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Identification of linear dynamic systems of fractional order with errors in variables based on an augmented system of equations

© *D. V. Ivanov*Samara State Transport University,
2 V, Svobody st., Samara, 443066, Russian Federation.

Abstract

Equations with derivatives and fractional order differences are widely used to describe various processes and phenomena. Currently, methods of identification of systems described by equations with fractional order differences are actively developing. The paper is devoted to the identification of discrete dynamical systems described by equations with fractional order differences with errors in variables. The problems of identifying systems with errors in variables are often ill-conditioned. The paper proposes an algorithm that uses the representation of a normal biased system as an augmented equivalent system. This representation allows to reduce the number of conditionality of the problem to be solved. Test examples have shown that the proposed algorithm has a higher accuracy than the algorithms based on the decomposition of Cholesky and the minimization of the generalized Rayleigh quotient.

Keywords: fractional difference, total least square, errors-in-variables, ill-conditioning.

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Introduction. Equations with fractional-order derivatives and differences are widely used to describe various processes and phenomena. Models based on equations with fractional-order derivatives and differences find wide application in hydrology, economics, and forecasts of network data usage [1–3]. Besides, the branch of management theory dealing with the synthesis of fractional order regulators is developing actively. Mechanics was one of the first fields to use equations with fractional order derivatives. A large amount of research deals with viscoelasticity models [4–7].

Research Article

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Author's Details:

Dmitriy V. Ivanov  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5021-5259>

Cand. Phys. & Math. Sci.; Associate Professor; Dept. of Mechatronics, Automation, and Transport Control; e-mail: dvi85@list.ru

Generally, the creep and relaxation processes for actual nonuniform media are nonlinear both in space and in time. As a result, using fractional-order derivatives in the state equations for viscoelastic media makes it possible to display and factor in the nonuniform structures of viscous and elastic elements and the nonuniformity of mechanical processes in time.

Because equations with fractional order derivatives and differences are actively being developed and used for forecast and modeling problems, methods for identifying systems described by fractional-order equations and differences are actively being developed as well. Noise-free identification methods have been treated for ordinary differential equations with fractional order derivatives [8] and for partial differential equations with fractional order derivatives [9].

Most of the research in the field deals with parameter identification of fractional order differential equations by using the error in an equation or in an output signal. References [10, 11] describe time domain identification methods based on the least-square technique. Reference [12] presents an overview of different methods for identifying systems with fractional-order derivatives.

It is noteworthy that a fairly large amount of research addresses the problem of identifying viscoelasticity models [13–16]. That research deals with identifying fractional order models such as a generalized model with a fixed number of parameters. Results generalization for the case of an arbitrary number of parameters is a nontrivial operation. Most of the methods we considered disregard the presence of measurement errors.

The problem of identifying systems that have errors in input and output signals is much more complicated. Reference [17] gives an overview of the contemporary state of this problem. A relatively small amount of research attention has been given to identifying systems with fractional order derivatives and differences in the presence of those errors. Methods based on higher statistics have been proposed in [18, 19]; methods based on minimizing the generalized Rayleigh ratio have been treated in [20] (for white noise) and in [22] (for fractional white noise).

This paper proposes generalizing the identification algorithm [23] for equations with fractional order differences. The proposed algorithm makes it possible to achieve more accurate estimates than those in [20] for ill-conditioned systems.

1. Problem statement. Fractional-order systems can be represented by the fractional difference equation given by

$$z_i = \sum_{m=1}^r b_0^{(m)} \Delta^{\alpha_m} z_{i-1} + \sum_{m=1}^{r_1} a_0^{(m)} \Delta^{\beta_m} x_i, \quad y_i = z_i + \xi_i, \quad w_i = x_i + \zeta_i, \quad (1)$$

where $b_0^{(m)}$, $a_0^{(m)}$ are coefficients; $0 < \alpha_1 \dots < \alpha_r$, $0 < \beta_1 \dots < \beta_{r_1}$;

$$\Delta^{\alpha_m} z_i = \sum_{j=0}^i (-1)^j \binom{\alpha_m}{j} z_{i-j}, \quad \Delta^{\beta_m} x_i = \sum_{j=0}^i (-1)^j \binom{\beta_m}{j} x_{i-j}$$

are fractional differences [1];

$$\binom{\alpha_m}{j} = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha_m + 1)}{\Gamma(j + 1)\Gamma(\alpha_m - j + 1)}, \quad \binom{\beta_m}{j} = \frac{\Gamma(\beta_m + 1)}{\Gamma(j + 1)\Gamma(\beta_m - j + 1)}$$

are the generalized binomial coefficients; the Euler's function Γ is defined as

$$\Gamma(\alpha) = \int_0^\infty e^{-t} t^{\alpha-1} dt.$$

Autoregressions with fractional differences are widely used in the analysis of time series with long memory [24, 25]. In [26], a discrete Kalman filter with fractional differences is proposed. Equations with fractional order differences of the form (1) are also used to approximate differential equations with Grunfeld–Letnikov derivatives; the identification of such systems is considered in [27]. Modeling of various physical processes based on equations with fractional-order differences is considered in [28, 29].

The following assumptions are introduced:

1. The dynamic system (1) is asymptotically stable. Results on the asymptotic stability of discrete-time fractional difference systems in [30, 31].
If system (1) is unstable, then the output signal increases indefinitely. This leads to overflow of the bit grid. Therefore, obtaining a solution for unstable systems has additional computational difficulties that are not considered in this paper. There is also no theoretical proof of strong consistency for discrete fractional systems with errors in variables.
2. Noises $\{\xi_i\}$ and $\{\zeta_i\}$ are statistically independent sequences with $E\{\xi_i\} = 0$, $E\{\zeta_i\} = 0$, $E\{\xi_i^2\} = \sigma_\xi^2 < \infty$, $E\{\zeta_i^2\} = \sigma_\zeta^2 < \infty$ a.s., where E is the expectation operator.
3. The sequences $\{\xi_i\}$ and $\{\zeta_i\}$ are mutually uncorrelated and uncorrelated with sequences $\{z_i\}$, $\{x_i\}$.
4. The noise-free input sequence $\{x_i\}$ is persistently exciting of sufficiently high order.
5. Noise ratio $\gamma = \sigma_\xi^2 / \sigma_\zeta^2$ is known.

It is required to estimate the unknown coefficients linear fractional order dynamical system, described by the equation (1) in observable sequences $\{y_i\}$, $\{w_i\}$.

2. Criteria for parameter estimation. In [20] the following criterion was proposed for estimating the parameters of a system described by equations

$$\min_{\theta \in \mathbb{B}} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(y_i - \varphi_i^\top \theta)^2}{1 + b^\top H_\xi b + \gamma a^\top H_\zeta a}, \quad (2)$$

where

$$H_\xi^{(mk)} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \left(\sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \binom{\alpha_m}{j} \binom{\alpha_k}{j} \cdot \frac{N-j}{N} \right), \quad m = \overline{1, r}, \quad k = \overline{1, r};$$

$$H_\zeta^{(mk)} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \left(\sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \binom{\beta_m}{j} \binom{\beta_k}{j} \cdot \frac{N-j}{N} \right), \quad m = \overline{1, r_1}, \quad k = \overline{1, r_1};$$

$$\theta = (b^{(1)}, \dots, b^{(r)} \mid a^{(1)}, \dots, a^{(r_1)})^\top,$$

$$\varphi_i = (\Delta^{\alpha_1} z_{i-j-1}, \dots, \Delta^{\alpha_r} z_{i-j-1} \mid \Delta^{\beta_1} x_{i-j}, \dots, \Delta^{\beta_{r_1}} x_{i-j})^\top.$$

We transform the criterion (2) in the following form

$$\min_{\theta \in \tilde{B}} \frac{\|d - C\theta\|_2^2}{1 + \theta^\top H'_{\xi\zeta} \theta}, \quad (3)$$

$$H_{\xi\zeta} = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} H_\xi & 0 \\ \hline 0 & \gamma H_\zeta \end{array} \right), \quad d = (y_1, \dots, y_N)^\top, \quad C = (\varphi_1^\top, \dots, \varphi_N^\top)^\top.$$

THEOREM. *Suppose that the dynamical system is described by equation (1) with initial zero conditions and that assumptions 1–5 are satisfied. Then the estimate for coefficients $\hat{\theta}(N)$ determined by expression (2) exists, is unique, and converges to the true value of the coefficients with a probability of 1—that is,*

$$\hat{\theta}(N) \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{a.s.} \theta_0.$$

The proof of the theorem is similar to the proof given in [21].

The modeling results show that the accuracy of the algorithm proposed in [20] is not satisfactory for ill-conditioned systems.

One of the approaches used to write numerically stable algorithms is transforming problem (13) into a problem of total least squares for which stable numerical implementations exist.

Let us transform problem (13) into a problem of total least squares. According to condition 4, the matrix $H_{\xi\zeta}$ is positively definite, and so we will express it as the Cholesky decomposition

$$H_{\xi\zeta} = U_{\xi\zeta}^\top U_{\xi\zeta}.$$

Let us introduce a new variable

$$\vartheta = U_{\xi\zeta} \theta.$$

Then criterion can be written as

$$\min_{\vartheta \in \tilde{B}'} \frac{\|d - CU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1} \vartheta\|_2^2}{1 + \vartheta^\top \vartheta}. \quad (4)$$

3. Numerical methods for the problem of total least squares. There are several approaches to minimizing (4). One of them is based on the fact that solving problem (4) requires calculating the minimal singular value for the extended matrix $(CU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1}, d)$ and the right singular vector corresponding to that value.

The problem of finding the singular vector is a nonlinear vector problem. Solving that problem numerically involves significant difficulties [32] related to convergence issues, high computational complexity, and the stability of search algorithms.

Another approach is based on solving a biased normal system. Reference [33] shows that given the satisfaction of the condition

$$\lambda = \lambda_{\min}(CU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1}, d) < \lambda_{\min}(CU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1}), \quad (5)$$

solution to problem (4) is obtainable from the system of equations

$$\left((CU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1})^\top CU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1} - \lambda^2 I \right) \vartheta = (CU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1})^\top d. \quad (6)$$

When system (6) is solved, only the scalar problem of finding the minimal singular value $\lambda_{\min}(CU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1}, d)$ is remained nonlinear. This problem is always well-conditioned [32]. The vector problem is in turn linear. But system (6) is often ill-conditioned. The condition number of the shifted normal matrix is obtainable from the expression

$$\text{cond}_2(\tilde{C}^\top \tilde{C}) \triangleq \text{cond}_2 \left((CU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1})^\top CU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1} - \lambda^2 I \right) = \frac{\lambda_{\max}^2(CU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1}) - \lambda^2}{\lambda_{\min}^2(CU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1}) - \lambda^2}.$$

There are two reasons why (5) is ill-conditioned: the multiplication $(CU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1})^\top CU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1}$ and the possible proximity of numbers $\lambda_{\min}^2(CU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1})$ and λ^2 .

The use of the Cholesky method can make the solution more stable. As this method applies to systems of linear equations with symmetrical positively definite matrices, it can also be used for the biased normal system (6). But the Cholesky method suffers from a severe drawback: if the matrix is ill-conditioned, the method yields a solution with unacceptable error.

Reference [23] proposes using an augmented system of equations that is equivalent to the biased normal system:

$$A\bar{\vartheta} = \bar{d},$$

or

$$\left(\begin{array}{c|c|c} I & 0 & CU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1} \\ \hline 0 & I & j\lambda I \\ \hline (CU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1})^\top & j\lambda I & 0 \end{array} \right) \begin{pmatrix} r \\ r_{\xi\zeta} \\ \vartheta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} d \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The expression for the condition number of matrix A is written as

$$\text{cond}_2(A) = \frac{\sqrt{1 + \mu_{\max} + \lambda^2}}{\sqrt{1 + \mu_{\min} + \lambda^2}} \left| \frac{\cos \left(\frac{1}{3} \arccos \left(\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2} \frac{\mu_{\max} - \lambda^2}{(1 + \mu_{\max} + \lambda^2)^{3/2}} \right) \right)}{\cos \left(\frac{\pi}{3} + \frac{1}{3} \arccos \left(\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2} \frac{\mu_{\min} - \lambda^2}{(1 + \mu_{\min} + \lambda^2)^{3/2}} \right) \right)} \right|, \quad (7)$$

where $\mu_{\max}$ and $\mu_{\min}$ are the maximal and minimal eigenvalues of the matrix $CU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1}(CU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1})^\top$.

An analysis of expression (7) shows that using the augmented system of equations does not always reduce the condition number of the matrix compared to the biased normal system (6).

Let us consider the system

$$\left(\begin{array}{c|c|c} I & 0 & kCU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1} \\ \hline 0 & I & jk\lambda I \\ \hline (kCU_{\xi\zeta}^{-1})^\top & jk\lambda I & 0 \end{array} \right) \begin{pmatrix} kr \\ kr_{\xi\zeta} \\ \vartheta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} kd \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (8)$$

where k is an arbitrary positive variable multiplier.

The condition number of matrix $A(k)$ is written as

$$\text{cond}_2(A(k)) = \frac{\sqrt{1 + k^2\mu_{\max} + k^2\lambda^2}}{\sqrt{1 + k^2\mu_{\min} + k^2\lambda^2}} \left| \frac{\cos\left(\frac{1}{3} \arccos\left(\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2} \frac{k^2(\mu_{\max} - \lambda^2)}{(1 + k^2\mu_{\max} + k^2\lambda^2)^{3/2}}\right)\right)}{\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{3} + \frac{1}{3} \arccos\left(\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2} \frac{k^2(\mu_{\min} - \lambda^2)}{(1 + k^2\mu_{\min} + k^2\lambda^2)^{3/2}}\right)\right)} \right|.$$

The problem of finding the minimal condition number can be considered as the problem of selecting the optimal multiplier k :

$$\inf_{k>0} \text{cond}_2(A(k)). \quad (9)$$

Problem (9) does not have an analytical solution but is solvable with numerical methods. In practice, an estimate of k_{opt} can be given by

$$\hat{k}_{\text{opt}} = \frac{\lambda_{\max}(CU_{\xi\xi}^{-1}) + \lambda}{\lambda_{\min}(CU_{\xi\xi}^{-1}) + \lambda} \sqrt{\frac{2}{\lambda_{\max}^2(CU_{\xi\xi}^{-1}) + \lambda^2}}. \quad (10)$$

The augmented system of equations (8) is solvable with the standard methods for solving equation systems, such as LU decomposition.

The equation $\hat{\vartheta} = U_{\xi\xi}\hat{\theta}$ can yield an estimate for the parameter vector $\hat{\theta}$:

$$\hat{\theta} = U_{\xi\xi}^{-1}\hat{\vartheta}.$$

ALGORITHM.

STEP 1. Decompose

$$H'_{\xi\xi} = U_{\xi\xi}^{\top} U_{\xi\xi}.$$

STEP 2. Find the minimal singular value for the matrix $(CU_{\xi\xi}^{-1}, d)$.

STEP 3. Calculate the multiplier with (9) or (10).

STEP 4. Solve equation system (8) with the Gauss method or with algorithm [23].

STEP 5. Find an estimate of the coefficient vector by $\hat{\theta} = U_{\xi\xi}^{-1}\hat{\vartheta}$.

4. Test Examples. The proposed algorithm has been compared with the algorithm based on Cholesky decomposition and the algorithm based on the generalized Rayleigh quotient (GRQ) in [20].

Test cases were compared by the following characteristics:

- the normalized root mean square error (NRMSE) of parameter estimation defined as

$$\delta\theta = \sqrt{\|\hat{\theta} - \theta_0\|^2 / \|\theta_0\|^2} \cdot 100\%,$$

- and normalized root mean square error of modelling defined as

$$\delta z = \sqrt{\|\hat{z} - z\|^2 / \|z\|^2} \cdot 100\%.$$

The number of data points N in each simulation was 200.

EXAMPLE 1. A dynamic system is described by the equation

$$z_i = 0.5\Delta^{0.2}z_{i-1} + 0.3\Delta^{0.1}z_{i-1} + \Delta^{0.2}x_i^{(1)} + 0.9\Delta^{0.15}x_i^{(1)}. \quad (11)$$

Noise standard deviation ratio

$$\sigma_\xi/\sigma_z = 10^{-3}, \quad \sigma_\zeta/\sigma_x = 0.2.$$

The results are presented in tables 1, 2.

Table 1

Normalized root mean square error for dynamic system (11)

$\text{cond}_2(\tilde{C}^\top \tilde{C})$	$\text{cond}_2(A)$	$\text{cond}_2(A(k))$
$3.143 \cdot 10^5$	$9.55 \cdot 10^3$	$1.73 \cdot 10^3$

Table 2

Values of condition numbers for a dynamic system (11)

NRMSE	GRQ	Cholesky decomposition	Proposed algorithm
$\delta\theta, \%$	4.55	4.55	4.55
$\delta z, \%$	1.03	1.03	1.03

EXAMPLE 2. A dynamic system is described by the equation

$$z_i = 0.5\Delta^{0.2}z_{i-1} + 0.3\Delta^{0.19}z_{i-1} + \Delta^{0.2}x_i^{(1)} + 0.9\Delta^{0.15}x_i^{(1)}. \quad (12)$$

Noise standard deviation ratio

$$\sigma_\xi/\sigma_z = 10^{-10}, \quad \sigma_\zeta/\sigma_x = 0.2.$$

The results are presented in tables 3, 4.

Table 3

Normalized root mean square error for dynamic system (12)

$\text{cond}_2(\tilde{C}^\top \tilde{C})$	$\text{cond}_2(A)$	$\text{cond}_2(A(k))$
$1.03 \cdot 10^{19}$	$1.07 \cdot 10^{15}$	$4.14 \cdot 10^9$

Table 4

Values of condition numbers for a dynamic system (12)

NRMSE	GRQ	Cholesky decomposition	Proposed algorithm
$\delta\theta, \%$	1126.45	3.03	3.03
$\delta z, \%$	241.03	0.67	0.67

EXAMPLE 3. A dynamic system is described by the equation

$$z_i = 0.5\Delta^{0.2}z_{i-1} + 0.3\Delta^{0.199}z_{i-1} + \Delta^{0.2}x_i^{(1)} + 0.9\Delta^{0.15}x_i^{(1)}. \quad (13)$$

Noise standard deviation ratio

$$\sigma_\xi/\sigma_z = 10^{-14}, \quad \sigma_\zeta/\sigma_x = 0.2.$$

The results are presented in tables 5, 6.

Table 5

Normalized root mean square error for dynamic system (13)

$\text{cond}_2(\tilde{C}^T \tilde{C})$	$\text{cond}_2(A)$	$\text{cond}_2(A(k))$
$9.46 \cdot 10^{33}$	$5.01 \cdot 10^{15}$	$5.86 \cdot 10^9$

Table 6

Values of condition numbers for a dynamic system (13)

NRMSE	GRQ	Cholesky decomposition	Proposed algorithm
$\delta\theta, \%$	6528.96	235.58	0.14
$\delta z, \%$	162.93	0.77	0.53

Conclusion. The examples show that with relatively small condition numbers, all three algorithms exhibit identical results. The least stable is the algorithm based on minimizing the generalized Rayleigh ratio, while the proposed algorithm is the most stable.

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Идентификация линейных динамических систем дробного порядка с ошибками в переменных на основе расширенной системы уравнений

© Д. В. Иванов

Самарский государственный университет путей сообщения,
Россия, 443066, Самара, ул. Свободы, 2 В.

Аннотация

Уравнения с производными и разностями дробного порядка находят широкое применение для описания различных процессов и явлений. В настоящее время активно развиваются методы идентификации систем, описываемых уравнениями с разностями дробного порядка. Статья посвящена идентификации дискретных динамических систем, описываемых уравнениями с разностями дробного порядка с ошибками в переменных. Задачи идентификации систем с ошибками в переменных часто бывают плохо обусловленными. В статье предложен алгоритм, использующий представление нормальной смещенной системы в виде расширенной эквивалентной системы. Данное представление позволяет уменьшить число обусловленности решаемой задачи. Тестовые примеры показали, что предложенный алгоритм обладает более высокой точностью по сравнению с алгоритмами на основе разложения Холецкого и минимизации обобщенного отношения Релея.

Ключевые слова: разность дробного порядка, полные наименьшие квадраты, ошибки в переменных, плохая обусловленность.

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Сведения об авторе

Дмитрий Владимирович Иванов  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5021-5259>

кандидат физико-математических наук, доцент; доцент; каф. мехатроники, автоматизации, управления на транспорте; e-mail: dvi85@list.ru