^T \\ \Psi_1 &= [u_p, u_{p-1}, \dots, u_2]^T \\ \Psi_2 &= [u_{p-1}, u_{p-2}, \dots, u_1]^T \end{aligned}$$

whrer $j = 1, \dots, p+1$. From the feature described in (2), we notice that $\Psi_1 = \Psi_2$. Then the input-output description is given by

$$\mathbf{y}_{p+1} - \mathbf{y}_p = (\Phi_1 - \Phi_2)\theta_a + \mathbf{v}_{p+1} - \mathbf{v}_p \quad (3)$$

Since Φ_2 is not correlated with \mathbf{v}_{p+1} or \mathbf{v}_p , then the estimate of θ_a can be given by

$$\hat{\theta}_a = (\Phi_2^T \Delta \Phi)^{-1} \Phi_2^T \Delta \mathbf{y} \quad (4)$$

where $\Delta \Phi = \Phi_1 - \Phi_2$, $\Delta \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{y}_{p+1} - \mathbf{y}_p$. The variance σ_v^2 of the noise $v(k)$ can be given by

$$\hat{\sigma}_v^2 = (\Delta \mathbf{y} + \Delta \Phi \cdot \hat{\theta}_a)^T (\Delta \mathbf{y} + \Delta \Phi \cdot \hat{\theta}_a) / (2M) \quad (5)$$

Remark: If the variance σ_v^2 of the noise $v(k)$ is known, then the consistent estimate of θ_a can also be given by

$$\hat{\theta}_a = (\Delta \Phi^T \cdot \Delta \Phi / M)^{-1} (\Delta \Phi^T \Delta \mathbf{y} / M + \mathbf{e}_1) \quad (6)$$

where $\mathbf{e}_1 = [\sigma_v^2, 0, \dots, 0]^T$.

3.2. Estimation of $\{b_i\}$

Substituting $\hat{\theta}_a$ into (1), then we have

$$y_f(k) = b_1 u(k-1) + \dots + b_n u(k-n) + v(k) \quad (7)$$

where $y_f(k) = y(k) + [y(k-1), \dots, y(k-n)] \hat{\theta}_a$. Now we define that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y}_{f,j} &= [y_f(j), y_f(2p+j), \dots, y_f(Mp+j)]^T \\ \bar{b}_{j,1} &= \sum_{i=1}^{\min(j,n)} b_i \quad \bar{b}_{j,2} = \sum_{i=j+1}^n b_i \\ \mathbf{u}_1 &= [u(0), u(p), \dots, u(Mp)]^T \\ \mathbf{u}_2 &= [0, u(0), \dots, u(\overline{M-1}p)]^T \end{aligned}$$

whrer $j = 1, \dots, p+1$, then we have

$$\mathbf{y}_{f,j+1} = \bar{b}_{j,1} \mathbf{u}_1 + \bar{b}_{j,2} \mathbf{u}_2 + \mathbf{v}_{j+1} \quad (8)$$

It will lead to

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{b}_{p,1}(\mathbf{y}_{f,j+1} - \mathbf{v}_{j+1}) &= \bar{b}_{j,1}(\mathbf{y}_{f,p+1} - \mathbf{v}_{p+1}) \\ &+ \bar{b}_{j,2}(\mathbf{y}_{f,1} - \mathbf{v}_1) \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, p-1 \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

In order to determine the parameters uniquely, we assume that $b_1 = 1$, i.e., $\bar{b}_{1,1} = 1$. Then $\bar{b}_{j,1}$, $\bar{b}_{j,2}$ can be determined by

$$\hat{\bar{\mathbf{b}}} = \lambda (\Phi^T \Phi / M - \hat{\sigma}_v^2 \mathbf{I})^{-1} (\Phi^T \bar{\mathbf{y}} / M) \quad (10)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi &= \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{y}_{f,1,p+1} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & 0 & \vdots \\ \vdots & 0 & \mathbf{y}_{f,1,p+1} & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & \mathbf{y}_{f,1,p} \end{bmatrix} \\ \mathbf{y}_{f,1,p+1} &= [\mathbf{y}_{f,p+1}, \mathbf{y}_{f,1}] \\ \bar{\mathbf{b}} &= [b_{1,1}, b_{1,2}, b_{2,1}, b_{2,2}, \dots, b_{n-1,2}, b_{n,1}]^T \\ \bar{\mathbf{y}}^T &= [\mathbf{y}_{f,2}^T, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{f,p+1}^T] \end{aligned}$$

where λ is chosen as $\hat{b}_{1,1} = 1$. From the definition of $\bar{b}_{j,1}$ and $\bar{b}_{j,2}$, we also have

$$\bar{\mathbf{b}} = \mathbf{Q} \theta_b \quad (11)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Q} &= \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1}_1 & \mathbf{0}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{1}_{n-1} & \mathbf{0}_{n-1} & \mathbf{1}_n \\ \mathbf{0}_{n-1} & \mathbf{1}_{n-2} & \dots & \mathbf{0}_1 & \mathbf{1}_1 & \mathbf{0}_0 \end{bmatrix}^T \\ \mathbf{0}_i &= [0, \dots, 0]_{1 \times i}^T \quad \mathbf{1}_i = [1, \dots, 1]_{1 \times i}^T \end{aligned}$$

Thus we can obtain the estimate of θ_b by

$$\hat{\theta}_b = (\mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{Q})^{-1} \mathbf{Q}^T \hat{\bar{\mathbf{b}}} \quad (12)$$

4. ESTIMATION OF INTERMEDIATE INPUT AND NONLINEARITY

Define matrix A and vectors b, c as

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -a_1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -a_2 & 0 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & 0 & 1 \\ -a_n & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$c = [1, 0, \dots, 0]$$

and give $A_T(z^{-1})$, $B_j(z^{-1})$ and $C(z^{-1})$ as follows

$$A_T(z^{-1}) = \det(I - A^p z^{-p}) = 1 + a_{T,1} z^{-p} + \dots + a_{T,n} z^{-np}$$

$$B_j(z^{-1}) = z^{-1} c \cdot \text{adj}(I - A^p z^{-p}) \cdot \left(\sum_{i=1}^j A^{i-1} b + \sum_{i=j+1}^p A^{i-1} b z^{-p} \right) = z^{-1} (b_{j,0} + \dots + b_{j,n} z^{-np})$$

$$C(z^{-1}) = \frac{A_T(z^{-1})}{A(z^{-1})} = c_0 + c_1 z^{-1} + \dots + c_l z^{-l}$$

$$A(z^{-1}) = 1 + a_1 z^{-1} + \dots + a_n z^{-n}$$

where $c_0 = 1$, $l = (p-1)n$. Then the input-output relationship can be rewritten by

$$y(k) = \frac{B_j(z^{-1})}{A_T(z^{-1})} u(k) + \frac{1}{A(z^{-1})} v(k) \quad (13)$$

where $j = \text{mod}(k-1, p) + 1$. Furthermore, let $q^p = z$, it can be represented by

$$A_T(q^{-1}) y_j(m) = \bar{B}_j(q^{-1}) \bar{u}(m) + \sum_{s=1}^p C_s(q^{-1}) v_{j,s}(m) \quad (14)$$

where

$$A_T(q^{-1}) = 1 + a_{T,1} q^{-1} + \dots + a_{T,n} q^{-n}$$

$$\bar{B}_j(q^{-1}) = b_{j,0} + b_{j,1} q^{-1} + \dots + b_{j,n} q^{-n}$$

$$C_s(q^{-1}) = c_{s-1} + c_{s+p-1} q + \dots + c_{s+np-1} q^{-n}$$

$$y_j(m) = y(mp + j + 1), \quad \bar{u}(m) = u(mp + j)$$

$$v_{j,s}(m) = v(mp + j + 2 - s)$$

Let $y_{f,j}(m) = A_T(q^{-1}) y_j(m)$, then from (14), the variance of intermediate input can be determined by

$$\hat{\sigma}_u^2 = \left(\text{cov}(y_{f,j}(m)) - \hat{\sigma}_v^2 \sum_{i=0}^{(p-1)n} c_i^2 \right) / \sum_{i=0}^n b_{j,i}^2 \quad (15)$$

Let a stable polynomial $D_j(q^{-1})$ and scalar σ_ε^2 satisfy

$$\sigma_\varepsilon^2 D_j(q^{-1}) D_j(q) = \sigma_u^2 \bar{B}_j(q^{-1}) \bar{B}_j(q) + \sigma_v^2 \sum_{s=1}^p C_s(q^{-1}) C_s(q) \quad (16)$$

where $d_{j,0} = 1$. Then a white random sequence $\varepsilon_j(m)$ can be given by

$$\varepsilon_j(m) = \frac{A_T(q^{-1})}{D_j(q^{-1})} y_j(m) \quad (17)$$

Now we introduce the polynomial equation

$$\bar{B}_j(q^{-1}) = D_j(q^{-1}) H_j(q^{-1}) + q^{-(N+1)} G_j(q^{-1}) \quad (18a)$$

$$H_j(q^{-1}) = h_{j,0} + h_{j,1} q^{-1} + \dots + h_{j,N} q^{-N} \quad (18b)$$

where $N \geq 0$. The order of $G_j(q^{-1})$ is $n-1$. Then following the deconvolution approach given in [6], the intermediate input can be estimated by

$$\hat{u}_j(m|m+N) = \hat{\sigma}_u^2 \sum_{i=0}^N h_{j,i} \varepsilon_j(m+i) / \sigma_\varepsilon^2 \quad (19)$$

$$\hat{u}(m) = \sum_{j=1}^p \hat{u}_j(m|m+N) / p \quad (20)$$

Furthermore if the input signal $r(k)$ is available, then the nonparametric expression of nonlinearity $f(\cdot)$ can also be obtained through points of $(r(m) \sim \hat{u}(m))$.

5. ANALYSIS OF THE ESTIMATION

The estimate error $\Delta \theta_a$ can be given by

$$\Delta \theta_a = \hat{\theta}_a - \theta_a = (\Phi_2^T \Delta \Phi / M)^{-1} (\Phi_2^T \Delta v / M) \quad (21)$$

Since Φ_2 is not correlated with v_{p+1} or v_p , then

$$\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \Phi_2^T \Delta v / M = 0 \quad (22)$$

moreover, we can give following expression from (14)

$$\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \Phi_2^T \Delta \Phi / M = \Sigma(u) + \sigma_v^2 \Sigma(v) \quad (23)$$

where

$$\Sigma(u) = \Omega(b) A \Xi^T(b), \quad \Sigma(v) = \Pi(c) \Gamma \Pi^T(c)$$

$$\Omega(b) = \begin{bmatrix} b_{n-1,0} & b_{n-1,1} & \dots & b_{n-1,n} \\ b_{1,0} & b_{1,1} & \dots & b_{1,n} \\ 0 & b_{p,0} & \dots & b_{p,n-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Xi(b) = \begin{bmatrix} b_{n,0} & b_{n,1} & \dots & b_{n,n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \\ b_{2,0} & b_{2,1} & \dots & b_{2,n} \\ b_{1,0} & b_{1,1} & \dots & b_{1,n} \end{bmatrix}_{n \times (n+1)}$$

$$\Pi(c) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & c_0 & \dots & c_l & 0 & \dots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & \ddots & \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & c_0 & \dots & c_l \end{bmatrix}_{n \times (l+n)}$$

$$A = E \left(\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\bar{u}(m)}{A_T(q^{-1})} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\bar{u}(m-n)}{A_T(q^{-1})} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\bar{u}(m)}{A_T(q^{-1})} & \dots & \frac{\bar{u}(m-n)}{A_T(q^{-1})} \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$$\Gamma = \sigma_v^2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 1 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}_{(l+n) \times (l+n)}$$

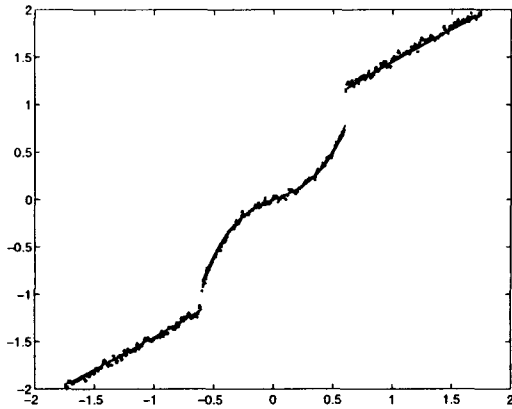


Figure 1. Estimated nonlinearity of case 1, solid line: true; dotted line: estimate

A and Γ have full rank if $\bar{u}(m)$ and $v(k)$ are white random. If (A, b) is completely controllable and (A, c_T) is observable, then $\Omega(b)$, $\Xi(b)$ and $\Pi(c)$ are full column rank, therefore $\Sigma(u)$ and $\Sigma(v)$ have full rank. If

$$\sigma_v^2 \neq \text{eig}(-\Sigma^{-1}(v)\Sigma(u)) \quad (24)$$

then $\Sigma(u) + \sigma_v^2 \Sigma(v)$ has full rank, i.e., $\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \Phi_2^T \Delta \Phi / M$ exists and not singular, it means that $\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \Delta \theta_a = 0$.

Review (8), when $\hat{\theta}_a$ is consistent estimate, and v_j is not correlated with u_1 or u_2 , then $\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} (\hat{b} - \bar{b}) = 0$ in (10), and we have $\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} (\hat{\theta}_b - \theta_b) = 0$ by (12).

6. SIMULATION EXAMPLES

In the following numerical simulations, we deal with a discontinuous nonlinearity:

$$u = \begin{cases} 0.5r + 0.4\sqrt{r} + 0.55 & 0.6 < r < 1.8 \\ 0.5r - 0.2r^2 + 2.5r^3 & -0.6 \leq r \leq 0.6 \\ 0.5r - 0.4\sqrt{-r} - 0.55 & -1.8 < r < -0.6 \end{cases}$$

As for a linear dynamic system, we take a fourth-order transfer function model. The test signal duration $T = 1$. Further, we take the sampling interval $\Delta = T/5 = 0.2$, then the parameters of the unknown true linear part with the sampling interval Δ is

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_a^T &= [-1.80 \quad 0.490 \quad 0.848 \quad -0.504] \\ \theta_b^T &= [1.00 \quad 0.400 \quad -0.710 \quad 0.300] \end{aligned}$$

The variance σ_v^2 of white noise $v(k)$ is 0.1. The input signal is given in two cases. Case 1, r is chosen as a uniformly distributed white signal on interval $(-1.75, 1.75)$, and in case 2, $r(k)$ is not available but $r \in \{\pm 1.5, \pm 0.5\}$. The estimated linear part is

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\theta}_a^T &= [-1.7998 \quad 0.4945 \quad 0.8409 \quad -0.5011] \\ \hat{\theta}_b^T &= [1.000 \quad 0.3981 \quad -0.7058 \quad 0.3073] \end{aligned}$$

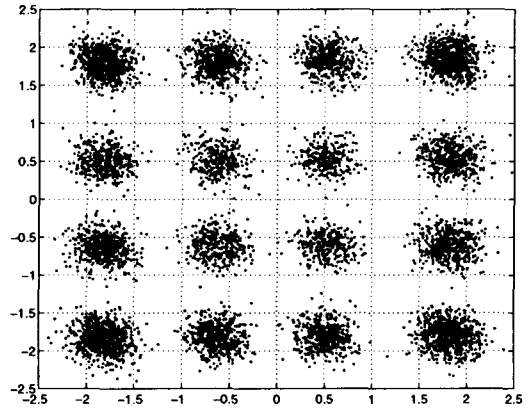


Figure 2. Estimated intermediate input \bar{u} of case 2, x-axis is $\hat{u}(m)$, y-axis is $\hat{u}(m+1)$

and the estimated nonlinearity of case 1 is shown in Figure 1. The estimated intermediate input $\hat{u}(m)$ of case 2 is shown as Figure 2.

7. CONCLUSION

We have proposed a new identification algorithm for the Hammerstein model based on the over-sampling technique. If the test signal $r(k)$ is available, by over-sampling the output signal, we can identify an arbitrary nonlinear function, unlike other ordinary methods assuming a parametric nonlinearity such as a finite polynomial. Further, it is clarified that the estimates of the transfer function model are consistent if the noise is stationary zero-mean white noise independent of the test input and its variance satisfies condition in (24).

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