Optimal Filter Approximations in Conditionally Gaussian Pairwise Markov Switching Models
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Abstract—We consider a general triplet Markov Gaussian linear system \((X, R, Y)\), where \(X\) is an hidden discrete Markov chain, \(Y\) is an observed continuous random sequence. When the triplet \((X, R, Y)\) is a classical “Conditionally Gaussian Linear State-Space Model” (CGLSSM), the mean square error optimal filter is not workable with a reasonable complexity and different approximate methods, e.g. based on particle filters, are used. We propose two contributions. The first one is to extend the CGLSSM to a new, more general model, called the “Conditionally Gaussian Pairwise Markov Switching Model” (CGPMSM), in which \(X\) is not necessarily Markov given \(R\). The second contribution is to consider a particular case of CGPMSM in which \((R, Y)\) is Markov and in which an exact filter, optimal in the sense of mean square error, can be performed with linear-time complexity. Some experiments show that the proposed method and the suited particle filter have comparable efficiency, while the second one is much faster.

Index Terms—Gaussian switching system, Exact optimal filtering, Hidden Markov models, Conditionally Gaussian Linear State-Space Model, Conditionally Gaussian Pairwise Markov Switching Model.

I. INTRODUCTION

Let us consider three random sequences \(X^n_i = (X_1, \ldots, X_N)\), \(R^n_i = (R_1, \ldots, R_N)\) and \(Y^n_i = (Y_1, \ldots, Y_N)\), where the sequences \(X^n_i\) and \(Y^n_i\) take their values in \(\mathbb{R}^m\) and \(\mathbb{R}^q\) respectively, while \(R^n_i\) is discrete finite, each \(R_n\) taking its values in \(\Omega = \{0, \ldots, K - 1\}\). Both \(X^n_i\) and \(R^n_i\) are hidden, while \(Y^n_i\) is observed. The problem we deal with in this paper is the sequential search of \((R^n_i, Y^n_i)\) from \(Y^n_i\). The optimal filter is given by

\[
E[X_{n+1}^r | Y^n_{r+1}] = \sum_{r_{n+1}} p(r_{n+1} | Y^n_{r+1}) E[X_{n+1} | r_{n+1}, Y^n_{r+1}],
\]

and its variance is

\[
\text{Var}[X_{n+1}^r | Y^n_{r+1}] = \sum_{r_{n+1}} p(r_{n+1} | Y^n_{r+1}) \text{Var}[X_{n+1} | r_{n+1}, Y^n_{r+1}].
\]

So, we search to express \(p(r_{n+1} | Y^n_{r+1})\), \(E[X_{n+1} | r_{n+1}, Y^n_{r+1}]\) and \(E[X_{n+1} | r_{n+1}, Y^n_{r+1}, r_{n+1}']\) from \(p(r_{n} | Y^n_{r})\), \(E[X_{n} | r_{n}, Y^n_{r}]\), \(E[X_{n} | r_{n}, Y^n_{r}, r_{n+1}]\) and \(E[X_{n} | r_{n}, Y^n_{r}, r_{n+1}']\). We assume that the random switch sequence \(R^n_i\) is a Markov chain. Also, to simplify, we consider that random variables \(Y_{n}\) and \(X_{n}\) conditionally on switches have zero mean.

Our work is related to the so-called “Conditionally Gaussian Linear State-Space Models” (CGLSSMs), which have been widely applied in different situations. Due to their popularity in many different fields and, in particular, in different “tracking” problems [1], [2], speech processing problems [3], or biomedical engineering ones [4], these models are known under different names as “switching linear dynamic systems” [4], “jump Markov linear systems” [5], “switching linear state-space models” [6], “conditional linear Gaussian models” [7], or still “conditionally Gaussian linear state-space models” [8].

These models combine two well-known and efficient models: a hidden Markov chain (with correlated noise) for the couple \((R^n_i, X^n_i)\) and a Gaussian linear system for the distribution of \((X^n_i, Y^n_i)\) conditional on \(R^n_i\). However, in spite of its intuitive and simple formulation, exact optimal filtering or smoothing is not workable with a reasonable computational time. Thus, a great deal of effort has been devoted to propose different approximate solutions, whether deterministic [9], [10] or stochastic [11], [12]. Among the latter, methods based on sequential Monte Carlo algorithms became very popular and can present quite satisfactory efficiency in numerous situations [5]. They are shown to be asymptotically optimal; however, a good choice of the importance measure, which is used to sample particles, can be difficult in complex situations. In addition, the requested number of particles quickly increases with the dimension \(m\) of the state space \(\mathbb{R}^m\). Here we propose an alternative method, which consists in taking a different model for which the exact optimal filter can be computed with a complexity linear with respect to the observation time \(n\) by using the recent models in [13]. The difference between these recent models and the classical ones is the following. In the classical models the triplet \((X^n_i, R^n_i, Y^n_i)\) and the couple \((X^n_i, Y^n_i)\) are Markov, while the couple \((R^n_i, Y^n_i)\) is not necessarily Markov. In the recent models the triplet \((X^n_i, R^n_i, Y^n_i)\) and the couple \((R^n_i, X^n_i)\) are Markov, while the couple \((X^n_i, R^n_i)\) is not necessarily Markov.

More precisely, extending result in [14], we propose the two following contributions:

(i) The CGLSSM is a linear Gaussian system conditionally on \(R^n_i\) which verifies the following conditions:

\[
R^n_i \text{ is a Markov chain;}
\]

\[
X_{n+1} = C^n_{n+1} R_{n+1} X_n + C^n_{n+1} Y_{n+1} U_{n+1}; \quad (1)
\]

\[
Y_{n+1} = C^n_{n+1} R_{n+1} X_{n+1} + C^n_{n+1} R_{n+1} V_{n+1}; \quad (2)
\]

\[
C^n_{j} (R_{i}) \text{ is independent matrices depending on the switches } R^n_i, \text{ for each } n = 1, \ldots, N - 1. \text{ Thus, given } R^n_i = r^n_i, \text{ the couple } (X^n_i, Y^n_i) \text{ is a classical Gaussian linear system in which the classical optimal Kalman filter can be applied. In such a system } X^n_i \text{ is linear Gaussian and Markovian, and the distribution of } Y^n_i \text{ given } X^n_i \text{ is very simple. We propose to extend this model to a more general one, in which, given } R^n_i = r^n_i, \text{ the couple } (X^n_i, Y^n_i) \text{ is a “Gaussian Pairwise Markov Model” (GPM)}. \text{ Such a GPM model, which can be of interest with respect to the classical model and in which neither } X^n_i \text{ nor } Y^n_i \text{ is necessarily Markovian, is more general.

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but still allows the use of exact Kalman filter [15], [16]. The general model \((X^N, R^N, Y^N)\) so obtained will be called “Conditionally Gaussian Pairwise Markov Switching Model” (CGPMSM);

(ii) The classical CGLSS is thus a particular case of the CGPMSM such that, given \(R^N = r^N, X^N\) is Markov and \(Y^N\) is not necessarily Markov. We consider another recent particular case of the CGPMSM in which, given \(R^N = r^N, Y^N\) is Markov and \(X^N\) is not necessarily Markov, which belongs to the family of models in [13]. The interest of this model, called “Conditionally Gaussian Observed Markov Switching Model” (CGOMSM), is that the exact optimal filtering is workable with linear complexity in time, even if \(R^N = r^N\) is not observed.

The organization of the paper is as follows. The next section contains conclusions and perspectives.

II. THE CGPMSM AND THE GPMM

Let us note that the classical CGLSS given with (1)-(3) can be reformulated as:

\[
R^N = \begin{bmatrix} A_{n+1} & B_{n+1} & C_{n+1} \end{bmatrix}
\]

\[
Y_{n+1} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{n+1} & B_{n+1} & C_{n+1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_n \\ Y_n \\ V_n \end{bmatrix}
\]

The next section contains conclusions and perspectives.
According to (12)-(13), $p(r_{n+1} \mid r_n, y_n) = p(r_{n+1} \mid r_n)$, and thus we have

$$p(r_{n+1}, y_{n+1} \mid r_n, y_n) = p(r_{n+1} \mid r_n) p(y_{n+1} \mid r_{n+1}, y_n),$$  \hspace{1cm} (15)$$

where

$$p(y_{n+1} \mid r_{n+1}, y_n) = N(\delta_{n+1}(r_{n+1}) y_n, \Sigma_{n+1}(r_{n+1}))$$  \hspace{1cm} (16)$$

Besides, since $(R_n^n, Y_n^n)$ is Markov, we have

$$p(r_n, r_{n+1} \mid y_{n+1}^{n+1}) = \frac{p(r_{n+1}, y_{n+1} \mid r_n, y_n) p(r_n \mid y_n)}{\sum_{r_{n+1}} p(r_{n+1}, y_{n+1} \mid r_n, y_n) p(r_n \mid y_n)},$$

and thus

$$p(r_n \mid r_{n+1}, y_{n+1}^{n+1}) = \frac{\sum_{r_{n+1}} p(r_{n+1}, y_{n+1} \mid r_n, y_n) p(r_n \mid y_n)}{p(r_{n+1} \mid y_n) p(r_n \mid y_n)}.$$

According to (13), conditionally on $R_n^n = r_n^n$, the vector $(X_n^n, Y_{n+1}^n)$ depends on $(X_n, Y_n)$ linearly and is Gaussian (please note that $(X_n, Y_n)$ is not Gaussian as its distribution is a Gaussian mixture). This implies that the Gaussian $X_{n+1}$ also depends on $(X_n, Y_{n+1})$ linearly and thus can be written as $X_{n+1} = F_{n+1}(R_{n+1}^n)X_n + I_{n+1}(R_{n+1}^n)Y_n + J_{n+1}(R_{n+1}^n)W_{n+1} + G_{n+1}(R_{n+1}^n) \tilde{W}_{n+1}$, with $E[W_{n+1}^{r_{n+1}} | r_{n+1}, y_{n+1} = y_n] = E[W_{n+1}] = 0$ and $F_{n+1}, I_{n+1}, J_{n+1}, G_{n+1}$ expressed from parameters in (13) by eq. (22)-(25) specified below. To simplify notations let us set

$$H_{n+1}(R_{n+1}^n, Y_{n+1}^n) = I_{n+1}(R_{n+1}^n)Y_n + J_{n+1}(R_{n+1}^n)W_{n+1},$$

so that we finally have

$$X_{n+1} = F_{n+1}(R_{n+1}^n)X_n + G_{n+1}(R_{n+1}^n) \tilde{W}_{n+1} + H_{n+1}(R_{n+1}^n, Y_{n+1}^n).$$

So the filter is given by

$$E[X_{n+1} \mid r_n, y_n^{n+1}] = \sum_{r_{n+1}} p(r_{n+1} \mid r_n, y_n^{n+1}) \left[ F_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n) E[X_n \mid r_n, y_n] + G_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n) \tilde{W}_{n+1} + H_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n, y_{n+1}^{n+1}) \right].$$

(17)

Using (13), we can show that $(R_{n+1}, Y_{n+1})$ and $X_n$ are independent conditionally on $(R_n, Y_n)$. Thus we have $E[X_{n+1} \mid r_n, y_n^{n+1}] = E[X_n \mid r_n, y_n^n]$, and finally get

$$E[X_{n+1} \mid r_n, y_n^{n+1}] = \sum_{r_{n+1}} p(r_{n+1} \mid r_n, y_n^{n+1}) \left[ F_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n) E[X_n \mid r_n, y_n] + H_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n, y_{n+1}^{n+1}) \right].$$

(18)

$E[X_{n+1} X_{n+1}^T \mid r_n, y_n^{n+1}]$ is computed in a similar way:

$$E[X_{n+1} X_{n+1}^T \mid r_n, y_n^{n+1}] = \sum_{r_{n+1}} p(r_{n+1} \mid r_n, y_n^{n+1}) \left[ F_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n) E[X_n X_n^T \mid r_n, y_n] + F_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n) E[X_n \mid r_n, y_n] H_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n, y_{n+1}^{n+1}) + H_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n, y_{n+1}^{n+1}) E[X_n \mid r_n, y_n] + G_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n) H_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n, y_{n+1}^{n+1}) + H_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n, y_{n+1}^{n+1}) \right].$$

(19)

Finally, let us specify $F_{n+1}, I_{n+1}, J_{n+1},$ and $G_{n+1}$. According to (13), $p(X_{n+1}, y_{n+1} \mid x_n, r_{n+1}^{n+1}, y_n)$ is Gaussian with mean

$$[A_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n) x_n + A_{n+1}^2(r_{n+1}^n) y_n]$$

and variance-covariance matrix $Q_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n)$ in eq. (14). Then

$$p(x_{n+1} \mid r_{n+1}^{n+1}, y_{n+1})$$

is Gaussian with mean $A_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n) x_n + A_{n+1}^2(r_{n+1}^n) y_n$ and variance-covariance matrix $Q_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n)$.

So eq. (18) writes

$$H_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n, y_{n+1}^{n+1}) = A_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n) y_n + J_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n) \left( y_n - A_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n) y_n \right).$$

(20)

Finally, let us consider the CGOMSM model (12)-(13). The proposed filter runs as follows. For $n = 1, \ldots, N - 1$

1) Compute $Q_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n)$ matrix from (14);

2) Compute

$$p(r_{n+1}, y_{n+1} \mid r_n, y_n)$$

and the Gaussian distribution $p(y_{n+1} \mid r_n, y_n)$ given by (16);

3) Compute $p(r_{n+1} \mid r_n, y_{n+1})$ from (17);

4) Compute $F_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n)$ from (22); $J_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n)$ from (23), $G_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n)$ from (24) and $H_{n+1}(r_{n+1}^n)$ from (26);

5) Compute $E[X_{n+1} \mid r_n, y_n^{n+1}]$ from (20) and $E[X_{n+1} X_{n+1}^T \mid r_n, y_n^{n+1}]$ from (21).

As no computation above depends on $n$, we see that the filter running time is linear in the number of observations.

**IV. EXPERIMENTS**

We present two series of experiments, where, in both of them, $X_n$ and $Y_n$ are real valued. In the first series, we try to understand how far when the optimal filtering is concerned: the corresponding CGOMSM, obtained from CGPMSM by modifying some parameters, is from the true CGPMSM. To study this point, data are sampled with a CGPMSM and then filtered using the same CGPMSM on the one hand, and a CGOMSM on the other hand. In the second series of experiments, we examine the behaviour of the CGOMSM based filter with respect to the classical CGLSSM based one.

Therefore, consider $X_n$ and $Y_n$ as scalar-valued processes ($m = q = 1$). In all experiments, we consider homogeneous systems, which means that matrices $A_{n+1}, B_{n+1}$, for $i = 1, \ldots, 4$, in (7) do not depend on $n$. Let us briefly examine the differences between a general CGPMSM and the “corresponding” CGOMSM, obtained from the considered CGPMSM in some way. The distributions of both of them are thus defined by the distribution of $(T_1, T_2) = (X_1, R_1, Y_1, X_2, R_2, Y_2)$, and this distribution can be written as $p(t_1, t_2) = p(r_1, r_2) p(x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2 \mid r_1, r_2)$. As the distribution of the Markov chain $R_1$ will be the same in the CGPMSM and in the corresponding CGOMSM, we have to compare $p(x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2 \mid r_1, r_2)$. Finally, let us temporarily forget the conditioning by $(R_1, R_2)$ and compare the Gaussian distributions $p(x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2)$. 


Let $$Z^*_j = (Z^*_1, Z^*_2) = (X^*_1, Y^*_1, X^*_2, Y^*_2)$$. To simplify, let assume that all means are zero and all variances are 1. The Gaussian distribution of $$Z^*_j$$ is then given by the covariance matrix

$$
\Gamma Z^*_j = \begin{bmatrix}
1 & b & a & d \\
b & 1 & e & c \\
a & e & 1 & b \\
d & c & b & 1
\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix}
\Gamma & \Sigma \\
\Sigma & \Gamma
\end{bmatrix} , \quad (27)
$$

Thus the distribution of $$Z^*_j$$ is defined by five co-variances a, b, c, d, and e, with the condition that $$\Gamma Z^*_j$$ is definite positive. The dependence graph is presented in Fig. 1.

The corresponding equation (5) is here of the simple form

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
X_{n+1} \\
Y_{n+1}
\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix}
A^1 & A^2 \\
A^3 & A^4
\end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix}
X_n \\
Y_n
\end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix}
B^1 & B^2 \\
B^3 & B^4
\end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix}
U_{n+1} \\
V_{n+1}
\end{bmatrix} , \quad (28)
$$

with

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
A^1 & A^2 \\
A^3 & A^4
\end{bmatrix} = \Sigma^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix}
a - eb & e - ab \\
d - cb & c - db
\end{bmatrix} , \quad (29)
$$

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
B^1 & B^2 \\
B^3 & B^4
\end{bmatrix} = \Gamma - \Sigma^{-1} \Sigma' . \quad (30)
$$

Thus we can say that the CGPMM model is a CGOMSM model when $$A^3 = 0$$, which is equivalent to $$d - cb = 0$$. To obtain the latter, we can modify either b, c, d, or e.

Consider now the complete homogeneous CGPMM system whose distribution is defined by $$p(r_1, r_2)$$ and $$\Gamma Z^*_j (r^j_1)$$, with a, b, c, d, e, replaced by $$a(r^j_1), b(r^j_1), c(r^j_1), d(r^j_1)$$, and $$e(r^j_1)$$. Given $$(R_1, R_2) = (r_1, r_2)$$, the co-variances $$a(r^j_1), b(r^j_1), c(r^j_1), d(r^j_1)$$, and $$e(r^j_1)$$ can be the same in both CGPMM and CGGSSM distributions, and the only difference can be at the $$d(r^j_1)$$ value level: it is of any value in CGPMM while it is equal to $$c(r^j_1)b(r^j_1)$$ in CGGSSM. In other words, the distributions of $$(R_1, R_2), (X_1, Y_1, X_2),$$ and $$(Y_1, X_2, Y_2)$$ are strictly the same in the CGPMM considered and in its “approximate” CGGSSM version.

In all experiments below, we will consider two switches $$\Omega = \{ 0, 1 \}$$, and the following simplified parameter set

(i) $$p(r_1, r_2) = p(r_1) p(r_2 | r_1)$$ with $$p(r_1 = 0) = p(r_1 = 1) = 0.5$$, and $$p(r_2 = 0 | r_1 = 1) = p(r_2 = 1 | r_1 = 1) = q$$;

(ii) $$b(r^j_1) = b(r_2), a(r^j_1) = a(r_2), c(r^j_1) = c(r_2), d(r^j_1) = d(r_2)$$ and $$e(r^j_1) = e(r_2)$$.

Finally, each CGPMM used in experiments will be defined by eleven parameters: $$q, b(0), a(0), c(0), d(0), e(0), b(1), a(1), c(1), d(1)$$, and $$e(1)$$. We will consider the following slightly simplified model

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
A^1 (r^j_{n+1}) & A^2 (r^j_{n+1}) \\
A^3 (r^j_{n+1}) & A^4 (r^j_{n+1})
\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix}
\alpha (r_{n+1}) & \beta (r_{n+1}) \\
\gamma (r_{n+1}) & \delta (r_{n+1})
\end{bmatrix} , \quad (31)
$$

In the two sets of experiments below, the number of samples was set to $$N = 2000$$ and results are means of 200 independent experiments.

A. First series of experiments

The aim of this series is to simulate realizations of $$T^*_N = (X^*_N, R^*_N, Y^*_N)$$ according to the general CGPMM, and to estimate $$(R^*_N, X^*_N)$$ from $$Y^*_N$$ with different particular methods, seen as approximate methods of the optimal one. We considered five methods:

(i) the “Reference Method”, denoted by RM-KS (KS stands for “Known Switches”), where $$R^*_N = R^*_1$$ is considered as known and where the estimated $$X^*_N = X^*_1$$ is obtained by the optimal Kalman filter given by (8)-(11);

(ii) the particle filter suited to CGPMM, by extension of [5], denoted by RM-US (US stands for “Unknown Switches”);

(iii) the new alternative method we propose, denoted by M1-US, by considering that $$\gamma(0) = \gamma(1) = 0$$, and by applying the exact filter described in section III;

(iv) the Kalman filter based on CGOMSM and known switches, denoted by M1-KS;

(v) the Kalman filter based on the classic CGLSSM (see below) and known switches, denoted by M3-KS.

To further simplify, we consider here that $$b(0) = b(1) = b$$. To obtain the classical CGLSSM-based filter in (v), we consider, in (29) and (30), that $$e(r_{n+1}) = 0$$, $$c(r_{n+1}) = 0$$, $$b(r_{n+1}) = b$$, which are its classical properties (see Fig. 1).

In all models studied here, we set $$q = 0.9, b = 0.3, a(0) = 0.1, a(1) = 0.5, c(0) = 0.4, c(1) = 0.9, e(0) = 0.75,$$ and $$e(1) = 0.33$$. Then we chose 9 different couples $$(d(0), d(1))$$, defining 9 different CGPMMs, in such a way that the corresponding $$\gamma = \gamma(0) = \gamma(1)$$ (see (31)) vary from 0 to 0.4 with a step of 0.05. Therefore we increase $$\gamma$$ on purpose: the larger $$\gamma$$ the greater the difference between the model CGPMM used to simulate data and the model used to restore them with M1-US (i.e., the model CGOMSM obtained by setting $$\gamma = 0$$). We also filter data with M3-KS, where the CGLSSM used is obtained in the following way. First we set $$q = 0.9, b = 0.3, a(0) = 0.1,$$ and $$a(1) = 0.5$$. Then, as known in the classical CGLSSM (see Fig. 1), we also set $$e(0) = d(0) = a(0)b, e(0) = e(1)b, e(1) = d(1) = a(1)b, and c(1) = a(1)b^2$$.

Thus, in each case, $$t^{rj}_1 = (x^*_1, r^*_1, y^*_1)$$ have been simulated according to the real parameters and $$x^*_1$$ is estimated using RM-KS, RM-US, M1-KS, M1-US, and M3-KS. The difference between $$x^*_1$$ and the estimated $$\hat{x}^*_1$$ is calculated with the Mean Squared Error (MSE) $$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} (x_n - \hat{x}_n)^2$$. The number of particle for the particle filter method depends on the model and on the parameters of the model. Experiments not reported here lead to a number $$N_p = 200$$ of particles. We make use of Sequential Importance Resampling (SIR) where $$N_{eff} = \frac{1}{\Sigma_{j=1}^{N} (w_j)^2} < \frac{1}{N}$$, where is the weight of particle $$j$$.

Results are presented in Fig. 2. Computation time for the particle filter method (RM-US) is approximately 1.47 seconds, whereas it is 0.014 second for the exact CGGSSM method (M1-US). Generally speaking, the computation time is about half time the number of particles longer for RM-US than for M1-US. From these results, we can put forth the following conclusions:

1) The main conclusion is that when $$\gamma$$ increases, i.e. when the CGOMSM used by method M1-KS and the reference CGPMM used to sample data break away, the results obtained using M1-KS remain very close to those obtained using RM-KS based on known switches (curves are nearly superposed). This means that M1-KS algorithm is very robust with respect to $$\gamma$$;

2) The particle filter applied to the true CGPMM model gives quite satisfactory results. They are nearly equivalent to those obtained with M1-US method but with a computation time about 100 times shorter;

3) Comparing M1-KS with M1-US shows that the new method seems quite robust with respect to the knowledge / ignorance of the switches (even if the switches are rather poorly estimated);

4) The results obtained with M3-KS based on the classical CGLSSM and known switches are quite poor, which means that, at least in the context considered, CGLSSM is a rather poor approximation of the general CGPMM;

5) Both RM-US and M1-US (in which $$(R^*_N, Y^*_N)$$ is Markovian) allow to estimate $$r^*_1$$: we find about 20% of error ratios in both estimators, and the results vary little with $$\gamma$$.

6) Variation of $$\gamma$$ has very little influence on the results.
In experiments not reported, we evaluated if the parameters of the switching chain $p(r_2 = 0 | r_1 = 0) = p(r_2 = 1 | r_1 = 1) = q$ modify the conclusions obtained above. We showed that, as $q$ increases, the MSE grows for all methods except for CGLSSM. When $q$ is small (i.e., switches are frequent), the RM algorithms are more performing than the M1 ones.

B. Second series

The aim of this series of experiments is to study which one among CGOMSM and CGLSSM models is “closer” to the general CGPMSM model, when optimal filtering is concerned. In these experiments, we set $b(0) \neq b(1)$. To ensure that the results are not possibly due to a dissymmetry of the CGPMSM, we used a CGPMSM in which $X_1^n$ and $Y_1^n$ play symmetric roles. Therefore we considered $a(r_{n}) = c(r_{n})$ and $d(r_{n}) = e(r_{n})$. There is no classical CGLSSM of interest verifying this condition; indeed, in CGLSSM we would have $c(r_{n}) = a(r_{n})^2b(r_{n})$, and thus either $b(r_{n}) = 1$ or $b(r_{n}) = -1$, which are cases with no interest. Thus we used the “Extended CGLSSM” (ECGLSSM), obtained from (7) by setting $A_{n+1}^2 = 0$ (thus $\beta(r_{n}) = 0$ in (31), but $\delta(r_{n})$ are not necessarily zero). Thus the CGPMSM (7) extends the ECGLSSM, which itself extends the classical CGLSSM (2)-(3). ECGLSSM and CGOMSM can be seen as two symmetrical approximations of the CGPMSM with the same number of free parameters.

Finally, data are sampled with respect to a symmetrical CGPMSM and restored with methods based on the true CGPMSM (reference method RM-KS), with methods based on the CGOMSM obtained by setting $\gamma(r_{n}) = 0$ (methods M1-KS and M1-US), and with methods based on the ECGLSSM obtained by setting $\beta(r_{n}) = 0$ (method M2-KS). The symmetrical CGLSSM chosen to sample data is given by (31) with $\alpha(r_{n}) = \delta(r_{n})$, $\beta(r_{n}) = \gamma(r_{n})$, $a(r_{n}) = c(r_{n})$, and $d(r_{n}) = e(r_{n})$. Applying (29)-(30) for two switches $r_{n} = 0, 1$ leads to

$$\begin{bmatrix} a(r_{n}) \\ d(r_{n}) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b(r_{n}) \\ b(r_{n}) & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha(r_{n}) \\ \beta(r_{n}) \end{bmatrix}. $$

(32)

We set $q = 0.4$ and thus each CGOMSM studied is defined by ten parameters $b(0), a(0), d(0), a(1), \beta(0), b(1), a(1), d(1), \alpha(1),$ and $\beta(1)$ verifying (32), which leads to five free parameters. We consider five cases whose parameters are given in Table I, whose results are specified in Table II.

According to the results, we propose the following conclusions:

1) The main conclusion is that, in both “known switches” and “unknown switches” cases, algorithm M1 always gives better results than M2 one, and the difference can be significant (Case 1). This means that, when the optimal filtering is considered, CGOMSM better approaches the general CGPMSM than ECGLSSM does;

2) Comparing the difference of the results obtained with M1-US with respect to those obtained with M1-KS, with the analogous
difference when replacing M1 by RM, we see that the new method is a bit more robust than the particle filter based ones;

3) Regarding the estimation of the switches, which can be an objective in itself, the method M1-US appears more efficient than M2-US. As in the first series, the computation-time is about 100 times shorter for M1-US or for M2-US than for RM-US. This is a crucial advantage of the new method with respect to the particle filter based ones.

4) The error ratio in switches estimation could seem being large, but this is normal because of the low signal-to-noise ratio. In fact, as the means are all set to zero, the influence of switches on the distribution of $Y_n$ is reduced to variances and covariance.

V. Conclusion

Extending some preliminary results from [14], we proposed an exact filter called “Conditionally Gaussian Observed Markov Switching Model” (CGOMSM). The CGOMSM family of models is very flexible, so that it was possible to build a model as a close approximation to the CGPMSM (also see theoretical justifications in [17] of its closeness with the classical CGLSSM). We showed that, at least in the context of this study, our filter showed comparable efficiency with respect to a suited particle filter, while being much faster. Indeed, its computation times is nearly comparable to that of Kalman filter in absence of switches. In addition, problems like weights degeneracy can appear in the particle filter based methods, which is not the case in the proposed CGOMSM-based method.

Let us mention some perspectives for further works. First, it will be interesting to pursue comparison with an extension of the Interacting Multiple Model [12] to the pairwise context considered here. Also, parameter estimation and related unsupervised filtering provide a natural perspective for further works.

References


