



**Aalto University**  
School of Electrical  
Engineering

# **ELEC-E8740 — Filtering Problem and Kalman Filtering**

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# Intended Learning Outcomes

After this lecture, you will be able to:

- explain the relationship between the **dynamic model**, **measurement model**, and the **filtering methodology**,
- describe and employ the **Kalman filter** for linear state-space models.

## Recap (1/3)

- The discretization of the linear ODE model

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{B}_u\mathbf{u}(t)$$

is

$$\mathbf{x}_n = \mathbf{F}_n\mathbf{x}_{n-1} + \mathbf{L}_n\mathbf{u}_{n-1}$$

$$\mathbf{F}_n \triangleq e^{\mathbf{A}(t_n - t_{n-1})}, \quad \mathbf{L}_n \triangleq \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_n} e^{\mathbf{A}(t_n - t)} \mathbf{B}_u dt$$

- The discretization of the linear SDE model

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{B}_w\mathbf{w}(t)$$

is

$$\mathbf{x}_n = \mathbf{F}_n\mathbf{x}_{n-1} + \mathbf{q}_n, \quad \mathbf{q}_n \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{Q}_n)$$

$$\mathbf{Q}_n = \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_n} e^{\mathbf{A}(t_n - \tau)} \mathbf{B}_w \Sigma_w \mathbf{B}_w^T e^{\mathbf{A}^T(t_n - \tau)} d\tau$$

## Recap (2/3)

- Nonlinear dynamic model:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}(t)) + \mathbf{B}_w(\mathbf{x}(t))\mathbf{w}(t)$$

- Discretization of the linearized model:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) &= \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}(t)) + \mathbf{B}_w\mathbf{w}(t) \\ &\approx \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_{n-1}) + \mathbf{A}_x(\mathbf{x}(t) - \mathbf{x}_{n-1}) + \mathbf{B}_w\mathbf{w}(t)\end{aligned}$$

↓

$$\mathbf{x}_n = \mathbf{x}_{n-1} + \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_n} e^{\mathbf{A}_x(t_n-t)} d\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_{n-1}) + \mathbf{q}_n$$

with

$$\mathbf{q}_n \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{Q}_n), \quad \mathbf{Q}_n \approx \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_n} e^{\mathbf{A}_x(t_n-\tau)} \mathbf{B}_w \Sigma_w \mathbf{B}_w^T e^{\mathbf{A}_x^T(t_n-\tau)} d\tau$$

## Recap (3/3)

- Euler–Maruyama discretization:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}(t)) + \mathbf{B}_w(\mathbf{x}(t))\mathbf{w}(t)$$

↓

$$\mathbf{x}_n = \mathbf{x}_{n-1} + \Delta t \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_{n-1}) + \mathbf{q}_n$$

with

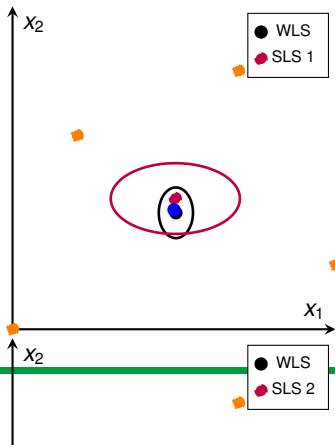
$$\mathbf{q}_n \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{Q}_n),$$

$$\mathbf{Q}_n \approx \Delta t \mathbf{B}_w(\mathbf{x}_{n-1}) \Sigma_w \mathbf{B}_w(\mathbf{x}_{n-1})^T.$$

# Recall: Car Localization with Sequential Least Squares

- Goal: Estimate the position  $\mathbf{x} = [p^x \ p^y]^T$
- Measurements: Noisy position measurements  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ :

$$\mathbf{y}_n = \mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{x}_n + \mathbf{r}_n$$



# The Filtering Approach

- We can also allow the target to move between the measurements.
  - This movement can be described by a stochastic dynamic model.
- The measurement can be handled as in sequential least squares.
- Filter iterates the following two steps for all points in time:
  - ① **Prediction:** Predict the current state using the dynamic model (also called *time update*)
  - ② **Measurement update:** Estimate the current state using the prediction and the new measurement



# The Filtering Approach: Prediction

- Objective: Predict the current state  $\mathbf{x}_n$  at  $t_n$  given all previous data  $\mathbf{y}_{1:n-1} = \{\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{n-1}\}$
- Done by solving the dynamic model equation starting from the mean and covariance at the previous step.
- Notation:
  - $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1}$ : Denotes the predicted value of  $\mathbf{x}_n$  given the measurements  $\mathbf{y}_{1:n-1} = \{\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{n-1}\}$
  - $\mathbf{P}_{n|n-1}$ : Denotes the covariance of the predicted  $\mathbf{x}_n$
- Prediction adds uncertainty

# The Filtering Approach: Measurement Update

- Objective: Estimate the current value of  $\mathbf{x}_n$  given the new measurement  $\mathbf{y}_n$ , taking the prediction into account
- Done by solving the regularized least squares problem with the predicted result as the regularization term.
- Notation:
  - $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n}$ : Denotes the estimated value at  $t_n$ , given the measurements  $\mathbf{y}_{1:n} = \{\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n\}$
  - $\mathbf{P}_{n|n}$ : Denotes the covariance at  $t_n$
- The measurement update reduces uncertainty

# Linear State-Space Model

- Linear state-space model:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{w}(t)$$

$$\mathbf{y}_n = \mathbf{G}_n\mathbf{x}(t_n) + \mathbf{r}_n$$

- Discrete-time equivalent:

$$\mathbf{x}_n = \mathbf{F}_n\mathbf{x}_{n-1} + \mathbf{q}_n$$

$$\mathbf{y}_n = \mathbf{G}_n\mathbf{x}_n + \mathbf{r}_n$$

with

$$E\{\mathbf{q}_n\} = \mathbf{0}, \text{Cov}\{\mathbf{q}_n\} = \mathbf{Q}_n,$$

$$E\{\mathbf{r}_n\} = \mathbf{0}, \text{Cov}\{\mathbf{r}_n\} = \mathbf{R}_n$$

- Initial conditions:

$$E\{\mathbf{x}_0\} = \mathbf{m}_0$$

$$\text{Cov}\{\mathbf{x}_0\} = \mathbf{P}_0$$

# Linear Model: Prediction (1/2)

- Linear dynamic model:

$$\mathbf{x}_n = \mathbf{F}_n \mathbf{x}_{n-1} + \mathbf{q}_n, \quad \text{Cov}\{\mathbf{q}_n\} = \mathbf{Q}_n$$

- Given:

$$\begin{aligned} E\{\mathbf{x}_{n-1} \mid \mathbf{y}_{1:n-1}\} &= \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n-1|n-1}, \\ \text{Cov}\{\mathbf{x}_{n-1} \mid \mathbf{y}_{1:n-1}\} &= \mathbf{P}_{n-1|n-1}. \end{aligned}$$

- Predicted mean:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1} &= E\{\mathbf{x}_n \mid \mathbf{y}_{1:n-1}\} \\ &= \mathbf{F}_n \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n-1|n-1} \end{aligned}$$

## Linear Model: Prediction (2/2)

- Linear dynamic model:

$$\mathbf{x}_n = \mathbf{F}_n \mathbf{x}_{n-1} + \mathbf{q}_n, \quad \text{Cov}\{\mathbf{q}_n\} = \mathbf{Q}_n$$

- Given:

$$\begin{aligned} E\{\mathbf{x}_{n-1} \mid \mathbf{y}_{1:n-1}\} &= \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n-1|n-1}, \\ \text{Cov}\{\mathbf{x}_{n-1} \mid \mathbf{y}_{1:n-1}\} &= \mathbf{P}_{n-1|n-1}. \end{aligned}$$

- Covariance:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} &= \text{Cov}\{\mathbf{x}_n \mid \mathbf{y}_{1:n-1}\} \\ &= E\{(\mathbf{x}_n - E\{\mathbf{x}_n \mid \mathbf{y}_{1:n-1}\})(\mathbf{x}_n - E\{\mathbf{x}_n \mid \mathbf{y}_{1:n-1}\})^T \mid \mathbf{y}_{1:n-1}\} \\ &= \mathbf{F}_n \mathbf{P}_{n-1|n-1} \mathbf{F}_n^T + \mathbf{Q}_n \end{aligned}$$

# Linear Model: Measurement Update (1/3)

- Assume that the prediction yields the **prior** knowledge  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1}$ ,  $\mathbf{P}_{n|n-1}$
- $\mathbf{y}_n$  provides the new information of the state
- We can use **regularized least squares** to estimate  $\mathbf{x}_n$ :

$$J_{\text{ReLS}}(\mathbf{x}_n) = (\mathbf{y}_n - \mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{x}_n)^T \mathbf{R}_n^{-1} (\mathbf{y}_n - \mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{x}_n) \\ + (\mathbf{x}_n - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1})^T \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1}^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_n - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1})$$

and solve

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n} = \underset{\mathbf{x}_n}{\operatorname{argmin}} J_{\text{ReLS}}(\mathbf{x}_n)$$

## Linear Model: Measurement Update (2/3)

- Regularized least squares problem:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n} = \underset{\mathbf{x}_n}{\operatorname{argmin}} (\mathbf{y}_n - \mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{x}_n)^T \mathbf{R}_n^{-1} (\mathbf{y}_n - \mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{x}_n) \\ + (\mathbf{x}_n - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1})^T \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1}^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_n - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1})$$

- Solution (see Lecture 3 / Chapter 3.4):

$$\mathbf{K}_n = \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n^T (\mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n^T + \mathbf{R}_n)^{-1} \\ \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1} + \mathbf{K}_n (\mathbf{y}_n - \mathbf{G}_n \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1})$$

- Covariance of  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n}$ :

$$\mathbf{P}_{n|n} = \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} - \mathbf{K}_n (\mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n^T + \mathbf{R}_n) \mathbf{K}_n^T$$

- $\mathbf{K}_n$  is called the **Kalman gain**

# Linear Model: Measurement Update (3/3)

- Measurement update:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{K}_n &= \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n^T (\mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n^T + \mathbf{R}_n)^{-1} \\ \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n} &= \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1} + \mathbf{K}_n (\mathbf{y}_n - \mathbf{G}_n \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1}) \\ \mathbf{P}_{n|n} &= \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} - \mathbf{K}_n (\mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n^T + \mathbf{R}_n) \mathbf{K}_n^T\end{aligned}$$

- It can be shown that it holds that:

$$\begin{aligned}E\{\mathbf{x}_n \mid \mathbf{y}_{1:n}\} &= \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n} \\ \text{Cov}\{\mathbf{x}_n \mid \mathbf{y}_{1:n}\} &= \mathbf{P}_{n|n}\end{aligned}$$



# Linear Model: Summary

- Prediction:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1} = \mathbf{F}_n \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n-1|n-1}$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} = \mathbf{F}_n \mathbf{P}_{n-1|n-1} \mathbf{F}_n^T + \mathbf{Q}_n$$

- Measurement update:

$$\mathbf{K}_n = \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n^T (\mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n^T + \mathbf{R}_n)^{-1}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1} + \mathbf{K}_n (\mathbf{y}_n - \mathbf{G}_n \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1})$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{n|n} = \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} - \mathbf{K}_n (\mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n^T + \mathbf{R}_n) \mathbf{K}_n^T$$

- Initialization of the recursion:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{0|0} = \mathbf{m}_0$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{0|0} = \mathbf{P}_0$$

# The Kalman Filter

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## Algorithm 1 Kalman Filter

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- 1: Initialize  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{0|0} = \mathbf{m}_0$ ,  $\mathbf{P}_{0|0} = \mathbf{P}_0$
- 2: **for**  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  **do**
- 3:     Prediction (time update):

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1} = \mathbf{F}_n \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n-1|n-1}$$
$$\mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} = \mathbf{F}_n \mathbf{P}_{n-1|n-1} \mathbf{F}_n^T + \mathbf{Q}_n$$

- 4:     Measurement update:

$$\mathbf{K}_n = \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n^T (\mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n + \mathbf{R}_n)^{-1}$$
$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1} + \mathbf{K}_n (\mathbf{y}_n - \mathbf{G}_n \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1})$$
$$\mathbf{P}_{n|n} = \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} - \mathbf{K}_n (\mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n + \mathbf{R}_n) \mathbf{K}_n^T$$

- 5: **end for**
-

## Example: Car Localization (1/3)

- Goal: Estimate the **kinematic state** at each time  $t_n$
- Dynamic model: 2D Wiener velocity model:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{p}^x(t) \\ \dot{p}^y(t) \\ \dot{v}^x(t) \\ \dot{v}^y(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p^x(t) \\ p^y(t) \\ v^x(t) \\ v^y(t) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w_1(t) \\ w_2(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

- Measurements: Noisy position ( $\mathbf{G}_n = [\mathbf{I} \ \mathbf{0}]$ ):

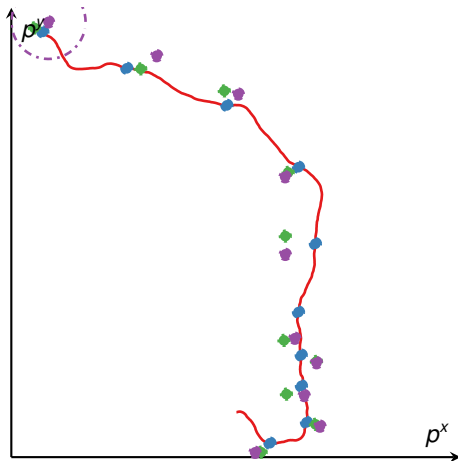
$$\mathbf{y}_n = \mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{x}_n + \mathbf{r}_n$$

- Discrete-time linear state-space model:

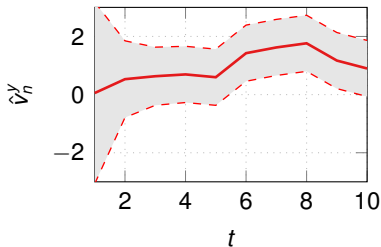
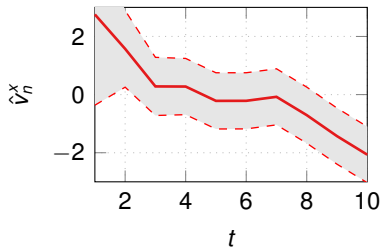
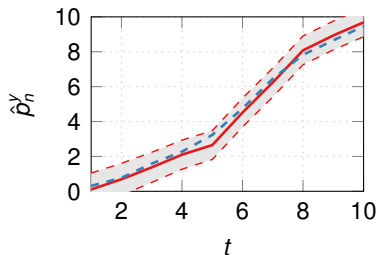
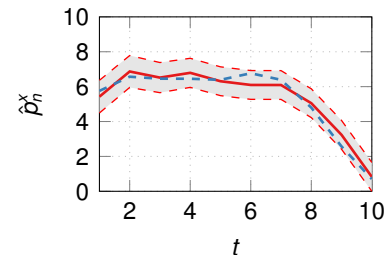
$$\mathbf{x}_n = \mathbf{F}_n \mathbf{x}_{n-1} + \mathbf{q}_n$$

$$\mathbf{y}_n = \mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{x}_n + \mathbf{r}_n$$

## Example: Car Localization (2/3)



# Example: Car Localization (3/3)



# Performance Evaluation

A few questions:

- Why not just use the measurements  $\mathbf{y}_n$  as the position estimate ( $\hat{\mathbf{p}}_n = \mathbf{y}_n$ )?
- How should we assess the performance of the algorithm?
- One possible criterion: The **root mean squared error** (RMSE):

$$e_{\text{RMSE}} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N (\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n} - \mathbf{x}_n)^T (\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n} - \mathbf{x}_n)}$$

# Example: Car Localization

- RMSE for the primitive approach ( $\hat{\mathbf{p}}_n = \mathbf{y}_n$ ):

$$e_{\text{RMSE}} = 0.41$$

- RMSE for Kalman filter:

$$e_{\text{RMSE}} = 0.29$$

- The prior knowledge imposed by the dynamic model significantly improves performance!

# Measurement Update: Some Observations

- Measurement update:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{K}_n &= \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n^T (\mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n + \mathbf{R}_n)^{-1} \\ \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n} &= \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1} + \mathbf{K}_n (\mathbf{y}_n - \mathbf{G}_n \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1}) \\ \mathbf{P}_{n|n} &= \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} - \mathbf{K}_n (\mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n + \mathbf{R}_n) \mathbf{K}_n^T\end{aligned}$$

- Prediction of the output and covariances:

$$\begin{aligned}E\{\mathbf{y}_n \mid \mathbf{y}_{1:n-1}\} &= \mathbf{G}_n \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1} \\ \text{Cov}\{\mathbf{y}_n \mid \mathbf{y}_{1:n-1}\} &= \mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n^T + \mathbf{R}_n \\ \text{Cov}\{\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{y}_n \mid \mathbf{y}_{1:n-1}\} &= \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n^T\end{aligned}$$



# Summary

- The filtering approach iterates between two steps:
  - 1 Prediction:  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n-1|n-1}, \mathbf{P}_{n-1|n-1} \Rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1}, \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1}$
  - 2 Measurement update:  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1}, \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \Rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n}, \mathbf{P}_{n|n}$
- The **Kalman filter** is the optimal filter for linear state-space models
  - 1 Prediction:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1} = \mathbf{F}_n \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n-1|n-1}$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} = \mathbf{F}_n \mathbf{P}_{n-1|n-1} \mathbf{F}_n^T + \mathbf{Q}_n$$

- 2 Measurement update:

$$\mathbf{K}_n = \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n^T (\mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n + \mathbf{R}_n)^{-1}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1} + \mathbf{K}_n (\mathbf{y}_n - \mathbf{G}_n \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n|n-1})$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{n|n} = \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} - \mathbf{K}_n (\mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{P}_{n|n-1} \mathbf{G}_n + \mathbf{R}_n) \mathbf{K}_n^T$$