# Flexible Least Squares for Approximately Linear Systems 

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#### Abstract

The problem of filtering and smoothing for a system described by approximately linear dynamic and measurement relations has been studied for many decades. Yet the potential problem of misspecified dynamics, which makes the usual probabilistic assumptions involving normality and independence questionable at best, has not received the attention it merits. A probability-free multicriteria "flexible least squares" filter that meets this misspecification problem head on is proposed. A Fortran program implementation is provided for this filter, and references to simulation and empirical results are given. Although there are close connections with the standard Kalman filter, there are also important conceptual and computational distinctions. The Kalman filter, relying on probability assumptions for model discrepancy terms, provides a unique estimate for the state sequence. In contrast, the flexible least squares filter provides a family of state sequence estimates, each of which is vector-minimally incompatible with the prior dynamical and measurement specifications.


## I. Introduction

FOLLOWING World War II, probabilistic methods attained a dominant position in filtering and smoothing theory [1]. Early studies focused on linear system identification problems arising in radar and communications for which the theoretical specifications were essentially correct, with for which model discrepancy terms were reasonably modeled as random quantities with known distributions. For such problems, probabilistic methods could credibly be used to construct scalar measures for theory and data incompatibility in the form of likelihood or posterior distribution functions.

More recently, however, the social and biological sciences have presented filtering and smoothing problems of critical importance for which the processes of interest are highly nonlinear and poorly understood. In attempting to apply standard filtering and smoothing techniques to such a problem, a data analyst typically has to replace the unknown nonlinear process relations with an approximate system of linear relations. The resulting model discrepancy terms then incorporate model specification errors from various conceptually distinct sources-e.g., imperfectly specified measurements versus imperfectly specified

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state dynamics; hence it is questionable whether these discrepancy terms are either jointly or separately governed by meaningful probability relations. More generally, it is difficult to provide any credible way to scale and weigh the discrepancy terms relative to one another.

In decision theory, incommensurability of this type is typically handled by multicriteria optimization techniques [2]. However, such techniques have not yet been exploited systematically in state estimation theory. Rather, currently available filtering and smoothing techniques require the data analyst to provide probability assessments for all discrepancy terms. In consequence, social and biological scientists attempting to apply these techniques are often forced to resort to conventional probability specifications such as normality and independence that may have little public credibility.

This paper proposes a probability-free multicriteria filter for the estimation of approximately linear dynamical systems. Briefly stated, this "flexible least squares" (FLS) filter solves the following multicriteria optimization problem: Characterize the set of all state sequence estimates which achieve vector-minimal incompatibility between imperfectly specified linear theoretical relations and process observations.
The FLS filtering and smoothing problem for approximately linear dynamical systems is set out in Section II. The FLS recurrence relations for the solution of this problem are derived in Section III. Section IV considers the relationship between FLS and Kalman filtering. Concluding remarks are given in Section V. A Fortran program GFLS which implements the FLS recurrence relations for this application is provided in an appendix.

## II. The Basic Problem

Consider a system whose state at time $t, t=1,2, \cdots$, is an $n$-dimensional vector $x_{i}$. It is believed that the state transition equations for the system take the approximately linear form

$$
\begin{equation*}
x_{t+1} \approx F(t) x_{t}+a(t), \quad t=1,2, \cdots \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $F(t)$ is a known $n \times n$ square matrix, and $a(t)$ is a known $n$-dimensional column vector. At each time $t$, an $m$-dimensional vector $y_{t}$ of observations is obtained. The measurement relations are assumed to take the approximately linear form

$$
\begin{equation*}
y_{t} \approx H(t) x_{t}+b(t), \quad t=1,2, \cdots, \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $H(t)$ is a known $m \times n$ rectangular matrix and $b(t)$ is a known $m$-dimensional column vector.

Each possible sequence of estimates $\hat{x}_{1}, \hat{x}_{2}, \ldots$ for the state vectors entails two conceptually distinct types of model specification errors: namely, measurement errors consisting of the discrepancies [ $y_{t}-H(t) \hat{x}_{t}-b(t)$ ] between the actual and the estimated observation at each time $t$; and dynamic errors consisting of the discrepancies $\left[\hat{x}_{t+1}-F(t) \hat{x}_{t}-a(t)\right]$ that arise due to misspecification of the state transition equations. The basic filtering and smoothing problem then involves multicriteria optimization. Given a sequence of observation vectors $y_{1}, y_{2}, \cdots, y_{T}$ up to time $T$ with $T \geqslant 1$, determine the state sequence estimates $\hat{X}_{T}=\left(\hat{x}_{1}, \cdots, \hat{x}_{T}\right)$, which in some sense make both types of specification error as small as possible.
Suppose a dynamic cost $c_{D}\left(\hat{X}_{T}, T\right)$ and a measurement $\operatorname{cost} c_{M}\left(\hat{X}_{T}, T\right)$ are separately assessed for the two disparate types of model specification errors entailed by the choice of a state sequence estimate $\hat{X}_{T}$. On the basis of both tractability and general intuitive appeal, these costs are taken to be sums of squared discrepancy terms.

More precisely, for any given state sequence estimate $\hat{X}_{T}$, the dynamic cost associated with $\hat{X}_{T}$ is taken to be

$$
\begin{align*}
& c_{D}\left(\hat{X}_{T}, T\right)=\sum_{t=1}^{T-1}\left[\hat{x}_{t+1}-\left(F(t) \hat{x}_{t}+a(t)\right)\right]^{\prime} \\
& \quad \cdot D(t)\left[\hat{x}_{t+1}-\left(F(t) \hat{x}_{t}+a(t)\right)\right] \tag{3}
\end{align*}
$$

and the measurement cost associated with $\hat{X}_{T}$ is taken to be

$$
\begin{align*}
& c_{M}\left(\hat{X}_{T}, T\right)=\sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[y_{t}-\left(H(t) \hat{x}_{t}+b(t)\right)\right]^{\prime} \\
& \cdot M(t)\left[y_{t}-\left(H(t) \hat{x}_{t}+b(t)\right)\right] . \tag{4}
\end{align*}
$$

Here $D(t)$ and $M(t)$ are square, symmetric, positive definite scaling matrices of orders $n$ and $m$, respectively. Having nonzero off-diagonal terms in these matrices would presume knowledge about the relative signs of the discrepancy terms, a presumption that is not very reasonable when discrepancy terms result from model misspecification. Nevertheless, these matrices are left in general form because it does not impede the analytical treatment presented as follows.

If the prior beliefs (1) and (2) concerning the dynamic and measurement relations are absolutely true, then the actual state sequence $X_{T}=\left(x_{1}, \cdots, x_{T}\right)$ would result in zero values for both $c_{D}$ and $c_{M}$. In any real-world application, we would of course expect to see positive dynamic and measurement costs associated with each potential state sequence estimate $\hat{X}_{T}$. Nevertheless, not all of these state sequence estimates are equally interesting. Specifically, we would not be interested in a state sequence estimate $\hat{X}_{T}$ if it were cost-subordinated by another estimate $\hat{X}_{T}^{*}$ in the sense that $\hat{X}_{T}^{*}$ yielded a lower value for one type of cost without increasing the value of the other.


Fig. 1. Trade-offs between dynamic and measurement costs. (a) Cost possibility set. (b) Cost-efficient frontier.

We therefore focus attention on the set of state sequence estimates that are not cost-subordinated by any other state sequence estimate. Such estimates are referred to as flexible least squares (FLS) estimates. Each FLS estimate shows how the state vector could have evolved over time in a manner minimally incompatible with the prior dynamic and measurement specifications (1) and (2). Without additional model criteria to augment
(1) and (2), restricting attention to any proper subset of the FLS estimates is a purely arbitrary decision. Consequently, the FLS approach envisions the generation and consideration of all of the FLS estimates in order to determine commonalities and divergencies displayed by these potential state trajectories.

The collection $C^{F}(T)$ of cost vectors ( $c_{D}, c_{M}$ ) associated with the FLS estimates is referred to as the cost-efficient frontier. Given the cost specifications (3) and (4), the frontier is a downward sloping strictly convex curve in the $c_{D}-c_{M}$ plane. (See Fig. 1.)

Once the FLS estimates and the cost-efficient frontier are determined, three different levels of analysis can be used to investigate the incompatibility of the theoretical relations (1) and (2) with the observation vectors $y_{1}, \cdots, y_{T}$. First, the frontier can be examined to determine the efficient trade-offs between the dynamic and measurement costs $c_{D}$ and $c_{M}$. For example, one can determine the minimum measurement cost that would have to be paid in order to achieve zero dynamic cost, i.e., an exact fit of the state transition equations (1). Second, descriptive summary statistics (e.g., average values and standard deviations) can be constructed for the trajectories traced out by the FLS estimates along the frontier. Finally, the trajectories traced out by the FLS estimates can be directly examined from left to right along the frontier to assess the effects of decreasing the implicit penalty imposed for dynamic versus measurement cost.

Reference [3] applies this three-stage FLS analysis to a time-varying linear regression problem, a special case of (1) and (2) with scalar observations ( $m=1$ ), no forcing terms, and state transition matrices $F(t)$ set identically equal to the identity matrix. For this application the components of the $1 \times n$ vectors $H(t)$ are interpreted as explanatory variables for the scalar observations $y_{t}$, the state vectors $x_{t}$ are interpreted as coefficient vectors for the "linear regression" relations (2), and the state transi-
tion equations (1) with $F(t) \equiv I$ and $a(t) \equiv 0$ are interpreted as smoothness relations governing the evolution of the coefficient vectors over time.

An empirical FLS study of coefficient stability for a well-known log-linear regression model of U.S. money demand over the volatile period 1959-1985 is undertaken in [4]. Interesting insights are obtained concerning shifts in the coefficients at economically reasonable points in time. In [5], the FLS approach is used to develop a new measure of productivity change; the coefficients characterizing the production process are allowed to evolve slowly over time. The new measure compared favorably with more traditional measures when tested for U.S. agricultural data.

How are the cost-efficient frontier and the FLS estimates actually generated? Section III suggests what might be done.

## III. The Flexible Least Squares Filter

In view of the strict convexity of the cost-efficient frontier, each point on this frontier solves a problem of the form "minimize $c_{M}$ subject to $c_{D}=$ constant." Consequently, each FLS state sequence estimate $\hat{X}_{T}=$ $\left(\hat{x}_{1}, \cdots, \hat{x}_{T}\right)$ can be generated as the solution to a problem of the form

$$
\begin{equation*}
\min _{X_{T}}\left[\mu c_{D}\left(X_{T}, T\right)+c_{M}\left(X_{T}, T\right)\right] \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\mu$ is a suitably chosen Lagrange multiplier lying between 0 and $+\infty$. Hereafter the bracketed expression in (5) will be referred to as the incompatibility cost associated with $X_{T}$, conditional on $\mu$ and $T$. The multiplier $\mu$, multiplied by -1 , gives the slope of the cost-efficient frontier at the solution point for (5); thus $\mu$ parameterizes the trade-offs attainable between dynamic and measurement cost along the cost-efficient frontier.

The FLS approach envisions the generation of the entire cost-efficient frontier, together with the corresponding FLS state sequence estimates. Numerical experiments (e.g., [3]) have shown that the cost-efficient frontier can be adequately sketched out by solving the minimization problem (5) over a rough grid of $\mu$-points increasing by powers of ten.

How is this minimization to be done? The solution of (5) appears to be a formidable problem. Since each state vector $x_{t}$ is $n$-dimensional, the first-order necessary conditions for the solution of (5) constitute a linear two-point boundary value problem in $n T$ scalar unknowns. Fortunately, as will now be shown, problem (5) can be reduced to its proper dimensionality, $n$, through the use of a dynamic programming technique.

## A. The Basic FLS Filter

Let $\mu>0$ be given. A recursive procedure will now be developed for the exact sequential solution of the incompatibility cost minimization problem (5) as the duration $T$
of the process increases and additional observation vectors are obtained.
Suppose that the time is $T \geqslant 2$. Observation vectors have previously been obtained for times $1, \cdots, T-1$, and a new observation vector $y_{T}$ has just become available. Any choice of an estimate $x_{T}$ for the current time- $T$ state vector incurs two costs. First, a measurement cost is incurred if there is a discrepancy between the actual observation vector $y_{T}$ and the estimated observation vector $\left[H(t) x_{T}+b(T)\right]$. Second, consideration must also be given to the minimum achievable incompatibility cost over the earlier part of the process, conditional on the state estimate for time $T$ being $x_{T}$. The time-separability of the cost functions (3) and (4) implies that this latter cost depends only on $x_{T}$ and the observation vectors through time $T-1$.
Let a function be introduced to represent the minimum incompatibility cost that can be achieved through time $T-1$, conditional on any given time- $T$ state vector $x_{T}$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \phi\left(x_{T} ; \mu, T-1\right) \\
&= \text { the minimum incompatibility cost attainable } \\
& \text { through choice of } x_{1}, x_{2}, \cdots, x_{T-1}, \text { condi- } \\
& \text { tional on the state vector at time } T \text { being } \\
& x_{T} .
\end{aligned}
$$

The FLS estimate for the time- $T$ state vector, conditional on $\mu$ and the observation vectors obtained through time $T$, is then found by solving the minimization problem

$$
\begin{align*}
\min _{x_{T}}\{ & {\left[y_{T}-\left(H(T) x_{T}+b(T)\right)\right]^{\prime} M(T) } \\
\cdot & {\left.\left[y_{T}-\left(H(T) x_{T}+b(T)\right)\right]+\phi\left(x_{T} ; \mu, T-1\right)\right\} } \tag{7}
\end{align*}
$$

Let this FLS estimate be denoted by

$$
\begin{equation*}
x_{T}^{F L S}(\mu, T)=\arg \min _{x_{T}}\{\cdots\} \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

At time $T$ it is necessary to prepare for the appearance of an observation vector at time $T+1$. To do this, one needs to know the cost function $\phi\left(x_{T+1} ; \mu, T\right)$. This cost function is given by

$$
\begin{align*}
\phi\left(x_{T+1} ; \mu, T\right)= & \min _{x_{T}}\left\{\mu\left[x_{T+1}-\left(F(T) x_{T}+a(T)\right)\right]^{\prime}\right. \\
& \cdot D(T)\left[x_{T+1}-\left(F(T) x_{T}+a(T)\right)\right] \\
& +\left[y_{T}-\left(H(T) x_{T}+b(T)\right)\right]^{\prime} \\
& \cdot M(T)\left[y_{T}-\left(H(T) x_{T}+b(T)\right)\right] \\
& \left.+\phi\left(x_{T} ; \mu, T-1\right)\right\} \tag{9}
\end{align*}
$$

The recursive relationship (9) can be given a dynamic programming interpretation. Conditional on any possible state vector $x_{T+1}$ for time $T+1$, the choice of a state estimate $x_{T}$ for time $T$ incurs three types of cost. First, there is a dynamic cost associated with the estimated state transition from time $T$ to time $T+1$. Second, there is a measurement cost associated with the discrepancy between the estimated and the actual time- $T$ observation vector. And third, there is a minimum achievable incompatibility cost based on everything that is known about the
process through time $T-1$, conditional on the time- $T$ state vector being $x_{T}$. Selecting $x_{T}$ to minimize the sum of these three costs yields the minimum achievable incompatibility cost based on everything that is known about the process through time $T$, conditional on the time- $(T+1)$ state vector being $x_{T+1}$.
Using (9), the cost functions $\phi\left(x_{2} ; \mu, 1\right), \phi\left(x_{3} ; \mu, 2\right), \ldots$ can be determined one after the other. At time $T$, assume that the function $\phi\left(x_{T} ; \mu, T-1\right)$ is known. An observation vector $y_{T}$ then becomes available, and the function $\phi\left(x_{T+1} ; \mu, T\right)$ can be determined. To start matters off, it is assumed that an initial cost function $\phi\left(x_{1} ; \mu, 0\right)$ is given. For the particular cost specifications (3) and (4), this initial cost is identically zero. More generally, however, the initial cost could summarize whatever beliefs one has concerning the cost of estimating that the system is in state $x_{1}$ at time $T=1$ before an observation vector at time $T=1$ has been received.
The connection between the minimization problems (5) and (7) is straightforward. Using relationship (9) with $\phi\left(x_{1} ; \mu, 0\right) \equiv 0$, the cost function $\phi\left(x_{T} ; \mu, T-1\right)$ can be expanded in the form

$$
\begin{align*}
\phi\left(x_{T} ;\right. & \mu, T-1) \\
= & \min _{x_{1}, x_{2}, \cdots, x_{T-1}}\left\{\mu \sum_{t=1}^{T-1}\left[x_{t+1}-F(t) x_{t}-a(t)\right]^{\prime} D(t)\right. \\
& \cdot\left[x_{t+1}-F(t) x_{t}-a(t)\right] \\
+ & \sum_{t=1}^{T-1}\left[y_{t}-H(t) x_{t}-b(t)\right]^{\prime} \\
& \left.\cdot M(t)\left[y_{t}-H(t) x_{t}-b(t)\right]\right\} \tag{10}
\end{align*}
$$

Recalling definitions (3) and (4) for $c_{D}$ and $c_{M}$, it is then immediately seen that the minimization problem (7) is an alternative representation for the incompatibility cost minimization problem (5).
The recurrence relation (9) is a special case of a multicriteria filter shown elsewhere [6] to generalize various well-known filters such as those of Kalman [7], Viterbi [8], Larson-Peschon [9], and Swerling [10]. It illustrates how one might formulate and update a cost-of-estimation function for a dynamic process when discrepancy terms are not given a probabilistic interpretation. The recurrence relation (9) thus replaces the use of Bayes' rule, which would be employed if discrepancy terms were interpreted as random quantities having known probability distributions and satisfying various independence restrictions. This point will be elaborated in Section IV, below.

## B. A More Concrete Representation for the FLS Filter

It will now be shown how the basic recurrence relation (9) can be more concretely represented in terms of recurrence relations for an $n \times n$ matrix $Q_{T}(\mu)$, an $n \times 1$ vector $p_{T}(\mu)$, and a scalar $r_{T}(\mu)$.

From general considerations in linear-quadratic control theory, it is known that if the cost function appearing in the righthand side expression in (9) is given by

$$
\begin{align*}
\phi\left(x_{T} ; \mu, T-1\right)= & x_{T}^{\prime} Q_{T-1}(\mu) x_{T} \\
& -2 p_{T-1}(\mu)^{\prime} x_{T}+r_{T-1}(\mu), \tag{11}
\end{align*}
$$

where $Q_{T-1}(\mu)$ is a real $n \times n$ symmetric matrix, then the cost function appearing on the lefthand side has the form

$$
\begin{align*}
& \phi\left(x_{T+1} ; \mu, T\right)=x_{T+1}^{\prime} Q_{T}(\mu) x_{T+1} \\
&-2 p_{T}(\mu)^{\prime} x_{T+1}+r_{T}(\mu) . \tag{12}
\end{align*}
$$

We shall show this below in detail.
First, suppose the initial cost function takes the quadratic form

$$
\begin{equation*}
\phi\left(x_{1} ; \mu, 0\right)=x_{1}^{\prime} Q_{0}(\mu) x_{1}-2 p_{0}(\mu)^{\prime} x_{1}+r_{0}(\mu) \tag{13}
\end{equation*}
$$

where the $n \times n$ matrix $Q_{0}(\mu)$ is symmetric and positive semidefinite. As earlier noted, this function summarizes our knowledge of the cost of estimating that the system is in state $x_{1}$ at time $T=1$ before an observation vector at time $T=1$ has been received. For the particular cost specifications (3) and (4), the coefficient terms $Q_{0}(\mu)$, $p_{0}(\mu)$, and $r_{0}(\mu)$ are all zero.

Let us now determine the recurrence relations connecting $Q_{T}(\mu), p_{T}(\mu)$, and $r_{T}(\mu)$ with $Q_{T-1}(\mu), p_{T-1}(\mu)$, and $r_{T-1}(\mu)$ for an arbitrary time $T \geqslant 1$, where the $n \times n$ matrix $Q_{T-1}(\mu)$ is symmetric and positive semidefinite. Consider (9) for any given $x_{T+1}$. The large curly bracketed term in (9) breaks down into quadratic, linear, and constant parts with respect to $x_{T}$, as follows:

$$
\begin{align*}
\{\cdots\}= & x_{T}^{\prime}\left[\mu F(T)^{\prime} D(T) F(T)\right. \\
& \left.+H(T)^{\prime} M(T) H(T)+Q_{T-1}(\mu)\right] x_{T} \\
& +\left(2 \mu\left[x_{T+1}-a(T)\right]^{\prime} D(T)[-F(T)]\right. \\
& +2\left[y_{T}-b(T)\right]^{\prime} M(T)[-H(T)] \\
& \left.-2 p_{T-1}(\mu)^{\prime}\right) x_{T}+\mu\left[x_{T+1}-a(T)\right]^{\prime} D(T) \\
& \cdot\left[x_{T+1}-a(T)\right]+\left[y_{T}-b(T)\right]^{\prime} M(T)\left[y_{T}-b(T)\right] \\
& +r_{T-1}(\mu) . \tag{14}
\end{align*}
$$

To do the minimization called for in (9), the derivative with respect to $x_{T}$ of the right-hand side of (14) is set equal to the null vector, which yields

$$
\begin{align*}
0= & {\left[\mu F(T)^{\prime} D(T) F(T)+H(T)^{\prime} M(T) H(T)\right.} \\
& \left.+Q_{T-1}(\mu)\right] x_{T} \\
& -\left(\mu\left[x_{T+1}-a(T)\right]^{\prime} D(T) F(T)\right. \\
& \left.+\left[y_{T}-b(T)\right]^{\prime} M(T) H(T)+p_{T-1}(\mu)^{\prime}\right)^{\prime} \tag{15}
\end{align*}
$$

Assuming the bracketed term in (15) is invertible (e.g., assuming the positive semidefinite matrix $Q_{T-1}(\mu)$ is positive definite, or that either $F(T)$ or $H(T)$ has rank $n$ ), the optimizing vector $x_{T}$ is given by

$$
\begin{align*}
x_{T}= & {\left[\mu F(T)^{\prime} D(T) F(T)+H(T)^{\prime} M(T) H(T)\right.} \\
& \left.+Q_{T-1}(\mu)\right]^{-1} \\
& \times\left(\mu F(T)^{\prime} D(T)\left[x_{T+1}-a(T)\right]\right. \\
& \left.+H(T)^{\prime} M(T)\left[y_{T}-b(T)\right]+p_{T-1}(\mu)\right) \tag{16}
\end{align*}
$$

To simplify the notation, let us now introduce the symmetric matrix $V_{T}(\mu)$ as

$$
\begin{align*}
& V_{T}(\mu)=\left[\mu F(T)^{\prime} D(T) F(T)+H(T)^{\prime} M(T) H(T)\right. \\
&\left.+Q_{T-1}(\mu)\right]^{-1} . \tag{17}
\end{align*}
$$

Then we may write the optimizing vector $x_{T}$ in the form

$$
\begin{equation*}
x_{T}=s_{T}(\mu)+G_{T}(\mu) x_{T+1}, \tag{18}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
\begin{align*}
s_{T}(\mu)=V_{T}(\mu)( & H(T)^{\prime} M(T)\left[y_{T}-b(T)\right] \\
& \left.+p_{T-1}(\mu)-\mu F(T)^{\prime} D(T) a(T)\right) \tag{19}
\end{align*}
$$

and

$$
\begin{equation*}
G_{T}(\mu)=V_{T}(\mu) \mu F(T)^{\prime} D(T) \tag{20}
\end{equation*}
$$

Now we are ready to find $\phi\left(x_{T+1} ; \mu, T\right)$. Substituting (18) into (9), the quadratic terms in $x_{T+1}$ have the matrix $Q_{T}(\mu)$ given by

$$
\begin{align*}
\mu[I & \left.-F(T) G_{T}(\mu)\right]^{\prime} D(T)\left[I-F(T) G_{T}(\mu)\right] \\
& +\left(H(T) G_{T}(\mu)\right)^{\prime} M(T) H(T) G_{T}(\mu) \\
& +G_{T}(\mu)^{\prime} Q_{T-1}(\mu) G_{T}(\mu) \\
= & G_{T}(\mu)^{\prime} V_{T}(\mu)^{-1} G_{T}(\mu) \\
& +2 \mu D(T)[-F(T)] G_{T}(\mu)+\mu D(T) \tag{21}
\end{align*}
$$

But

$$
\begin{equation*}
G_{T}(\mu)^{\prime}=\mu D(T) F(T) V_{T}(\mu) \tag{22}
\end{equation*}
$$

so that

$$
\begin{equation*}
G_{T}(\mu)^{\prime} V_{T}(\mu)^{-1}=\mu D(T) F(T) \tag{23}
\end{equation*}
$$

It follows that

$$
\begin{align*}
Q_{T}(\mu)= & \mu D(T) F(T) G_{T}(\mu) \\
& -2 \mu D(T) F(T) G_{T}(\mu)+\mu D(T) \\
= & \mu D(T)\left[I-F(T) G_{T}(\mu)\right] . \tag{24}
\end{align*}
$$

By standard matrix manipulations (see, e.g., [11, p. 7]), it can be shown that $Q_{T}(\mu)$ in (24) is positive semidefinite given the positive semidefiniteness of $Q_{T-1}(\mu)$ and the positive definiteness of the weight matrices $D(T)$ and $M(T)$ as assumed in Section II.

Next we shall determine the vector $p_{T}(\mu)$. Consider, again, the substitution of (18) into (9). The linear terms in $x_{T+1}$ have the coefficient vector $-2 p_{T}(\mu)$ given by

$$
\begin{align*}
& 2 G_{T}(\mu)^{\prime} V_{T}(\mu)^{-1} s_{T}(\mu)+2 \mu D(T)[-F(T)] s_{T}(\mu) \\
& \quad+G_{T}(\mu)^{\prime}\left\{2 \mu F(T)^{\prime} D(T) a(T)+2[-H(T)]^{\prime} M(T)\right. \\
& \left.\quad \cdot\left[y_{T}-b(T)\right]-2 p_{T-1}(\mu)\right\} \\
& \quad+2 \mu D(T)[-a(T)] . \tag{25}
\end{align*}
$$

It follows, after some simplification, that

$$
\begin{align*}
p_{T}(\mu)=G_{T}(\mu)^{\prime}\left[H ( T ) ^ { \prime } M ( T ) \left[y_{T}\right.\right. & \left.-b(T)]+p_{T-1}(\mu)\right] \\
& +Q_{T}(\mu)^{\prime} a(T) \tag{26}
\end{align*}
$$

In a similar manner, we find for $r_{T}(\mu)$ that

$$
\begin{align*}
r_{T}(\mu)= & r_{T-1}(\mu)+\left[y_{T}-b(T)\right]^{\prime} M(T)\left[y_{T}-b(T)\right] \\
& +\mu a(T)^{\prime} D(T) a(T) \\
& -s_{T}(\mu)^{\prime}\left[V_{T}(\mu)^{\prime}\right]^{-1} s_{T}(\mu) \tag{27}
\end{align*}
$$

The relations (24), (26), and (27) constitute the desired recurrence relations for $Q_{T}(\mu), p_{T}(\mu)$, and $r_{T}(\mu)$.
Finally, using these recurrence relations, the FLS filter estimate (8) for the state vector at time $T \geqslant 1$ can also be given a more concrete representation. Let

$$
\begin{equation*}
U_{T}(\mu)=H(T)^{\prime} M(T) H(T)+Q_{T-1}(\mu) \tag{28}
\end{equation*}
$$

and let

$$
\begin{equation*}
z_{T}(\mu)=H(T)^{\prime} M(T)\left[y_{T}-b(T)\right]+p_{T-1}(\mu) \tag{29}
\end{equation*}
$$

Then

$$
\begin{equation*}
x_{T}^{F L S}(\mu, T)=\left[U_{T}(\mu)\right]^{-1} z_{T}(\mu) . \tag{30}
\end{equation*}
$$

## C. FLS Smoothed State Estimates

Consider the problem of obtaining the FLS smoothed estimate for the state vector $x_{T}$ at time $T$ as the length of the process increases from $T$ to $T+1$ and an additional observation vector $y_{T+1}$ is obtained.
In preparation for time $T+1$, the quadratic, linear, and constant terms $Q_{T}(\mu), p_{T}(\mu)$, and $r_{T}(\mu)$ characterizing the cost function in (12) have been calculated and stored. As a byproduct of this calculation, the unique cost-minimizing $x_{T}$ as a function of $x_{T+1}$ has been determined in accordance with (18) to be $x_{T}=s_{T}(\mu)+G_{T}(\mu) x_{T+1}$. Using (30) updated to time $T+1$, the FLS filter estimate for the state vector at time $T+1$ is given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
x_{T+1}^{F L S}(\mu, T+1)=\left[U_{T+1}(\mu)\right]^{-1} z_{T+1}(\mu) \tag{31}
\end{equation*}
$$

The FLS smoothed estimate for the time- $T$ state vector $x_{T}$, based on the observation vectors $y_{1}, \cdots, y_{T+1}$ for times 1 through $T+1$, is then given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
x_{T}^{F L S}(\mu, T+1)=s_{T}(\mu)+G_{T}(\mu) x_{T+1}^{F L S}(\mu, T+1) \tag{32}
\end{equation*}
$$

More generally, given any fixed time $t, 0 \leqslant t \leqslant T$, the FLS smoothed estimate $x_{i}^{F L S}(\mu, T+1)$ for the state vector $x_{t}$ at time $t$, based on the observation vectors $y_{1}, \cdots, y_{T+1}$ for times 1 through $T+1$, is found by solving the system of equations

$$
\begin{gather*}
x_{t}=s_{t}(\mu)+G_{t}(\mu) x_{t+1} \\
\vdots  \tag{33a}\\
x_{T}=s_{T}(\mu)+G_{T}(\mu) x_{T+1}
\end{gather*}
$$

in reverse order, starting with the initial condition

$$
\begin{equation*}
x_{T+1}=x_{T+1}^{F L S}(\mu, T+1) . \tag{33b}
\end{equation*}
$$

Relations (30) and (33) for generating the FLS filtered and smoothed state estimates result naturally from the dynamic programming procedure used to update incompatibility cost. Alternative formulas for generating these state estimates could be obtained from (30) and (31) using appropriate matrix manipulations (see [11]). Based on
past numerical experience, however, we elected to adhere closely to the dynamic programming formulation.
A Fortran program GFLS for generating the FLS filtered and smoothed state estimates by means of the relations (30) and (33) is provided in an appendix to this paper. In simulation experiments conducted to date with GFLS on an IBM Model 3090, the generated FLS estimates have satisfied the first-order necessary conditions for the cost-minimization problem (5) up to the maximum degree of accuracy (fourteen to sixteen digits) permitted by the double-precision word length employed. Our empirically based belief, then, is that the suggested procedure for determining the FLS filtered and smoothed state estimates is numerically stable and highly accurate.

## IV. Relationship with Kalman Filtering

FLS and Kalman filtering address conceptually distinct problems. FLS treats a multicriteria model specification problem that does not require probability assumptions either for its motivation or for its solution: the characterization of the set of all state sequence estimates that achieve vector-minimal incompatibility between imperfectly specified theoretical relations and process observations. Kalman filtering is a point estimation technique that determines the most probable state sequence for a stochastic model assumed to be correctly and completely specified. Nevertheless, when applied to approximately linear systems, the two approaches satisfy duality relations which generalize the well-known duality [7, p. 42] between the noise-free regulator problem and maximum a posteriori probability estimation.

Conceptual differences between FLS and Kalman filtering are examined in Section IV-A. In Section IV-B the Kalman filter recurrence equations are derived by means of simple cost-function arguments that mimic the steps outlined in Section III-B for the derivation of the FLS recurrence relations. Probabilistic arguments (e.g., Bayes' Rule or iterated expectations) are not required. Conversely, in Section IV-C it is seen that the FLS recurrence relations for generating any particular state sequence estimate along the cost-efficient frontier reduce to information filter equations, the "inverse" of Kalman filter equations, if the model discrepancy terms are assumed to satisfy various independence and normality restrictions. Implications of these duality relations are discussed in Section IV-D.

## A. Conceptual Differences Between FLS and Kalman Filtering

Previous sections of this paper investigate how filtering and smoothing might be undertaken for the approximately linear system (1) and (2) when the dynamic and measurement discrepancy terms $w_{t} \equiv\left[x_{t+1}-F(t) x_{t}-\right.$ $a(t)]$ and $v_{t} \equiv\left[y_{t}-H(t) x_{t}-b(t)\right]$ are incommensurable model specification errors. A multicriteria FLS solution is proposed for this problem. As seen in Section III, this multicriteria solution can be implemented by means of a
family of Riccati-type recurrence relations. The Riccatiequation form of these recurrence relations is not surprising; it has been known for decades [12] that linearquadratic minimization leads to recurrence relations of this type. What is new is the probability-free motivation provided for why one should be interested in this entire family of recurrence relations.

Suppose, instead, that the following probability relations, commonly assumed in Kalman filtering studies, are introduced for the discrepancy terms $w_{1}$ and $v_{t}$ and for the initial state vector $x_{1}$ :

- [PDF for $\left.w_{t}\right]=N(0, S(t))$;
- [PDF for $\left.v_{t}\right]=N(0, R(t)$;
- $\left(w_{t}\right)$ and $\left(v_{t}\right)$ are mutually and serially independent processes;
- $\left[\right.$ PDF for $\left.x_{1}\right]=N\left(x_{1}^{*}, \Sigma_{1}\right)$;
- $x_{1}$ is distributed independently of $v_{t}$ and $w_{t}$ for each $t$.
(34)

Under assumptions (34), the discrepancy terms $w_{t}$ and $v_{t}$ are interpreted as white noise random vectors with known Gaussian probability density functions (PDF's) governing both their individual and joint behavior. In particular, $w_{t}$ and $v_{t}$ are now supposed to be perfectly commensurable quantities that can be scaled and weighed relative to one another. The FLS interpretation for $w_{t}$ and $v_{t}$ as conceptually distinct apple-and-orange model specification errors incorporating everything unknown about the dynamic and measurement aspects of the process in thus dramatically altered.

Combining the measurement relations (2) with the probability relations (34) permits the derivation of a probability density function $P\left(Y_{T} \mid X_{T}\right)$ for the observation sequence $Y_{T}=\left(y_{1}, \cdots, y_{T}\right)$ conditional on the state sequence $X_{T}=\left(x_{1}, \cdots, x_{T}\right)$. Combining the dynamic relations (1) with the probability relations (34) permits the derivation of a "prior" probability density function $P\left(X_{T}\right)$ for $X_{T}$. The multiplication of these two derived probability density functions yields the joint probability density function for $X_{T}$ and $Y_{T}$,

$$
\begin{equation*}
P\left(Y_{T} \mid X_{T}\right) \cdot P\left(X_{T}\right)=P\left(X_{T}, Y_{T}\right) \tag{35}
\end{equation*}
$$

The joint probability density function (35) elegantly combines the two distinct sources of theory and data incom-patibility-measurement and dynamic-into a single scalar measure of incompatibility for any considered state sequence $X_{T}$.
Given the probability relations (34), the usual Kalman filter objective is to determine the maximum a posteriori (MAP) state sequence, i.e., the state sequence which maximizes the posterior probability density function $P\left(X_{T} \mid Y_{T}\right)$. Since the observation sequence $Y_{T}$ is assumed to be given, this objective is equivalent to determining the state sequence which maximizes the product of $P\left(X_{T} \mid Y_{T}\right)$ and $P\left(Y_{T}\right)$. By the agreed upon rules of probability theory,

$$
\begin{equation*}
P\left(X_{T} \mid Y_{T}\right) \cdot P\left(Y_{T}\right)=P\left(Y_{T} \mid X_{T}\right) \cdot P\left(X_{T}\right) \tag{36}
\end{equation*}
$$

where, as earlier explained, the right-hand expression in
(36) can be evaluated using (1), (2), and the probability relations (34). Determining the MAP state sequence is thus equivalent to determining the state sequence that minimizes the scalar "incompatibility cost function"

$$
\begin{equation*}
c\left(X_{T}, T\right)=-\log \left[P\left(Y_{T} \mid X_{T}\right) \cdot P\left(X_{T}\right)\right] \tag{37}
\end{equation*}
$$

What has been achieved by the introduction of the probability relations (34)? Without relations such as (34), the dynamic and measurement discrepancy terms cannot be scaled and weighed relative to one another. The filtering and smoothing problem is thus intrinsically a multicriteria optimization problem: Conditional on the given observations, determine the state sequence estimates which are in some sense minimally incompatible with each of the imperfectly specified theoretical relations (1) and (2). Given the probability relations (34), however, the discrepancy terms are transformed into perfectly commensurable "disturbance terms" impinging on correctly specified theoretical relations in accordance with known probability distributions. In this case, MAP estimation seems an emminently reasonable way to proceed. The multicriteria optimization problem is thus transformed into the scalar optimization problem of determining the most probable state sequence for a stochastic model assumed to be correctly and completely specified.

Making use of Bayes' rule, Larson and Peschon [9] develop a recurrence relation for the sequential updating of the posterior density function $P\left(X_{T} \mid Y_{T}\right)$ as the duration $T$ of the process increases and additional observation vectors are obtained. This recurrence relation is used to determine recursively the MAP state sequence for each time $T$. The Larson-Peschon filter is derived under assumptions (34) without the requirement that the PDF's be Gaussian; nonlinearity of the dynamic and measurement relations is also permitted. Larson and Peschon show that their filter reduces to the Kalman filter when Gaussian distributions and linear dynamic and measurement relations are assumed.

For example, suppose for simplicity that the forcing terms $a(t)$ and $b(t)$ in the dynamic and measurement relations (1) and (2) are identically zero. For this case, Larson and Peschon obtain the relations

$$
\begin{align*}
& \Sigma^{-1}(T+1 \mid T+1)= H(T+1)^{\prime} R(T+1)^{-1} H(T+1) \\
&+\left[F(T) \Sigma(T \mid T) F(T)^{\prime}+S(T)\right]^{-1} \\
& x(T+1 \mid T+1)= F(T) x(T \mid T) \\
&+\Sigma(T+1 \mid T+1) H(T+1)^{\prime} \\
& \cdot R(T+1)^{-1}\left[y_{T+1}-H(T+1) F(T) x(T \mid T)\right] \tag{38}
\end{align*}
$$

In (38), $x(T+1 \mid T+1)$ is the MAP estimate for the state vector at time $T+1$, conditional on the observation vectors obtained through time $T+1$; and $\Sigma(T+1 \mid T+1)$ is the error covariance matrix for $x(T+1 \mid T+1)$. By use of appropriate matrix inversion formulas, the relations (38) can be transformed into a pair of recurrence relations
either for the error covariance matrix $\Sigma(T \mid T)$ and the state estimate $x(T \mid T)$-the standard Kalman filter equations (see [7] and [13, pp. 105-120])—or for the inverse "information matrix" $\Sigma^{-1}(T \mid T)$ and the modified state estimate $\Sigma^{-1}(T \mid T) x(T \mid T)$, yielding the "information filter equations" (see [13, pp. 139-142]).

## B. Cost Derivation of the Kalman Filter <br> Recurrence Relations

It will now be shown that the recursive relations (38) can alternatively be derived by means of simple intuitive cost considerations, without reliance on probabilistic arguments.

As in Section IV-A, suppose for simplicity that the forcing terms $a(t)$ and $b(t)$ in (1) an (2) are identically zero. For any time $T>1$, let $X_{T}$ denote the $T$-length state trajectory ( $x_{1}, \cdots, x_{T}$ ); and let the time-T incompatibility cost function be specified by

$$
\begin{align*}
c\left(X_{T}, T\right)= & \left\{\sum_{t=1}^{T-1}\left[x_{t+1}-F(t) x_{t}\right]^{\prime} S(t)^{-1}\left[x_{t+1}-F(t) x_{t}\right]\right. \\
& +\sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[y_{t}-H(t) x_{t}\right]^{\prime} R(t)^{-1}\left[y_{t}-H(t) x_{t}\right] \\
& \left.+\left[x_{1}-x_{1}^{*}\right]^{\prime} \Sigma_{1}^{-1}\left[x_{1}-x_{1}^{*}\right]\right\} \tag{39}
\end{align*}
$$

Also, let the time-1 incompatibility cost function be specified by

$$
\begin{equation*}
c\left(X_{1}, 1\right)=\left[x_{1}-x_{1}^{*}\right]^{\prime} \Sigma_{1}^{-1}\left[x_{1}-x_{1}^{*}\right] \tag{40}
\end{equation*}
$$

Given the probability relations (34), the time- $T$ incompatibility cost function (39) coincides with the previously defined incompatibility cost function (37) apart from a nonessential constant term. Finally, for any time $T \geqslant 1$, let $C^{F}\left(x_{T}, T\right)$ denote the minimum cost (39) attainable at time $T$, conditional on the time- $T$ state vector being $x_{T}$.

By definition, the state-conditioned cost function $C^{F}\left(x_{1}, 1\right)$ for time 1 coincides with the time-1 cost function $c\left(X_{1}, 1\right)$; hence it has the quadratic form

$$
\begin{equation*}
C^{F}\left(x_{1}, 1\right)=\left[x_{1}-x(1 \mid 1)\right]^{\prime} \Sigma^{-1}(1 \mid 1)\left[x_{1}-x(1 \mid 1)\right] \tag{41a}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
\begin{align*}
\Sigma^{-1}(1 \mid 1) & \equiv \Sigma_{1}^{-1}  \tag{41b}\\
x(1 \mid 1) & \equiv x_{1}^{*} . \tag{41c}
\end{align*}
$$

Note that $x(1 \mid 1)$ is the state vector $x_{1}$ which minimizes the state-conditioned cost function $C^{F}\left(x_{1}, 1\right)$.
Suppose the state-conditioned cost function $C^{F}\left(x_{T}, T\right)$ for some time $T \geqslant 1$ has the quadratic form

$$
\begin{align*}
& C^{F}\left(x_{T}, T\right)=\left[x_{T}-x(T \mid T)\right]^{\prime} \Sigma^{-1}(T \mid T) \\
& \cdot\left[x_{T}-x(T \mid T)\right]+k_{T} \tag{42}
\end{align*}
$$

where $k_{T}$ is independent of $x_{T}$. As shown in [6, Section 4.3], the state-conditioned cost function for time $T+1$
satisfies the recurrence relation

$$
\begin{align*}
C^{F}\left(x_{T+1}, T+1\right)=\min _{x_{T}}\left\{\Delta c\left(x_{T}, x_{T+1}, T+1\right)\right. & \\
& \left.+C^{F}\left(x_{T}, T\right)\right\} \tag{43a}
\end{align*}
$$

where

$$
\begin{align*}
& \Delta c\left(x_{T}, x_{T+1}, T+1\right) \\
& \equiv\left[x_{T+1}-F(T) x_{T}\right]^{\prime} S(T)^{-1}\left[x_{T+1}-F(T) x_{T}\right] \\
& \quad+\left[y_{T}-H(T) x_{T}\right]^{\prime} R(T)^{-1}\left[y_{T}-H(T) x_{T}\right] \tag{43b}
\end{align*}
$$

denotes the total change in cost associated with the transition from $T$ to $T+1$. Substituting (42) into (43a), it follows by straightforward calculations (analogous to those in Section III-B) that the state-conditioned cost function for time $T+1$ has the quadratic form

$$
\begin{align*}
C^{F}( & \left.x_{T+1}, T+1\right) \\
= & {\left[x_{T+1}-x(T+1 \mid T+1)\right]^{\prime} \Sigma^{-1}(T+1 \mid T+1) } \\
& \cdot\left[x_{T+1}-x(T+1 \mid T+1)\right]+k_{T+1}, \tag{44}
\end{align*}
$$

where $\Sigma(T+1 \mid T+1)$ and $x(T+1 \mid T+1)$ satisfy the recursive relations (38). As is clear from (44), $x(T+1 \mid T+1)$ is the state vector $x_{T+1}$ that minimizes the state-conditioned cost function $C^{F}\left(x_{T+1}, T+1\right)$.

The terms $\Sigma(T+1 \mid T+1)$ and $x(T+1 \mid T+1)$ appearing in the cost expression (44) thus coincide with the error covariance matrix and state estimate generated by the Kalman filter recurrence relations derived from (38). Note, also, that the quadratic and linear coefficient terms $\Sigma^{-1}(T+1 \mid T+1)$ and $\Sigma^{-1}(T+1 \mid T+1) x(T+1 \mid T+1)$ for the cost expression (44), considered as a function of $x_{T+1}$, coincide with the information matrix and modified state estimate generated by the information filter equations. It is not surprising, then, that the cost arguments used to derive the recursive relations (38) for these terms are entirely analogous to the cost arguments used in Section III-B to determine recursive relations for the quadratic and linear coefficient terms $Q_{T}(\mu)$ and $p_{T}(\mu)$ for the cost expression $\phi\left(x_{T+1} ; \mu, T\right)$.

In summary, the Kalman and information filter recurrence relations can be derived for approximately linear systems using simple cost arguments, without recourse to probabilistic arguments such as Bayes' rule or iterated expectations. All that is needed is that the basic cost function used to measure theory and data incompatibility be a quadratic function exhibiting time-separability.

## C. The FLS Recurrence Relations as Information Filter Equations

Conversely, the FLS recurrence relations associated with any given point $\mu$ on the cost-efficient frontier reduce to a variant of the information filter equations if the theoretical relations (1) and (2) are augmented by probability relations of the form (34).

Specifically, suppose the dynamic weight matrix $\mu D(t)$ is taken to be the inverse of the covariance matrix $S(t)$ for $w_{t}$, and the measurement weight matrix $M(t)$ is taken to be the inverse of the covariance matrix $R(t)$ for $v_{t}$, for each time $t$; and suppose also that the initial cost matrix $Q_{0}(\mu)$ is taken to be the inverse of the covariance matrix $\Sigma_{1}$ for the initial state vector $x_{1}$. In this case the matrix $U_{T}(\mu)$ in (28) corresponds to the inverse of the "measure-ment-update" error covariance matrix $\Sigma(T \mid T)$ and the vector $z_{T}(\mu)$ in (29) corresponds to the modified state estimate $\Sigma^{-1}(T \mid T) x(T \mid T)$. Moreover, the matrix $Q_{T}(\mu)$ corresponds to the inverse of the "time-update" error covariance matrix $\Sigma(T+1 \mid T)$, defined [13, ch. 3] to be the error covariance matrix for the MAP estimate of $x_{T+1}$ based on observations through time $T$.

## D. Duality Implications

If the probability relations (34) are justified for a given filtering and smoothing application, they should of course be incorporated in the estimation procedure. However, for many important applications-particularly in the social sciences-obtaining agreement among researchers regarding probability relations such as (34) can be difficult.

For example, the process observations may be the outcome of a nonreplicable experiment, so that no objective test of these relations can be carried out. Also, the theoretical relations may represent tentatively held conjectures concerning a poorly understood process; or they may be a linearized set of relations obtained for an analytically intractable nonlinear process, as in many aerospace filtering and smoothing problems. In these cases it is doubtful whether the discrepancy terms are governed by any meaningful probability relations. Independence restrictions, in particular, are questionable and troublesome.

For these reasons, the FLS procedure, with its minimal assumptions concerning discrepancy terms, appears to offer a useful complement to existing filtering and smoothing techniques. Moreover, the FLS duality relations discussed in previous sections may shed some light on the robustness properties of the Kalman filter.

It is now conventional to interpret any quadratic criterion function representing sums of squared dynamic and measurement errors-e.g., the Kalman filter criterion function (39)-as a log-likelihood expression arising from some underlying stochastic model in which model discrepancy terms are interpreted as independent and normally distributed random variables. Yet it is also known that Kalman filtering works remarkably well in some contexts in which these strong stochastic assumptions are not even remotely satisfied. A partial explanation for this robustness is that the Kalman filter criterion function can be given an alternative interpretation: namely, as a cost function embodying the criterion that model discrepancy terms be small.
"Smallness" should not be confused with "randomness." Postulating that $x_{t+1}$ is close to $\left[F(t) x_{t}+a(t)\right]$
does not mean that the discrepancy term $\left[x_{t+1}-F(t) x_{t}\right.$ $-a(t)$ ] is necessarily a random vector. As numerous experiments with FLS have shown (see, e.g., [3]), the postulate of small dynamic and measurement discrepancy terms is a powerful assumption that allows state trajectories to be tracked and recovered with surprising qualitative accuracy at each point along the cost-efficient frontier.

## V. Conclusion

The main purpose of this paper is to present a proba-bility-free multicriteria approach to the problem of filtering and smoothing when prior beliefs concerning dynamics and measurements take an approximately linear form. In particular, model discrepancy terms are treated as model specification errors that may not have any meaningful probabilistic description. Applications are envisioned in various fields, particularly in the social and biological sciences, where obtaining agreement among researchers regarding probability relations for discrepancy terms is difficult.

The essence of the proposed FLS procedure is the cost-efficient frontier. This frontier, a curve in a twodimensional cost plane, provides an explicit and systematic way to determine the efficient trade-offs between the separate costs incurred for dynamic and measurement specification errors.

The estimated state sequences whose associated cost vectors attain the cost-efficient frontier, referred to as FLS estimates, show how the state vector could have evolved over time in a manner minimally incompatible with the prior dynamic and measurement specifications. Each FLS estimate has the property that it is not possible simultaneously to reduce both the dynamic and the measurement cost by choice of an alternative state sequence estimate. The similarities displayed by the FLS estimates suggest working hypotheses regarding the evolution of the actual state vector. The divergencies displayed by these estimates reflect the residual uncertainty inherent in the problem specifications regarding the exact nature of this evolution. Without additional prior information, restricting attention to any proper subset of the FLS estimates is an arbitrary decision.

A Fortran program GFLS for implementing the FLS filtering and smoothing procedure for approximately linear systems is provided in the appendix. This program has been used in both simulation and empirical studies of time-varying linear regression ([3]-[5]).

Nonlinear systems are studied from the multicriteria FLS point of view in [6].

## Appendix

This appendix provides a Fortran program GFLS that implements the sequential FLS solution of the bicriteria filtering and smoothing problem posed in Section II. The program has received extensive testing. In addition, the program incorporates a check of the sequential FLS solu-
tion based upon using the standard first-order conditions for the solution of the incompatibility cost minimization problem (5).
The variable names used in the GFLS program adhere strictly to those used in the body of the paper. Moreover, numerous comment statements are interspersed throughout the program that are geared to the equation numbers used in the paper.

User inputs are required in a subroutine INPUT. This subroutine initializes the penalty weight $\mu$, the total number of observation vectors TCAP, the state vector dimension $n$, the observation vector dimension $m$, and the initial cost function coefficient terms $Q_{0}(\mu), p_{0}(\mu)$, and $r_{0}(\mu)$. The program is currently dimensioned for $T C A P \leqslant$ $110, n \leqslant 15$, and $m \leqslant 15$.
Subroutine INPUT also requires the user to set two flags. The first flag, IFLAGR, is set equal to 1 if the user wishes to generate evaluations for the constant terms $r_{T}(\mu)$ in the cost functions (12), and is set equal to 0 otherwise. The second flag, IFLAGS, is set equal to 1 if the user wishes to generate smoothed state estimates in addition to filtered state estimates, and is otherwise set equal to 0 . If the user sets $\operatorname{IFLAGS}=1$, the program automatically carries out a test of the first-order conditions for the incompatibility cost minimization problem (5).

User inputs are also required in a subroutine MODEL. For each current time $T$, subroutine MODEL generates the $n \times n$ state transition matrix $F(T)$, the $n \times 1$ dynamic forcing term $a(T)$, the $m \times n$ measurement matrix $H(T)$, the $m \times 1$ measurement forcing term $b(T)$, the $n \times n$ dynamic weight matrix $D(T)$, the $m \times m$ measurement weight matrix $M(T)$, and the $m \times 1$ observation vector $y_{T}$. For simulation studies, the observation vector $y_{T}$ is generated in accordance with the relation $y_{T}=H(T) x_{T}+$ $b(T)+v_{T}$, where $x_{T}$ is an $n \times 1$ user-specified state vector and $v_{T}$ is an $m \times 1$ user-specified discrepancy term. The user-specified state vector $x_{T}$ is stored in an array TRUEX for later comparison with the numerically generated FLS smoothed estimate for $x_{T}$.

The GFLS program contains subroutines for all needed matrix operations. Currently, these subroutines are dimensioned for $15 \times 15$ matrices. To keep the number of subroutines to a minimum, vector and scalar operations are carried out with these matrix subroutines by considering some vectors to lie in the first column of a $15 \times 15$ matrix, and some scalars to be the upper-left component of a $15 \times 15$ matrix.

[^0]

store s for calculation of smoothed estimates
D0 30 I-1,N
SS $(1, T)-S(1,1)$contimue
continue
IFIFLAGR.EQ.O) GO TO 310
c
C
C
GEITING RNEW - RO + ET*M*E + AMU*AT•D*A - ST*W*S IN EO.(27)
CALL MUL (MOBS, MOBS, I, M, E, AA)
CAlL IRANS(MOBS, 1, $1, B B$ )
CAlL MUL $1, M O B S, 1, B B, A A, C C)$
CALL ADD (1,1,RO,CC,DD)
ALL Mut (N,N,N,C,A,EE)
Cill MJl(1,N, I,ff,IE,F
CALL MUCON( $1,1, A H U, H H, 00)$
CALL ADD(1, $1, D 0,00, P P)$
CAll MUL $(N, N, 1, N, S, Q Q)$
CALL MUL( $1, N, 1, R R, Q Q$, TI)
10
(EO.ICAP) 60 to 50
UPDAIJIG OO,PO, ANO RO
CALL SHIFI(N,N, ORIW, QO)
CALL SHIFT(N, ].FNEW, PC)
CALL SHIFI(1,1,RN[W,RO)
getilng the fls filier estimate for xicap = Uinv* 2 in qq.(30)
CALL invin. U, AA)
CALL MUL (N,N, $1, A A, 2, X I C A P)$
$\times(1,1 C A P)-x \operatorname{TCAP}(1,1$
If (IFLAGS.EQ.1) coto 410

Call output (icap, $, \mathrm{X}, \mathrm{X}$, truex)
10 continue
geting smoothid estimates for xi, .... xicap-l in eqs.(33A)
TCAPl-TCAP 1
$0070 \mathrm{~T}-1$
$1-1 \mathrm{TCAP} .7$
$x(1, L)=5 S(1,1)$
$0090 \mathrm{~J}=1, \mathrm{n}$
$x(1, L)=x(i, L)+6 G(1, J, 1) * x(J, L+1)$
90 CONIINUE
CONTINUE
printing out the fls istimates for xi,...,xtcap
CALL 150 T-1, TCAP
CALL OUTPUI(T,N,X, TRUEX)
VALIDATION TEST: HOW WELL DO THE FLS ESIIMATES SATISFY THE
GIRST-ORDER COHDITIONS GOR THE COST MINIMIZAIION PROALH call foctst (X, yy)
510 CONTINUE

## SIOP END <br> matrix

MAIRIX SUBROUTINES FOR ADOITION, MULTIPIICATION, TRANSPOSITION, formailion of an ideniliy matrix
oetaining the sum $G=a+b$ of tho nrow x mcol matrices a ano b
SUEROUTIME AOP (RROW, YOL A, B,C
IMPLICII Rtal $8(A \cdot h, 0$ ?
DIMENSION $A(15,15), B(15,15), C(15,15)$
$0020 \mathrm{~J}=\mathrm{A}, \mathrm{MCOL}$
$C(1, J)-A(1, J)+B(1, J)$
20
10
CONINUE
RETURN
RETURN
END
$c$
$c$
$c$
$c$
OBTAINING THE PRODUCT $C=A=B$ OF AN NROW $X L$ MATRIX $A$ ANO AN
SURROUTINE MUL (NROW,L, MCOL, A,B,C)
IMPLIIIT REAL*8(A-H,O.2)
OIMENSION A(15,15), $\mathrm{B}(15,15), \mathrm{C}(15,15)$
$10 j_{j=1}$, MRON
20

SO $30 \mathrm{KR}=1, L$
SUM $\mathrm{SUH}+\mathrm{A}(1)$
$\operatorname{SUH} \operatorname{SUM}+A(1, K) * B(K, J)$
CONIINUE
C $(1, J)=$ SUM
20
10
CONTINUE
COKTINUE
RETURN
END
C




```
c
    CONTINUE 
    DO 400 J-1,MOBS
```



```
400 cosijmug
    CALL MODEL(I,F,A,H,B,O,M,Y, TRUEX)
C FORM = (YT.H(TjXI, B(I))'M(T)H(T)
        CALL MUL(MOBS,MOBS, N,M,H,MK)
        CAIL IRANS(MOBS,I,EH, EMT)
        CALL MUL (1,MOBS,N,EMT,MH,W)
    IF(T.EO. FCAP) GO10 600
C FORM THE IIME.T+1 SIAIE vECTOR XTPI
        TP1=T + = ,
        XPPI(I,1)=x(1,TP1)
    500 conilnue
& FORM U - AMU*(XTPI - F(I)XT - A(T))**D(I)
    ALK RDE(N,XTPI,XT,F,A,ED)
    call TRANS(N,1,CD,EDT)
    Cali mi(CON,N,EOT,O,E)
    CALL MULCON (I,N,AMU,E,U)
C TORH Y =U*F
    ALL %UL(I,N,N,U,F,V)
    GOTO 800
    D0 700 I=1,N
        (1,1)=0.00+00
700
CONTIMGE THE FOC DISCRIPANCIES FOR TIME T
    GIVEN BY FOCD = CO+V+W
    CALL ADD (1,N,CO,V,E)
    CALL ADO(1,N,E,N,FOCD
C PRINT OUT THE FOC DISCREPANCIES FOCD FOR TIME T
    WRITE (6,36) T
    36 FORMAT (HO,'FOC OISCREPANCIES FOR TIME',13)
    WRITL (6,37) (FOCD (1,1),1-1,N)
c 37 FORHAI(IX,13DIO.2) INCRMENTAL COST CO
    CAlL mutcon(1,N,C,U,CO)
    CONTIMU
    RETUP
c Subroutine for evaluatimg the measurement specification error
    EM - (YT - H(T)XT - B(TI) SOR TIME T
    SUBROUTINE RME (N,MOBS,YT,XT,H,B,EM)
    MMPLICIT REA(-B,A-H,O-2)
    IMENSION HXOS,15),HXPB(15,15)
    CALL Mat(mOBS,N,1,H,XT,HX)
    CALL SUB(MOBS,1,YT,HXPB,EM)
    RETURN
subroutine for cvaluating the dynamic specificalion error
    ED - (XIPI - F(T)XT - A(T)) FOR TJME T
    SUBROUIINE RDE (N,XTPI,XT,F,A,GO)
    IMPLICIT REAL*B(A-H,O-2)
    DIMEWSION FXI(15,15),FXIPA(15,15)
    DIMENSION FXT(15,15), FXTPG
    CALL MUL(N,N,I,F,XT,FXI)
    CALL SUB(N,L,XTPI,FXTPA,EO)
    l
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    GFLS: flexible least souares for approximately linear sysiems R. KALASA AND L. IESFATSION

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