

## On Robust $H_2$ Estimation

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**Abstract** The problem of state estimation for uncertain systems has attracted a recurring interest in the past decade. In this paper, we shall give an overview on some of the recent development in the area by focusing on the robust  $H_2$  (Kalman) filtering of uncertain discrete-time systems. The robust  $H_2$  estimation is concerned with the design of a fixed estimator for a family of plants under consideration such that the estimation error covariance is of a minimal upper bound. The uncertainty under consideration includes norm-bounded uncertainty and polytopic uncertainty. In the finite horizon case, we shall discuss a parameterized difference Riccati equation approach for systems with norm-bounded uncertainty and pinpoint the difference of state estimation between systems without uncertainty and those with uncertainty. In the infinite horizon case, we shall deal with both the norm-bounded and polytopic uncertainties using a linear matrix inequality (LMI) approach. In particular, we shall demonstrate how the conservatism of design can be improved using a slack variable technique. We also propose an iterative algorithm to refine a designed estimator. An example will be given to compare estimators designed using various techniques.

**Key words** Discrete-time systems, uncertain systems, robust  $H_2$  estimation, Riccati equations, linear matrix inequalities

### 1 Introduction

One of the fundamental problems in control systems and signal processing is the estimation of the state variables of a dynamic system through available noisy measurements. In the past three decades, this problem has attracted the interests of many researchers and one of the popular methods is based on the minimization of the variance of the estimation error, *i.e.*, the celebrated Kalman filtering approach (see, e.g. [1]). The filtering algorithm requires the knowledge of a perfect dynamic model for the signal generating system and that the noise sources should be white processes with known statistics. Thus, the standard Kalman filter may not be robust against modeling uncertainty and disturbances. This has motivated many studies on design of a robust filter which is able to yield a suboptimal solution with respect to the nominal system and in addition offer a guaranteed estimation performance for any possible uncertainties under consideration.

In the past decades, the robust estimation problem has been dealt with under various performance measures. Of particular interest, the study on robust estimation of systems with norm-bounded parameter uncertainty under the  $H_\infty$  performance was initiated in [2,3] which was followed by the study of guaranteed cost filtering in [4]. The guaranteed cost filtering is concerned with the design of a filter to ensure an upper bound on the estimation error variances for all admissible parameter uncertainties under investigation and was first addressed in [5]. The problem is also known as *robust Kalman filtering or robust  $H_2$  estimation* and has been studied in [4,6~13] for uncertain continuous-time systems and [14~22] for uncertain discrete-time systems.

There are essentially two approaches to the robust  $H_2$  estimation, namely the Riccati equation approach and the LMI approach. The Riccati equation approach was applied in the early stage of the development; see, e.g. [4,6,7,14]. Under this approach, the robust filter design is related to the solutions of two parameterized Riccati equations. The advantage of this approach is that the effect of parameter uncertainty on the structure and gain of the optimal filter is clearly demonstrated, which provides useful insights on the problem. In particular, in the finite horizon, the approach reveals that unlike the classical Kalman filtering an optimal filter at time  $k$  does not necessarily lead to an optimal filter at  $k + 1$ . This implies that the recursive computation of the optimal covariance matrix in the classical Kalman filter is no longer valid for the robust Kalman filtering. The difficulty of the Riccati equation approach also lies

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in the fact that it requires a search of scaling parameter(s) such that the Riccati equations have solutions and the estimation error variance is minimized.

In recent years, a lot of interests have been focused on the LMI approach; see e.g. [9,11,12,18,23]. The LMI approach has an advantage in numerical computation and optimization. In fact, it has been demonstrated that the design of robust filter for systems under either norm-bounded or polytopic parameter uncertainty can be characterized as a convex optimization involving the LMIs. In the early development, a fixed Lyapunov function was applied for all the members of the plant family; see e.g. [9,17]. And it is generally conservative. Much of the recent interest in the area has been towards developing techniques which could lead to a less conservative design. In [18,22,23], a parameter-dependent Lyapunov function technique was introduced based on a slack variable technique. The work was inspired by a new result in [24] on robust stability of uncertain discrete-time systems. The slack variable technique has been demonstrated to be able to offer much improved results. Very recently, a further reduction of design conservatism has been proposed in [20] where extra slack variables are introduced.

In this paper, the problem of finite and infinite horizon robust  $H_2$  estimation for uncertain discrete-time systems is revisited. Both the finite horizon and infinite horizon cases are considered. We shall review the development of the area in the past decade and propose an iterative algorithm to refine a designed infinite horizon filter. An example will be given to compare estimators designed using various techniques.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. The system under investigation and the statement of the robust  $H_2$  estimation will be given in Section 2. Section 3 studies techniques for systems with norm-bounded uncertainty using both the Riccati equation and LMI approaches. Systems with polytopic uncertainty will be investigated in Section 4. An example will be given to compare various design techniques of robust  $H_2$  estimation in Section 5. Finally, we shall draw some conclusions in Section 6.

## 2 Problem formulation

Consider the following asymptotically stable system:

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = A_\delta \mathbf{x}_k + B \mathbf{w}_k \quad (1)$$

$$\mathbf{y}_k = C_\delta \mathbf{x}_k + D \mathbf{w}_k \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbf{z}_k = L \mathbf{x}_k \quad (3)$$

where  $\mathbf{x}_k \in \mathcal{R}^n$  is the system state vector,  $\mathbf{y}_k \in \mathcal{R}^r$  is the measurement,  $\mathbf{z}_k \in \mathcal{R}^p$  is the signal to be estimated and  $\mathbf{w}_k \in \mathcal{R}^m$  is the noise input with zero-mean and unit variance. The initial state  $\mathbf{x}_0$  of the system is a random vector of zero-mean and variance  $\tilde{S}_0 > 0$  and is independent of  $\mathbf{w}_k$  for any  $k \geq 0$ .

Note that for the case when the process noise and measurement noise are different (usually so in practice), say  $B_1 \mathbf{w}_{1k}$  and  $D_1 \mathbf{w}_{2k}$ , we can simply put  $B = [B_1 \ 0]$ ,  $D = [0 \ D_1]$  and let  $\mathbf{w}_k = [\mathbf{w}_{1k}^T \ \mathbf{w}_{2k}^T]^T$  in the system model (1)~(2).

For the sake of clarity of presentation, we assume that system parameter uncertainty only appears in  $A_\delta$  and  $C_\delta$  whereas  $B$ ,  $D$  and  $L$  are known matrices. It should be noted that it is rather straightforward to extend the solutions of this paper to the case where uncertainty is also present in matrices  $B$ ,  $D$  and  $L$ .

Two types of uncertainty are commonly considered in literature, namely, the norm-bounded uncertainty<sup>[2,14,15,19]</sup> and the polytopic uncertainty<sup>[11,13,17,18,20,23]</sup>.

### a) Norm-bounded uncertainty

In this characterization, we allow the uncertainty to be time-varying and matrices  $A_\delta$  and  $C_\delta$  have the form:

$$\Omega_N = \left\{ (A_\delta, C_\delta) \mid \begin{bmatrix} A_\delta \\ C_\delta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A \\ C \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} H_1 \\ H_2 \end{bmatrix} F_k E \right\} \quad (4)$$

where  $F_k = \text{diag}\{F_{1k}, F_{2k}, \dots, F_{\ell k}\}$  with  $F_{ik} \in \mathcal{R}^{\alpha_i \times \beta_i}$  is an unknown real time-varying matrix satisfying

$$F_{ik}^T F_{ik} \leq I, \quad \forall k \geq 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, \ell \quad (5)$$

and  $H_1$ ,  $H_2$  and  $E$  are known real constant matrices of appropriate dimensions that specify how the elements of the nominal matrices  $A$  and  $C$  are affected by the uncertainty in  $F_k$ .

### b) Polytopic uncertainty

In this case, matrices  $A_\delta$  and  $C_\delta$  belong to the following uncertainty polytope:

$$\Omega_P = \left\{ (A_\delta, C_\delta) \mid (A_\delta, C_\delta) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_v} \alpha_i (A^{(i)}, C^{(i)}), \alpha_i \geq 0, \sum_{i=1}^{N_v} \alpha_i = 1 \right\} \quad (6)$$

where  $(A^{(i)}, C^{(i)})$  is the  $i$ -th vertex of the polytope.

**Remark 1.** Note that by the Schur complement (5) is equivalent to

$$\begin{bmatrix} -I & F_{ik}^T \\ F_{ik} & -I \end{bmatrix} \leq 0$$

Therefore, the uncertainty set  $\Omega_N$  also belongs to a convex set. However,  $\Omega_N$  is in general not a polyhedral set except for some special cases such as when the uncertainty matrix  $F_k$  is diagonal. On the other hand, since  $\Omega_N$  is a convex set, it is always possible to approximate  $\Omega_N$  using a polyhedral set. But a good approximation may require a polytope with a large number of vertices which will be numerically costly in designing a robust  $H_2$  estimator as seen later. The norm-bounded uncertainty characterization may be restrictive in some applications but it is less computationally demanding to design a robust  $H_2$  estimator with such a characterization than that of the polytopic uncertainty.

In this paper, we are concerned with the design of an estimator for the uncertain system (1)~(3) to achieve an optimal guaranteed estimation performance regardless of the uncertainty characterized in either (4) or (6). Both the finite horizon and infinite horizon cases are considered.

In the finite horizon case, the system matrices in (1)~(3) are allowed to be time-varying, *i.e.*,  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ ,  $D$ ,  $L$ ,  $H_1$ ,  $H_2$  and  $E$  are replaced by  $A_k$ ,  $B_k$ ,  $C_k$ ,  $D_k$ ,  $L_k$ ,  $H_{1k}$ ,  $H_{2k}$  and  $E_k$ , respectively. However, for simplicity, we drop the subscript  $k$  whenever no confusion is caused.

We consider the following problems.

a) Finite horizon robust  $H_2$  estimation

Our objective is to design a robust one-step ahead predictor of the form

$$(\mathcal{F}_P) : \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1} = \hat{A}_k \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k + \hat{B}_k \mathbf{y}_k, \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 = 0 \quad (7)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{z}}_k = L \mathbf{x}_k \quad (8)$$

where  $\hat{A}_k$  and  $\hat{B}_k$  are time-varying matrices to be determined in order that the variance of the estimation error  $\mathbf{z}_k - \hat{\mathbf{z}}_k$  is guaranteed to be smaller than a certain bound for all uncertainty matrices  $F_k$  satisfying (5), *i.e.*, the estimation error dynamics satisfies

$$\mathcal{E}[(\mathbf{x}_k - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k)(\mathbf{x}_k - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k)^T] \leq \Sigma_k \quad (9)$$

with  $\Sigma_k$  being an optimized upper bound of the prediction error covariance over the class of robust quadratic predictors to be defined later, where  $\mathcal{E}$  denotes the mathematical expectation.

b) Infinite horizon robust  $H_2$  estimation

For the infinite horizon case, the system matrices  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ ,  $D$ ,  $L$ ,  $H_1$ ,  $H_2$  and  $E$  are confined to be constant matrices and our objective is to design a time-invariant filter

$$(\mathcal{F}_F) : \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1} = \hat{A} \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k + \hat{B} \mathbf{y}_k, \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 = 0 \quad (10)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{z}}_k = \hat{C} \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k + \hat{D} \mathbf{y}_k \quad (11)$$

such that for any uncertainty from  $\Omega_N$  or  $\Omega_P$  the filtering error dynamics  $\mathbf{e}_k = \mathbf{x}_k - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k$  is asymptotically stable and

$$\mathcal{E}[(\mathbf{x}_k - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k)(\mathbf{x}_k - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k)^T] \leq \Sigma \quad (12)$$

for a constant matrix  $\Sigma = \Sigma^T \geq 0$ . Furthermore,  $\text{trace}(\Sigma)$  is to be minimized.

**Remark 2.** In the case of norm-bounded uncertainty, the robust estimation problem in the  $H_\infty$  sense was first investigated in [2] via a Riccati equation approach. This work was later extended to solve the robust  $H_2$  estimation in [14] and further improved by [15,19]. The difficulty with this approach is the requirement of solving parameterized Riccati equations which is not easy in general. In particular, when the uncertainty is of a block-diagonal structure, to reduce the conservatism of design, a scaling matrix is

usually introduced and the selection of such a scaling matrix for an optimal filtering performance turns out to be difficult. In [9] and [25], an LMI approach was adopted for the infinite horizon robust  $H_2$  estimation. The nice feature of this approach is that the search of the scaling matrix and filter parameters are convex and can be easily carried out by using the LMI Toolbox<sup>[26]</sup>.

For the polytoic uncertainty, the LMI approach has attracted significant interest in the past few years; see, e.g. [12,13,17,18,20,23]. In [17], a convex optimization solution was obtained by applying a fixed Lyapunov function for all admissible uncertainties, which is conservative. A slack-variable technique was introduced in [13,18,23] in order to alleviate the design conservatism. Recently, a further improved result has been achieved by introducing extra slack variables in optimization in [20].

### 3 Robust $H_2$ filtering of systems with norm-bounded uncertainty

In this section, we shall present solutions to the robust  $H_2$  estimation of systems with norm-bounded uncertainty. For the simplicity of presentation, we assume that  $BD^T = 0$  which implies that the process noise and measurement noise are independent of each other.

#### 3.1 Finite horizon case

In terms of system (1)~(3) with uncertainty  $\Omega_N$  and predictor (7)~(8), the state-space equations for the estimation error  $e_k$  are as follows:

$$\xi_{k+1} = (\bar{A} + \bar{H}F_k\bar{E})\xi_k + Gw_k, \quad \xi(0) = \xi_0 \quad (13)$$

$$\eta_k = \bar{L}\xi_k \quad (14)$$

where  $e_k = x_k - \hat{x}_k$ ,  $\xi_k = [e_k^T \quad \hat{x}_k^T]^T$  with  $\xi_0 = [x_0^T \quad 0]^T$  and

$$\bar{A} = \begin{bmatrix} A - \hat{B}C & A - \hat{A} - \hat{B}C \\ \hat{B}C & \hat{A} + \hat{B}C \end{bmatrix}, \quad G = \begin{bmatrix} B - \hat{B}D \\ \hat{B}D \end{bmatrix} \quad (15)$$

$$\bar{H} = \begin{bmatrix} H_1 - \hat{B}H_2 \\ \hat{B}H_2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \bar{E} = [E \quad E], \quad \bar{L} = [L \quad 0] \quad (16)$$

**Definition 1**<sup>[15,19]</sup>. The estimator (7)~(8) is said to be a robust quadratic one-step ahead predictor if for some  $\varepsilon_k > 0$ , there exists a bounded  $\bar{\Sigma}_k = \bar{\Sigma}_k^T \geq 0$  that satisfies the following difference Riccati equation (DRE):

$$\bar{\Sigma}_{k+1} = \bar{A}\bar{\Sigma}_k\bar{A}^T + \bar{A}\bar{\Sigma}_k\bar{E}^T(\varepsilon_k^{-1}I - \bar{E}\bar{\Sigma}_k\bar{E}^T)^{-1}\bar{E}\bar{\Sigma}_k\bar{A}^T + \varepsilon_k^{-1}\bar{H}\bar{H}^T + GG^T \quad (17)$$

and such that  $I - \varepsilon_k\bar{E}\bar{\Sigma}_k\bar{E}^T > 0$ , where  $\bar{\Sigma}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{S}_0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .

It is easy to show that for a given robust one-step ahead predictor, an upper bound for the prediction error covariance can be given by

$$\mathcal{E}(\eta_k\eta_k^T) \leq L\Sigma_kL^T \quad (18)$$

where  $\Sigma_k$  is the (1,1)-block of  $\bar{\Sigma}_k$ .

Before presenting a solution to the optimal robust  $H_2$  one-step ahead prediction, we introduce the following two DREs.

$$P_{k+1} = AP_kA^T + AP_kE^T\left(\frac{I}{\varepsilon_k} - EP_kE^T\right)^{-1}EP_kA^T + \frac{1}{\varepsilon_k}H_1H_1^T + BB^T, \quad P_0 = \bar{S}_0 \quad (19)$$

$$\Sigma_{k+1} = A\Sigma_kA^T - (A\Sigma_k\tilde{C}_k^T + \tilde{B}_k\tilde{D}_k^T)(\tilde{C}_k\Sigma_k\tilde{C}_k^T + \tilde{R}_k)^{-1}(A\Sigma_k\hat{C}_k^T + \tilde{B}_k\tilde{D}_k^T)^T + \tilde{B}_k\tilde{B}_k^T, \quad \Sigma_0 = \bar{S}_0 \quad (20)$$

where

$$\tilde{C}_k = \sqrt{\varepsilon_k} \begin{bmatrix} C \\ E \end{bmatrix}, \quad \tilde{B}_k = [B \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_k}}H_1 \quad 0]$$

$$\tilde{D}_k = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{D}_k \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \tilde{R}_k = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{D}_k\bar{D}_k^T & 0 \\ 0 & -I \end{bmatrix}, \quad \bar{D}_k = [0 \quad H_2 \quad \sqrt{\varepsilon_k}D]$$

We make the following assumption.

**Assumption 1.**  $\text{rank}[A \ H_1 \ B] = n$ .

**Theorem 2**<sup>[19]</sup>. Consider the uncertain system (1)~(3) with a single block of uncertainty  $\Omega_N$  ( $\ell = 1$ ) and satisfying Assumption 1. There exists a robust quadratic one-step ahead predictor for the system that minimizes the bound on the error variance in (18) if and only if for some  $\varepsilon_k > 0$ , there exists a solution  $P_k = P_k^T > 0$  over  $[0, N]$  to the DRE (19) such that  $P_k^{-1} - \varepsilon_k E^T E > 0$ .

Under this condition, a robust quadratic one-step ahead predictor with an optimized upper bound of error covariance is given by

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1} = (A + A_{e,k})\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k + K_k \left[ \mathbf{y}_k - (C + C_{e,k})\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k \right], \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 = \mathbf{0} \quad (21)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{z}}_k = L\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k \quad (22)$$

where

$$A_{e,k} = \varepsilon_k A \Sigma_k E^T \left( I - \varepsilon_k E \Sigma_k E^T \right)^{-1} E \quad (23)$$

$$C_{e,k} = \varepsilon_k C \Sigma_k E^T \left( I - \varepsilon_k E \Sigma_k E^T \right)^{-1} E \quad (24)$$

$$K_k = \left( A Q_k C^T + \frac{1}{\varepsilon_k} H_1 H_2^T \right) \left( R \varepsilon_k + C Q_k C^T \right)^{-1} \quad (25)$$

$$R \varepsilon_k = D D^T + \frac{1}{\varepsilon_k} H_2 H_2^T \quad (26)$$

and  $\Sigma_k = \Sigma_k^T > 0$  is a solution of DRE (20) over  $[0, N]$  and satisfies  $Q_k^{-1} = \Sigma_k^{-1} - \varepsilon_k E^T E > 0$ .

Moreover, the optimized error covariance bound is  $\Sigma_k$ .

**Remark 3.** Note from Theorem 2 that the predictor parameters (23)~(25) are not related to the solution of DRE (19). However, the existence of a solution to (19) is needed to ensure that the derived predictor is a robust quadratic one.

The matrices  $A_{e,k}$  and  $C_{e,k}$  of the predictor can be viewed respectively as correction matrices on  $A$  and  $C$  in consideration of the norm-bounded uncertainty in  $A_\delta$  and  $C_\delta$ . We observe from (20) and (23)~(25) that when the parameter uncertainty in system (1)~(2) disappears, the robust predictor of Theorem 2 reduces to the standard finite-horizon Kalman predictor for the nominal system of (1)~(2). In this situation, (19) becomes redundant.

**Remark 4.** From Theorem 2, it is clear that the optimal guaranteed one-step ahead prediction performance at time  $k$  depends on system data and the scaling parameters  $\varepsilon_0, \varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_{k-1}$ . This projects a significant difference between the optimal estimation of systems without uncertainty and that of systems with uncertainty. For the former case, it is well known that the optimal estimation at time  $k-1$  will lead to an optimal estimation at  $k$ . This enables a recursive calculation of the optimal estimation covariance based on one DRE. This desirable property, however, is no longer valid for the latter<sup>[27]</sup>. It means that to obtain an optimal robust estimator at time  $k$ , the scaling parameters  $\varepsilon_0, \varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_{k-2}$  have to be recomputed and so do the corresponding solutions of (19) and (20). The optimization over the scaling parameters may be numerically costly with the increasing value of  $k$ .

To reduce the computational complexity, instead of optimizing the cost over all the  $k$  scaling parameters, we may optimize  $\text{trace}(\Sigma_k)$  over a fixed length of scaling parameters  $\varepsilon_{k-1}, \varepsilon_{k-2}, \dots, \varepsilon_{k-d}$ , where  $d$  is called a window in [27] in which a semidefinite programming approach is adopted. This can be done as follows. Given the computed suboptimal  $P_{k-d}$  and  $\Sigma_{k-d}$ , for any  $k-d \leq i \leq k-1$  it follows from [19] that given  $P_i > 0$  and  $\Sigma_i > 0$ , the solution  $\Sigma_{i+1} > 0$  of (20) exists if  $0 < \varepsilon_i < \bar{\varepsilon}_i = \|E P_i E^T\|^{-1}$ . Hence, we can grid the interval  $(0, \bar{\varepsilon}_i)$  and for each  $\varepsilon_k$  from the interval calculate the corresponding  $P_{i+1}$  and  $\Sigma_{i+1}$ . The optimization of  $\text{trace}(\Sigma_k)$  over  $\varepsilon_{k-1}, \varepsilon_{k-2}, \dots, \varepsilon_{k-d}$  will then involve the calculation of  $P_i$  and  $\Sigma_i$  of a tree structure. The optimal solution will be the one with minimal  $\text{trace}(\Sigma_k)$ . The performance of the robust predictor and its computational cost will depend on the size of window,  $d$ . The larger the  $d$  the better the performance but the computational cost is also higher. We note that in [28] the case of  $d = 1$  was applied for the design of a suboptimal robust LQR controller.

### 3.2 Infinite horizon case

In this section we shall address the robust  $H_2$  estimation of systems with norm-bounded uncertainty in the infinite horizon case via an LMI approach. An algebraic Riccati equation approach for the single block uncertainty case can be found in [19].

**Theorem 3**<sup>[25]</sup>. Suppose that the system (1)~(3) is quadratically stable (see [29] for the definition). Then, there always exists a robust  $H_2$  filter of the form (10)~(11). Further, the optimal robust  $H_2$  filter can be obtained by solving the following optimization

$$\min_{\Gamma > 0, R > 0, S > 0, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}} \text{trace}(\Sigma) \quad (27)$$

subject to

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\Sigma & * & * & * \\ RB + \mathcal{B}D & -R & * & * \\ SB & -S & -S & 0 \\ L - \mathcal{D}D & 0 & 0 & -I \end{bmatrix} < 0 \quad (28)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -R + E^T \Gamma E & * & * & * & * & * \\ -S + E^T \Gamma E & -S + E^T \Gamma E & * & * & * & * \\ RA + \mathcal{B}C & \mathcal{A} & -R & * & * & * \\ SA & SA & -S & -S & * & * \\ L - \mathcal{D}C & L - \mathcal{C} & 0 & 0 & -I & * \\ 0 & 0 & H_1^T R + H_2^T \mathcal{B}^T & H_1^T S & -H_2^T \mathcal{D}^T & -\Gamma \end{bmatrix} < 0 \quad (29)$$

where ‘\*’ denotes entry that can be deduced from the symmetry property of the matrix,  $\Gamma = \text{diag}\{\varepsilon_1 I_{\alpha_1}, \varepsilon_2 I_{\alpha_2}, \dots, \varepsilon_\ell I_{\alpha_\ell}\}$  is a scaling matrix and  $R, S, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}$  are matrices to be determined.

Indeed, given optimal solutions ( $\Gamma > 0, R > 0, S > 0, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}$ ), an optimal robust  $H_2$  filter can be computed through

$$MN^T = I - RS^{-1} \quad (30)$$

$$\hat{D} = \mathcal{D} \quad (31)$$

$$\hat{C} = (\mathcal{C} - \mathcal{D}C)S^{-1}N^{-T} \quad (32)$$

$$\hat{B} = M^{-1}\mathcal{B} \quad (33)$$

$$\hat{A} = M^{-1}(\mathcal{A} - RA - M\hat{B}C)S^{-1}N^{-T} \quad (34)$$

**Remark 5.** It is observed that LMIs (28) and (29) are linear in  $\Gamma, R, S, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$ . Therefore, the optimization in (27) is convex. As compared to the results in [14,16] where one-step ahead prediction was considered, the result in Theorem 3 is numerically much more attractive as the former requires searching for scaling parameters for which no effective algorithms are available. Furthermore, Theorem 3 also allows to handle both the one-step ahead predictor ( $\hat{D} = 0$ ) and the filtering cases.

#### 4 Robust $H_2$ filtering of systems with polytopic uncertainty

In this section, we shall study the robust  $H_2$  filtering for systems with polytopic uncertainty in the infinite horizon case. In the past few years, the LMI approach has been prevailing in dealing with this problem. Here, we shall capture some of these developments. The finite horizon case can be found in [18] where a DLMI (difference LMI) technique was applied. We shall not address this case here.

First, denote  $\xi = [\mathbf{x}^T \hat{\mathbf{x}}^T]^T$ . It follows from (1)~(3) and (10)~(11) that

$$\xi_{k+1} = \bar{A}_\delta \xi_k + \bar{B} \mathbf{w}_k \quad (35)$$

$$\mathbf{z}_k - \hat{\mathbf{z}}_k = \bar{C}_\delta \xi_k + \bar{D} \mathbf{w}_k \quad (36)$$

where

$$\bar{A}_\delta = \begin{bmatrix} A_\delta & 0 \\ \hat{B}C_\delta & \hat{A} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \bar{B} = \begin{bmatrix} B \\ \hat{B}D \end{bmatrix}, \quad \bar{C}_\delta = [L - DC_\delta \quad -\hat{C}], \quad \bar{D} = -\hat{D}D \quad (37)$$

Recall that for any uncertainty from  $\Omega_P$ , an upper bound for the  $H_2$  norm square of the system (35)~(36) can be computed by the following minimization<sup>[18]</sup>:

$$\min_P \text{trace}(\bar{C}_\delta P \bar{C}_\delta^T + \bar{D} \bar{D}^T) \quad (38)$$

subject to

$$\bar{A}_\delta P \bar{A}_\delta^T - P + \bar{B} \bar{B}^T < 0 \quad (39)$$

A robust  $H_2$  filtering based on a fixed Lyapunov function matrix  $P$  was given in [17], which is generally conservative.

Since the uncertainty in  $A_\delta$  and  $C_\delta$  comes from the polytope  $\Omega_P$ , it is clear<sup>[30]</sup> that (38)~(39) hold if

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Sigma & \bar{C}^{(i)}G & \bar{D} \\ * & G + G' - P_i & 0 \\ \bar{D}^T & 0 & I \end{bmatrix} > 0 \quad (40)$$

and

$$\begin{bmatrix} P_i & \bar{A}^{(i)}G & \bar{B} \\ * & G + G' - P_i & 0 \\ * & * & I \end{bmatrix} > 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N_v \quad (41)$$

where  $\bar{A}^{(i)}$  and  $\bar{C}^{(i)}$  denote respectively matrices  $\bar{A}_\delta$  and  $\bar{C}_\delta$  at the  $i$ -th vertex of the polytope  $\Omega_P$ .

The above result exploits the vertex-dependent parameter  $P_i$ . This can be seen as follows. Suppose that (41) is satisfied at all the vertices of  $\Omega_P$ . Then for any uncertainty  $\delta \in \Omega_P$ , *i.e.*  $(A_\delta, C_\delta) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_v} \alpha_i(A^{(i)}, C^{(i)})$ ,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Sigma & \bar{C}_\delta G & \bar{D} \\ * & G + G' - \sum_{i=1}^{N_v} \alpha_i P_i & 0 \\ * & * & I \end{bmatrix} > 0, \quad \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{i=1}^{N_v} \alpha_i P_i & \bar{A}_\delta G & \bar{B} \\ * & G + G' - \sum_{i=1}^{N_v} \alpha_i P_i & 0 \\ * & * & I \end{bmatrix} > 0 \quad (42)$$

which clearly shows that  $\sum_{i=1}^{N_v} \alpha_i P_i$  is a parameter-dependent Lyapunov matrix. A robust  $H_2$  one-step ahead predictor design based on the parameter-dependent Lyapunov function is recalled below.

**Theorem 4**<sup>[18,23]</sup>. Consider the system (1)~(3) with polytopic uncertainty  $\Omega_P$ . The optimal robust  $H_2$  one-step ahead predictor can be given by (10)~(11) with

$$\hat{A} = MS^{-1}, \quad \hat{B} = M^{-1}Z, \quad \hat{C} = S_C$$

where matrices  $M$ ,  $S$ ,  $Z$  and  $S_C$  are solutions to the following convex optimization:

$$\min_{M, R, X, Z, S, S_C, H_j^{(i)}, j=1,2,3} \text{trace}(\Sigma) \quad (43)$$

subject to

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Sigma & L - S_C & L \\ * & H_1^{(i)} & H_2^{(i)} \\ * & * & H_3^{(i)} \end{bmatrix} > 0 \quad (44)$$

and

$$\begin{bmatrix} -R^T - R + H_1^{(i)} & -R^T - X - M^T + H_2^{(i)} & R^T A^{(i)} & R^T A^{(i)} & R^T B \\ * & -X - X^T + H_3^{(i)} & X^T A^{(i)} + ZC^{(i)} + S & X^T A^{(i)} + ZC^{(i)} & X^T B + ZD \\ * & * & -H_1^{(i)} & -H_2^{(i)} & 0 \\ * & * & * & -H_3^{(i)} & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & -I \end{bmatrix} < 0 \quad (45)$$

for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N_v$ .

**Remark 6.** Observe that (44)~(45) are linear in unknown parameters  $M$ ,  $R$ ,  $X$ ,  $Z$ ,  $S$ ,  $S_C$ ,  $H_j^{(i)}$ ,  $j = 1, 2, 3$ . Hence, the optimization in (43) can be solved by convex optimization using the LMI Tool<sup>[26]</sup>. It was demonstrated in [18] that Theorem 4 gives a much less conservative design than that of [17]. Certainly, it is worth noting that even with the deployment of the parameter-dependent Lyapunov function the result is still sufficient but not necessary and thus there exists some degree of conservatism. Therefore, efforts remain to be made to improve the design.

Note that (39) is equivalent to

$$\begin{bmatrix} \bar{A}_\delta & \bar{B} \end{bmatrix} \text{diag}\{P, I\} \begin{bmatrix} \bar{A}_\delta^T \\ \bar{B}^T \end{bmatrix} - P < 0 \quad (46)$$

or

$$\begin{bmatrix} \bar{A}_\delta & \bar{B} \end{bmatrix}^T Q \begin{bmatrix} \bar{A}_\delta & \bar{B} \end{bmatrix} - \text{diag}\{Q, I\} < 0 \quad (47)$$

where  $Q = P^{-1}$ .

The following lemma can be found in [31].

**Lemma 1**<sup>[31]</sup>. There exists a matrix  $Q = Q^T > 0$  to (47) if there exists a solution  $(F, G, Q^{(i)}, i = 1, 2, \dots, N_v)$  with  $Q^{(i)} = Q^{(i)T}$  such that

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\text{diag}\{Q^{(i)}, I\} + \begin{bmatrix} \bar{A}^{(i)T} \\ \bar{B}^T \end{bmatrix} F + F^T [\bar{A}^{(i)} \ \bar{B}] & -F^T + \begin{bmatrix} \bar{A}^{(i)T} \\ \bar{B}^T \end{bmatrix} G \\ -F + G^T [\bar{A}^{(i)} \ \bar{B}] & Q^{(i)} - (G + G^T) \end{bmatrix} < 0 \quad (48)$$

**Remark 7.** As compared to (41), (48) contains an extra slack variable  $F$  which will help reduce the conservatism in evaluating the  $H_2$  performance of a given robust filter. The result was also explored to give an improved design of robust  $H_2$  filter in [20] which is recalled below. When  $F$  is set to be zero, (48) will be reduced to (41).

**Theorem 5**<sup>[20]</sup>. Consider the system (1)~(3) over the polytope  $\Omega_P$ . A filter of the form (10)~(11) that gives a suboptimal guaranteed filtering error covariance bound can be derived from the following optimization

$$\min_{(R, W, S_A, S_B, S_C, S_D, M, H_1^{(i)}, H_2^{(i)}, H_3^{(i)}, i=1, 2, \dots, N, \lambda_1, \lambda_2)} \text{trace}(\Sigma)$$

subject to

$$\begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1(A^{(i)T}R + R^T A^{(i)}) - H_1^{(i)} & * & * \\ \lambda_1 W^T A^{(i)} + \lambda_2(S_B C^{(i)} + S_A) - H_2^{(i)T} & -\lambda_2(S_A + S_A^T) - H_3^{(i)} & * \\ \lambda_1 B^T R & \lambda_1 B^T W + \lambda_2 D^T S_B^T & -I \\ R^T A^{(i)} - \lambda_1 R & -\lambda_1 W - \lambda_2 M^T & R^T B \\ W^T A^{(i)} + S_B C^{(i)} + S_A & -S_A + \lambda_2 M^T & W^T B + S_B D \\ * & * & \\ * & * & \\ * & * & \\ H_1^{(i)} - (R + R^T) & * & \\ H_2^{(i)T} - (W^T + M) & H_3^{(i)} + (M + M^T) & \end{bmatrix} < 0 \quad (49)$$

and

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Sigma & * & * & * \\ L^T - C^{(i)T} S_D^T - S_C^T & H_1^{(i)} & * & * \\ S_C^T & H_2^{(i)T} & H_3^{(i)} & * \\ -D^T S_D^T & 0 & 0 & I \end{bmatrix} > 0 \quad (50)$$

for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N_v$ . The suboptimal filter is given by

$$\hat{A} = M^{-1} S_A, \quad \hat{B} = M^{-1} S_B, \quad \hat{C} = S_C, \quad \hat{D} = S_D \quad (51)$$

**Remark 8.** It should be mentioned that when  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 0$  and  $\hat{D} = 0$ , Theorem 5 recovers the result of Theorem 4 where a one-step ahead predictor is adopted. It is then clear that the result in Theorem 5 is more general and guaranteed to be less conservative than those in Theorem 4 due to the extra degrees of freedom in optimization provided by the free parameters  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$ .

**Remark 9.** Observe that for given  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$ , (49) and (50) are linear in  $R, W, S_A, S_B, S_C, S_D, M, H_1^{(i)}, H_2^{(i)}$  and  $H_3^{(i)}$ , and hence can be solved by employing the LMI Tool<sup>[26]</sup>. The problem is then how to



find the optimal values of  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  in order to minimize the filtering error variance bound. One way to address the tuning issue is to first solve the feasibility problem of the LMIs (49)~(50) with  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N_v$  using Matlab's LMI toolbox<sup>[26]</sup> and obtain a set of initial scaling parameters. Then, applying a numerical optimization algorithm, such as the program **fminsearch** in the optimization toolbox of Matlab<sup>[32]</sup> a locally convergent solution to the problem is obtained. The search is demonstrated in the examples of Section 5. Based on our experience, this optimization procedure can be efficient for the optimization in Theorem 5 as it only involves the search of two parameters  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$ .

Note that Theorem 5 has been derived with a specialized matrix  $F$  of the form

$$F = [AG \ 0]$$

where  $A = \text{diag}\{\lambda_1 I, \lambda_2 I\}$  in order to linearize the matrix inequality<sup>[20]</sup>. This, however, is restrictive. In the following we will propose an iterative algorithm which can be applied to refine the filter designed using Theorem 5.

To this end, we denote

$$\overline{AB}^{(i)} = \begin{bmatrix} A^{(i)} & 0 & B \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \widehat{AB} = [\hat{A} \ \hat{B}], \quad \overline{CD} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I & 0 \\ C^{(i)} & 0 & D \end{bmatrix}$$

Then, (48) can be rewritten as

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\text{diag}\{Q^{(i)}, I\} + \overline{AB}^{(i)\text{T}} F + F^{\text{T}} \overline{AB}^{(i)} + \overline{CD}^{(i)\text{T}} \widehat{AB}^{\text{T}} [0 \ I] F + F^{\text{T}} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ I \end{bmatrix} \widehat{ABCD}^{(i)} & * \\ -F + G^{\text{T}} \overline{AB} + G^{\text{T}} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ I \end{bmatrix} \widehat{ABCD}^{(i)} & Q^{(i)} - (G + G^{\text{T}}) \end{bmatrix} < 0 \quad (52)$$

The following iterative procedure can be applied.

**Step 1.** Given the filter parameters  $(\hat{A}, \hat{B}, \hat{C}, \hat{D})$ ,  $F$ ,  $G$  and  $Q^{(i)}$  may be found by minimizing  $\text{trace}(\Sigma)$  subject to (48) and (40). The initial  $(\hat{A}, \hat{B}, \hat{C}, \hat{D})$  can be the suboptimal filter designed by Theorem 5.

**Step 2.** With  $F$ ,  $G$  and  $Q^{(i)}$  obtained in Step 1, an improved filter can be obtained by minimizing  $\text{trace}(\Sigma)$  subject to (52) and (40).

Repeat the above steps until  $\text{trace}(\Sigma_{k-1} - \Sigma_k) < \mu$ , where  $\mu$  is a prescribed tolerance and  $\Sigma_k$  is the matrix  $\Sigma$  of (40) at the  $k$ -th iteration.

It should be emphasized that the above iteration always converges.

## 5 Illustrative examples

Consider the example in [14]:

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -0.5 \\ 1 & 1 + \delta \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_k + \begin{bmatrix} -6 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} w_k \quad (53)$$

$$y_k = [-100 \ 10] \mathbf{x}_k + v_k \quad (54)$$

$$z_k = [1 \ 0] \mathbf{x}_k \quad (55)$$

where  $w_k$  and  $v_k$  are uncorrelated zero-mean white noise signals with unit variances, respectively.  $\delta$  is the uncertain parameter satisfying  $|\delta| \leq \delta_0$ , where  $\delta_0$  is known to be a positive real number. Obviously, the uncertainty in this system can be represented by norm-bounded uncertainty.

Consider  $\delta_0 = 0.3$ . The above system matrices can be put into the form (4) with single block uncertainty and

$$H_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 10 \end{bmatrix}, \quad H_2 = 0, \quad E = [0 \ 0.03]$$

Use the results in Theorems 2 and 3, the optimal robust one-step ahead predictor (setting  $\hat{D} = 0$ ) based on the Riccati equation approach and the LMI approach can be obtained. Theorem 3 also allows us to compute the optimal filter (with  $\hat{D} \neq 0$ ). A performance comparison of the optimal one-step ahead predictors and the optimal filter is given in Table 1.

Table 1 Performance of robust predictor and filter for the norm-bounded uncertainty characterization

	$\delta = -0.3$	$\delta = 0$	$\delta = 0.3$	bound
Robust filter of [14]	64.0	61.4	64.4	98.7
One-step ahead predictor by Theorem 2	52.8	51.1	54.4	69.2
One-step ahead predictor by Theorem 3	49.3	52.2	65.9	66.9
Optimal filter by Theorem 3	0.85	0.77	0.90	1.23

As expected, the optimal robust filter gives a much better performance than the optimal robust one-step ahead predictor.

Next, consider the discrete-time system in the form of (1)~(3) with [17]

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0.9 & 0.1 + 0.06\alpha \\ 0.01 + 0.05\beta & 0.9 \end{bmatrix}, B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C = [1 \ 0], D = [0 \ 0 \ 1.414], L = [1 \ 1]$$

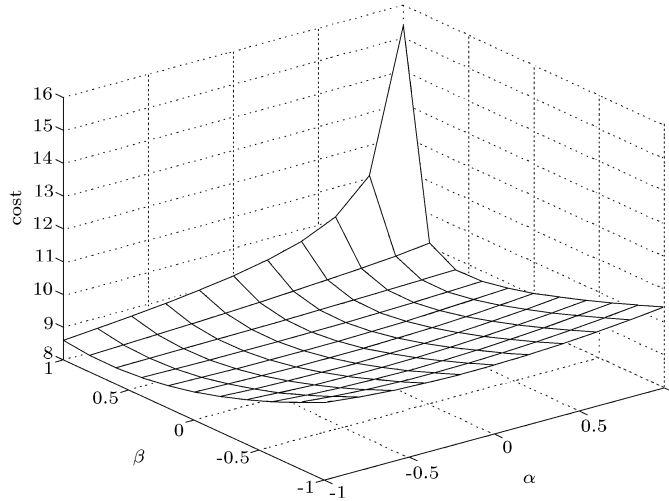
where  $|\alpha| \leq 1$  and  $|\beta| \leq 1$ . This is a two-block structured uncertainty which can be described by a four-vertex ploytope. The value of the  $H_2$  guaranteed cost based upon the method in [12] (see also Theorem 3) is 44.0039. To make a fair comparison, we also adopt a one-step ahead predictor by letting  $\hat{D} = 0$ . Using Theorem 5 and the **fminsearch** in Remark 9, the optimal scaling parameters are obtained as  $\lambda_1 = -0.9842$  and  $\lambda_2 = -0.9747$  with the initial value  $[\lambda_1, \lambda_2] = [-0.5, -0.5]$ . The optimal  $H_2$  guaranteed cost is 19.4682 with the corresponding predictor

$$\hat{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0705 & 0.0263 \\ 1.2779 & 0.5492 \end{bmatrix}, \hat{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.9114 \\ -0.9972 \end{bmatrix}, \hat{C} = [1.2885 \ 0.2382]$$

Further, starting from the above predictor and using the iterative algorithm in Section 4, a much less conservative minimum bound of 15.9759 can be obtained and the predictor is given by

$$\hat{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0710 & 0.0262 \\ 1.2764 & 0.5496 \end{bmatrix}, \hat{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.9110 \\ -0.9960 \end{bmatrix}, \hat{C} = [1.2852 \ 0.2433]$$

The above iteration only takes two steps to converge. The actual performance of the resultant predictor is given in Fig. 1 which verifies that the cost for any admissible uncertainty is below the derived upper bound.

Fig. 1 Actual cost of the filter for various uncertain parameters  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$

## 6 Conclusion

This paper has revisited the robust  $H_2$  estimation of discrete-time linear uncertain systems with both the norm-bounded uncertainty and the polytopic uncertainty. We have provided an overview on the development in this field in the past decades. In particular, the Riccati equation approach has been presented for the finite horizon case and the problem of optimizing the covariance matrix of estimation error which is non-recursive has been addressed. The LMI approach has been applied for the design of robust estimator in the infinite horizon case. We have demonstrated how slack variables can be incorporated to give a less conservative design. At this stage, efforts are being made on new techniques which are able to greatly reduce the design conservatism by using non-traditional methods such as applying non-quadratic Lyapunov functions.

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