

ON IDENTIFICATION OF LINEAR SYSTEMS AND THE ESTIMATION LIE-ALGEBRA OF THE ASSOCIATED NONLINEAR FILTERING PROBLEM

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Abstract. In this paper we are concerned with linear (stochastic) systems like $dx_t = (Ax_t + B_1 u_t)dt + B_2 dw_t$, $dy_t = Cx_t dt + dv_t$ or (more or less equivalent) ARMAX models and the problem of identifying A , B_1 , B_2 , C on the basis of observations of the inputs u_t and outputs y_t . In particular we are interested in the problem of whether there exists a machine (a system) driven by the instantaneous observations (u_t, y_t) which as output produces a "best" estimate of the unknown system (recursive estimation). And even more particularly we are interested in how big (in state space dimension) such a machine must be. Introducing additional state space parameters a_{ij} , b_{kl}^1 , b_{kl}^2 , c_{rs} and equations $da_{ij} = db_{kl}^1 = db_{kl}^2 = dc_{rs} = 0$ converts the original problem into a *nonlinear* filtering problem. For such problems the so-called estimation Lie algebra contains a good deal of information (on how hard the problem is), and this is what we try to exploit in this paper.

Keywords. Identification, ARMA Models, Estimation Lie algebra, Nonlinear filtering, Gaussian approximation, Extended Kalman filter.

INTRODUCTION

Consider a continuous time linear state space model (system)

$$\begin{aligned} dx_t &= Ax_t dt + B_1 u_t dt + B_2 dw_t, \\ dy_t &= Cx_t + Ddv_t, \quad x_t \in \mathbb{R}^n \end{aligned} \quad (1.1)$$

or a discrete time ARMAX model

$$\sum_{i=0}^p A_i y(t-i) = \sum_{i=1}^m D_i u(t-i) + \sum_{i=0}^q B_i w(t-i) \quad (1.2)$$

or the discrete time analogue of (1.1) or the continuous time analogue of (1.2) (do not confuse the A , B 's and D 's in (1.1) with those in (1.2); they refer to rather different things). In this paper we are concerned with the problem of identifying optimally the various matrices in (1.1) (resp. 1.2) given observations of the deterministic inputs u_t and the outputs y_t . More precisely we are interested in finding a machine which does this in a recursive way (i.e. on line). Such a machine should proceed as follows: at time $t-1$ there is available a model $M(t-1)$ and perhaps an additional memory vector $R(t-1)$ and on the basis of the state $(M(t-1), R(t-1))$ and the new data $u(t)$, $y(t)$ the new "best" model $M(t)$ and new memory vector $R(t)$ can be calculated by some formula Ψ . There are a number of rather obvious desiderata: e.g. Ψ must not depend on time and $R(t)$ must (in dimension) remain bounded in time. In other words the identification machine we are looking for (in

the discrete time case) is itself a system (most probably nonlinear) of the form

$$\begin{aligned} \xi(t) &= \Psi(\xi(t-1), u(t), y(t)), \\ M(t) &= \Upsilon(\xi(t)), \quad \xi(t) \in \mathbb{R}^N \end{aligned} \quad (1.3)$$

and a continuous time identification machine could look like

$$\begin{aligned} d\xi_t &= \alpha(\xi_t)dt + \beta_1(\xi_t, u_t)dt + \beta_2(\xi_t)dy_t, \\ M(t) &= \Upsilon(\xi_t), \quad \xi(t) \in \mathbb{R}^N \end{aligned} \quad (1.4)$$

One particular question we would like to raise in this context is: "how big must N be"; i.e. we are interested in the minimal realization theory of the map

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{sequences or functions} \\ \text{of input/output data} \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{best linear model} \\ \text{of given dimensions} \end{array} \right\}$$

Of course the minimal model for this input/output map may involve more general space (manifolds) than the \mathbb{R}^N .

One of the first issues is then "identifiability": can one distinguish between all models of type (1.1) (resp. (1.2)) on the basis of input/output data alone. In the case of the models (1.1) this is obviously not the case: there are superfluous parameters to be removed. The next question is finite identifiability; how many data do we need to distinguish the various candidate models. This also provides a lower bound for N (provided we do not allow pathological (continuous) maps like the Peano curve (from the unit interval onto the unit square); it suffices to require Ψ and

γ in (1.3) to be algebraic or differentiable to avoid this). This is the topic of section 2 below.

Section 3 then continues with some remarks and some precise (but open) suggestions concerning the possible structure of an identification machine (1.3) or (1.4).

In section 4 below we discuss the nonlinear filtering approach to identification. This amounts to considering the entries of A, B_1, B_2, C, D in (1.1) as additional state variables and adding the equations

$$dA = dB_1 = dB_2 = dC = dD = 0 \quad (1.5)$$

(where if E is a matrix of variables $dE = 0$ stands for $de_{ij} = 0$ for all the entries e_{ij}). Adding (1.5) to (1.1) gives us a (rather large) nonlinear filtering problem, namely that of finding the best estimate of the state vector (x, A, B_1, B_2, C, D) given the observations $(y_s, u_s), 0 \leq s \leq t$. To every nonlinear filtering problem there is associated a certain Lie-algebra called the estimation Lie algebra and there is a philosophy (an almost theorem), due to [Brockett-Clark, 1978] to the effect that homomorphisms of Lie algebras from the estimation Lie algebra to Lie algebras of vectorfields correspond to exact filters for certain statistics of the system; cf. also [Hazewinkel-Marcus, 1980], [Marcus-Mitter-Ocone, 1978] and quite a few papers in [Hazewinkel-Willems, 1981] for more information on this. In our particular case of a filtering problem coming from an identification problem the estimation Lie algebra turns out to be pro-finite dimensional (cf. [Hazewinkel-Marcus, 1980] for this notion and what it implies) which suggests that there will be "sufficiently many" statistics which can be computed recursively.

A priori the use of the identification Lie algebra seems restricted to finding out things about the existence or nonexistence of exact filters. This is probably not the case and the last two sections of this paper (section 5 on Gaussian approximation; section 6 on the Extended Kalman Filter) provide positive evidence that it also contains information (when considered not as a bare Lie algebra but as a Lie algebra with a given representation) on approximate filters.

2. FINITE IDENTIFIABILITY OF ARMA MODELS

2.1. The set-up. The class of models we are interested in this section is the class of models (1.2) with zero inputs; i.e. we are interested in all models

$$\sum_{i=0}^p A_i y(t-i) = \sum_{i=0}^q B_i w(t-i), \quad (2.1)$$

where $y(t) \in \mathbb{C}^m, t \in \mathbb{Z}$ (outputs) and the $u(t) \in \mathbb{C}^m$ are random vectors, independently and identically distributed with mean zero and covariance Σ (positive definite hermitian). The integers p, q are supposed given and in additive we assume that A_0 is nonsingular and the causality (stability) condition

$$\det \sum_{k=0}^p A_k z^k \neq 0 \text{ for all } z \in \mathbb{C} \text{ of norm } \leq 1 \quad (2.2)$$

We are interested in the identifiability of this class of models, i.e. in the question of whether two different models of type (2.1) give different probability distributions on the to-be-observed outputs and given a identifiable subclass we are interested in finite identifiability which roughly means that we want to be able to decide this on the basis of the probability properties of a finite collection of outputs and how many are needed. In particular we want to know how many of the cross covariances (which by stationarity are independent of t)

$$\Gamma_k = E y_t y_{t-k}^* \quad (2.3)$$

must be known in order to determine all others.

Let $A(z) = \sum A_k z^k, B(z) = \sum B_k z^k$ be the generating functions of the sequences of matrices $(A_0, \dots, A_p), (B_0, \dots, B_q)$. Form the (backwards) transfer function and expand it as a power series

$$T(z) = A(z)^{-1} B(z) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} T_k z^{k-1} \quad (2.4)$$

and in terms of the T 's we are interested in how many of them we need to know (in terms of p and q) so that all others are determined.

The rank of the associated block Hankel matrix H of $T(z)$ is of course finite and equal to the MacMillan degree n of the ARMA model (2.1).

2.5. Finite identifiability. Let $r = \max(p, q)$. Then the observability Kronecker indices of the system (F, G, H) are $\leq r$. There is even, as is wellknown, a representation of the ARMA model for which the row degrees of the partitioned matrix $[A(z):B(z)]$ are equal to the observability Kronecker indices.

This gives $n \leq mr$. Similar arguments for suitability shifted and adjusted transfer functions (forwards and backwards) combined with a well-known result from partial realization theory due to Kalman (cf. e.g. [Hazewinkel, 1980]), now lead to the theorem that T_0, \dots, T_{q+pm} suffice to determine all further T 's. If $q < p$ this can be sharpened to T_0, \dots, T_{p+qm} , cf. [Hanzon, 1981].

2.6. The associated Covariance Systems.

Let Γ_k be given by (2.3). These matrices for $k \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$ can be considered as impulse response matrices of some linear system which we call the covariance system corresponding to the ARMA model. Using rather similar ideas as described above and using that the block Toeplitz matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Gamma_0 & \dots & \Gamma_{q-p+1} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \Gamma_{q-p+1}^* & \dots & \Gamma_0 \end{pmatrix}$$

is positive definite hermitian one obtains

that the $\Gamma_0, \dots, \Gamma_e$, $e = \min(pm+q, qm+p)$ suffice to determine the remaining ones so that (the statistics of) the first $e + 1$ outputs y_0, y_1, \dots, y_e suffice for identifiability.

For $q \geq p \geq 1$ this sufficient condition can be proved to be necessary as well, cf. [Hanzon, 1981].

3. IDENTIFICATION AND THE GEOMETRY OF THE MODULI SPACE

3.1. The set-up. Let us consider the usual state space linear systems

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu, y = Cx, x \in \mathbb{R}^n, y \in \mathbb{R}^p, u \in \mathbb{R}^m \quad (3.2)$$

and consider at a fairly primitive level the problem of recursive "fitting" A, B, C in the "best" possible way to the available data $u(t), y(t), t \in \mathbb{R}$. In particular for the moment we are not going to worry about how to put in some stochastics so as to make sense of "best" in a probabilistic way. Here recursive should be interpreted as in the introduction. We shall also assume that (3.2) is completely observable and completely reachable and that we have available a (reasonable) guess for n . The first remark is of course that $y(t), u(t)$ for all t cannot determine (A, B, C) uniquely but only the orbit of (A, B, C) under state space equivalence, $(A, B, C)^S = (SAS^{-1}, SB, CS^{-1})$, $S \in GL_n(\mathbb{R})$. This leads to the quotient space

$L_{m,n,p}^{co,cr} / GL_n = M_{m,n,p}^{co,cr}$ of the space of all cr and co systems of the indicated dimensions modulo state space equivalence. (And of course $y(t), u(t)$ does distinguish between points of $M_{m,n,p}^{co,cr}$.) This space M is a nice smooth differentiable manifold which, perhaps unfortunately, is as a rule not diffeomorphic to an \mathbb{R}^N , [Hazewinkel, 1977].

Viewing identification as "walking around on M " makes the problem identifiable, i.e. it gets rid of the superfluous parameters. And it does so in a way which is much less ad hoc than the use of one or another canonical form. Even when global continuous canonical forms do exist (which happens only when $m = 1$ or $p = 1$ [Hazewinkel, 1977]) there are lots of them; and they are not equivalent e.g. in terms of the size of the gradient vectors of error functions and there is no especially favorable one.

So it seems much more natural to try to use the natural geometry of M and to do identification directly on M .

3.3. A Riemannian metric on M . A first thing one needs for this is a Riemannian metric on M . A nice one is obtained as follows. Given a system (A, B, C) write, as usual

$$R(A, B) = (B; AB; \dots; A^n B), \quad (3.4)$$

$$Q(A, C)^T = (C^T; A^T C^T; \dots; (A^T)^n C^T)$$

(where the T denotes transposes). We shall

use $dR(A, B)$ to denote the formal differential of $R(A, B)$, e.g. if $n = 2$ one has $dR(A, B) = dB; (dA)B + A(dB); (dA)AB + A(dA)B + A^2(dB)$, where (dA, dB, dC) is a tangent vector to

$L_{m,n,p}^{co,cr}$ at (A, B, C) . Using this notation consider the following Riemannian metric on $L_{m,n,p}^{co,cr}$

$$\| |(dA, dB, dC)| | = \text{Tr}((dQ)RR^T(dQ)^T) + \text{Tr}((dR)^T Q^T Q (dR)) \quad (3.5)$$

where Q is short for $Q(A, C)$ and R for $R(A, B)$. It is not difficult to check that this Riemannian metric is positive definite on

$L_{m,n,p}^{co,cr}$ but that it degenerates on the boundary of $L_{m,n,p}^{co,cr}$, i.e. it becomes singular for systems of lower MacMillan degree.

One easily checks that this metric is invariant under GL_n so that the metric descends to give us a Riemannian metric on M .

One interesting problem is to calculate the curvature of this metric also because of the connection between Gaussian curvature and "the Fisher second order efficiency" of a statistical estimation problem ([Efron, 1975]).

3.6. Identifying systems. One could now imagine that an identification procedure would proceed as follows. At time t we have Σ_t and x_t . New data come in; assuming Σ_t, x_t evolves in a known way; this gives (given $u(t)$) a prediction for $y(t)$ which can be compared to the actual $y(t)$. Calculate the squared error (e.g.) function as a function of $\Sigma \in M$ and take the gradient. Now let Σ_t evolve along this gradient (possibly with a gain factor inserted). The question we would like to pose is does such an identification scheme exist and/or can any of the existing recursive identification schemes (cf. [Ljung, 1981] for a very nice, up to date survey) be viewed in this way (perhaps in approximation)? Or more generally can there exist such a scheme possibly evolving on a manifold $M' \rightarrow M$ covering M ? One would definitely conjecture yes. Given the fact that there are recursive identification schemes it is hard to see how they can avoid covering the moduli space M in some way.

4. THE NONLINEAR FILTERING APPROACH TO IDENTIFICATION

4.1. The Estimation Lie algebra. Consider a general nonlinear stochastic system

$$dx_t = f(x_t)dt + G(x_t)dw_t, \quad (4.3)$$

$$dy_t = h(x_t)dt + dv_t$$

where w_t, v_t are independent Wiener noise processes also independent of the initial random variable x_0 . Here f, h, G are vector and matrix valued functions of the appropriate sizes. Assume sufficient regularity so that the conditional density $p(x, t)$ exists of the state x_t given the past observations $y_s, 0 \leq s \leq t$.

Then an unnormalized version $\rho(x,t)$ satisfies the so-called Duncan-Mortenson-Zakai equation (Fisk-Stratonovic form)

$$d\rho(x,t) = L_0\rho(x,t)dt + \sum_{i=1}^p b_i(x)\rho(x,t)dy_{it} \quad (4.3)$$

where h_i is the i -th component of h and L_0 is the differential operator

$$L_0\phi = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^n \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} ((GG^T)_{ij}\phi) - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} (f_i\phi) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^p h_j^2 \quad (4.4)$$

The Lie algebra of differential operators generated by L_0 and h_1, \dots, h_p is called the *estimation Lie algebra*. Cf. the references cited in the introduction for more information on it.

4.5. The Estimation Algebra of an Identification Problem. Now consider the problem of identifying a system (1.1) where, for ease of notation mainly, we take $D = I_p$, $B_1 = 0$ (so that there are no deterministic inputs). Write it as a nonlinear filtering problem by adding the equations (1.5). This gives

$$dx_t = Ax_t dt + Bdw_t, \quad (4.6)$$

$$dA = dB = dC = 0, \quad dy_t = Cx_t + dv_t$$

(Note that there is redundancy in A,B,C). Writing out L_0 and h_i in this case one notices that these operators are all sums of expressions of the form $C_{\alpha\beta} x^\alpha (\partial^\beta / \partial x^\beta)$ where $C_{\alpha\beta}$ is a polynomial in the entries of A,B,C and where $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$, $\beta = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n)$ are multiindices such that $|\alpha|, |\beta| \leq 2$ where if γ is a multiindex $|\gamma|$ denotes

$\gamma_1 + \dots + \gamma_n$. Now the $x^\alpha (\partial^\beta / \partial x^\beta)$ with $|\alpha|, |\beta| \leq 2$ form a $2n^2 + 3n + 1$ dimensional Lie algebra (under the commutator bracket) which we denote LS_n . It follows that the estimation Lie algebra of (4.6) is a sub-Lie-algebra of the Lie-algebra $LS_n \otimes \mathbb{R}[A,B,C]$ where $\mathbb{R}[A,B,C]$ stands for the polynomial ring over \mathbb{R} in the entries of A,B,C. In particular this implies that the estimation Lie algebra $L(\Sigma)$ of (4.6) is profinite dimensional. This means that there are ideals $I_1 \supset I_2 \supset I_3 \supset \dots$ such that $L(\Sigma)/I_j$ is finite dimensional for all j and $\bigcap I_j = \{0\}$. And in turn this suggests that there are sufficiently many recursively computable statistics.

If M is a manifold let $V(M)$ denote the Lie algebra of vectorfields on M . For a fixed $\theta = (A,B,C)$ the Kalman-Bucy filter defines an anti-homomorphism of Lie algebras of the estimation Lie algebra $L(\theta)$ to $V(\mathbb{R}^r)$, $r = \frac{1}{2}n^2 + (3/2)n$ (for a proof cf. [Brockett-Clark, 1978] in the simplest case and [Hazewinkel, 1981] in general). Letting θ vary these "combine" to define a Lie algebra homomorphism of the estimation Lie algebra of (4.6) to $V(\mathbb{R}^r \times \mathbb{R}^N)$, $N = n^2 + nm + np$ (the number of parameters in A,B,C). Or, better, one can use a certain representation of LS_n in

$V(\mathbb{R}^r)$ which is essentially all possible Kalman filters combined, cf. [Hazewinkel, 1981].

This Lie algebra anti-homomorphism (essentially a family of Kalman-Filters) does calculate some statistic viz. the conditional density $p[x_t|y_s, 0 \leq s \leq t, \theta]$ as a function of θ . This and some related and/or derived entities which can be recursively computed can be used in a variety of ways, cf. e.g. [Krishnaprasad-Marcus, 1981], [Krishnaprasad-Marcus-Hazewinkel, 1981] [Krishnaprasad-Hazewinkel-Hanzon, 1981] and also below in section 5. But this filter does not give us an identification procedure of the type we want because it involves no equations which tell us how θ evolves.

5. GAUSSIAN APPROXIMATION

The filter described above does give most useful information though, and combines nicely with Gaussian approximation ideas [Stratonovic, 1960, 1970]. Let us illustrate this by means of a most simple example

$$dx_t = \theta x_t dt + dw_t, \quad d\theta = 0, \quad dy_t = dx_t + dv_t \quad (5.1)$$

The D-M-Z equation in this case looks like

$$d\rho = \left(\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} - \theta - \theta x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} - \frac{1}{2} x^2 \right) \rho dt + d\rho dy_t \quad (5.2)$$

and the estimation Lie algebra is easy to calculate, cf. example 6.3 below. Write $\rho = e^{-S}$. Then S satisfies the equation

$$dS = \left(\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial x^2} - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \theta - \theta x \frac{\partial S}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{2} x^2 \right) dt - x dy_t \quad (5.3)$$

which is a family of evolution equations for S parametrized by θ . Moreover if for a certain value θ_0 of θ the initial distribution $\rho(x_0, \theta_0)$ is Gaussian so that $S(x, \theta_0, 0)$ is quadratic in x at θ_0 , then $\rho(x, \theta_0, t)$ is Gaussian for all t (because given θ_0 we are dealing with a linear system, i.e. $S(x, \theta_0, t)$ is quadratic. This can also be seen from (5.3).

Assume $\rho(x_0, \theta, 0)$ is Gaussian for all θ . Write $S = ax^2 + bx + c$, where a, b, c are functions of θ and t . Then equation (5.3) gives us

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{a} &= -2a^2 + \frac{1}{2} - 2a\theta, \\ \dot{b} &= -2ab - b\theta - dy_t, \\ \dot{c} &= a + \theta - \frac{1}{2} b^2 \end{aligned} \quad (5.4)$$

which is simply another way of writing down (deriving) the family of Kalman filters alluded to before in the last part of section 4 above. In fact writing $a = -\frac{1}{2} p^{-1}$ the reader will recognize in the first equation of (5.4)

the equation for the covariance p given θ .

Of course the Lie algebra of the filter (5.4) is a homomorphic image of the estimation Lie algebra. From the parametrized family of covariance equations $\dot{p} = 1 - p^2 + 2\theta p$ one obtains (also families of) equations for the (partial) derivative(s) $\frac{\partial p}{\partial \theta} = p$ (in this case $\dot{p}\theta = -2pp\theta + 2p + 2\theta p_\theta$) which is linear, given P .

This can be useful in view of a theorem of Nishimura (cf. [Jazwinsky, 1970, page 254, Thm 7.8]) to the effect that $p(\theta, t)$ assumes its minimum value at $p(\theta_0, t)$ if θ_0 is the true value.

The equations (5.3) also nicely show why Gaussian approximation might work well. Write

$$S = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + a_4x^4 + \dots$$

Substituting this in (5.3) yields equations for the a_i , $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, viz.

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{a}_0 &= a_2 + \theta - \frac{1}{2}a_1^2, \quad \dot{a}_1 = 3a_3 - 2a_1a_2 - \theta a_1 - dy_t, \quad \dot{a}_2 = \\ &= -2a_2^2 - 3a_1a_3 - 2a_2\theta + \frac{1}{2} + 6a_4, \quad \dot{a}_3 = -4a_1a_4 - 6a_2a_3 + 10a_5 \\ &- 3\theta a_3, \quad \dot{a}_4 = -\frac{9}{2}a_3^2 - 8a_2a_4 - 5a_1a_5 + 15a_6 - 4\theta a_4, \dots \end{aligned}$$

Taking the quadratic (Gaussian approximation) is stable in the sense that if $a_3 = a_4 = a_5 = \dots = 0$ at the starting time then they remain zero, but if e.g. $a_4 = a_5 = \dots = 0$ at the starting time then a_4, a_5 , etc. do not remain zero. In fact Gaussian approximation is the only approximation which works in this sense.

The filter (5.4) calculates a, b, c , as functions of θ , but is of course still an infinite-dimensional machine. Writing a, b, c as power series in $(\theta - \theta_0)$ (around a previous estimate θ_0 e.g.) we find from (5.4) differential equations for the coefficients $a_0, a_1, \dots; b_0, b_1, \dots; c_0, c_1, \dots$ of these power series and because the estimation Lie algebra is a subalgebra of the current algebra $LS_n \otimes \mathbb{R}[\theta]$ we have that $LS_n \otimes (\theta - \theta_0)^i \mathbb{R}[\theta]$ is an ideal so that these equations are such that a_k, b_k, c_k , $k \geq i$ remain zero for all time t if this is the case at time $t = 0$. This holds for all i , in particular for $i = 3$. Thus we can calculate the quadratic part (around θ_0) of S by an exact finite dimensional filter, and this quadratic part in turn contains all the data needed for the joint Gaussian approximation of the density $\rho(u, \theta)$ (up to a scalar factor) and from that an (approximate) estimate $\hat{\theta}$ results.

6. EXTENDED KALMAN FILTER AND ESTIMATION LIE ALGEBRA

In this section we shall only consider two examples. The results, however, suggest a general theorem which remains to be established.

6.1. Example 1. Consider the identification type nonlinear filtering problem given by the equations

$$(6.2) \quad dx_t = bdw_t, db = 0, dy_t = x_t dt + dv_t, x_t \in \mathbb{R}$$

The estimation Lie algebra of this system is easily calculated explicitly.

There is a "second order small" ideal I_2 in the Lie algebra $L(EKF)$ generated by the vectorfields of the extended Kalman filter such that $L(EKF)/I_2$ is isomorphic to the estimation Lie algebra modulo its centre. (And the isomorphism is induced by the natural map). Here "second order small" means roughly generated by expressions $a_{ij}(P, \hat{x}, \delta) (\partial/\partial P_{ij}) + c(P, \hat{x}, \delta) (\partial/\partial \hat{x}) + d(P, \hat{x}, \delta) (\partial/\partial \delta)$ where the a_{ij}, c, d are functions which are small to second order near the "true state".

6.3. Example 2. Now consider the identification type nonlinear filtering problem also considered in section 5 above given by the equations.

$$\begin{aligned} dx_t &= ax_t dt + dw_t, da = 0, \\ dy_t &= x_t dt + dv_t, x_t \in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned} \quad (6.4)$$

Again it is not difficult to write down the (infinite dimensional) estimation Lie algebra L of (6.4).

Again consider the Extended Kalman Filter of (6.4). Also in this case it turns out that there is a second order small ideal I_2' such that $L(EKF)/I_2'$ is isomorphic to the estimation Lie algebra of (6.4) modulo its centre. There is also a first order small ideal I_1' and a Lie algebra homomorphism $L \rightarrow L(EKF)/I_1'$ which is in fact the family of Kalman filters homomorphism mentioned in section 4 above. This is a first order approximation and $L/\text{centre}(L) \rightarrow L(EKF)/I_2'$ is in the nature of a second order approximation.

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