Research Article

Vehicle Running State Estimation by Adaptive Soft-Sensing Algorithm

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Abstract

Vehicle running state adaptive unscented Kalman filter soft-sensing algorithm is put forward in this paper based on traditional UKF which can estimate vehicle running state parameters and suboptimal Sage-Husa noise estimator which can effectively solve the problem of noises varying with time. Meanwhile 3-DOF dynamic model of vehicle and HSR tire model are established. So vehicle running state can be accurately estimated by fusing the low-cost measurement information of longitudinal and lateral acceleration and handwheel steering angle. Under the typical working condition, AUUKF soft-sensing algorithm is verified with substantial vehicle tests. Comparing with UKF soft-sensing algorithm, the result indicates AUKF soft-sensing algorithm has a good performance in robustness and is able to realize the effective estimation of vehicle running state more precisely than UKF soft-sensing algorithm.

1. Introduction

In recent years, more and more active safety system is matched in the vehicle, but active safety system can well achieve active safety control by the real-time obtaining vehicle running state information. However, as some of their parameters like side slip angle are hard to be measured and have quite a high cost of measurement, it is of vital importance to find out a low-cost method for getting the high-accuracy parameters of distributive vehicles in quite real time.

At present, soft-sensing technology has been widely applied to the estimation of vehicles’ dynamic and kinematic parameters. For example, UKF was used to estimate the running state and parameters of vehicles [1, 2]; vehicles’ driving state was efficiently estimated by multirate EKF soft-sensing algorithm [3]; what is more, vehicles’ state and parameters, respectively, can be estimated by double EKF working at the same time [4, 5]; UKF estimation algorithm was put forward to study the lateral and longitudinal speed of vehicles [6]; UKF was used to estimate vehicle state and road parameters [7, 8].

High-accuracy noise statistical characteristics are required for UKF soft-sensing technology, but noise statistical characteristics are actually varying with time in practice, which is easy to make the estimation accuracy greatly reduced, or even divergent. For that reason, self-adaptive UKF algorithm based on Sage-Husa is established in this paper to avoid the deficiency described above. Meanwhile, multisensor fusion technology is adopted to realize the precise estimation of longitudinal and lateral speed, side slip angle, and yaw rate of electric vehicles. Finally, the validity of the algorithm is verified through the real vehicle test.

2. Dynamic Model

2.1. Vehicle 3-DOF Model. The model includes longitudinal and lateral speed and yaw rate. In Figure 1, the ISO coordinate system is through the mass center of a vehicle, where the right part of x-axis means the positive and the symmetry axis for longitudinal direction, and the upper part of y-axis means the positive and going through the mass center O.

The dynamic equation derived from the 3-DOF vehicle dynamic model is shown as formula (1):

\[ u = a_x + v \cdot \gamma \]
\[
\begin{align*}
\dot{\gamma} &= a_y - u \cdot \gamma \\
\dot{\psi} &= \frac{\Gamma}{I_z} \\
\Gamma &= a \left( F_{x1} \sin \delta_1 + F_{y1} \cos \delta_1 \right) - \frac{t_f}{2} \left( F_{x1} \cos \delta_1 \\
&- F_{y1} \sin \delta_1 \right) + a \left( F_{x2} \sin \delta_2 + F_{y2} \cos \delta_2 \right) \\
&+ \frac{t_f}{2} \left( F_{x2} \cos \delta_2 - F_{y2} \sin \delta_2 \right) - b \left( F_{x3} \sin \delta_3 \\
&+ F_{y3} \cos \delta_3 \right) - \frac{t_f}{2} \left( F_{x3} \cos \delta_3 - F_{y3} \sin \delta_3 \right) \\
&- b \left( F_{x4} \sin \delta_4 + F_{y4} \cos \delta_4 \right) + \frac{t_f}{2} \left( F_{x4} \cos \delta_4 \\
&- F_{y4} \sin \delta_4 \right) \\
\beta &= \frac{\nu}{u} \\
a_x &= \frac{1}{m} \left( F_{x1} \cos \delta_1 - F_{y1} \sin \delta_1 + F_{x2} \cos \delta_2 \\
&- F_{y2} \sin \delta_2 + F_{x3} \cos \delta_3 - F_{y3} \sin \delta_3 + F_{x4} \cos \delta_4 \\
&- F_{y4} \sin \delta_4 - F_w \right) \\
a_y &= \frac{1}{m} \left( F_{x1} \sin \delta_1 + F_{y1} \cos \delta_1 + F_{x2} \sin \delta_2 \\
&+ F_{x3} \cos \delta_2 + F_{x3} \sin \delta_3 + F_{y3} \cos \delta_3 + F_{x4} \sin \delta_4 \\
&+ F_{y4} \cos \delta_4 \right)
\end{align*}
\]

where \( u \) is longitudinal speed; \( \nu \) is lateral speed; \( \gamma \) is yaw rate; \( a_x \) is longitudinal acceleration; \( a_y \) is lateral acceleration; \( \Gamma \) is torque around z axis; \( a, b \) denote the distance from mass center to front axis and to back axis; \( I_z \) is car inertia around z-axis; \( \delta_i \) is wheel steering angle; \( i = 1 \) (front left), 2 (front right), 3 (rear left), 4 (rear right); \( F_{xi} \) is longitudinal force; \( F_{yi} \) is lateral force; \( F_w \) is wind resistance.

### 2.2. HSRI Tire Model.
HSRI is a semiempirical tire model acquired through a number of tire tests carried out by Highway Safety Research Institute of University of Michigan in America. In this paper, a relative simple model form is used because of its simple form and less parameters for identification \cite{9}. Meanwhile, higher accuracy can be achieved without taking the aligning torque of tire into consideration.

For the wheels of vehicle, the longitudinal and lateral force on each tire can be expressed by the following formulas:

\[
F_x = \begin{cases} 
-C_x \frac{S_x}{1-S_x} & \lambda \geq 1 \\
-C_x \frac{S_x \lambda(2-\lambda)}{1-S_x} & 0 < \lambda < 1 \\
-C_x \mu F_z \frac{1}{\sqrt{C_x^2 + (C_a S_y)^2}} & \lambda = 0
\end{cases}
\]

\[
F_y = \begin{cases} 
-C_y \frac{S_y}{1-S_y} & \lambda \geq 1 \\
-C_y \frac{S_y \lambda(2-\lambda)}{1-S_y} & 0 < \lambda < 1 \\
-C_y \mu F_z \frac{1}{\sqrt{C_y^2 + (C_a S_x)^2}} & \lambda = 0
\end{cases}
\]

where \( \lambda = \mu F_z (1 - S_x)/2(C_a S_x)^2 + (C_a S_y)^2 \); \( \lambda \) is limit of adhesion region; \( C_x, C_y \) denote longitudinal and lateral slip stiffness; \( \mu \) is road friction coefficient; \( S_x, S_y \) denote longitudinal and lateral slip rate; \( F_z \) is tire vertical force.

The longitudinal slip rate and lateral slip rate on each tire can be expressed by the following formulas:

\[
S_{xij} = \begin{cases} 
\frac{R\omega_j - u_{xij}}{u_{xij}} & 1 < 0 \quad u_{xij} \neq 0 \text{ for braking} \\
\frac{R\omega_j - u_{xij}}{u_{xij}} & 1 < 0 \quad u_{xij} \neq 0 \text{ for driving}
\end{cases}
\]

\[
\frac{R\omega_j - u_{xij}}{R\omega_j} = \begin{cases} 
1 & \frac{R\omega_j - u_{xij}}{u_{xij}} < 0 \quad \omega_{ij} \neq 0 \text{ for driving}
\end{cases}
\]
where $\omega_{ij}$ is angular speed of four wheels, $ij$=fl (front left), $fr$ (front right), $rl$ (rear left), $rr$ (rear right); $u_{ij}$, $v_{ij}$ are longitudinal and lateral wheel velocities.

Vertical force can be calculated by

$$F_{z1} = \left( \frac{1}{2}mg - ma \right) \frac{h_g}{t_f} \frac{b}{a+b} - \frac{1}{2}ma \frac{h_g}{a+b}$$

$$F_{z2} = \left( \frac{1}{2}mg + ma \right) \frac{h_g}{t_f} \frac{b}{a+b} - \frac{1}{2}ma \frac{h_g}{a+b}$$

$$F_{z3} = \left( \frac{1}{2}mg - ma \right) \frac{h_g}{t_f} \frac{a}{a+b} + \frac{1}{2}ma \frac{h_g}{a+b}$$

$$F_{z4} = \left( \frac{1}{2}mg + ma \right) \frac{h_g}{t_f} \frac{a}{a+b} + \frac{1}{2}ma \frac{h_g}{a+b}$$

where $F_{zij}$ is tire vertical force, $p_i$=1(front left), 2(front right), 3(rear left), 4(rear right); $m$ is car mass; $g$ is gravitational constant; $h_i$ is vehicle height of center of gravity; $a$, $b$ are distance of front and rear wheels from center of gravity; $t_f$, $t_r$ are distance of the vehicle front and rear longitudinal axis from wheels; $a_x$, $a_y$ are longitudinal and lateral acceleration.

The longitudinal and lateral wheel velocities can be expressed by the following formulas:

$$u_{xfl} = \left( u - \frac{v}{2} \right) \cos \delta_1 + (v + \gamma a) \sin \delta_1$$

$$v_{yfl} = -\left( u - \frac{v}{2} \right) \sin \delta_1 + (v + \gamma a) \cos \delta_1$$

$$u_{xfr} = \left( u + \frac{v}{2} \right) \cos \delta_2 + (v + \gamma a) \sin \delta_2$$

$$v_{yfr} = -\left( u + \frac{v}{2} \right) \sin \delta_2 + (v + \gamma a) \cos \delta_2$$

$$u_{xrl} = \left( u - \frac{v}{2} \right) \cos \delta_3 + (v - \gamma b) \sin \delta_3$$

$$v_{yrl} = -\left( u - \frac{v}{2} \right) \sin \delta_3 + (v - \gamma b) \cos \delta_3$$

$$u_{xrr} = \left( u + \frac{v}{2} \right) \cos \delta_4 + (v - \gamma b) \sin \delta_4$$

$$v_{yrr} = -\left( u + \frac{v}{2} \right) \sin \delta_4 + (v - \omega b) \cos \delta_4$$

### 3. AUKF Soft-Sensing Technology

Soft-sensing technology includes state estimation, neural network, fuzzy mathematics, mechanism modeling, and so on other relative analyzing techniques. It mainly uses those process parameters which can be easily measured to estimate the parameters which cannot be effectively measured, so as to effectively overcome deficiencies on the high cost of hardware measurement or its undetectability in literature [10]. Soft-sensing technology is established based on UKF in this paper.

Instead of traditionally making nonlinear functions linearized, UKF retains the framework of Kalman filter and uses the way of UT to solve the problem of the nonlinear estimation of mean value and covariance in literature [11, 12]. As for the state parameters of a nonlinear system, the estimation made by UKF which keeps higher order terms is more precise and more stable than EKF estimation. However, they both require the quite precise mathematical model of coefficients and noise statistic characteristics. Otherwise, it will lead to reduced estimation accuracy and filtering accuracy or even a divergent result. Therefore, organically combining UKF and suboptimal Sage-Husa noise estimator, the consequent AUKF soft-sensing algorithm can use the suboptimal Sage-Husa noise estimator to realize the real-time estimation for the mean value and covariance matrix of the process noises in this system while the vehicle state is being estimated.

According to the parameters $a_x$, $a_y$, $\delta_1$, and $\omega_{ij}$ measured by the vehicle sensor, the unknown vehicle $u$, $v$, and $\gamma$ parameters are further estimated. Since only discrete signals can be processed on computers, the equation for system state discretization works out according to formula (1) is shown as below:

$$x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k) + \omega_k = \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ \gamma \\ a_x \\ a_y \end{bmatrix}$$

Discretization form for system observation equation is

$$z_k = h(x_k, u_k) + v_k = \begin{bmatrix} a_x \\ a_y \end{bmatrix}$$

where state variable $X = [u, v, \omega, T, a_x, a_y]^T$; observed quantity $Z = [a_x, a_y]^T$; control variable $u = [\delta]$. 
\[ \omega_k \text{ and } v_k \text{ should be mutually independent white noises.} \]

The statistic characteristics of noises are

\[
E[\omega_k] = q_k \\
E[v_k] = r_k \\
E[(\omega_k - q_k) (\omega_i - q_i)^T] = Q_k \delta_{ki} \\
E[(v_k - r_k) (v_i - r_i)^T] = R_k \delta_{ki}
\]

(10)

The vehicle state variables are 6D random variables and their initial mean values \( \bar{X} = E(X_0) \) and \( P_0 = E[(X_0 - \bar{X})(X_0 - \bar{X})^T] \). By formulae (11) and (12), 13 Sigma points \( X \) and relevant weights \( \chi \) can be acquired through UT.

\( \bigcirc \) Calculate the 13 Sigma sampling points:

\[
X^{(i)} = \bar{X} + (\sqrt{6+\lambda}) P, \quad i = 1 \sim 6 \\
X^{(i)} = \bar{X} - (\sqrt{6+\lambda}) P, \quad i = 7 \sim 12
\]

(11)

\( \bigcirc \) Calculate the relevant weights of these sampling points:

\[
\chi^{(i)}_m = \frac{\tau}{n+\tau}, \quad i = 1 \sim 6 \\
\chi^{(i)}_c = \frac{\tau}{n+\tau} + \left( 1 - \alpha^2 + \beta \right), \quad i = 7 \sim 12
\]

(12)

where the subscripts \( m \) and \( c \) mean the covariances; \( \lambda = \alpha^2(6+k) - 6 \) is scaling coefficient; \( \alpha \) which is generally 0.001 is used to fix the Sigma point set around \( \bar{X}; k \) is a second-order proportional parameter and \( k=0 \) here; \( \beta \geq 0 \) is a nonnegative weight coefficient. Generally \( \beta=2 \).

A) Putting Sigma point set in formula (8), further estimation can be made to get \( X(k+1|k) = f(X(k|k), u_k) + q_k \) and calculate the covariance matrix of system state variables:

\[
\hat{X} (k+1 | k) = \sum_{i=0}^{2n} \chi^{(i)}_m X^{(i)} (k+1 | k) \\
P (k+1 | k) = \sum_{i=0}^{2n} \chi^{(i)} c (k+1 | k)
\]

(13)

\[
\left[ \hat{X} (k+1 | k) - X^{(i)} (k+1 | k) \right] \\
\left[ \hat{X} (k+1 | k) - X^{(i)} (k+1 | k) \right]^T + Q_k
\]

\( \bigcirc \) The new observed quantity \( Z^{(i)} (k+1 | k) = h(X^{(i)}(k+1 | k), u_k) + r_{k+1} \) can be acquired by putting Sigma point set in formula (9), and the mean value and covariance of system estimation is acquired by weighted summation:

\[
\hat{Z} (k+1 | k) = \sum_{i=0}^{2n} \chi^{(i)} Z^{(i)} (k+1 | k) \\
P_{zixz} = \sum_{i=0}^{2n} \chi^{(i)} \left[ Z^{(i)} (k+1 | k) - \hat{Z} (k+1 | k) \right]^T + R \\
P_{zixz} = \sum_{i=0}^{2n} \chi^{(i)} \left[ X^{(i)} (k+1 | k) - \hat{X} (k+1 | k) \right]^T \\
\left[ Z^{(i)} (k+1 | k) - \hat{Z} (k+1 | k) \right]^T + R \\
\left[ Z^{(i)} (k+1 | k) - \hat{Z} (k+1 | k) \right]^T
\]

(14)

\( \bigcirc \) Gain matrix \( K(k+1) = P_{zixz}^{-1} P_{zixz} \) by which system state update and covariance update can be calculated by

\[
\hat{X} (k+1 | k+1) = \hat{X} (k+1 | k) \\
+ K (k+1) \left[ z_{k+1} - \hat{Z} (k+1 | k) \right]
\]

(15)

\[
P (k+1 | k+1) = P (k+1 | k)
\]

\[
- K (k+1) P_{zixz} K^T (k+1)
\]

\( \bigcirc \) The update of the characteristics of process noise statistics is

\[
q_{k+1} = (1 - d_{k+1}) q_k + d_{k+1} \left[ \hat{X} (k+1 | k+1) \\
- \sum_{i=0}^{2n} \chi^{(i)} Z^{(i)} (k+1 | k) \right]
\]

(16)

\[
\overset{\wedge}{Q}_{k+1} = (1 - d_{k+1}) Q_k + d_{k+1} \left[ K (k+1) \hat{Z} (k+1 | k)
\right.
\)

\[
\left. \cdot \hat{Z} (k+1 | k) K^T (k+1) + P (k+1 | k+1) \right] - P_{zixz} \}
\]

(16)

\[
\hat{Z} (k+1 | k) = z_{k+1} - \hat{Z} (k+1 | k)
\]

\[
d_{k+1} = \frac{(1 - f) \cdot c}{(1 - f_{k+1})}
\]

(16)

where \( c \) is forgetting factor which values from 0.95 to 0.99.

4. Algorithm Verification and Analysis

Handwheel steering angle sensor, biaxial speedometer, gyro inertial navigation system, and 1000 Hz sampling frequency data acquisition instrument are placed in a kind of B car. The parameters of vehicle are partly shown in Table 1 and vehicle experiment data acquisition and analysis procedure are shown in Figure 2. High-speed double lane change
real vehicle matching sensors and on-board test equipment

AUKF and UKF algorithm program that is complied by M language

Data comparison analysis

slip rate calculation module

vertical force calculation module

HSRI tire model program that is complied by M language

Figure 2: Vehicle test data’s acquisition and analysis procedure.

Figure 3: Input signals by the sensors in double lane change emergency braking test.
emergency braking and fishhook emergency braking on dry concrete pavement are chosen to verify AUKF algorithm effectiveness.

4.1. High-Speed Double Lane Change Braking Test. According to ISO 3888-1 working condition standard for double lane change test, the initial state value is recorded by biaxial speedometer and gyro inertial navigation system. Road friction coefficient is 0.8 and 0.68 Mpa pressure caused by the brake master cylinder for emergency braking in the second second.

In order that the algorithm can realize the accurate soft measurement of vehicle state, it is critical to properly identify the initial value for AUKF estimation. The initial values are
the covariance matrix of system errors \( P = \text{zeros}(6,6) \), the covariance matrix of system excitation noises \( Q = \text{eye}(6) * 0.00001 \), the covariance matrix of measured noises \( R = \text{eye}(3) * 0.001 \), the mean value of process noises \( q = \text{zeros}(6,1) \), and the mean value of measured noises \( r = \text{zeros}(3,1) \).

Longitudinal and lateral speed, side slip angle, and yaw angle rate are estimated with effect through the efficient information fusion of longitudinal and lateral acceleration, wheel velocities, and the handwheel steering angle (see Figure 3). The test results are shown in Figure 4.

According to the curves of longitudinal speed in Figure 4, it shows that self-adaptive AUKF algorithm does better than UKF algorithm in terms of accuracy, stability, astringency, and real-time performance. According to the curves of lateral speed in Figure 4, it is easy to see that AUKF performs better than UKF on the whole and in astringency. Yaw rate curves show that comparing with UKF in Figure 4. AUKF is clearly more accurate on the whole and has a good performance in stability and astringency. Side slip angle curves show that AUKF has higher accuracy of side slip angle estimation on the whole and better astringency in Figure 4. According to Figure 3, lateral acceleration is less than \(|0.4g|\) on the whole, so vehicle is in linear motion state that tire lateral force depends linearly on side slip angle. According to Figure 4, the real-time
tire longitudinal and lateral force can be calculated by HSRI tire model, and ultimately the calculated values can well track and converge to the actual values.

4.2. Fishhook Braking Test. The initial state value is recorded by biaxial speedometer and gyro inertial navigation system. Road friction coefficient is 0.8 and 0.47 Mpa pressure caused by the brake master cylinder for emergency braking in the second second. The covariance matrix of system errors $P = \text{zeros}(6, 6)$, the covariance matrix of system excitation noises $Q = \text{eye}(6) \times 0.001$, the covariance matrix of measured noises $R = \text{eye}(3) \times 1000$, the mean value of process noises $q = \text{zeros}(6, 1)$, and the mean value of measured noises $r = \text{zeros}(3, 1)$.

Figure 6: Curves of fishhook emergency braking test.
Longitudinal and lateral speed, side slip angle, and yaw angle rate are estimated with effect through the efficient information fusion of longitudinal and lateral acceleration, wheel velocities, and the handwheel steering angle (see Figure 5). The simulation result is shown in Figure 6.

According to the curves of longitudinal speed and its error, respectively, in Figure 6, they show that self-adaptive AUKF algorithm does better than UKF algorithm in terms of accuracy, stability, astringency, and real-time performance. According to lateral speed curves in Figure 6, AUKF did more better in estimation results, stability, and final astringency than UKF; and the side slip angle features in Figure 6 are the same as the features of the estimated lateral speed. According to yaw rate curves in Figure 6, AUKF performs better than UKF in the general estimation of yaw rate, and the same as the features of the estimated lateralspeed. According to the 3-DOF dynamic model, self-adaptive AUKF soft-sensing algorithm was established, integrating the signals of longitudinal and lateral acceleration and handwheel steering angle which were measured by low-cost sensors. In this way, the state parameters of running vehicle, such as longitudinal speed, lateral speed, yaw rate, and side slip angle, can be estimated more accurately even under the premise of vehicle parameters perturbation.

(2) AUKF soft-sensing algorithm was verified using substantial vehicle tests under the premise of the same HSRI tire model that produces the same tire force error. The results have shown that, comparing with UKF, AUKF performed better in accuracy and robustness.

Data Availability
The data used to support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

5. Conclusion
(1) According to the 3-DOF dynamic model, self-adaptive AUKF soft-sensing algorithm was established, integrating the signals of longitudinal and lateral acceleration and handwheel steering angle which were measured by low-cost sensors. In this way, the state parameters of running vehicle, such as longitudinal speed, lateral speed, yaw rate, and side slip angle, can be estimated more accurately even under the premise of vehicle parameters perturbation.

(2) AUKF soft-sensing algorithm was verified using substantial vehicle tests under the premise of the same HSRI tire model that produces the same tire force error. The results have shown that, comparing with UKF, AUKF performed better in accuracy and robustness.

Conflicts of Interest
The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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