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SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION

A Frequency Domain Approach

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Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

ISBN 0-7803-6000-1 IEEE Order No. PC5832

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Pintelon, R. (Rik)

System identification: a frequency domain approach / Rik Pintelon, Johan Schoukens. p. cm.

ISBN 0-7803-6000-1

1. System identification. I. Schoukens, J. (Johan) II. Title.

QA402.P56 2001 003'.85-dc21

To all people of goodwill

Rik

To Annick, Ine, Maarten, and Sanne

Johan

Contents

Preface xxiii	
Acknowledgments xxvii	
List of Operators and Notational Conventions	xxix
List of Symbols xxxiii	
List of Abbreviations xxxvii	

CHAPTER 1 An Introduction to Identification 1

1.1	What Is Identification? 1
1.2	Identification: A Simple Example 2
	1.2.1 Estimation of the Value of a Resistor 2
	1.2.2 Simplified Analysis of the Estimators 7
	1.2.3 Interpretation of the Estimators: A Cost Function-Based Approach 11
1.3	Description of the Stochastic Behavior of Estimators 13
	1.3.1 Location Properties: Unbiased and Consistent Estimates 13
	1.3.2 Dispersion Properties: Efficient Estimators 14
1.4	Basic Steps in the Identification Process 17
	1.4.1 Collect Information about the System 17
	1.4.2 Select a Model Structure to Represent the System 17
	1.4.3 Match the Selected Model Structure to the Measurements 19
	1.4.4 Validate the Selected Model 19
	1.4.5 Conclusion 19
1.5	A Statistical Approach to the Estimation Problem 20
	1.5.1 Least Squares Estimation 20
	1.5.2 Weighted Least Squares Estimation 22
	1.5.3 The Maximum Likelihood Estimator 23

viii Contents

1.5.4 1.5.5

Exercises 29

of Nonlinear Distortions 69

Introduction 69

Systems 70

3.3.1 3.3.2

1.6

CHAPTER 2

CHAPTER 3

3.1

3.2

3.3

The Bayes Estimator 25

Instrumental Variables 27

	rements of Frequency Response Functions 33
	Introduction 33
	An Introduction to the Discrete Fourier Transform 34
	2.2.1 The Sampling Process 34
	2.2.2 The Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT-FFT) 35
	2.2.3 DFT Properties of Periodic Signals 40
	2.2.4 DFT of Burst Signals 42 2.2.5 Conclusion 43
	Spectral Representations of Periodic Signals 43
	Analysis of FRF Measurements Using Periodic Excitations 44
	•
	2.4.1 Measurement Setup 44
	2.4.2 Error Analysis 45
	Reducing FRF Measurement Errors for Periodic Excitations 48
	2.5.1 Basic Principles 48 2.5.2 Processing Repeated Measurements 50
	2.5.2 Processing Repeated Measurements 30 2.5.3 Improved Averaging Methods for Nonsynchronized
•	Measurements 50
4	2.5.4 Coherence 51
	FRF Measurements Using Random Excitations 52
	2.6.1 Basic Principles 53
	2.6.2 Reducing the Noise Influence 53
	2.6.3 Leakage Errors 57
	2.6.4 Improved FRF Measurements for Random Excitations 59
2.7	FRF Measurements of Multiple Input, Multiple Output
,	Systems 61
2.8	Guidelines for FRF Measurements 61
,	2.8.1 Guideline 1: Use Periodic Excitations 62
	2.8.2 Guideline 2: Select the Best FRF Estimator 62
2	2.8.3 Guideline 3: Pretreatment of Data 62
2.9	Conclusion 63
2.10	Exercises 63
2.11	Appendixes 64
	Appendix 2.A: Asymptotic Behavior of Averaging
	Techniques 64
	Appendix 2.B: Proof of Theorem 2.6 (On Decaying Leakage
	Errors) 66
	,
Freque	ncy Response Function Measurements in the Presence

Intuitive Understanding of the Behavior of Nonlinear

Class of Excitation Signals 72

A Formal Framework to Describe Nonlinear Distortions 71

Selection of a Model Structure for the Nonlinear System 73

Contents ix

3.4	Study	of the Pro	operties of FRF Measurements in the Presence of		
	Nonli	near Disto	ortions 74		
	3.4.1	Study of of Harmo	the Expected Value of the FRF for a Constant Number onics 76		
	3.4.2		tic Behavior of the FRF if the Number of Harmonics Infinity 77		
	3.4.3		Comments on the Related Linear Dynamic System 79		
	3.4.4	Further C Contribut	Comments on the Stochastic Nonlinear tions 82		
	3.4.5				
	3.4.6		ental Illustration 84		
3.5	Detec	tion of No	onlinear Distortions 86		
	3.5.1	Detection Excitation	n of Nonlinear Distortions Using Periodic ns 86		
	3.5.2	Illustratio	on on the Electrical Simulator 88		
	3.5.3	A Short O	Overview of Other Methods to Detect Nonlinear ns 88		
3.6	Minin	nizing the	Impact of Nonlinear Distortions on FRF		
	Measu	irements	89		
	3.6.1	Guideline	es 89		
	3.6.2	Discussion	ons and Illustrations 90		
3.7	Concl	usion 93			
3.8	Exerc	ises 93			
3.9	Apper	ndixes 94	•		
	Apper	ndix 3.A:	Bias and Stochastic Contributions of the Nonlinear Distortions 94		
	Apper	ndix 3.B:	Study of the Moments of the Stochastic Nonlinear Contributions 95		
	Apper	ndix 3.C:	Mixing Property of the Stochastic Nonlinear Contributions 99		
	Apper	ndix 3.D:	Structure of the Indecomposable Sets 102		
		ndix 3.E:	Distribution of the Stochastic Nonlinearities 104		
	Apper	ndix 3.F:	Extension to Random Amplitudes and Nonuniform Phases 107		
	Apper	ndix 3.G:			
	Apper	ndix 3.H:	Proof of Theorem 3.12 109		
		ndix 3.I:			
		idix 3.J:			
			Proof of Theorem 3.8 112		

CHAPTER 4 Design of Excitation Signals 115

- 4.1 Introduction 115
- 4.2 General Remarks on Excitation Signals for Nonparametric Frequency Response Measurements 116
 - 4.2.1 Quantifying the Quality of an Excitation Signal 117
 - 4.2.2 Stepped Sine versus Broadband Excitations 118
- 4.3 Study of Broadband Excitation Signals 119
 - 4.3.1 General Purpose Signals 119
 - 4.3.2 Optimized Test Signals 126
 - 4.3.3 Advanced Test Signals 129

x Contents

CHAPTER 5

4.4		Excitation Signals
	for Parametric I	Measurements 131
	4.4.1 Introduct	
		tion of the Power Spectrum of a Signal 132
4.5	Appendix 137	
	Appendix 4.A:	Minimizing the Crest Factor of a Multisine 137
Mode	ls of Linear Ti	me-Invariant Systems 139
5.1	Introduction 13	39
5.2	Plant Models 1	.44
5.3	Relation between	en the Input-Output DFT Spectra 146
	5.3.1 Models f	or Periodic Signals 147
		or Arbitrary Signals 147
		or Records with Missing Data 150
5.4		nped (Complex) Exponentials 151
5.5	Identifiability	
	5.5.1 Models f	or Periodic Signals 152
	5.5.2 Models f	or Arbitrary Signals 153
- ·		or Records with Missing Data 154
5.6	Multivariable S	
5.7	Noise Models	
	5.7.1 Introduct	
		metric Noise Model 156
5 0		ic Noise Model 156
5.8	Nonlinear Syste	IIIS 136
5.9 5.10	Exercises 159	
5.10	Appendix 5 A:	Stability and Minimum Phase Regions 161
	Appendix 5.A. Appendix 5.B:	Relation between DFT Spectra and Transfer
	Appendix J.B.	Function for Arbitrary Signals 162
	Appendix 5.C:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Appendix 3.C.	Function Model 164
	Annandiy 5 De	
	Appendix 5.D:	Conditions 165
	Annendiy 5 E	
	Appendix 5.E: Appendix 5.F:	Some Integral Expressions 165 Convergence Rate of the Residual Alias
	Appendix 5.1.	Errors 167
	Appendix 5.G:	
	rippondia 5.6.	Function for Arbitrary Signals with Missing
		Data 172
	Appendix 5.H:	Free Decay Response of a Finite-Dimensional
	rippondix o.ii.	System 172
	Appendix 5.I:	Relation between the Free Decay Parameters
	rippondix J.I.	and the Partial Fraction Expansion 172
	Appendix 5.J:	Some Properties of Polynomials 173
	Appendix 5.K:	
		Model (5-32) (Theorem 5.9) 174
		\

Appendix 5.L: Proof of the Identifiability of Transfer Function Models (5-35) and (5-36) 174

Contents

CHAPTER 6 An Intuitive Introduction to Frequency Domain Identification 177

- 6.1 Intuitive Approach 177
- 6.2 The Errors-In-Variables Formulation 178
- 6.3 Generating Starting Values 180
- 6.4 Differences from and Similarities to the "Classical" Time Domain Identification Framework 181
- 6.5 Extensions of the Model: Dealing with Unknown Delays and Transients 182

CHAPTER 7 Estimation with Known Noise Model 183

- 7.1 Introduction 183
- 7.2 Frequency Domain Data 184
- 7.3 Plant Model 186
- 7.4 Estimation Algorithms 187
- 7.5 Quick Tools to Analyze Estimators 189
- 7.6 Assumptions 191
 - 7.6.1 Stochastic Convergence 191
 - 7.6.2 Stochastic Convergence Rate 193
 - 7.6.3 Systematic and Stochastic Errors 193
 - 7.6.4 Asymptotic Normality 193
 - 7.6.5 Deterministic Convergence 194
 - 7.6.6 Consistency 194
 - 7.6.7 Asymptotic Bias 195
 - 7.6.8 Asymptotic Efficiency 195
- 7.7 Asymptotic Properties 196
- 7.8 Linear Least Squares 199
 - 7.8.1 Introduction 199
 - 7.8.2 Linear Least Squares 199
 - 7.8.3 Iterative Weighted Linear Least Squares 201
 - 7.8.4 A Simple Example 202
- 7.9 Nonlinear Least Squares 203
 - 7.9.1 Output Error 203
 - 7.9.2 Logarithmic Least Squares 206
 - 7.9.3 A Simple Example—Continued 207
- 7.10 Total Least Squares 208
 - 7.10.1 Introduction 208
 - 7.10.2 Total Least Squares 210
 - 7.10.3 Generalized Total Least Squares 210
- 7.11 Maximum Likelihood 212
 - 7.11.1 The Maximum Likelihood Solution 212
 - 7.11.2 Discussion 214
 - 7.11.3 Asymptotic Properties 215
 - 7.11.4 Calculation of Uncertainty Bounds 216
- 7.12 Approximate Maximum Likelihood 217
 - 7.12.1 Introduction 217
 - 7.12.2 Iterative Quadratic Maximum Likelihood 217
 - 7.12.3 Bootstrapped Total Least Squares 218
 - 7.12.4 Weighted (Total) Least Squares 219
- 7.13 Instrumental Variables 221

xii Contents

7.14	Subspace Algor	ithms 221
		quations 221
		e Identification Algorithms 223
~		ic Properties 226
7.15		Overview of the Properties 227
		on Example 1 228
		on Example 2 230
		asurement Examples 231 v of the Properties 233
7.16	High-Order Sys	
7.10		rthogonal Polynomials 239
		rthogonal Polynomials 240
		ion to the Estimators 241
	7.16.4 Notes 2	
7.17	Systems with T	ime Delay 242
7.18	Identification in	
7.19		Presence of Nonlinear Distortions 244
7.20	Missing Data 2	
7.21	Multivariable S	
7.22		on Models with Complex Coefficients 246
7.23	Exercises 247	
7.24	Appendixes 24	8
		A Second-Order Simulation Example 248
		Signal-to-Noise Ratio of DFT Spectra
		Measurements of Random Excitations 249
	Appendix 7.C:	
		Measurements of Periodic Excitations 249
	Appendix 7.D:	Asymptotic Behavior Cost Function for a Time
		Domain Experimen 250
	Appendix 7.E:	Asymptotic Properties of Frequency Domain
	**	Estimators with Deterministic Weighting
		(Theorem 7.21) 251
	Appendix 7.F:	Asymptotic Properties of Frequency Domain
	**	Estimators with Stochastic Weighting
		(Corollary 7.22) 255
	Appendix 7.G:	Expected Value of an Analytic Function 255
	Appendix 7.H:	Total Least Squares Solution—Equivalences
		(Lemma 7.23) 257
	Appendix 7.I:	Expected Value Total Least Squares Cost
	••	Function 258
	Appendix 7.J:	Explicit Form of the Total Least Squares Cost
	11	Function 258
	Appendix 7.K:	Rank of the Column Covariance Matrix 259
	Appendix 7.L:	Calculation of the Gaussian Maximum
	••	Likelihood Estimate 260
	Appendix 7.M:	Number of Free Parameters in an Errors-in-
		Variables Problem 264
	Appendix 7.N:	Uncertainty of the BTLS Estimator in the
		Absence of Model Errors 264
	Appendix 7.0:	Asymptotic Properties of the Instrumental
	= =	Variables Method 264

Contents xiii

Appendix 7.P: Equivalences between Range Spaces 264 Appendix 7.Q: Estimation of the Range Space 265 Appendix 7.R: Subspace Algorithm for Discrete-Time Systems (Algorithm 7.24) 267 Appendix 7.S: Subspace Algorithm for Continuous-Time Systems (Algorithm 7.25) 270 Appendix 7.T: Sensitivity Estimates to Noise Model Errors 274 Appendix 7.U: IWLS Solution in Case of Vector Orthogonal Polynomials 276 Appendix 7.V: Asymptotic Properties in the Presence of Nonlinear Distortions 277 Appendix 7.W: Consistency of the Missing Data Problem 277 Appendix 7.X: Normal Equation for Complex Parameters and Analytic Residuals 279 **Total Least Squares for Complex** Appendix 7.Y:

CHAPTER 8 Estimation with Unknown Noise Model 281

- 8.1 Introduction 281
- 8.2 Discussion of the Disturbing Noise Assumptions 283
 - 8.2.1 Assuming Independent Normally Distributed Noise for Time Domain Experiments 283
 - 8.2.2 Considering Successive Periods as Independent Realizations 284

Parameters 279

- 8.3 Properties of the ML Estimator Using a Sample Covariance Matrix 284
 - 8.3.1 The Sample Maximum Likelihood Estimator: Definition of the Cost Function 284
 - 8.3.2 Properties of the Sample Maximum Likelihood Estimator 285
 - 8.3.3 Discussion 286
 - 8.3.4 Estimation of Covariance Matrix of the Model Parameters 287
 - 8.3.5 Properties of the Cost Function in Its Global Minimum 287
- 8.4 Properties of the GTLS Estimator Using a Sample Covariance Matrix 288
- 8.5 Properties of the BTLS Estimator Using a Sample Covariance Matrix 290
- 8.6 Properties of the SUB Estimator Using a Sample Covariance Matrix 292
- 8.7 Identification in the Presence of Nonlinear Distortions 294
- 8.8 Illustration and Overview of the Properties 296 8.8.1 Real Measurement Example 296
 - 8.8.2 Overview of the Properties 298
 - Identification of Parametric Noise Models 299
- 8.10 Identification in Feedback 301
- 8.11 Appendixes 303

8.9

- Appendix 8.A: Expected Value and Variance of the Inverse of Chi-Square Random Variable 303
- Appendix 8.B: First and Second Moments of the Ratio of the True and the Sample Variance of the Equation Error 303

xiv Contents

CHAPTER 9

9.8

Appendixes 343

			Moments 304
	Apper	ndix 8.D:	Proof of Theorem 8.3 306
	Apper	ndix 8.E:	Approximation of the Derivative of the Cost Function 307
	Apper	dix 8.F:	Loss in Efficiency of the Sample
			Estimator 307
	Apper	idix 8.G:	Mean and Variance of the Sample Cost in Its
			Global Minimum 309
	Appen	ndix 8.H:	Asymptotic Properties of the SGTLS Estimator (Theorem 8.6) 310
	Appen	ndix 8.I:	Relationship between the GTLS and the SGTLS Estimates (Theorem 8.7) 311
	Apper	ndix 8.J:	Asymptotic Properties of SBTLS Estimator (Theorem 8.8) 311
	Appen	ndix 8.K:	Relationship between the BTLS and the SBTLS Estimates (Theorem 8.9) 312
	Appen	ndix 8.L:	Asymptotic Properties of SSUB Algorithms (Theorem 8.10) 312
	Apper	dix 8 M·	Related Linear Dynamic System of a Cascade
	търс		of Nonlinear Systems 314
	Apper	dix 8.N:	Asymptotic Properties of the Prediction Error
			Estimate (Theorem 8.15) 314
Mode	Select	tion and	Validation 321
9.1	Introd	uction 3	21
9.2			Iodel Quality: Quantifying the Stochastic
	Errors	322	
	9.2.1		nty Bounds on the Calculated Transfer Functions 323
	9.2.2		nty Bounds on the Residuals 323
0.0	9.2.3		nty Bounds on the Poles/Zeros 326
9.3		_	nodeling 327
	9.3.1		ion: Impact of an Increasing Number of Parameters on reainty 327
	9.3.2		g the Model Complexity versus the Model
	7.5.2	Variabilit	
9.4	Detect		dermodeling 331
	9.4.1		deling: A Good Idea? 332
	9.4.2		Model Errors 332
	9.4.3		g and Quantifying the Model Errors 334
	9.4.4	Illustratio	on on a Mechanical System 337
9.5	Model	Selection	n 338
	9.5.1	Model St	ructure Selection Based on Preliminary Data
			g: Initial Guess 339
	9.5.2		tification" Model Structure Updating 340
9.6			he User 341
9.7	Exerci	ses 342	

Appendix 9.A: Properties of the Global Minimum of the

9.2) 343

Maximum Likelihood Cost Function (Theorem

Appendix 8.C: Calculation of Some First- and Second-Order

Contents XV

10.1

10.2

10.3

10.4

10.5

10.6

10.7

10.8

10.9

10.10 Conclusions 373

Appendix 9.B: Calculation of Improved Uncertainty Bounds for the Estimated Poles and Zeros 343 Appendix 9.C: Proof of Theorem 9.5 345 Appendix 9.D: Calculation of the Sample Correlation at Lag Zero (Proof of Theorem 9.5) 347 Appendix 9.E: Study of the Sample Correlation at Lag One (Proof of Theorem 9.7) 347 Appendix 9.F: Calculation of the Variance of the Sample Correlation 348 CHAPTER 10 Basic Choices in System Identification 351 Introduction 351 Intersample Assumptions: Facts 352 Formal Description of the ZOH and BL Assumptions 352 10.2.2 Relation between the Intersample Behavior and the Model 354 10.2.3 Mixing the Intersample Behavior and the Model 356 The Intersample Assumption: Appreciation of the Facts 357 10.3.1 Intended Use of the Model 358 10.3.2 Impact of the Intersample Assumption on the Setup 360 Impact of the Intersample Behavior Assumption on the 10.3.3 Identification Methods 361 Periodic Excitations: Facts 361 Periodic Excitations: Detailed Discussion and Appreciation of the Facts 362 10.5.1 Data Reduction Linked to an Improved Signal-to-Noise Ratio of the Raw Data 362 10.5.2 Separation of the Signal from the Noise Disturbances 363 10.5.3 Elimination of Nonexcited Frequencies 363 10.5.4 Independent Estimation of Nonparametric Noise Models 364 10.5.5 Improved Frequency Response Measurements 364 10.5.6 Detection, Qualification, and Quantification of Nonlinear Distortions 366 10.5.7 Improved Model Validation 366 10.5.8 Detection of Trends 366 Periodic versus Random Excitations: User Aspects 367 10.6.1 Design Aspects: Required User Interaction 367 Time and Frequency Domain Identification 368 Time and Frequency Domain Identification: Equivalences 369 10.8.1 Initial Conditions: Transient versus Leakage Errors 369 10.8.2 Windowing in the Frequency Domain, (Noncausal) Filtering in the Time Domain 369 10.8.3 Cost Function Interpretation 370 Time and Frequency Domain Identification: Differences 371 10.9.1 Choice of the Model 371 10.9.2 Unstable Plants 371 10.9.3 Noise Models: Parametric or Nonparametric Noise Models 372 10.9.4 Extended Frequency Range: Combination of Different Experiments 372 10.9.5 The Errors-in-Variables Problem 373

xvi Contents

CHAPTER 11

CHAPTER 12

10.11	Exercises 374
10.12	Appendix 375
	Appendix 10.A: Frequency Domain Maximum Likelihood
	Solution of the Prediction Error Problem 375
Guide	elines for the User 377
11.1	Introduction 377
11.2	Selection of an Identification Scheme 377
	11.2.1 Questions 378
	11.2.2 Advice 378
	11.2.3 Special Case 381
11.3	Identification Step-by-Step 381
	11.3.1 Check and Selection of the Experimental Setup 382
	11.3.2 Experiment Design 383
	11.3.3 Preprocessing 384
	11.3.4 Identification 386
11.4	Validation 388
11.5	Appendixes 389
	Appendix 11.A: Independent Experiments 389
	Appendix 11.B: Relationship between Averaged DFT Spectra
	and Transfer Function for Arbitrary
	Excitations 390
	Appendix 11.C: Relationship between DFT Spectra of
	Concatenated Data Sets and Transfer
	Function 390
Appli	cations 393
12.1	Introduction 393
12.2	Compact Disc Player 394
	12.2.1 Measurement Setup 394
	12.2.2 Introduction 394
	12.2.3 Experiment Design, Preliminary Measurement 395
	12.2.4 Quantifying the Nonlinear Distortions 396
	12.2.5 Identification 396
12.3	
	12.3.1 Experimental Setup and Measurements 398
	12.3.2 Processing 398
12.4	Identification of the Best Linear Approximation in the Presence
	of Nonlinear Distortions 400
12.5	Identification of a Parametric Noise Model 401
	12.5.1 Measurement Setup 401
	12.5.2 Identification 402
10.6	12.5.3 Cross-Validation 403
12.6	Synchronous Machine 404
	12.6.1 Measurement Setup 404
	12.6.2 Measurement Results 404
10.7	12.6.3 Identification Results 406
12.7	Electrochemical Processes 408
12.8	Microwave Device 409
	12.8.1 Measurement Setup 409

12.8.2 Measurement Results 410

Contents xvii

CHAPTER 13	Some	Linear Algebra Fundamentals 413
	13.1	Notations and Definitions 413
	13.2	Operators and Functions 414
	13.3	Norms 415
	13.4	Decompositions 416
		13.4.1 Singular Value Decomposition 416
		13.4.2 Generalized Singular Value Decomposition 417
		13.4.3 The QR Factorization 418
		13.4.4 Square Root of a Positive (Semi-)Definite Matrix 418
	13.5	Moore-Penrose Pseudoinverse 418
	13.6	Idempotent Matrices 419
	13.7	Kronecker Algebra 420
	13.8	Isomorphism between Complex and Real Matrices 421
	13.9	Derivatives 422
		13.9.1 Derivatives of Functions and Vectors w.r.t. a Vector 422
	10.10	13.9.2 Derivative of a Function w.r.t. a Matrix 423
	13.10	
	13.11	<u>o</u>
	13.12	,
		13.12.1 Scalar Orthogonal Polynomials 428
	13.13	13.12.2 Vector Orthogonal Polynomials 429 Sensitivity of the Least Squares Solution 430
	13.14	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	13.14	Appendix 433
	13.13	Appendix 433 Appendix 13.A: Calculation of the Roots of a Polynomial 433
CHAPTER 14	Fund: 14.1 14.2 14.3	Probability and Stochastic Convergence amentals 435 Notations and Definitions 435 The Covariance Matrix of a Function of a Random Variable 439 Sample Variables 440 Mixing Random Variables 441
	14.4	Mixing Random Variables 441 14.4.1 Definition 441 14.4.2 Properties 442
	14.5	Preliminary Example 444
	14.6	Definitions of Stochastic Limits 446
	14.7 14.8	Interrelations between Stochastic Limits 447
	14.6	Properties of Stochastic Limits 450
	14.10	Laws of Large Numbers 451 Central Limit Theorems 453
	14.11	Properties of Estimators 454
	14.11	1
	14.12	
	17.13	14.13.1 Convergence—Consistency 459
		14.13.1 Convergence—Consistency 439 14.13.2 Convergence Rate 460
		14.13.3 Asymptotic Bias 462

14.13.4 Asymptotic Normality 46314.13.5 Asymptotic Efficiency 463

xviii Contents

14.14	Pitfalls 463	
14.15	Preliminary Exan	nple—Continued 464
	14.15.1 Consistence	ey 465
	14.15.2 Convergen	
	14.15.3 Asymptotic	
	14.15.4 Asymptoti	
	14.15.5 Asymptotic	c Bias 468
14.16	14.15.6 Robustness	s 408 Noise after a Discrete Fourier Transform 469
14.17	•	Noise after a Discrete Fourier Transform 409
14.18	Appendixes 475	
11.10		indecomposable Sets 475
		Proof of Lemma 14.5 476
		Proof of Lemma 14.8 477
		Almost Sure Convergence Implies
		Convergence in Probability 479
		Convergence in Mean Square Implies
		Convergence in Probability 479
		The Borel-Cantelli Lemma 479
		Proof of the (Strong) Law of Large Numbers
		for Mixing Sequences 480
		Proof of the Central Limit Theorem for Mixing
		Sequences 482
		Generalized Cauchy-Schwarz Inequality for
		Random Vectors 483
		Proof of the Generalized Cramér-Rao
		nequality (Theorem 14.18) 483
		Proof of Lemma 14.23 484
		Proof of Lemma 14.24 484
		Proof of Lemma 14.26 485
		Proof of Lemma 14.27 487
		Proof of Theorem 14.28 487
		Proof of Theorem 14.29 490
		Proof of Corollary 14.30 491
	• •	Proof of Lemma 14.31 491
		Proof of Theorem 14.32 492
		Proof of Theorem 14.33 493
	Appendix 14.1. I	1001 01 Theolem 14.33 473
Prone	rties of Least So	wares Estimators with Deterministic

CHAPTER 15 Properties of Least Squares Estimators with Deterministic Weighting 495

- 15.1 Introduction 495
- 15.2 Strong Convergence 496
 - 15.2.1 Strong Convergence of the Cost Function 497
 - 15.2.2 Strong Convergence of the Minimizer 498
- 15.3 Strong Consistency 499
- 15.4 Convergence Rate 500
 - 15.4.1 Convergence of the Derivatives of the Cost Function 501
 - 15.4.2 Convergence Rate of $\hat{\theta}(z)$ to $\tilde{\theta}(z_0)$ 501
 - 15.4.3 Convergence Rate of $\tilde{\theta}(z_0)$ to θ_* 502

Contents xix

15.5	Asymptotic Bias 502			
15.6	Asymptotic Normality 504			
15.7	Asymptotic Efficiency 505			
15.8	Overview of the Asymptotic Properties 505	Overview of the Asymptotic Properties 505		
15.9	Exercises 506	Exercises 506		
15.10	0 Appendixes 507			
	Appendix 15.A: Proof of the Strong Convergence of	the Cost		
	Function (Lemma 15.3) 507			
	Appendix 15.B: Proof of the Strong Convergence of	the		
	Minimizer (Theorem 15.6) 508			
	Appendix 15.C: Lemmas 509			
	Appendix 15.D: Proof of the Convergence Rate of the	ne		
	Minimizer (Theorem 15.19) 514			
	Appendix 15.E: Proof of the Improved Convergence Minimizer (Theorem 15.21) 515	Rate of the		
	Appendix 15.F: Equivalence between the Truncated	and the		
	Original Minimizer (Lemma 15.27)			
	Appendix 15.G: Proof of the Asymptotic Bias on the			
	Minimizer (Theorem 15.28) 517			
	Appendix 15.H: Cumulants of the Partial Sum of a M	Mixing		
	Sequence 517	Ü		
	Appendix 15.I: Proof of the Asymptotic Distributio	n of the		
	Minimizer (Theorem 15.29) 518			
	Appendix 15.J: Proof of the Existence and the Conv	ergence of		
	the Covariance Matrix of the Trunca	ated		
	Minimizer (Theorem 15.30) 518			
Prope	perties of Least Squares Estimators			
_	h Stochastic Weighting 521			
16.1	Introduction—Notational Conventions 521			
16.2				
	16.2.1 Strong Convergence of the Cost Function 523			
	16.2.2 Strong Convergence of the Minimizer 523			
16.3				
16.4	Convergence Rate 524			
	16.4.1 Convergence of the Derivatives of the Cost Function	n 525		
	16.4.2 Convergence Rate of $\hat{\theta}(z)$ to $\tilde{\theta}(z_0)$ 526			
16.5	Asymptotic Bias 527			
16.6	•			
16.7	Overview of the Asymptotic Properties 529			
16.8				
16.9	**			
	Appendix 16.A: Proof of the Strong Convergence of	the Cost		
	Function (Lemma 16.4) 531 Appendix 16.B: Proof of the Convergence Rate of the	10		
	Minimizer (Theorem 16.16) 531	iC		
	Appendix 16.C: Proof of the Asymptotic Bias of the	Truncated		
	Minimizer (Theorem 16.22) 532	Truncated		

Appendix 16.D: Proof of the Asymptotic Normality of the

Minimizer (Theorem 16.25) 533

CHAPTER 16

Contents

CHAPTER 17 Identification of Semilinear Models 535

17.1	The Semilinear Model 535
	17.1.1 Signal Model 536
	17.1.2 Transfer Function Model 536
17.2	The Markov Estimator 537
.,	17.2.1 Real Case 537
	17.2.1 Real Case 537 17.2.2 Complex Case 538
17.3	Cramér-Rao Lower Bound 538
17.5	
	17.3.1 Real Case 538
17.4	17.3.2 Complex Case 540 Properties Markov Estimator 540
17.4	-
	17.4.1 Consistency 541
	17.4.2 Strong Convergence 542 17.4.3 Convergence Rate 542
	17.4.4 Asymptotic Normality 543
	17.4.5 Asymptotic Efficiency 544
	17.4.5 Asymptotic Efficiency 544 17.4.6 Robustness 544
	17.4.7 Practical Calculation of Uncertainty Bounds 544
17.5	Residuals of the Model Equation 545
	17.5.1 Real Case 545
	17.5.2 Complex Case 548
17.6	Mean and Variance of the Cost Function 548
2	17.6.1 Real Case 548
	17.6.2 Complex Case 550
17.7	Model Selection and Model Validation 550
17.7	17.7.1 Real Case 550
	17.7.2 Complex Case 551
17.8	Exercises 552
17.9	Appendixes 554
17.5	
	Appendix 17.A: Constrained Minimization (17-6) 554 Appendix 17.B: Proof of the Cramér-Rao Lower Bound for
	**
	Semilinear Models 555
	Appendix 17.C: Markov Estimates of the Observations for
	Signal Models and Transfer Function Models
	with Known Input 557
	Appendix 17.D: Proof of the Convergence Rate of the Markov
	Estimates for Large Signal-to-Noise Ratios and
	Small Model Errors (Theorem 17.2) 557
	Appendix 17.E: Proof of the Asymptotic Distribution of the
	Markov Estimates without Model Errors 560
	Appendix 17.F: Proof of the Asymptotic Efficiency of the
	Markov Estimates (Theorem 17.4) 560
	Appendix 17.G: Proof of the Convergence Rate of the Residuals
	(Lemma 17.8) 560
	Appendix 17.H: Properties of the Projection Matrix in Lemma
	17.9 561
	Appendix 17.I: Proof of the Improved Convergence Rate of the
	Residuals (Lemma 17.9) 561
	Appendix 17.J: Proof of the Properties of the Sample
	Correlation of the Residuals (Theorem
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	17.10) 562

Contents xxi

Appendix 17.K: Proof of the Convergence Rate of the Minimum of the Cost Function (Lemma 17.11) 563

Appendix 17.L: Proof of the Properties of the Cost Function (Theorem 17.12) 566

Appendix 17.M: Model Selection Criteria 567

CHAPTER 18 Identification of Invariants of (Over)Parameterized Models 569

218 307
Introduction 569
(Over)Parameterized Models and Their Invariants 570
Cramér-Rao Lower Bound for Invariants of
(Over)Parameterized Models 572
Estimates of Invariants of (Over)Parameterized Models—Finite
Sample Results 573
18.4.1 The Estimators 573
18.4.2 Main Result 575
A Simple Numerical Example 576
Exercises 578
Appendixes 578
Appendix 18.A: Proof of Theorem 18.8 [Cramér-Rao Bound of
(Over)Parameterized Models] 578
Appendix 18.B: Proof of Theorem 18.15 [Jacobian Matrix of
(Over)Parameterized Models] 579
Appendix 18.C: Proof of Theorem 18.16 579

REFERENCES 581
SUBJECT INDEX 593
REFERENCE INDEX 601
ABOUT THE AUTHORS 605

Preface

Identification is a powerful technique for building accurate models of complex systems from noisy data. It consists of three basic steps, which are interrelated: (1) the design of an experiment; (2) the construction of a model, black box or from physical laws; and (3) the estimation of the model parameters from the measurements. The art of modeling lies in proper use of the skills and specialized knowledge of experts in the field of study, who decide what approximations can be made, suggest how to manipulate the system, reveal the important aspects, and so on. Consequently, modeling should preferably be executed by these experts themselves. Naturally, they require relevant tools for extracting information of interest. However, most experts will not be familiar with identification theory and will struggle in each new situation with the same difficulties while developing their own identification techniques, losing time over problems already solved in the literature of identification.

This book presents a thorough description of methods to model linear dynamic time-invariant systems by their transfer function. The relations between the transfer function and the physical parameters of the system are very dependent upon the specific problem. Because transfer function models are generally valid, we have restricted the scope of the book to these alone, so as to develop and study general purpose identification techniques. This should not be unnecessarily restricting for readers who are more interested in the physical parameters of a system: the transfer function still contains all the information that is available in the measurements, and it can be considered to be an intermediate model between the measurements and the physical parameters. Also, the transfer function model is very suitable for those readers looking for a black box description of the input-output relations of a system. And, of course, the model is directly applicable to predict the output of the system.

In this book, we use mainly frequency domain representations of the data. In combination with periodic excitations, this opens many possibilities to identify continuous-time (Laplace-domain) or discrete-time (z-domain) models, if necessary extended with an arbitrary and unknown delay. Although we strongly advocate using periodic excitations, we also extend the methods and models to deal with arbitrary excitations. The "classical" time-domain identification methods that are specifically directed toward these signals are briefly covered and encapsulated in the identification framework that we offer to the reader.

xxiv Preface

This book provides answers to questions at different levels, such as: What is identification and why do I need it? How to measure the frequency response function of a linear dynamic system? How to identify a dynamic system? All these are very basic questions, directly focused on the interests of the practitioner. Especially for these readers, we have added guidelines to many chapters for the user, giving explicit and clear advice on what are good choices in order to attain a sound solution. Another important part of the material is intended for readers who want to study identification techniques at a more profound level. Questions on how to analyze and prove the properties of an identification scheme are addressed in this part. This study is not restricted to the identification of linear dynamic systems; it is valid for a very wide class of weighted, nonlinear least squares estimators. As such, this book provides a great deal of information for readers who want to set up their own identification scheme to solve their specific problem.

The structure of the book can be split into four parts: (1) collection of raw data or non-parametric identification; (2) parametric identification; (3) comparison with existing frameworks, guidelines, and illustrations; (4) profound development of theoretical tools.

In the first part, after the introductory chapter on identification, we discuss the collection of the raw data: How to measure a frequency response function of a system. What is the impact of nonlinear distortions? How to recognize, qualify, and quantify nonlinear distortions. How to select the excitation signals in order to get the best measurements. This non-parametric approach to identification is discussed in detail in Chapters 2, 3, and 4.

In the second part, we focus on the identification of parametric models. Signal and system models are presented, using a frequency and a time domain representation. The equivalence and impact of leakage effects and initial conditions are shown. Nonparametric and parametric noise models are introduced. The estimation of the parameters in these models is studied in detail. Weighted (nonlinear) least squares methods, maximum likelihood, and subspace methods are discussed and analyzed. First, we assume that the disturbing noise model is known; next, the methods are extended to the more realistic situation of unknown noise models that have to be extracted from the data, together with the system model. Special attention is paid to the numerical conditioning of the sets of equations to be solved. Taking some precautions, very high order systems, with 100 poles and zeros or even more, can be identified. Finally, validation tools to verify the quality of the models are explained. The presence of unmodeled dynamics or nonlinear distortions is detected, and simple rules to guide even the inexperienced user to a good solution are given. This material is presented in Chapters 5 to 9.

The third part begins with an extensive comparison of what is classically called *time* and frequency domain identification. It is shown that, basically, both approaches are equivalent, but some questions are more naturally answered in one domain instead of the other. The most important question is periodic excitations versus nonperiodic or arbitrary excitations. Next, we provide the practitioner with detailed guidelines to help avoid pitfalls from the very beginning of the process (collecting the raw data), over the selection of appropriate identification methods until the model validation. Finally, we illustrate many of the developed ideas in a wide variety of examples from different fields. This part covers Chapters 10, 11, and 12.

The last part of the book is intended for readers who want to acquire a thorough understanding of the material or those who want to develop their own identification scheme. Not only do we give an introduction to the stochastic concepts we use, but we also show, in a structured approach, how to prove the properties of an estimator. This avoids the need for each freshman in this field to find out, time and again, the basic steps to solve such a problem. Starting from this background, a general but detailed framework is set up to analyze the properties of nonlinear least squares estimators with deterministic and stochastic weighting.

Preface

For the special and quite important class of semilinear models, it is possible to make this analysis in much more detail. This material is covered in Chapters 13 to 18.

It is possible to extract a number of undergraduate courses from this book. In most of the chapters that can be used in these courses, we added exercises that introduce the students to the typical problems that appear when applying the methods to solve practical problems.

A first, quite general undergraduate course subject is the measurement of frequency response functions of dynamic systems, as discussed in Chapters 2 to 4.

A second possibility is a first introduction to the identification of linear dynamic systems. Such an undergraduate course should include Chapter 1 and some selected parts of Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

A last course, at the graduate level, is an advanced course on identification based on the methods that are explained in Chapters 15, 16, 17, and 18. This gives an excellent introduction for students who want to develop their own algorithms.

A complete MATLAB® toolbox, which includes the techniques developed in this book, is available. It can be used with a graphical user interface, avoiding most problems and nasty questions for the inexperienced user. At the basic level, this toolbox produces almost autonomously a good model. At the intermediate or advanced level, the user obtains access to some of the parameters in order to optimize the operation of the toolbox to solve dedicated modeling problem. Finally, for those who want to use it as a research tool, there is also a command level that gives full access to all the parameters that can be set to optimize and influence the behavior of the algorithms. More information on this package can be obtained by sending an E-mail to one of the authors: rik.pintelon@vub.ac.be or johan.schoukens@vub.ac.be

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Acknowledgments

This book is the culmination of 20 years of research in the identification group of the Department of Fundamental Electricity and Instrumentation (ELEC) of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). It is the result of close and harmonious cooperation between many of the workers in the department, and we would like to thank all of them for exchanges of ideas and important discussions that have taken place over the gestation period of this, the end result. We are greatly indebted to ELEC, which is directed by Professor Alain Barel, to the R&D Department of the VUB, to the FWO-Vlaanderen (the Fund for Scientific Research in Flanders), and to the Flemish and the Federal Government (GOA and IUAP research programs). Without their sustained support, this work would never have seen the light of day.

We are grateful to many colleagues and coworkers in the field who imparted new ideas and methods to us, took time for discussions, and were prepared to listen to some of our less conventional ideas that did not fit in the mainstream of the "classical" identification. Their critical remarks and constructive suggestions contributed significantly to our view on the field.

Last, but not least, we want to thank Yves Rolain for contributing to our work as a friend, a colleague, and a coauthor of many of our papers. Without his sustained support, we would never have been able to access the advanced measurement equipment we used for the many experiments that are reported in this book.

Rik Pintelon

Johan Schoukens

List of Operators and Notational Conventions

 \mathbb{A} \otimes * $\operatorname{Re}()$ $\operatorname{Im}()$ $\operatorname{arg\ min} f(x)$ O(x) $\hat{\theta}$ \bar{x} $\operatorname{subscript\ } 0$ $\operatorname{subscript\ } Re$ $\operatorname{subscript\ } v$

subscript *

superscript T

outline uppercase font denotes a set, for example, \mathbb{N} , \mathbb{Z} , \mathbb{Q} , \mathbb{R} and \mathbb{C} are, respectively, the natural, the integer, the rational, the real, and the complex numbers the Kronecker matrix product convolution operator real part of imaginary part of the minimizing argument of f(x)an arbitrary function with the property $\lim |O(x)/x| < \infty$ an arbitrary function with the property $\lim_{\substack{x \to 0 \\ \text{estimated value of } \theta}} |o(x)/x| = 0$ complex conjugate of xtrue value

$$A_{Re} = \begin{bmatrix} Re(A) - Im(A) \\ Im(A) & Re(A) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A_{\rm re} = \begin{bmatrix} \operatorname{Re}(A) \\ \operatorname{Im}(A) \end{bmatrix}$$

with respect to the input of the system with respect to the output of the system limiting estimate matrix transpose

rank of the $n \times m$ matrix A, maximum number of linear independent rows

(columns) of A

rank(A)

superscript $-T$	transpose of the inverse matrix
superscript H	Hermitian transpose: complex conjugate transpose of a matrix
superscript –H	Hermitian transpose of the inverse matrix
superscript +	Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse
superscript ⊥	orthogonal complement of a subspace or a matrix
∠x	phase (argument) of the complex number x
$X_{[i]}(s)$	<i>i</i> th entry of the vector function $X(s)$
$A_{[i,j]}(s)$	i, j th entry of the matrix function $A(s)$
$A_{[:,j]}$	jth column of A
$A_{[i,:]}$	ith row of A
$X^{[k]}(s)$	kth realization of a random process $X(s)$
$\lambda(A)$	eigenvalue of a square matrix A
$\sigma(A)$	singular value of an $n \times m$ matrix A
$\kappa(A) = (\max_{i} \sigma_{i}(A)) / (\min_{i} \sigma_{i}(A))$	condition number of an $n \times m$ matrix A
$ x = \sqrt{(\text{Re}(x))^2 + (\text{Im}(x))^2}$	magnitude of a complex number x
$ A _1 = \max_{1 \le j \le m} \sum_{i=1}^n A_{[i,j]} $	1-norm of an $n \times m$ matrix A
$ A _2 = \max_{1 \le i \le m} \sigma_i(A)$	2-norm of an $n \times m \ (n \ge m)$ matrix A
$ X _2 = \sqrt{X^H X}$	2-norm of the column vector X
$ A _{\infty} = \max_{1 \le i \le n} \sum_{j=1}^{m} A_{[i,j]} $	∞-norm of an $n \times m$ matrix A
$ A _F = \sqrt{\operatorname{tr}(A^H A)}$	Frobenius norm of an $n \times m$ matrix A
	block diagonal matrix with blocks A_k ,
$\operatorname{diag}(A_1, A_2,, A_K)$	k = 1, 2,, K
diag $(A_1, A_2,, A_K)$ herm $(A) = (A + A^H)/2$	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	k = 1, 2,, K Hermitian symmetric part of an $n \times m$

$\mathrm{span}\{a_1, a_2,, a_m\}$	the span of the vectors $a_1, a_2,, a_m$ is
$span\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m\}$	the linear subspace obtained by making
	all possible linear combinations of
7	a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_m
$tr(A) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} A_{[i,i]}$	trace of an $n \times n$ matrix A
$\operatorname{vec}(A)$	a column vector formed by stacking the columns of the matrix A on top of each
	other
a.s.lim	almost sure limit, limit with probability
	one
l.i.m.	limit in mean square
plim	limit in probability
Lim	limit in distribution
ℰ { }	mathematical expectation
Prob()	probability
$b_X = X - \mathcal{E}\{X\}$	bias of the estimate X
$Cov(X, Y) = \mathcal{E}\{(X - \mathcal{E}\{X\})(Y - \mathcal{E}\{Y\})^H\}$	cross-covariance matrix of X and Y
$covar(x, y) = \mathcal{E}\{(x - \mathcal{E}\{x\})\overline{(y - \mathcal{E}\{y\})}\}\$	covariance of x and y
cum()	cumulant
$var(x) = \mathcal{E}\{ x - \mathcal{E}\{x\} ^2\}$	variance of x
$C_X = \operatorname{Cov}(X) = \operatorname{Cov}(X, X)$	covariance matrix of X
$\hat{C}_X = \frac{1}{M-1} \sum_{m=1}^{M} (X^{[m]} - \hat{X}) (X^{[m]} - \hat{X})^H$	sample covariance matrix of M
M-1 $2m=1$	realizations of X
$C_{XY} = \text{Cov}(X, Y)$	cross-covariance matrix of X and Y
•••	cross covariance matrix of 21 and 1
$\hat{C}_{XY} = \frac{1}{M-1} \sum_{m=1}^{M} (X^{[m]} - \hat{X}) (Y^{[m]} - \hat{Y})^{H}$	sample cross-covariance matrix of M
	realizations of X and Y
CR(X)	Cramér-Rao lower bound on X
DFT(x(t))	discrete Fourier transform of the samples
EVID	x(t), t = 0, 1,, N-1
Fi(X)	Fisher information matrix with respect to the parameters X
I_m	$m \times m$ identity matrix
q	backward shift operator: $qu(kT_s) = u((k-1)T_s)$
$MSE(X) = \mathcal{E}\left\{ (X - X_0)(X - X_0)^H \right\}$	mean square error of the estimate X
$R_{xx}(\tau) = \mathcal{E}\left\{x(t)x^H(t-\tau)\right\}$	autocorrelation of $x(t)$
$R_{xy}(\tau) = \mathcal{E}\left\{x(t)y^H(t-\tau)\right\}$	cross-correlation of $x(t)$ and $y(t)$
$S_{XX}(j\omega)$	Fourier transform of $R_{xx}(\tau)$ (autopower
	spectrum of $x(t)$)
$S_{XY}(j\omega)$	Fourier transform of $R_{xy}(\tau)$ (cross-power
	spectrum of $x(t)$ and $y(t)$

$$\hat{X} = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} X^{[m]}$$

$$\mu_x = \mathcal{E}\{x\}$$

$$\sigma_r^2 = var(x)$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_x^2 = \frac{1}{M-1} \sum_{m=1}^M |x^{[m]} - \hat{x}|^2$$

$$\sigma_{xy}^2 = covar(x, y)$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_{x}^{2} = \frac{1}{M-1} \sum_{m=1}^{M} |x^{[m]} - \hat{x}|^{2}$$

$$\sigma_{xy}^{2} = \text{covar}(x, y)$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_{xy}^{2} = \frac{1}{M-1} \sum_{m=1}^{M} (x^{[m]} - \hat{x}) (\overline{y^{[m]} - \hat{y}})$$

sample mean of M realizations (experiments) of X

mean value of x

variance of the x

sample variance of M realizations of xcovariance of x and y

sample covariance of M realizations of xand y

List of Symbols

```
A(\Omega, \theta) = \sum_{r=0}^{n_p} a_r p_r(\Omega)
                                                                     denominator polynomial plant model
                                                                        expanded in the polynomial basis
                                                                         p_r(\Omega)
\begin{split} A(\Omega,\,\theta) &=\, \sum_{r\,=\,0}^{n_a} a_r \Omega^r \\ B(\Omega,\,\theta) &=\, \sum_{r\,=\,0}^{n_q} b_r q_r(\Omega) \end{split}
                                                                     denominator polynomial plant model
                                                                     numerator plant model expanded in the
                                                                        polynomial basis q_r(\Omega)
B(\Omega, \theta) = \sum_{r=0}^{n_b} b_r \Omega^r
                                                                     numerator polynomial plant model
C(z^{-1}, \theta) = \sum_{r=0}^{n_c} c_r z^{-r}

D(z^{-1}, \theta) = \sum_{k=0}^{n_d} d_k z^{-k}
                                                                     numerator polynomial noise model
                                                                     denominator polynomial noise model
e(t)
                                                                     white noise at time t
E(k)
                                                                     discrete Fourier transform of the samples
                                                                         e(tT_s), t = 0, 1, ..., N-1
f
                                                                     frequency
F
                                                                     number of frequency domain
                                                                        samples
f_{\circ}
                                                                     sampling frequency
G(j\omega)
                                                                     frequency response function
G_R(j\omega)
                                                                     best linear approximation of a nonlinear
                                                                        plant
G(\Omega, \theta) = B(\Omega, \theta) / A(\Omega, \theta)
                                                                     parametric plant model
H(z^{-1}, \theta) = C(z^{-1}, \theta)/D(z^{-1}, \theta)
                                                                     parametric noise model
I(\Omega, \theta) = \sum_{r=0}^{n_i} i_r \Omega^r
                                                                     polynomial of the initial and the final
                                                                        conditions of
                                                                                                 the
                                                                                                         plant model
                                                                        B(\Omega, \theta)/A(\Omega, \theta)
                                                                     i^2 = -1
j
```

xxxiv List of Symbols

$$J(z^{-1},\,\theta) \;=\; \sum\nolimits_{r\;=\;0}^{n_d} j_r z^{-r}$$

M

N

 n_a , n_b , n_c , n_d , n_i and n_j

 n_{θ}

 $n_{u}(t), n_{v}(t)$

 $N_U(k), N_Y(k)$

S

 s_k

$$T(\Omega, \theta) = I(\Omega, \theta)/A(\Omega, \theta)$$

t

T

 $U(e^{j\omega T_s}), Y(e^{j\omega T_s})$

U(k), Y(k)

 U_k, Y_k

 $U(j\omega), Y(j\omega)$

U(s), Y(s)

u(t), y(t)

U(z), Y(z)

 $V_*(\theta)$

 $V_{F}(\theta,z)$

 $V_F'(\theta,z)$

 $V_F''(\theta, z)$

$$Z(k) = [Y(k)U(k)]^T$$

$$Z = [Z^{T}(1)Z^{T}(2)...Z^{T}(F)]^{T}$$

polynomial of the initial and the final conditions of the noise model $C(z^{-1}, \theta)/D(z^{-1}, \theta)$

number of (repeated) experiments

number of time domain data samples

order of the polynomials $A(\Omega, \theta)$, $B(\Omega, \theta)$, $C(z^{-1}, \theta)$, $D(z^{-1}, \theta)$, $I(\Omega, \theta)$, and $J(z^{-1}, \theta)$

dimension of the parameter vector θ

disturbing time domain noise on the input u(t) and output y(t) signals, respectively

discrete Fourier transform of the samples $n_u(tT_s)$ and $n_y(tT_s)$, k = 0, 1, ..., N-1, respectively

Laplace transform variable

Laplace transform variable evaluated along the imaginary axis at DFT frequency k: $s_k = j\omega_k$

parametric transient model of the plant $B(\Omega, \theta)/A(\Omega, \theta)$

continuous or discrete time variable

sampling period

Fourier transform of $u(tT_s)$ and $y(tT_s)$

discrete Fourier transform of the samples $u(tT_s)$ and $y(tT_s)$, t = 0, 1, ..., N-1

Fourier coefficients of the periodic signals u(t), y(t)

Fourier transform of u(t) and y(t)

one-sided Laplace transform of u(t) and y(t)

input and output time signals

one-sided Z-transform of $u(tT_s)$, $y(tT_s)$

asymptotic $(F \rightarrow \infty)$ cost function

cost function based on F measurements

derivative cost function w.r.t. θ (dimension $1 \times n_{\theta}$)

second-order derivative (Hessian) cost function w.r.t. θ (dimension $n_{\theta} \times n_{\theta}$)

data vector containing the measured input and output (DFT) spectra at (DFT) frequency k

data vector containing the measured input and output DFT spectra (dimension 2F)

List of Symbols xxxv

z.

 z_k

 $\varepsilon(\theta, Z)$

θ

 $\tilde{\theta}(Z_0)$

 $\hat{\theta}(Z)$

 $\hat{\theta}(Z)$

 $\sigma_U^2(k) = \text{var}(U(k))$

 $\sigma_Y^2(k) = \text{var}(Y(k))$

 $\sigma_{YU}^2(k) = \text{covar}(Y(k), U(k))$

τ

$$J(\theta, Z) = \partial \varepsilon(\theta, Z) / \partial \theta$$

 $\omega = 2\pi f$

Ω

 Ω_k

Z-transform variable

Z-transform variable evaluated along the unit circle at DFT frequency k: $z_k = e^{j\omega_k T_s} = e^{j2\pi k/N}$

column vector of the (weighted) model residuals (dimension F)

column vector of the model parameters

minimizing argument of the cost function $V_F(\theta)$

estimated model parameters, minimizing argument of the cost function $V_F(\theta, Z)$

truncated estimator

variance of the measured input DFT spectrum

variance of the measured output DFT spectrum

covariance of the measured output and input DFT spectra

time delay (normalized with the sampling period for discrete time systems)

gradient of residuals $\varepsilon(\theta, Z)$ w.r.t. the parameters θ (dimension $F \times n_{\theta}$)

angular frequency

generalized transform variable: Laplace domain $\Omega = s$, Z-domain $\Omega = z^{-1}$, Richardson domain $\Omega = \tanh(\tau_R s)$, and diffusion phenomena $\Omega = \sqrt{s}$

generalized transform variable evaluated at DFT frequency k: Laplace domain $\Omega_k = j\omega_k$, Z-domain $\Omega_k = e^{-j\omega_k T_s}$, Richardson domain $\Omega_k = \tanh(\tau_R j\omega_k)$, and diffusion phenomena $\Omega_k = \sqrt{j\omega_k}$, with $\omega_k = 2\pi k/N$

List of Abbreviations

ARMA

ARMAX

ARX

BJ BTLS

2720

CRB

DFT

DUT EV

FFT

FRF

GSVD

GTLS

iid

IV

IWLS

IQML

LS

ML NLS

NLS-FRF

NLS-IO

AutoRegressive Moving Average

AutoRegressive Moving Average with

eXternal input

AutoRegressive with eXternal input

Box-Jenkins (model structure)

Bootstrapped Total Least Squares

Cramér-Rao bound for biased estimators

Discrete Fourier Transform

Device Under Test

Errors-in-Variables

Fast Fourier Transform

Frequency Response Function Generalized Singular Value

Shortanzed Shiganar vare

Decomposition

Generalized Total Least Squares

independent identically distributed

Instrumental Variables

Iterative weighted linear least squares

Iterative Quadratic Maximum Likelihood

Least Squares

Maximum Likelihood

Nonlinear Least Squares

Nonlinear Least Squares based on FRF

measurements

Nonlinear Least Squares based on Input-

Output measurements

xxxviii List of Abbreviations

OE Output Error (model structure) pdf probability density function

PE Prediction Error

rms root mean square value

SBTLS sample BTLS SGTLS sample GTLS

SISO Single Input, Single Output

SML sample ML

SNR Signal-to-Noise Ratio

SSUB sample SUB SUB subspace

SVD Singular Value Decomposition

TLS Total Least Squares

UCRB Cramér-Rao Bound for Unbiased esti-

mators

w.p.1 with probability one

WGTLS Weighted Generalized Total Least

Squares

WLS Weighted Least Squares