Unscented Kalman Filter

Linearization via Unscented Transform



- intuition: it should be easier to approximate a given distribution than it is to approximate an arbitrary non-linear function
 - it is easy to transform a point through a nonlinear function
 - use a set of points that capture the mean and covariance of the distribution, transform the points through the non-linear function, then compute the (weighted) mean and covariance of the transformed points

Empirical transformation of a Gaussian random variable

% generate 500,000 samples from N(0, 1) x = randn(1, 500000);

% draw the histogram of x xc = -5:0.2:5; nx = hist(x, xc); bar(xc, nx, 1);

% transform each sample by f(x) y = nthroot(x – 1, 3);

% draw the histogram of y xc = -2:0.1:2; ny = hist(y, xc); bar(xc, ny, 1);

Empirical transformation of a Gaussian random variable





UKF Sigma-Point Estimate (2)



7

UKF Sigma-Point Estimate (3)



UKF Sigma-Point Estimate (4)



 for an n-dimensional Gaussian with mean μ and covariance Σ , the unscented transform uses 2n+1 sigma points (and associated weights) 2n+1 samples Sigma points Weights

$$\lambda = \alpha^2 \left(n + \kappa \right) - n$$

- choose κ≥0 to guarantee a "reasonable" covariance matrix
 - value is not critical, so choose $\kappa = 0$ by default
- choose $0 \le \alpha \le 1$
 - controls the spread of the sigma point distribution; should be small when nonlinearities are strong
- choose $\beta \ge 0$
 - $\beta = 2$ is optimal if distribution is Gaussian

Pass sigma points through nonlinear function

$$\psi^i = g(\chi^i)$$

Recover mean and covariance

$$\mu' = \sum_{i=0}^{2n} w_m^i \psi^i$$
$$\Sigma' = \sum_{i=0}^{2n} w_c^i (\psi^i - \mu) (\psi^i - \mu)^T$$

UKF_localization ($\mu_{t-1}, \Sigma_{t-1}, u_t, z_t, m$):

Prediction:

$$R_{t} = \begin{pmatrix} (\alpha_{1}v_{t}^{2} + \alpha_{2}\omega_{t}^{2})^{2} & 0 \\ 0 & (\alpha_{3}v_{t}^{2} + \alpha_{4}\omega_{t}^{2})^{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Q_{t} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{r}^{2} & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_{r}^{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$X_{t} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, n = 3$$

Control noise

Measurement noise

Augmented state mean

Augmented covariance

 $\sqrt{\Sigma_{t-1}^{a}}$ Sigma points Prediction of sigma points

Predicted mean

Predicted covariance

UKF_localization ($\mu_{t-1}, \Sigma_{t-1}, u_t, z_t, m$):



Measurement sigma points

Predicted measurement mean

Pred. measurement covariance

Cross-covariance

Kalman gain

Updated mean

Updated covariance

Augmented state

- to account for the control noise sigma points are generated for the control variables
- to account for the measurement noise sigma points are generated for the measurement variables
- all sigma points can be generated in a single step by using an augmented state vector

Augmented state

Augmented state vector

$$\mu_{t-1}^{a} = \begin{bmatrix} \mu_{t-1} \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{for additive control noise}$$

$$\text{for additive measurement noise}$$

Augmented state sigma points

 Generating sigma points with the augmented state yields sigma points each having components in state, control, and measurement

Augmented state sigma points

$$\chi_{t-1}^{a} = \begin{bmatrix} \chi_{t-1}^{x} \\ \chi_{t}^{\mu} \\ \chi_{t}^{z} \end{bmatrix} - \text{ state component of signa points} \\ - \text{ control component of signa points} \\ - \text{ measurement component of signa points}$$



UKF Observation Prediction Step











EKF

PF

UKF

Estimation Sequence



EKF

UKF

Prediction Quality

velocity_motion_model



EKF

UKF

UKF Summary

- Highly efficient: Same complexity as EKF, with a constant factor slower in typical practical applications
- Better linearization than EKF: Accurate in first two terms of Taylor expansion (EKF only first term)
- Derivative-free: No Jacobians needed
- Still not optimal!