

A MODIFIED EKF ALGORITHM FOR GPS POINT DYNAMIC POSITIONING AND VELOCITY MEASUREMENT

^{1,2} SONG DAN, ^{1,3} ZHANG PENGFEI, ^{1,4} XU CHENG DONG

¹ School of Aerospace Engineering, Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing, 100081, China.

E-mail: ²songdan0207@163.com, ³successful.2008@163.com, ⁴xucd@bit.edu.cn

ABSTRACT

Extended Kalman Filter (EKF) algorithm is widely used in GPS positioning and velocity measurement. As for EKF algorithm, the approximate initial position of the receiver is indispensable; otherwise the time consumption of the first positioning is too high because of the filter's low convergence rate. A modified EKF algorithm named delayed update EKF (DU-EKF) algorithm for GPS point dynamic positioning and velocity measurement is proposed in this paper, which can speed up the convergence rate of the filter without the receiver's approximate initial position. Furthermore, it can improve the accuracy of positioning and velocity measurement. Three kinds of algorithms are used in the simulation of this paper to compare with the modified EKF algorithm: iterative least square (ILS) algorithm, EKF algorithm with the Zero initial state vector (ZEKF) and EKF algorithm with the initial state vector which is Close to the actual situation (CEKF).

Keywords: *Extended Kalman Filter (EKF), GPS, Positioning, Velocity measurement*

1. INTRODUCTION

GPS point dynamic positioning and velocity measurement, with its excellence of only requiring a single frequency receiver, is widely used in vehicle navigation, marine positioning and field exploration for its low cost and high efficiency [1, 2]. Least Square (LS) algorithm [2] and Extended Kalman Filter (EKF) algorithm [3, 4] are commonly used for GPS point dynamic positioning and velocity measurement. As for LS algorithm, the approximate initial position of the receiver is indispensable because the pseudorange equation which depicts the range between the receiver and visible satellites should be linearized by Taylor series. To avoid searching for the approximate initial position and to achieve higher accuracy, modified algorithms based on LS have been proposed, such as weighted least square (WLS) algorithm [5] and iterative least square (ILS) algorithm [6]. Both of them can be used to position and measure velocity without the receiver's approximate initial position, and thus higher accuracy can be obtained than that of LS algorithm. However, the accuracy is much lower than that of EKF algorithm [5, 7], just because LS algorithm only utilizes observation data belonging to the current epoch while EKF algorithm utilizes observation data of previous epochs as well [8]. As for EKF algorithm, the pseudorange equation and

the Doppler shift equation should also be linearized. Consequently, if the initial state vector deviates too much from the actual situation, convergence rate of filter will be very slow. In other words, it will take long time for the first positioning. Therefore, EKF algorithm also needs the approximate initial position of the receiver.

A modified EKF algorithm is proposed in this paper to position and measure velocity without the approximate initial position of the receiver, namely delayed update EKF (DU-EKF) algorithm in which the state error covariance matrix begins to be updated after several calculating epochs. This algorithm ensures a fast convergence rate and keeps the superior accuracy which EKF algorithm owns. To compare with the modified EKF algorithm, three kinds of algorithms are used in simulation of this paper. They are ILS algorithm, EKF algorithm with the Zero initial state vector (ZEKF) and EKF algorithm with the initial state vector which is Close to the actual situation (CEKF) respectively.

The paper is organized as follows: Section 2 provides a description of EKF algorithm for GPS point dynamic positioning and velocity measurement. Section 3 introduces the modified EKF algorithm namely DU-EKF algorithm. Section 4 shows the performance of DU-EKF algorithm by simulation. In the simulation, the Singer model [9] is selected to describe the receiver's uniform

motion. And Section 5 presents conclusions.

2. DESCRIPTION OF EKF ALGORITHM FOR GPS POINT DYNAMIC POSITIONING AND VELOCITY MEASUREMENT

For GPS point dynamic positioning and velocity measurement, two kinds of models are used in EKF. One is the dynamic model describing the relationship of the receiver's state vectors belonging to two adjacent epochs respectively, and the other is the observation model depicting the relationship between the observation vector and the receiver's state vector. EKF requests to linearize the models which are nonlinear by Taylor series.

In terms of GPS point dynamic positioning and velocity measurement, the dynamic model can be CV model [10], CA model [11] or Singer model [9] which is linear while the observation model are both pseudorange model and Doppler shift model which are nonlinear. The basic EKF equations are as follows [9]:

State transition equation:

$$\mathbf{X}_k = \Phi_{k|k-1} \mathbf{X}_{k-1} + \Gamma_{k|k-1} \boldsymbol{\omega}_{k-1} \quad (1)$$

Observation equation:

$$\mathbf{Z}_k = f_k(\mathbf{X}_k) + \mathbf{v}_k \quad (2)$$

State transition equation and observation equation correspond to dynamic model and observation model respectively. Formula (2) should be linearized to Formula (3):

$$\square \mathbf{Z}_k = H_k \square \mathbf{X}_k + \mathbf{v}_k \quad (3)$$

In Formula (1)-(3), k denotes epoch number; \mathbf{X}_k is the state vector at k th epoch, which incorporates all the receiver's motion state

parameters needed to be solved; $\Phi_{k|k-1}$ is the state transition matrix; $\boldsymbol{\omega}_{k-1}$ is vector of dynamic model noise; $\Gamma_{k|k-1}$ is the noise driven matrix; \mathbf{v}_k is vector of observation noise; H_k is the Jacobian matrix of $f_k(\square)$, namely observation matrix; $\square \mathbf{X}_k = \mathbf{X}_k - \hat{\mathbf{X}}_{k-1}$; $\square \mathbf{Z}_k = \mathbf{Z}_k - \hat{\mathbf{Z}}_{k-1}$; $\mathbf{Z}_{k-1} = f_{k-1}(\mathbf{X}_{k-1})$.

The steps of EKF algorithm for GPS point positioning and velocity measurement are as follows (Q_{k-1} and O_k are covariance matrices of $\Gamma_{k|k-1} \cdot \boldsymbol{\omega}_{k-1}$ and \mathbf{v}_k):

1. Reckon the predictive state vector $\hat{\mathbf{X}}_{k|k-1}$ of \mathbf{X}_k :

$$\hat{\mathbf{X}}_{k|k-1} = \Phi_{k|k-1} \hat{\mathbf{X}}_{k-1} \quad (4)$$

Where $\hat{\mathbf{X}}_{k-1}$ is the optimal estimation of filtering for \mathbf{X}_{k-1} .

2. Reckon $P_{k|k-1}$ which is the error covariance matrix of $\hat{\mathbf{X}}_{k|k-1}$:

$$P_{k|k-1} = \Phi_{k|k-1} P_{k-1} \Phi_{k|k-1}^T + Q_{k-1} \quad (5)$$

3. Calculate the Kalman gain matrix K_k :

$$K_k = P_{k|k-1} H_k^T [H_k P_{k|k-1} H_k^T + O_k]^{-1} \quad (6)$$

4. Get the optimal filtering estimation $\hat{\mathbf{X}}_k$ of \mathbf{X}_k :

$$\hat{\mathbf{X}}_k = \hat{\mathbf{X}}_{k|k-1} + K_k \square \mathbf{Z}_k \quad (7)$$

Where $\hat{\mathbf{X}}_k$ can be considered as the calculation result at k th epoch.

5. Get the error covariance matrix P_k of $\hat{\mathbf{X}}_k$:

$$P_k = [I - K_k H_k] P_{k|k-1} \quad (8)$$

The process for EKF algorithm at k th epoch can be seen in Figure 1 [8].

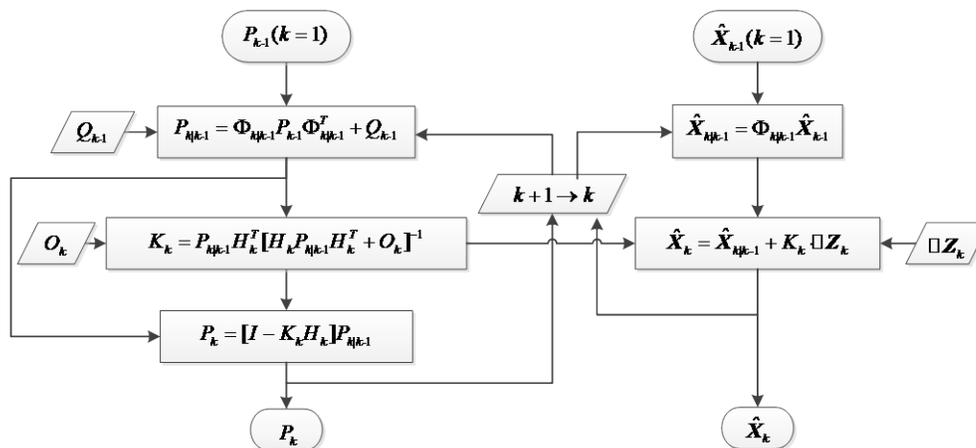


Figure 1: Calculating steps of EKF at k th epoch



$$\Phi_{k|k-1}^x = \begin{bmatrix} I & T & \frac{1}{\alpha_x^2}(-1+\alpha_x+e^{-\alpha_x T}) \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{\alpha_x}(1-e^{-\alpha_x T}) \\ 0 & 0 & e^{-\alpha_x T} \end{bmatrix} \quad Q_{k-1}^x = \begin{bmatrix} q_{11} & q_{12} & q_{13} \\ q_{21} & q_{22} & q_{23} \\ q_{31} & q_{32} & q_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$q_{11} = (1 - e^{-2\alpha_x T} + 2\alpha_x T + 2\alpha_x^3 T^3 / 3 - 2\alpha_x^2 T^2 - 4\alpha_x T e^{-\alpha_x T}) / 2\alpha_x^5$$

$$q_{22} = (4e^{-\alpha_x T} - 3 - e^{-2\alpha_x T} + 2\alpha_x T) / 2\alpha_x^3$$

$$q_{33} = (1 - 2e^{-2\alpha_x T}) / 2\alpha_x$$

$$q_{12} = q_{21} = (e^{-2\alpha_x T} + 1 - 2e^{-\alpha_x T} + 2\alpha_x T e^{-\alpha_x T} - 2\alpha_x T + \alpha_x^2 T^2) / 2\alpha_x^4$$

$$q_{13} = q_{31} = (1 - e^{-2\alpha_x T} - 2\alpha_x T e^{-\alpha_x T}) / 2\alpha_x^3$$

$$q_{23} = q_{32} = (1 + e^{-2\alpha_x T} - 2e^{-\alpha_x T}) / 2\alpha_x^2$$

$\Phi_{k|k-1}^y$ and $\Phi_{k|k-1}^z$ refer to $\Phi_{x|k+1}^y \cdot Q_{k-1}^y$ and $Q_{k-1}^z \cdot \alpha_z$, α_x , α_y , α_z are the reciprocal of the maneuver time constant for each axis, $\alpha_x = \alpha_y = \alpha_z = 10^6$. σ_x^2 , σ_y^2 , σ_z^2 are the variance of the target acceleration in X,Y,Z respectively. $T=1s$, $\sigma_x^2 = \sigma_y^2 = \sigma_z^2 = 100$ [9].

The clock model [7] with white noise input comes from a second-order Markov process, as follows:

$$\Phi_{k|k-1}^c = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & T \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad Q_{k-1}^c = \begin{bmatrix} q_c^{11} & q_c^{12} \\ q_c^{21} & q_c^{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$q_c^{11} = \frac{h_0}{2} T + 2h_1 T^2 + \frac{2}{3} \pi^2 h_2 T^3$$

$$q_c^{12} = q_c^{21} = 2h_1 T + \pi^2 h_2 T^3$$

$$q_c^{22} = \frac{h_0}{2T} + 2h_1 + \frac{8}{3} \pi^2 h_2 T$$

The parameters $h_0 = 9.4 \times 10^{-20}$, $h_1 = 1.8 \times 10^{-19}$, $h_2 = 3.8 \times 10^{-21}$ correspond to values for a typical quartz standard.

3. H_k and O_k

H_k is linearized from $f_k(X_k) = [R_k^s \dots R_k^n \ D_k^s \dots D_k^n]^T$. Where R_k^s and D_k^s is respectively the pseudorange Formula (9) and the Doppler shift Formula (10) [1] between a visible satellite and the receiver, $s=1, \dots, n$ (n is the total number of visible satellites).

$$R_k^s = \sqrt{(X_k^s - x_k^u)^2 + (Y_k^s - y_k^u)^2 + (Z_k^s - z_k^u)^2} + c \square f_k^u \quad (9)$$

$$D_k^s = \frac{[(X_k^s - x_k^u) \cdot (V_k^{sx} - v_k^{ux}) + (Y_k^s - y_k^u) \cdot (V_k^{sy} - v_k^{uy}) + (Z_k^s - z_k^u) \cdot (V_k^{sz} - v_k^{uz})]}{\rho_k^s} + c \square f_k^u \quad (10)$$

In Formula (9) and Formula (10), $[X_k^s, Y_k^s, Z_k^s]$ and $[V_k^{sx}, V_k^{sy}, V_k^{sz}]$ are position and velocity vector of the sth visible satellite in ECEF, ρ_k^s is the actual range between the sth visible satellite and the receiver,

$$\rho_k^s = \sqrt{(X_k^s - x_k^u)^2 + (Y_k^s - y_k^u)^2 + (Z_k^s - z_k^u)^2}$$

$$H_k = \begin{bmatrix} h_{1x/k}^1 & 0 & h_{1y/k}^1 & 0 & h_{1z/k}^1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ h_{nx/k}^1 & 0 & h_{ny/k}^1 & 0 & h_{nz/k}^1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ h_{1x/k}^2 & h_{1x/k}^1 & h_{1y/k}^2 & h_{1y/k}^1 & h_{1z/k}^2 & h_{1z/k}^1 & 0 & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ h_{nx/k}^2 & h_{nx/k}^1 & h_{ny/k}^2 & h_{ny/k}^1 & h_{nz/k}^2 & h_{nz/k}^1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Elements from Line 1 to Line n of H_k is linearized from Formula (9) while from Line $n+1$ to Line $2n$ of H_k is linearized from Formula (10).

$$h_{1x/k}^1 = \frac{\partial R_k^s}{\partial x_k^u} = \frac{\partial D_k^s}{\partial v_k^{ux}} = \frac{(\hat{x}_{k|k-1}^u - X_k^s)}{\rho_{k|k-1}^s}$$

$$h_{1x/k}^2 = \frac{\partial D_k^s}{\partial x_k^u} = \frac{(\hat{v}_{k|k-1}^{ux} - V_k^{sx})(\rho_{k|k-1}^s)^2 - (\hat{x}_{k|k-1}^u - X_k^s)J_{k|k-1}^s}{(\rho_{k|k-1}^s)^2}$$

$$\rho_{k|k-1}^s = \sqrt{(X_k^s - \hat{x}_{k|k-1}^u)^2 + (Y_k^s - \hat{y}_{k|k-1}^u)^2 + (Z_k^s - \hat{z}_{k|k-1}^u)^2}$$

$$J_k^s = (X_k^s - \hat{x}_{k|k-1}^u) \cdot (V_k^{sx} - \hat{v}_{k|k-1}^{ux}) + (Y_k^s - \hat{y}_{k|k-1}^u) \cdot (V_k^{sy} - \hat{v}_{k|k-1}^{uy}) + (Z_k^s - \hat{z}_{k|k-1}^u) \cdot (V_k^{sz} - \hat{v}_{k|k-1}^{uz})$$

where $h_{1y/k}^1$ and $h_{1z/k}^1$ refer to $h_{1x/k}^1$; $h_{2y/k}^2$ and $h_{2z/k}^2$ refer to $h_{2x/k}^2$.

The covariance matrix O_k of the observation noise vector is a matrix of $2n \times 2n$, $O_k = \text{diag}[o_1 \dots o_1 \ o_2 \dots o_2]$, $o_1=64$, $o_2=0.04$.

4. Z_k and $\square Z_k$

$$Z_k = [r_k^1 \dots r_k^n \ d_k^1 \dots d_k^n]^T$$

$$\square Z_k = [(r_k^1 - \hat{r}_{k|k-1}^1), \dots, (r_k^n - \hat{r}_{k|k-1}^n), (d_k^1 - \hat{d}_{k|k-1}^1), \dots, (d_k^n - \hat{d}_{k|k-1}^n)];$$

$$\hat{r}_{k|k-1}^s = \sqrt{(X_k^s - \hat{x}_{k|k-1}^u)^2 + (Y_k^s - \hat{y}_{k|k-1}^u)^2 + (Z_k^s - \hat{z}_{k|k-1}^u)^2} + c \square \hat{f}_{k|k-1}^u$$

$$\hat{d}_{k|k-1}^s = \frac{[(X_k^s - \hat{x}_{k|k-1}^u) \cdot (V_k^{sx} - \hat{v}_{k|k-1}^{ux}) + (Y_k^s - \hat{y}_{k|k-1}^u) \cdot (V_k^{sy} - \hat{v}_{k|k-1}^{uy}) + (Z_k^s - \hat{z}_{k|k-1}^u) \cdot (V_k^{sz} - \hat{v}_{k|k-1}^{uz})]}{\rho_{k|k-1}^s} + c \square \hat{f}_{k|k-1}^u$$

Where r_k^s and d_k^s are the pseudorange and the Doppler shift of sth visible satellite respectively.

In the simulation, all of the four algorithms (ILS, ZEKF, CEKF and DU-EKF) are used for GPS point dynamic positioning and velocity measurement. The specific process of ILS algorithm can be seen at *Several Algorithms for GPS Pseudorange Absolute Positioning* [14]; the process of ZEKF algorithm and CEKF algorithm are shown in *Figure1*; the process of DU-EKF algorithm is

shown in Figure 2.

With respect to the result of each algorithm, the position and velocity error of X, Y and Z are respectively shown in Table 2 and Table 3.

Table 2: Position error of each axis for different algorithms (m)

Axis	Algorithm	Mean value	Standard deviation	Root mean square
X	ILS	-0.3041	8.9346	8.9397
	CEKF	0.0213	1.4897	1.4898
	DU-EKF	-0.0269	1.3784	1.3786
Y	ILS	0.4654	5.0010	5.0226
	CEKF	-0.0427	0.8759	0.8769
	DU-EKF	-0.1841	0.7081	0.7316
Z	ILS	-0.0109	3.9734	3.9734
	CEKF	-0.4672	0.5392	0.7135
	DU-EKF	-0.0913	0.4778	0.4864

Table 3: Velocity error of each error for different algorithms (m/s)

Axis	Algorithm	Mean value	Standard deviation	Root mean square
X	ILS	-0.0038	0.0407	0.0409
	CEKF	-0.0071	0.0154	0.0170
	DU-EKF	0.0038	0.0129	0.0134
Y	ILS	0.0006	0.0259	0.0259
	CEKF	0.0031	0.0077	0.0083
	DU-EKF	-0.0012	0.0084	0.0084
Z	ILS	-0.0018	0.0184	0.0185
	CEKF	-0.0051	0.0073	0.0089
	DU-EKF	-0.0011	0.0070	0.0071

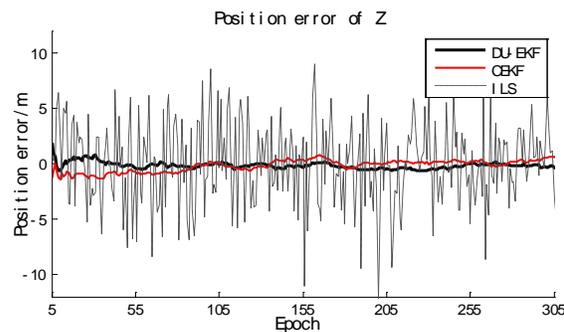


Figure 3: The position error of Z for different algorithms

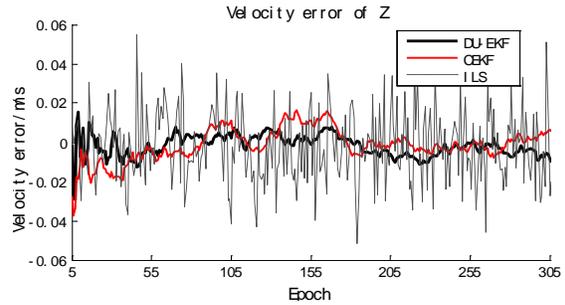


Figure 4: The velocity error of Z for different algorithms

Figure 3 and Figure 4 are the position error figure and velocity error figure of Z respectively. At the beginning 20 minutes of simulation for ZEKF algorithm, the position and velocity errors are much larger than other algorithms. So they are only shown in Figure 5. As shown in Figure 3 and Figure 4, combining the statistic data in Table 2 and Table 3, the position and velocity error of ILS algorithm are within 10m and 0.05m/s respectively; the position and velocity error of CEKF algorithm are within 2m and 0.02m/s respectively; the position error of DU-EKF algorithm are within 1.5m while the velocity error are within 0.02m/s. Compared with ILS algorithm, the precision of position and velocity of DU-EKF algorithm are much higher. Compared with CEKF algorithm, the precision of position and velocity of DU-EKF algorithm is not improved appreciably. But DU-EKF algorithm can accelerate the filter's convergence rate without the approximate value of the initial state vector.

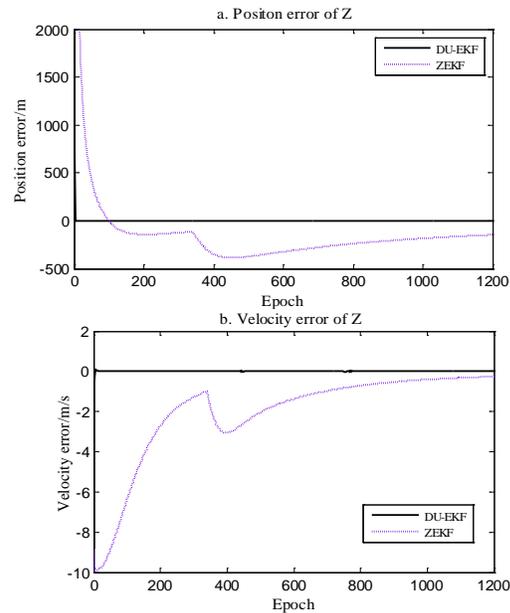


Figure 5: The error of Z for DU-EKF algorithm and ZEKF algorithm, a is the position error and b is velocity error

As shown in *Figure 5*, when \hat{X}_0 is far from the actual X_0 , the slow convergence of filter impedes dynamic positioning with extending the time of first positioning. *Figure 5* demonstrates the effectiveness of DU-EKF algorithm in accelerating convergence rate of filter.

5. CONCLUSION

The example of uniform motion receiver is used in simulation of this study. By simulation, compared with ILS algorithm, CEKF algorithm and ZEKF algorithm, the effectiveness of the modified algorithm for EKF (DU-EKF algorithm) is demonstrated in GPS point dynamic positioning and velocity measurement. The results of DU-EKF algorithm have much higher precision than that of ILS algorithm and slightly higher accuracy than that of CEKF algorithm. DU-EKF algorithm solves the problem of low filter convergence rate without the initial approximate initial position of receiver (compared with ZEKF algorithm). DU-EKF algorithm sets the initial state vector as θ which is far from the true value. However with the delayed updating of state error covariance matrix, the optimal estimation of filtering can be close to the actual state vector quickly.

If DU-EKF algorithm is used in actual GPS navigator, there is no need of receiver's initial approximate initial position all the time when it changes in a wide range. Meanwhile, higher precision of positioning and velocity measurement and less time consumption of first positioning can be reached. However, whether the DU-EKF algorithm can be applied in other areas or not should be further validated.

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