Mean-Square Optimal Controller for Stochastic Polynomial Systems with Multiplicative Noise

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Abstract—This paper presents the mean-square optimal quadratic-Gaussian controller for stochastic polynomial systems with a polynomial multiplicative noise, a linear control input, and a quadratic criterion over linear observations. The optimal closed-form controller equations are obtained using the separation principle, whose applicability to the considered problem is substantiated. As an intermediate result, the paper gives a closed-form solution of the optimal regulator (control) problem for stochastic polynomial systems with a polynomial multiplicative noise, a linear control input, and a quadratic criterion. Performance of the obtained optimal controller is verified in the illustrative example against the conventional LQG controller that is optimal for linearized systems. Simulation graphs demonstrating overall performance and computational accuracy of the designed optimal controller are included.

I. INTRODUCTION

Although the optimal LQG controller problem for linear systems was solved in 1960s, based on the solutions to the optimal filtering [1] and optimal regulator [2], [3] problems, the optimal controller for nonlinear systems has to be determined using the nonlinear filtering theory (see [4], [5], [6]) and the general principles of maximum [3] or dynamic programming [7], which do not provide an explicit form for the optimal control in most cases. However, taking into account that the optimal filtering and control problems can be explicitly solved in a closed form in the linear case, and the optimal controller can be then obtained using the separation principle [2], [3], this paper exploits the same approach for designing the optimal controller for polynomial systems with linear control input over linear observations. The designed optimal solution is based on the recently obtained optimal filter and regulator for polynomial systems states. Thus, this paper continues a long tradition of the optimal control design for nonlinear systems (see, for example, [8]–[14]) and not so long research on the optimal closed-form filter design for nonlinear ([15]–[20]), and in particular, polynomial ([21], [22]) systems. Nevertheless, to the best of authors’ knowledge, the optimal closed-form controller design for polynomial systems with polynomial multiplicative noises has not been yet considered in the literature, due to the absence of closed-form solutions to the optimal filtering and control problems for that class of systems.

This paper presents solution to the optimal quadratic-Gaussian controller problem for stochastic polynomial systems with a polynomial multiplicative noise, a linear control input, and a quadratic criterion over linear observations. First, the separation principle is substantiated for polynomial systems with a polynomial multiplicative noise, a linear control input, and a quadratic criterion over linear observations. Then, the paper gives a closed-form solution of the optimal regulator (control) problem for stochastic polynomial systems with a polynomial multiplicative noise, a linear control input, and a quadratic criterion. The obtained solution consists of a linear feedback control law and two differential equations, linear and Riccati ones, for forming the optimal control gain matrix. This result is proven in Appendix. Finally, based on that closed-form optimal control problem solution, the optimal filter for stochastic polynomial systems with a polynomial multiplicative noise over linear observations [22], and the separation principle, the paper presents the optimal solution to the original quadratic-Gaussian controller problem, which has essentially the same structure as the solved optimal regulator (control) problem plus the variance equation for forming the optimal filter gain matrix. All four differential equations included in the optimal controller are interconnected.

Finally, performance of the designed optimal controller for for stochastic polynomial systems with a polynomial multiplicative noise, a linear control input, and a quadratic criterion over linear observations is verified in the illustrative example against the conventional LQG controller that is optimal for a linearized system.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, the optimal controller problem is stated and solved for stochastic polynomial systems with a polynomial multiplicative noise, a linear control input, and a quadratic criterion over linear observations. First, the separation principle is substantiated for the considered class of polynomial systems. Next, a closed-form solution of the optimal regulator (control) problem is designed for polynomial systems with a polynomial multiplicative noise, a linear control input, and a quadratic criterion. Finally, the optimal solution to the original linear-quadratic controller problem is given. Section 3 presents an example illustrating the efficiency of the designed optimal controller for polynomial systems against the conventional LQG controller. Simulation graphs verify overall performance and computational accuracy of the designed optimal
controller are included.

II. OPTIMAL CONTROLLER PROBLEM

A. Problem statement

Let \((Ω, F, P)\) be a complete probability space with an increasing right-continuous family of \(σ\)-algebras \(F_t, t \geq t_0, \) and let \((W_1(t), F_t, t \geq t_0)\) and \((W_2(t), F_t, t \geq t_0)\) be independent Wiener processes. The \(F_t\)-measurable random process \((x(t), y(t))\) is described by a nonlinear differential equation with a polynomial drift term for the system state with polynomial multiplicative noise

\[
dx(t) = f(x,t)dt + B(t)u(t)dt + b(x,t)DW_1(t),
\]

\(x(t_0) = x_0,\) and a linear differential equation for the observation process

\[
dy(t) = (A_0(t) + A(t)x(t))dt + G(t)DW_2(t).
\]

Here, \(x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n\) is the state vector, \(u(t) \in \mathbb{R}^l\) is the control input, and \(y(t) \in \mathbb{R}^m\) is the linear observation vector, \(m \leq n.\) The initial condition \(x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n\) is a Gaussian vector such that \(x_0, W_1(t), W_2(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n,\) and \(W_2(t) \in \mathbb{R}^m\) are independent. The observation matrix \(A(t) \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}\) is not supposed to be invertible or even square. It is assumed that \(G(t)G^T(t)\) is a positive definite matrix, therefore, \(m \leq q.\) All coefficients in (1)–(2) are deterministic functions of appropriate dimensions.

The nonlinear functions \(f(x,t)\) and \(b(x,t)\) are considered polynomial of \(n\) variables, components of the state vector \(x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n,\) with time-dependent coefficients. Since \(x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n\) is a vector, this requires a special definition of the polynomial for \(n > 1.\) In accordance with [23], a \(p\)-degree polynomial of a vector \(x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n\) is regarded as a \(p\)-linear form of \(n\) components of \(x(t)\)

\[
f(x,t) = a_0(t) + a_1(t)x + a_2(t)x^2 + \ldots + a_p(t)x^p ,
\]

where \(a_0\) is a vector of dimension \(n, a_1\) is a matrix of dimension \(n \times n, a_2\) is a 3D tensor of dimension \(n \times n \times n, a_p\) is an \((p+1)D\) tensor of dimension \(n \times \ldots \times (p+1) \times \ldots \times n,\) and \(x \times \ldots \times p\) times \(x \times \ldots \times x\) is a \(p\) tensor of dimension \(n \times \ldots \times p\) times \(n\) obtained by \(p\) times spatial multiplication of the vector \(x(t)\) by itself. Such a polynomial can also be expressed in the summation form

\[
f_k(x,t) = a_{0,k}(t) + \sum_{i} a_{1,i}(t)x_i(t) + \sum_{ij} a_{2,ij}(t)x_i(t)x_j(t) + \ldots + \sum_{i_1 \ldots i_p} a_{p,i_1 \ldots i_p}(t)x_{i_1}(t) \ldots x_{i_p}(t), \quad k, i, j, i_1 \ldots i_p = 1, \ldots, n.
\]

The quadratic cost function \(J\) to be minimized is defined as follows

\[
J = \frac{1}{2} E[x^T(T)Φx(T)] + \int_{t_0}^T u^T(s)R(s)u(s)ds + \int_{t_0}^T x^T(s)L(s)x(s)ds,
\]

where \(R\) is positive definite and \(Φ, L\) are nonnegative definite symmetric matrices, \(T > t_0\) is a certain time moment, the symbol \(E[f(x)]\) means the expectation (mean) of a function \(f\) of a random variable \(x,\) and \(a^T\) denotes transpose to a vector (matrix) \(a.\)

The optimal controller problem is to find the control \(u^*(t), t \in [t_0, T],\) that minimizes the criterion \(J \) along with the unobserved trajectory \(x^*(t), t \in [t_0, T],\) generated upon substituting \(u^*(t)\) into the state equation (1).

B. Separation principle

It can be observed that the separation principle [2], [3] remains valid for polynomial stochastic systems with polynomial multiplicative noise. Indeed, let us replace the unmeasured polynomial state \(x(t),\) satisfying (1), with its optimal estimate \(m(t)\) over linear observations \(y(t)\) (2), which is obtained using the following optimal filter for polynomial states with multiplicative noises over linear observations (see [22] for the corresponding filtering problem statement and solution)

\[
dm(t) = E(f(x,t) | F_t^y)dt + B(t)u(t)dt + P(t)A^T(t)(G(t)G^T(t))^{-1}(dy(t) - (A_0(t) + A(t)m(t))dt),
\]

\(m(t_0) = E(x(t_0) | F_0^y),\)

\[
dP(t) = E((x(t) - m(t))(x(t) - m(t))^T | F_t^y) + E(f(x,t)(x(t) - m(t))^T | F_t^y) + E(b(x,t)b^T(x,t) | F_t^y) - P(t)A^T(t)(G(t)G^T(t))^{-1}A(t)P(t)dt,
\]

where \(P(t)\) is the conditional variance of the estimation error \(x(t) - m(t)\) with respect to the observations \(Y(t).

Recall that \(m(t)\) is the optimal estimate for the state vector \(x(t),\) based on the observation process \(Y(t) = \{y(s), t_0 \leq s \leq t\},\) that minimizes the Euclidean 2-norm

\[
H = E[(x(t) - m(t))^T(x(t) - m(t))] | F_t^y
\]

at every time moment \(t.\) Here, \(E[x(t) | F_t^y]\) means the conditional expectation of a stochastic process \(x(t) = (x(t) - m(t))^T(x(t) - m(t))\) with respect to the \(σ\) - algebra \(F_t^y\) generated by the observation process \(Y(t)\) in the interval \([t_0, t].\) As shown [24], this optimal estimate is given by the conditional expectation

\[
m(t) = E(x(t) | F_t^y)
\]

of the system state \(x(t)\) with respect to the \(σ\) - algebra \(F_t^y\) generated by the observation process \(Y(t)\) in the interval \([t_0, t].\) As usual, the matrix function

\[
P(t) = E[(x(t) - m(t))(x(t) - m(t))^T | F_t^y]
\]

is the estimation error variance.

Remark 1. The equations (5) and (6) do not form a closed system of equations due to the presence of polynomial terms depending on \(x,\) such as \(E(f(x,t) | F_t^y), E((x(t) - m(t))^T(x(t) | F_t^y), E(b(x,t)b^T(x,t) | F_t^y),\) which are not expressed yet as functions of the system variables, \(m(t)\) and \(P(t).\) However, as shown in [21], [22], the closed
system of the filtering equations can be obtained for any polynomial state (1) over linear observations (2), using the technique of representing superior moments of the conditionally Gaussian random variable $x(t) - m(t)$ as functions of only two its lower conditional moments, $m(t)$ and $P(t)$ (see [21], [22] for more details of this technique). Apparently, the polynomial dependence of $f(x(t), b(x,t),$ and $(x(t) - m(t))^T(x,t)$ on $x$ is the key point making this representation possible.

It is readily verified (see [2]) that the optimal control problem for the system state (1) and cost function (4) is equivalent to the optimal control problem for the estimate (5) and the cost function $J$ represented as

$$J = E\left\{ \frac{1}{2}m^T(T)\Phi m(T) + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T u^T(s)R(s)u(s)ds \right\}$$

where $tr[A]$ denotes trace of a matrix $A$. Since the latter part of $J$ does not directly depend on control $u(t)$ or state $x(t)$, the reduced effective cost function $M$ to be minimized takes the form

$$M = E\left\{ \frac{1}{2}m^T(T)\Phi m(T) + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T u^T(s)R(s)u(s)ds \right\} + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T m(s)L(s)m(s)ds.$$

Thus, the solution for the optimal control problem specified by (1),(4) can be found solving the optimal control problem for the system state (1) and cost function (4) is given by the Riccati equation

$$\dot{Q}(t) = L(t) - [a_1(t) + 2a_2(t)x(t)] + 3a_3(t)x^T(t) + \ldots + pa_p(t)x(t)\ldots p-1 times \ldots x(t)^T Q(t) - Q(t)[a_1(t) + 2a_2(t)x(t)] + a_3(t)x^T(t) + \ldots$$

with the terminal condition $Q(T) = -\psi$, and the vector function $p(t)$ is the solution of the linear equation

$$p(t) = -Q(t)a_0(t) - [a_1(t) + 2a_2(t)x(t)] + \ldots$$

with the terminal condition $p(T) = 0$. The optimally controlled state of the polynomial system (9) is governed by the equation

$$dx(t) = f(x(t), dt + B(t)R^{-1}(t)B^T(t)\{Q(t)x(t) + p(t)\},$$

where $\Phi(t) = R(t)$ and $\psi(t)$ is a vector of dimension $n$. The optimal control law takes the form

$$u^*(t) = R^{-1}(t)B^T(t)\{Q(t)m(t) + p(t)\},$$

where $\Phi(t)$ is the solution of the linear equation

$$Q(t) = L(t) - [c_1(t) + 2c_2(t)m(t) + 3c_3(t)m(t) + c_4(t)m(t) + \ldots$$

with the terminal condition $Q(T) = -\psi$, and the vector function $p(t)$ is the solution of the linear equation

$$p(t) = -Q(t)c_0(t) - [c_1(t) + 2c_2(t)m(t) + \ldots$$
The optimal controller problem solution for second degree polynomial systems is verified in an example. Upon substituting the optimal control (14) into the equation (5), the following optimally controlled state estimate equation is obtained

\[
dm(t) = (c_0(t) + c_1(t)m + c_2(t)mm^T + \ldots + p_m(t)\ldots m)dt + B(t)R^{-1}(t)B^T(t)[Q(t)m(t) + p(t)]dt + P(t)A^T(t)[B(t)B^T(t)]^{-1}(dy(t) - (A_0(t) + A(t)m(t))dt),
\]

with the initial condition \(m(t_0) = E(x(t_0) | F_{t_0}^Y)\). Thus, the optimally controlled state estimate equation (17), the gain matrix constituent equations (15) and (16), the equations (15) and (16) take the following particular forms in the case of a second degree polynomial function (18)

\[
Q(t) = L(t) - [a_1(t) + a_2(t)m(t)]^TQ(t) - [a_1(t) + a_2(t)m(t)]^TQ(t)\]

with the terminal condition \(Q(T) = -\psi, and \)

\[
\dot{p}(t) = -Q(t)(a_0(t) + a_2(t)m(t)) + \psi + 2a_2(t)m(t))^T(\dot{q}(t)B(t)R^{-1}(t)B^T(t)p(t) + Q(t)[a_1(t) + a_2(t)m(t)]^TQ(t) + a_2(t)m(t)^T + \ldots + a_2(t)m(t)^T - m(t))]
\]

with the terminal condition \(m(t_0) = E(x(t_0) | F_{t_0}^Y)\). Thus, the optimally controlled state estimate equation (17) takes the following particular form

\[
dm(t) = (a_0(t) + a_1(t)m(t) + a_2(t)m(t)m^T(t))dt + (a_2(t)m(t)^T + 2a_2(t)m(t)m^T(t)P(t)\]

Thus, the optimally controlled state estimate equation (25), the gain matrix constituent equations (23) and (24), the optimal control law (14), and the variance equation (22) give the complete closed-form solution to the optimal controller problem for second degree polynomial systems with linear control input and a quadratic cost function. In the next section, performance of the designed closed-form optimal controller for second degree polynomial systems is verified in an example.
III. Example

This section presents an example of designing the optimal controller for a second degree polynomial system (1) with a third degree multiplicative noise over linear observations (2) with a quadratic criterion (4), using the scheme (21)–(25), and comparing it to the best linear controller available for a linearized system.

Consider a scalar quadratic polynomial state equation
\[ \dot{x}(t) = 0.1x^2(t) + u(t) + 0.1x^2(t)\psi_1(t), \quad x(0) = x_0, \] (26)
and linear observations
\[ y(t) = x(t) + \psi_2(t), \] (27)
where \( \psi_1(t) \) and \( \psi_2(t) \) are white Gaussian noises, which are the weak mean square derivative of standard Wiener processes (see [24]), and \( x_0 \) is a Gaussian random variable.

The equations (26) and (27) present the conventional form for the equations (1) and (2), which is actually used in practice [25].

The controller problem is to find the control \( u(t), t \in [0,T], \) \( T = 0.5, \) that minimizes the criterion
\[ J = \frac{1}{2}E\left[\int_0^T u^2(t)dt + \int_0^T x^2(t)dt\right]. \] (28)

In other words, the control problem is to minimize the overall energy of the state \( x \) using the minimal overall energy of control \( u. \)

Let us first construct the controller where the control law \( u(t) \) and the matrices \( P(t) \) and \( Q(t) \) are calculated in the same manner as for the optimal linear controller for the linearized system (26) without multiplicative noise
\[ \dot{x}(t) = 0.2m(t)x(t) + u(t) + 0.1\psi_1(t), \quad x(0) = x_0, \] (29)
which yields \( u(t) = R^{-1}(t)B^T(t)Q(t)m(t) \) (see [2] for reference). Since \( B(t) = 1 \) in (26) and \( R(t) = 1 \) in (28), the control law is actually equal to
\[ u(t) = Q(t)m(t); \] (30)
where \( m(t) \) satisfies the equation
\[ \dot{m}(t) = a(t)m(t) + B(t)u(t) + P(t)A^T(t)G(t)G^T(t)^{-1}(y(t) - (A_0(t) + A(t)m(t))), \quad m(0) = m_0 = E(x_0 | F_{m0}^x); \]
\( Q(t) \) satisfies the Riccati equation
\[ \dot{Q}(t) = -a^T(t)Q(t) - Q(t)a(t) + L(t) - \]
\[ Q(t)B(t)R^{-1}(t)B^T(t)Q(t), \]
with the terminal condition \( Q(T) = \psi; \) and \( P(t) \) satisfies the Riccati equation
\[ P(t) = P(t)a(t) + a(t)P(t) + b(t)b^T(t) - \]
\[ P(t)A^T(t)G(t)G^T(t)^{-1}A(t)P(t), \]
with the initial condition \( P(t_0) = E((x_0 - m_0)(x_0 - m_0)^T | y(t_0)). \) Since \( t_0 = 0, \) \( a(t) = 0.2m(t), \) \( B(t) = 1, \) \( b(t) = 0.1 \) in (29), \( A_0(t) = 0, \) \( A(t) = 1, \) \( G(t) = 0.1 \) in (27), and \( L = 1 \) and \( \Phi = 0 \) in (28), the last equations turn to
\[ \dot{m}(t) = 0.2m^2(t) + u(t) + P(t)(y(t) - m(t)), \] (31)
\[ m(0) = m_0, \]
\[ \dot{Q}(t) = 1 - 0.4m(t)Q(t) - (Q(t))^2, \quad Q(0.5) = 0, \] (32)
\[ P(t) = 0.01 + 0.4m(t)P(t) - (P(t))^2, \quad P(0) = P_0. \] (33)

Upon substituting the control (30) into (31), the controlled estimate equation takes the form
\[ \dot{m}(t) = 0.2m^2(t) + Q(t)m(t) + P(t)(y(t) - m(t)), \] (34)
\[ m(0) = m_0. \]

For numerical simulation of the system (26),(27) and the controller (30)-(34), the initial values \( x(0) = 1, \) \( m(0) = 2, \) and \( P(0) = 10 \) are assigned. The disturbance \( \psi(t) \) in (27) is realized using the built-in MatLab white noise function.

The results of applying the controller (30)–(34) to the system (26),(27) are shown in Fig. 1, which presents the graph of control function (30) and the graph of the criterion (28) \( J(t) \) in the interval \([0,0.5]\). The values of the estimation error \( x(t) - m(t) \) and the criterion (28) at the final moment \( T = 0.5 \) are \( x(0.5) - m(0.5) = -0.29 \) and \( J(0.5) = 0.252. \)

Let us now apply the optimal controller for second degree polynomial systems designed according to the optimal scheme (21)–(25),(14) to the system (26), (27). The control law (14) takes the form
\[ u^*(t) = Q(t)m(t) + p(t), \] (35)
where
\[ \dot{m}(t) = 0.1m^2(t) + 0.1P(t) + u(t) + P(t)(y(t) - m(t)), \] (36)
\[ m(0) = m_0, \]
and
\[ \dot{Q}(t) = 1 - 0.3m(t)Q(t) - (Q(t))^2, \quad Q(0.5) = 0, \] (37)
\[ \dot{p}(t) = 0 \] (38)
\[ P(t) = 0.4m(t)P(t) - 0.97(P(t))^2 + 0.06m^2(t)P(t) + 0.01m^4(t), \quad P(0) = P_0. \] (39)

Upon substituting the control (35) into (36), the optimally controlled estimate equation takes the form
\[ \dot{m}(t) = 0.1m^2(t) + 0.1P(t) + Q(t)m(t) + p(t) + \]
\[ P(t)(y(t) - m(t)), \quad m(0) = m_0, \]
For numerical simulation of the system (26),(27) and the controller (35)-(40), the initial values \( x(0) = 1, \) \( m(0) = 2, \) and \( P(0) = 10 \) are assigned. The disturbance \( \psi(t) \) in (27) is realized using the built-in MatLab white noise function.

The results of applying the controller (35)–(40) to the system (26),(27) are shown in Fig. 2, which presents the graph of control function (30) and the graph of the criterion (28) \( J(t) \) in the interval \([0,0.5]\). The values of the estimation error \( x(t) - m(t) \) and the criterion (28) at the final moment \( T = 0.5 \) are \( x(0.5) - m(0.5) = -0.29 \) and \( J(0.5) = 0.252. \)
error \(x(t) - m(t)\) and the criterion (28) at the final moment \(T = 0.5\) are \(x(0.5) - m(0.5) = -0.26\) and \(J(0.5) = 0.09513\), which is three times less than for the preceding controller (30)–(34).

It can be observed that the final criterion values at \(T = 0.5\) are definitively better for the designed optimal controller for second degree polynomial systems in comparison to the best controller available for a linearized system. This successfully verifies overall performance and computational accuracy of the designed optimal controller for polynomial systems.

REFERENCES


![Fig. 1. Graphs of the control (30) \(u(t)\), the criterion (28) \(J(t)\), the state (26) \(x(t)\), and the estimate (34) \(m(t)\) corresponding to the controller (30)–(34) in the interval \([0,0.5]\).](image1)

![Fig. 2. Graphs of the control (35) \(u(t)\), the criterion (28) \(J(t)\), the state (26) \(x(t)\), and the estimate (40) \(m(t)\) corresponding to the controller (35)–(40) in the interval \([0,0.5]\).](image2)