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**RÉALISATION STOCHASTIQUE  
DE SIGNAUX  
NON STATIONNAIRES,  
ET IDENTIFICATION  
SUR UN SEUL ÉCHANTILLON**

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RÉALISATIONS STOCHASTIQUES DE SIGNAUX  
NON STATIONNAIRES, ET IDENTIFICATION  
SUR UN SEUL ÉCHANTILLON

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RESUME : On montre que la méthode des Variables Instrumentales, ainsi que l'algorithme de réalisation de Ho-Kalman, sont consistants pour l'identification sur un seul échantillon des caractéristiques modales (partie pôle) d'un processus Gaussien-Markovien excité par un bruit blanc non stationnaire.

ABSTRACT : Gauss-Markov processes excited by nonstationary noises are encountered in the modelling of vibrating systems. We prove that the classical Instrumental Variable method, as well as the Ho-Kalman realization algorithm, for identifying the pole part (modal characteristics) of the model, are consistent when used on a single sample of the (nonstationary) signal.

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## I. INTRODUCTION AND MAIN RESULTS.

State space models of the form

$$(I.1) \quad \begin{cases} X_{t+1} = FX_t + V_{t+1} & (F \text{ asymptotically stable}) \\ Y_t = HX_t \end{cases},$$

where the observation  $(Y_t)$  is a vector process, and the excitation  $(V_t)$  is a (non-stationary) white noise with time-varying covariance matrix  $\mathbb{E} (V_{t+1} V_{t+1}^T) = Q_t$ , are often encountered in various applications. For example, vibrating systems are often subject to non stationary excitation noises ([1][2][3]), and may be described by such models. Note that the corresponding signal  $(Y_t)$  is non stationary, although the matrices  $H$  and  $F$  are constant.

The problem we are interested in is the following :

PROBLEM : Given a single sample  $Y_0, Y_1, \dots, Y_S$  of the process  $(Y_t)$ , how to identify (up to a change of basis in the state space) the matrices  $H$  and  $F$ ?

Note that it is not clear that this is possible, since no ergodicity property can be used for this purpose in view of the non stationary character of the observed signal  $(Y_t)$ .

An answer to this problem would provide us with the modal characteristics of the signal  $(Y_t)$ , namely the pairs  $(\lambda, H\phi_\lambda)$  where  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $F$ , and  $\phi_\lambda$  the corresponding eigenvector ; and it turns out ([1][2][3]) that this corresponds to the modal decomposition of the underlying vibrating structure in the case of vibration measurement.

The non stationary stochastic realization of signals of the form (1) is analysed in [4][5][6] when multiple data records are available ; this is an entirely different problem, since in this case the non stationary covariance function  $\Gamma(i,j) = \mathbb{E} Y_i Y_j^T$  may be estimated by averaging upon the different records of the variables  $Y_i$  and  $Y_j$  ; such problems are encountered in econometrics where non stationary phenomena are periodically repeated. Unfortunately, this is not the case in our situation, where only one sample is available.

Let us analyse the problem from a heuristical viewpoint, by looking at scalar non stationary AR MA signal of the form

$$(I.2) \quad y_t = \sum_{n=1}^N a_n y_{t-n} + \sum_{p=0}^P b_p(t) e_{t-p}$$

where  $(e_t)$  is a standartwhite noise and the MA coefficients  $b_p(t)$  are slowly time varying. Then, for  $S$  large, let us decompose the sample  $y_0, \dots, y_S$  into blocks of the form  $y_{kT}, y_{kT+1}, \dots, y_{kT+T-1}$  for  $k=0, \dots, K-1$ ; which are small enough for the  $b_j$ 's to be considered as constant, and large enough for the true parameters  $a_i$  being the solution of the system of equations:

$$(I.3) \quad \begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^N a_n \Gamma_{P+1-n}^{(k)} &\stackrel{!!}{=} \Gamma_{P+1}^{(k)} \\ \sum_{n=1}^N a_n \Gamma_{P+N-n}^{(k)} &\stackrel{!!}{=} \Gamma_{P+N}^{(k)} \end{aligned}$$

where

$$(I.4) \quad \Gamma_n^{(k)} = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=KT}^{kT+1-1} y_t y_{t-n}$$

is the empirical covariance function of  $(y_t)$  estimated on the  $k$ -th block, where the system is considered as stationary. In the classical stationary case, (I.3) corresponds to the classical Instrumental Variable method with delayed observations ([7]-[11]) which is known to be consistent, so that the relationships (I.3) are approximately valid in our case, by assuming  $(y_t)$  to be stationary inside each block. Now, combining (I.3) for various  $k$  gives

$$(I.5) \quad \left\{ \begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^N a_n \left( \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \Gamma_{P+1-n}^{(k)} \right) &\approx \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \Gamma_{P+1}^{(k)} \\ \dots &\dots \\ \sum_{r=1}^N a_n \left( \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \Gamma_{P+N-n}^{(k)} \right) &\approx \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \Gamma_{P+N}^{(k)} \end{aligned} \right.$$

But this shows that  $(a_1, \dots, a_N)$  is the solution of the Instrumental Variable method applied to the whole sample  $y_0, \dots, y_{S-1}$  without taking care of the non stationary character of the signal, since

$$(I.6) \quad \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \Gamma_n^{(k)} = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{t=0}^{S-1} y_t y_{t-n}$$

is nothing but the single-sample empirical covariance function of  $(y_t)$ .

The reason for this "consistency result" is the linear character of the instrumental Variable method. So it may be expected that any linear estimator should be consistent, including the Ho-Kalman realization algorithm for example. On the other hand, non linear estimates like Maximum likelihood are expected to be nonrobust in case of non stationary excitation.

Finally, note that the known consistency results for the Instrumental Variable method require the asymptotic stationarity of the involved signals [7][8][9][10].

Now let us state the main results for the case of model (I.1). Let us introduce the following assumptions :

ASSUMPTIONS 1 (i) The pair  $(H, F)$  is observable  
(ii) The covariance matrix  $Q_t$  is bounded uniformly in  $t$ .  
(iii) There exists a matrix  $G_*$  such that the pair  $(F, G_*)$  is controllable, and such that, with probability 1, we have for  $S$  large :

$$(I.7) \quad \frac{1}{A_S} \sum_{t=0}^{S-1} V_{t+1} V_{t+1}^T \geq G_* G_*^T,$$

where

$$(I.8) \quad A_S = \sum_{t=0}^{S-1} \|X_t\|^2,$$

is assumed to satisfy  $A_S \rightarrow +\infty$  w.p.1 as  $S \rightarrow \infty$ .

COMMENT : Condition (iii) is a kind of (strong) uniform controllability condition. The following result is proved in Appendix C :

LEMMA 1 : The following condition implies condition (iii) of assumption 1 :  
there exists  $G_x$  with  
(I.9)  $Q_t > G_x G_x^T$  for every  $t$ , and  $(F, G_x)$  controllable.

In fact, condition (iii) is much weaker than the present one, since it is easy to see that this condition allows changes in the geometry of the excitation matrix  $Q_t$ , which is not the case in the condition (I.9).

(I.1) Robustness of the Instrumental Variable method.

Now we are able to give the main results. Let us assume  $Y_t$  having values in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , and  $X_t$  having values in  $\mathbb{R}^p$  (i.e. the process is "of order  $p$ ") : let  $n$  ( $\leq p$ ) be the smallest index such that the observability matrix:

$$(I.10) \quad O_n = \begin{bmatrix} H \\ HF \\ \vdots \\ HF^{n-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

is of full rank ; and let  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  be a solution of

$$(I.11) \quad HF^n = \sum_{i=1}^n A_i HF^{n-i} = [A_n, \dots, A_1] O_n;$$

note that such a solution is generally non unique, unless the rows of  $O_n$  are independent. Then the pair

$$(I.12) \quad \hat{H} = [I, 0 \dots 0], \quad \hat{F} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I \\ & \ddots & \ddots \\ & & 0 & I \\ A_n & \dots & A_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

is a (non-minimal) realization of the pair  $(H, F)$ , in the sense that the modal characteristics  $(\lambda, H\phi_\lambda)$  of the system (I.1) belong to the set of the pairs  $(\lambda, \psi_\lambda)$  where  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  and

$$(I.13) \quad (\lambda^n I - \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda^{n-i} A_i) \psi_\lambda = 0.$$

Let us introduce the corresponding Instrumental Variable method.

Set

$$(I.14) \quad \Gamma_n(S) = \sum_{t=0}^{S-n} Y_{t+n} Y_t^T \quad (n > 0),$$

which is the empirical covariance function of the (non stationary) sample  $Y_0, \dots, Y_S$ ; recall that in our situation,  $\frac{1}{S} \Gamma_n(S)$  has no limit when  $S \rightarrow \infty$  since no ergodic property is assumed. Consider the Hankel matrices

$$(I.15) \quad H_{n,N}(S) = \begin{bmatrix} \Gamma_0(S) & \Gamma_n(S) & \Gamma_N(S) \\ \Gamma_n(S) & \Gamma_N(S) & \Gamma_{N+n}(S) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$H_n(S) \triangleq H_{n,n}(S).$$

Then let us introduce the following estimation methods :

Instrumental Variable (I.V.) method : Solve the system

$$(I.16) \quad [-\hat{A}_n, \dots, -\hat{A}_1, I] H_n(S) = 0$$

and denote by  $\hat{A}_1(S), \dots, \hat{A}_n(S)$  a solution.



Far Past Projection (FPP) method of order N : Solve in the least squares sense the system

$$(I.17) \quad [-\hat{A}_n, \dots, -\hat{A}_1, I] H_{n,N}(S) = 0$$

and denote by  $\hat{A}_1^N(S), \dots, \hat{A}_n^N(S)$  a solution.

Now let us state the first main result :

THEOREM 1 : Let the assumptions 1 be in force. Then, there exists an integer N, depending only upon the bound given in assumption 1-i, and upon  $G_*$ , such that the FPP method of order N is consistent in the sense that

$$\lim_{S \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{A}_i^N(S) - A_i) HF^{n-i} = 0 \text{ w.p.1,}$$

where  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  is an arbitrary solution of (I.11).

Recall that the IV method is consistent in the stationary case ( $Q_t = Q$ ), which corresponds to  $N=n$  in the theorem 1.

Clearly, a drawback of this method lies in the fact that the reconstructed pair  $(\hat{H}, \hat{F})$  given in (I.12) is non minimal, or, equivalently, that the matrix coefficients  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  are not unique. Let us investigate this point.

(I.2) Robustness of the Ho-Kalman algorithm [12][16]

Let us denote by  $O^{HO}$  any invertible square matrix obtained by extracting rows from  $O_n$ , and let us denote by  $Z.O^{HO}$  the matrix obtained by extracting the same rows in the shifted observability matrix

$$(I.18) \quad Z.O_n \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} HF \\ | \\ HF^n \end{bmatrix} ;$$

we have

$$(I.19) \quad z.O^{HO} = O^{HO}_F .$$

Hence, the pair  $(\hat{H}, \hat{F})$  defined by

$$(I.20) \quad \hat{H} = \hat{H} O^{HO}, \quad z.O^{HO} = \hat{F} O^{HO}$$

is now a minimal realization of the pair  $(H, F)$ , in the sense that they are identical up to a change of basis in the state space. These remarks lead to the following method.

HO-Kalman method : select in the Hankel matrix  $H_n(S)$  an invertible  $p \times p$  matrix ( $p = \dim X_t$ ), and denote by  $H^{HO}(S)$  the corresponding matrix ; let  $Z.H_n(S)$  be the shifted matrix, obtained by deleting the first  $p$ -block row in the matrix  $H_{n+1, n}(S)$ , and denote by  $Z.H^{HO}(S)$  the matrix obtained in selecting the same rows and columns in  $Z.H_n(S)$  as before. Then solve for  $\hat{H}(S)$  and  $\hat{F}(S)$  the systems

$$(I.21) \quad H_{0, n}(S) = \hat{H}(S) H^{HO}(S)$$

$$Z.H^{HO}(S) = \hat{F}(S) H^{HO}(S),$$

thus obtaining estimates  $\hat{H}(S)$  and  $\hat{F}(S)$  for  $\hat{H}$  and  $\hat{F}$ , which were defined in (I.20) .

Ho-Kalman method, with Far Past Projection of order N :

Proceed in the same way as before, but starting with  $H_{n, N}(S)$  and  $Z.H_{n, N}(S)$  respectively ; and denote by  $H^{HO}(S)$  the  $p \times ((N+1)d)$  matrices obtained by selecting  $p$  independent rows  $N$  in  $H_{n, N}(S)$ , and the same rows in  $Z.H_{n, N}(S)$ , respectively.

Then solve in the least squares sense the systems

$$(I.22) \quad H_{0, N}(S) = \hat{H}^N(S) \cdot H_N^{HO}(S)$$

$$Z.H_N^{HO}(S) = \hat{F}^N(S) \cdot H_N^{HO}(S),$$

thus obtaining estimates  $\hat{H}^N(S)$  and  $\hat{F}^N(S)$  of  $\hat{H}$  and  $\hat{F}$ .

Assume that the selection operation can be done independently of  $S$  (for  $S$  large), the "true matrices"  $\hat{H}$  and  $\hat{F}$  being obviously obtained in selecting the same rows in the observability matrix. Then we have again the following consistency result :

THEOREM 2. Let the assumptions 1 be in force. Then there exists  $N$  (depending upon the bound  $i$ ), and  $G_*$  such that the Ko-Kalman method with Far Past Projection of order  $N$  is consistent :

$$(I.23) \quad \hat{H}^N(S) \rightarrow \hat{H}, \quad \hat{F}^N(S) \rightarrow \hat{F}, \quad \text{w.p.1.}$$

Again, recall that the classical Ho-Kalman method is consistent in the stationary case ( $Q_t=Q$ ).

Other classical realization algorithms ([13][14]) should also be robust in the same sense. However, analysing in the same non stationary context the robustness of efficient algorithms based upon the Singular Value Decomposition of the Hankel matrix  $H_\infty(S)$  ([18][19][20][21]) seems to be a much harder task, we have not investigated at the moment.

(I.3) The case of models with measurement noise.

In some systems, measurement noise should also be taken into account thus giving the model

$$(I.24) \quad \begin{cases} X_{t+1} = FX_t + V_{t+1}, & \text{COV } V_{t+1} = Q_t \\ Y_{t+1} = HX_t + W_{t+1}, & \text{COV } W_{t+1} = R_t, \end{cases}$$

where the noises ( $V_t$ ) and ( $W_t$ ) are assumed to be independent. Let us modify the assumptions 1 in the following way :

ASSUMPTIONS 2 (i) The pair  $(H,F)$  is observable.

(ii) The covariance matrices  $Q_t$  and  $R_t$  are bounded uniformly in  $t$

(iii) There exists a constant matrix  $G_*$ , such that the pair  $(F, FG_*)$  is controllable, and such that, for  $S$  large, the conditions (I.7) and (I.8) hold w.p.1

Note that  $R_t$  may be singular. Set

$$(I.25) \quad \bar{H}_{n,N}(S) = \begin{bmatrix} \Gamma_1(S) & \Gamma_{n+1}(S) & \Gamma_{N+1}(S) \\ | & / & | \\ \Gamma_{n+1}(S) & \Gamma_{N+1}(S) & \Gamma_{N+n+1}(S) \end{bmatrix},$$

and denote by  $\bar{A}_1^N(S), \dots, \bar{A}_n^N(S)$  the least squares solution to the system

$$(I.26) \quad [-\bar{A}_n^N(S), \dots, -\bar{A}_1^N(S), I] \bar{H}_{n,N}(S) = 0$$

which is the equivalent in this case of the FPP method of order N. Then the following theorem holds :

**THEOREM 3 :** Let the assumptions 2 be in force. Then there exists N (depending on the bounds in assumption 2-i) and on  $G_*$  such that the FPP method of order N is consistent, in the sense that

$$(I.27) \quad \lim_{S \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^r (\bar{A}_i^N(S) - A_i) HF^{n-1} = 0 \text{ w.p. } 1,$$

where the  $A_i$ 's satisfy (I.11).

Of course, the corresponding results for the Ho-Kalman method should also be stated in this case, but we have dropped them for the sake of shortness.

(I.4) Organization of the sequel of the paper

The sequel of the paper is devoted to the proofs of the theorems.

The proof will proceed as follows. The empirical Hankel matrix (I.15) will be decomposed into two parts : in the first one only the empirical covariances of the state  $X_t$  and the noise  $V_t$  appear, whereas the second one contains the contribution of the empirical cross-correlation of  $X_t$  and  $V_{t+i}$  for  $i > 0$ . A martingale argument is used for showing that the later part is neglectible with respect to  $A_S$  ; on the other hand, lower bounds are needed on the singular values of the first part, for

showing that this first part is not neglectible with respect to  $A_S$ .

Thus the section II is entirely devoted to the derivation of bounds for the singular values of Hankel matrices associated to stationary processes. The section III is devoted to the end of the proof.

Finally, extensive experimental results are reported in [1][2][3], where the robustness of the FPP method is shown in the nonstationary case.

## II. UPPER AND LOWER BOUNDS FOR THE SINGULAR VALUES OF HANKEL MATRICES OF GAUSS-MARKOV PROCESSES.

Throughout this section, only stationary Gauss-Markov processes are involved.

### II.1. Gauss-Markov processes without measurement noise.

Let us consider the following stationary Gauss-Markov process :

$$(II.1) \quad \begin{cases} X_{t+1} = FX_t + GV_{t+1} \\ Y_t = HX_t \end{cases}$$

where the matrix  $F$  is assumed to be asymptotically stable (hence  $(Y_t)$  is regular), and  $(V_t)$  is a standard white noise with identity covariance matrix the matrices  $H, F, G$  are respectively  $d \times p, p \times p, p \times n$ . Assume also the representation (II.1) to be minimal, i.e. the pairs  $(H, F)$  and  $(F, G)$  are respectively observable and controllable.

Let us consider the two following (infinite dimensional) Hankel matrices.

$$(II.2) \quad H(H, F, G) = \begin{bmatrix} HG & HFG & HF^2G & \dots & HF^kG & \dots \\ HFG & HF^2G & & & & \\ HF^2G & & & & & \\ \vdots & & & & & \\ HF^kG & & & & & \\ \vdots & & & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$(II.3) \quad H(Y_t) = \begin{bmatrix} \Gamma_0 & & & & \\ & \Gamma_1 & & & \\ & & \ddots & & \\ & & & \Gamma_k & \\ & & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix}, \quad \Gamma_k = \mathbb{E} Y_{t+k} Y_t^T$$

By assumption of minimality of the representation (II.1), both Hankel matrices  $H(H,F,G)$  and  $H(Y_t)$  are of rank  $p$ ; the question we are interested in is to evaluate how far is the process  $(Y_t)$  from being of rank  $p-1$ ? Let be

$$(II.4) \quad \sigma_{\max}(H,F,G) \triangleq \sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_p \triangleq \sigma_{\min}(H,F,G)$$

$$\sigma_{\min}(Y_t) \triangleq \sigma_1(Y_t) \geq \dots \geq \sigma_p(Y_t) \triangleq \sigma_{\min}(Y_t)$$

the first  $p$  singular values  $(\dagger)$  of the matrices  $(H,F,G)$  and  $(Y_t)$  respectively (the other ones are zero). And set

$$(II.5) \quad S_{\max}(Y_t) = \max_{0 < \theta < 2\pi} (\lambda_{\max}(S(e^{i\theta})))$$

$$S_{\min}(Y_t) = \min_{0 < \theta < 2\pi} (\lambda_{\min}(S(e^{i\theta})))$$

(where  $\lambda_{\max}(A)$  and  $\lambda_{\min}(A)$  denote respectively the greatest and lowest eigenvalue of the matrix  $A$ ) where

$$(II.6) \quad S(z) = H(I-zF)^{-1}GG^T(I-z^{-1}F^T)^{-1}HT$$

is the spectrum of the process  $(Y_t)$ . Finally, let

$$(II.7) \quad \begin{aligned} C(F,G) &= (G, FG, F^2G, \dots) \\ C(F,PH^T) &= (PH^T, FPH^T, \dots), \text{ where } P = C(F,G)C^T(F,G) \\ Q(H,F) &= (H^T, F^T H^T, F^{2T} H^T, \dots)^T \end{aligned}$$

---

(†) See Appendix A for definition and properties of the singular values of a matrix.

be the controllability matrices of the pairs  $(F,G)$  and  $(F,PH^T)$ , and the observability matrix of the pair  $(H,F)$ ; and let be respectively

$$(II.8) \quad \begin{aligned} \sigma_{\max}(C) &\triangleq \sigma_1(C) \geq \dots \geq \sigma_p(C) \triangleq \sigma_{\min}(C) \\ \sigma_{\max}(C^P) &\triangleq \sigma_1(C^P) \geq \dots \geq \sigma_p(C^P) \triangleq \sigma_{\min}(C^P) \\ \sigma_{\max}(O) &\triangleq \sigma_1(O) \geq \dots \geq \sigma_p(O) \triangleq \sigma_{\min}(O) \end{aligned}$$

their corresponding singular values.

Let us assume that the process  $(Y_t)$  is regular and of full rank ([15][22]), namely that

$$(II.9) \quad \det S(e^{i\theta}) \neq 0 \text{ for } 0 < \theta < 2\pi.$$

Then, we have the following result :

THEOREM 4 : Under assumption (II.9), the following inequalities hold :

$$(II-10-a) \quad \begin{aligned} \sigma_{\max}(Y_t) &\leq \sigma_{\max}(H,F,G) (S_{\max}(Y_t))^{1/2} \\ \sigma_{\max}(H,F,G) &\leq \sigma_{\max}(O) \sigma_{\max}(C), \end{aligned}$$

and

$$(II-10-b) \quad \begin{aligned} \sigma_{\min}(Y_t) &\geq \sigma_{\min}(H,F,G) (S_{\min}(Y_t))^{1/2} > 0 \\ \sigma_{\min}(H,F,G) &\geq \sigma_{\min}(O) \sigma_{\min}(C), \\ \sigma_{\min}(C^P) &\geq \sigma_{\min}(C) (S_{\min}(Y_t))^{1/2} \end{aligned}$$

Before giving the proof of the theorem 4, let us give a corollary and a refined version of them.

COROLLARY 1 : Let us consider the following Lyapunov equation :

$$(II.11) \quad Q = FQF^T + PH^THP$$

where  $P > 0$  is assumed to be such that

$$(II.12) \quad P - FPF^T = GG^T (> 0).$$

Then, we have the following inequalities

$$(II.13) \quad \lambda_{\max}(Q) \leq \lambda_{\max}(P) S_{\max}(Y_t)$$

$$\lambda_{\min}(Q) \geq \lambda_{\min}(P) S_{\min}(Y_t),$$

where  $S_{\min}$  and  $S_{\max}$  are defined in (II.5) and (II.6).

To our knowledge, this is a new result in the area of matrix Lyapunov equations.

Now, for an arbitrary set  $\{i_1, \dots, i_m\}$ , let us denote by  $\sigma_{\max}^{i_1, \dots, i_m}(Y_t)$  the greatest singular value of the matrix obtained by selecting in  $H(Y_t)$  the rows  $i_1, \dots, i_m$ ; and let us use the same notation for the other matrices. We have the following refinement of theorem 4 :

THEOREM 5 : The following inequalities hold

$$(II.14) \quad \begin{aligned} \sigma_{\max}^{i_1, \dots, i_m}(Y_t) &\leq \sigma_{\max}^{i_1, \dots, i_m}(H, F, G) [S_{\max}(Y_t)]^{1/2} \\ \sigma_{\max}^{i_1, \dots, i_m}(H, F, G) &\leq \sigma_{\max}^{i_1, \dots, i_m}(O) \sigma_{\max}(C) \end{aligned}$$

together with the corresponding inequalities with "... min" instead of "... max".



PROOFS : The proof of theorem 4 rests upon the following factorization of the Hankel matrix  $H(Y_t)$  :

$$(II.15) \quad H(Y_t) = H(H,F,G) \cdot R^{T/2} = O(H,F) \cdot C(F,G) \cdot R^{T/2},$$

where

$$(II.16) \quad R^{1/2} = \begin{bmatrix} HG & HFG & HF^2G & \dots \\ 0 & HG & HFG & \\ 0 & 0 & HG & \\ \vdots & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

is a square root of the covariance matrix of  $(Y_t)$ , namely

$$(II.17) \quad R^{1/2} R^{T/2} = R \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} \Gamma_0 & \Gamma_1 \\ \Gamma_1^T & \Gamma_0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then, taking into account the fact that the process is regular and of full rank (condition (II.9)), we get  $R > 0$  ; then we get (II.10 - a) and (II.10 - b) thanks to (A - 4,5,6,11) of appendix A, using the fact that the lowest and greatest eigenvalues of  $R$  are equal to  $S_{\min}(Y_t)$  and  $S_{\max}(Y_t)$  respectively ([23]). This finishes the proof of theorem 4.

For the corollary, note that, under assumption (II.12), the matrix  $Q$  is given by

$$(II.18) \quad Q = Q^{1/2} Q^{T/2}, \quad Q^{1/2} = C(F,G) R^{T/2}.$$

Finally the theorem 5 proved in the same way as the theorem 4, by keeping only the desired rows of the matrices  $H(Y_t)$ ,  $H(H,F,G)$ , and  $O(H,F)$ .

WARNING : There is no corresponding lower bound for the singular values of the matrix obtained by selecting columns (instead of rows) in the Hankel matrix  $H(Y_t)$ , except in the case of a scalar signal ( $d = 1$ ). The reason is that the corresponding factorization of  $H(Y_t)$  would involve the extraction of columns in  $\mathbb{R}^{T/2}$ , thus obtaining a (non - invertible) rectangular matrix, what is not allowed by (A.11). This is not surprising since the construction of a basis of the state space of  $(Y_t)$  involves the extraction of linearly independent rows of the Hankel matrix ([ 15]) which is not equivalent to the extraction of columns, except in the scalar case.

(II.2) Regular Gauss-Markov Process of full rank.

Now, let us give the corresponding results in the classical case of Gauss-Markov processes with minimal representation ([ 15])

$$(II.19) \quad \begin{cases} X_{t+1} = F X_t + V_{t+1} \\ Y_{t+1} = H X_t + W_{t+1} \end{cases}$$

where we are interested in getting bounds for the singular values of the shifted Hankel matrix

$$(II.20) \quad H(Y_t) \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} \Gamma_1 & & & & \\ & \Gamma_2 & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \Gamma_k \end{bmatrix}$$

Let us focus our attention on the bounds which are independent of the choice of the state space representation ; thus we can choose the state space representation corresponding to the strong factorization of the spectrum of  $(Y_t)$ , which is characterized by ([ 15] [ 16]) :

$$(II.21) \quad \mathbb{E} \begin{pmatrix} V_t \\ W_t \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_t^T & W_t^T \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} K \\ I \end{pmatrix} R \begin{pmatrix} K^T & I \end{pmatrix} ,$$

where  $R$  is the covariance matrix of the innovation process of  $(Y_t)$  and  $K$  is the Kalman gain, i.e. the unique solution of the wellknown Algebraic Riccati Equation such that  $F - KH$  be asymptotically stable ([15] [16]). Then we have the following result, assuming that  $(Y_t)$  is regular and of full rank :

**THEOREM 6** : The following inequalities hold for the process (II.19) :

$$(II.22) \quad \begin{aligned} \bar{\sigma}_{\max}(Y_t) &\leq \sigma_{\max}(H, F, KR^{1/2}) (S_{\max}(Y_t))^{1/2} \\ \bar{\sigma}_{\min}(Y_t) &\geq \sigma_{\min}(H, F, KR^{1/2}) (S_{\min}(Y_t))^{1/2} > 0 \end{aligned}$$

Here,  $\bar{\sigma}_i(Y_t)$  denote the singular values of  $\bar{H}(Y_t)$  (cf. (II.20)) ordered as in (II.4), whereas  $\sigma_i(H, F, KR^{1/2})$  denote the singular values of the Hankel matrix  $\bar{H}(H, F, G)$  with  $G = KR^{1/2}$ . Note that  $(H(I - ZF)^{-1}K + I)R^{1/2}$  is the strong factorization of the spectrum of  $(Y_t)$ , so that the bounds in (II.22) are indeed canonical, i.e. independent of the choice of the state space realization of  $(Y_t)$ .

PROOF (sketchy) : Here, the relevant factorization of the matrix  $\bar{H}(Y_t)$  is the following one :

$$(II.23) \quad \bar{H}(Y_t) = H(H, F, KR^{1/2}) \cdot R^{T/2},$$

where

$$(II.24) \quad R^{1/2} = \begin{bmatrix} R^{1/2} & HKR^{1/2} & HFKR^{1/2} & HF^2KR^{1/2} & \dots \\ 0 & R^{1/2} & HKR^{1/2} & HFKR^{1/2} & \\ \vdots & & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

is again a square root of the covariance matrix  $R$  of the process  $(Y_t)$  (cf. ((II.17) ; hence the theorem.

Note that the singular values  $\sigma_{\min}$  and  $\sigma_{\max}$  in (II.22) do not depend upon the choice of the square root of  $R$ .

REMARK : Finally, let us mention that, for state space representations of the form (II.19), such that  $(V_t)$  be independent of  $(w_t)$ , with covariance

$$(II.25) \quad \mathbb{E} V_t V_t^T = G G^T ,$$

the following inequalities hold

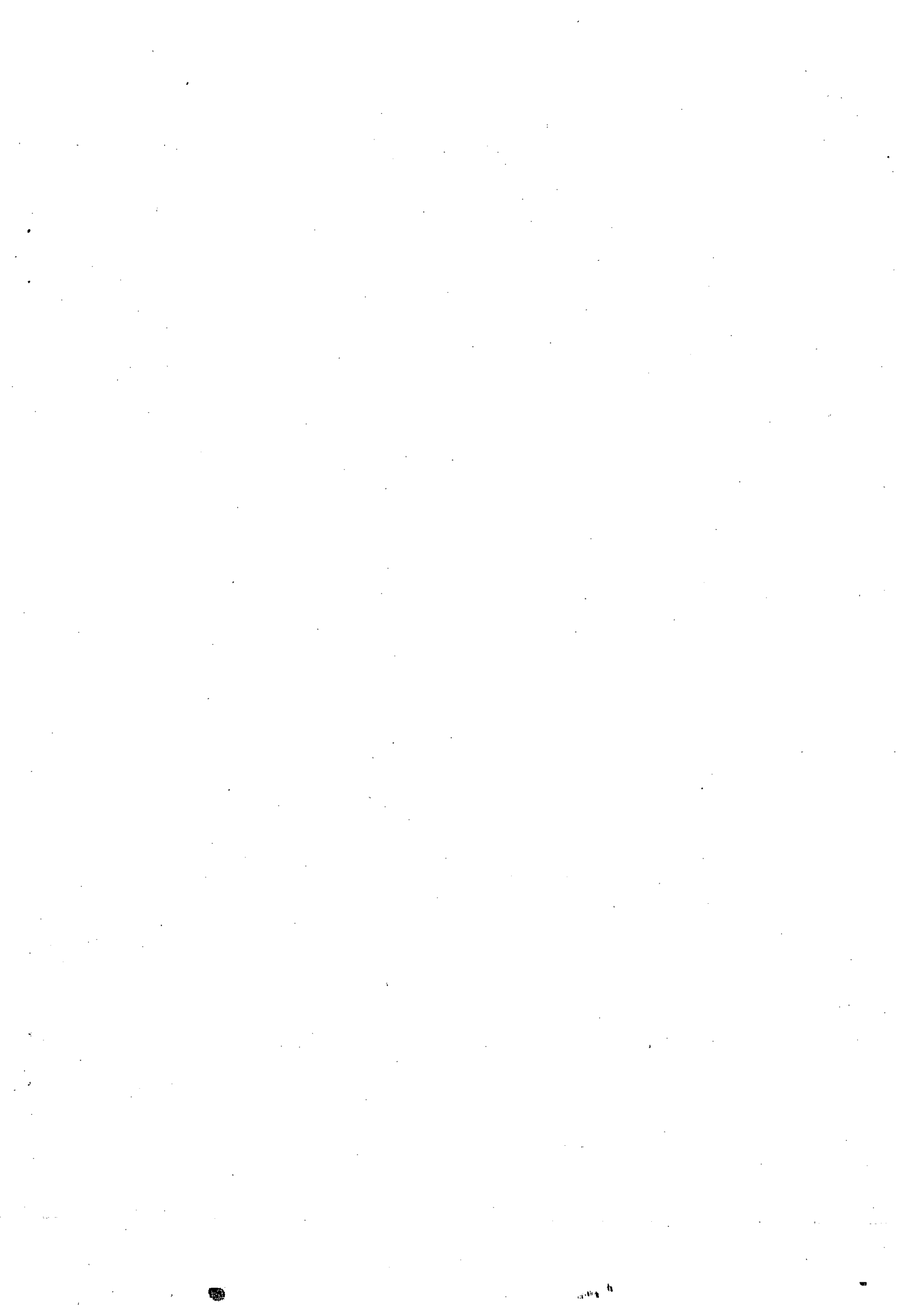
$$(II.26) \quad \begin{aligned} \overline{\sigma}_{\max}(Y_t) &\leq \sigma_{\max}(H, F, FG) (\tilde{S}_{\max})^{1/2} \\ \overline{\sigma}_{\min}(Y_t) &\geq \sigma_{\min}(H, F, FG) (\tilde{S}_{\min})^{1/2} , \end{aligned}$$

where  $\sigma(H, F, FG)$  are defined as before, where as  $\tilde{S}_{\max/\min}$  are defined as in (II.5) but using

$$(II.27) \quad \tilde{S}(z) \triangleq H(I - zF)^{-1} G G^T (I - z^{-1}F^T)^{-1} H^T = S(z) - \text{cov}(w_t) ,$$

instead of the whole spectrum of  $(Y_t)$ .

Of course, the later bounds (II.26) are coarser than the preceding ones given in theorem 6, but they will be useful in the sequel ; moreover these bounds do not require that  $\text{cov}(w_t)$  be  $> 0$ .



where

$$(III.4) \quad F_t = \sigma \{V_0, \dots, V_t\}.$$

Let us compute the predictable quadratic variation  $\langle M, M \rangle_S$  of this martingale ([25]):

$$\begin{aligned} \langle M, M \rangle_S - \langle M, M \rangle_{S-1} &\stackrel{\Delta}{=} \mathbb{E} \left( (M_S - M_{S-1})^2 \mid F_{S+i-1} \right) \quad (*) \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left( H_k^T F^m V_{S+i} X_S^T H_\ell^T H_\ell X_S V_{S+i}^T F^{mT} H_k^T \mid F_{S+i-1} \right) \\ (III.5) \quad &= (X_S^T H_\ell^T H_\ell X_S) H_k^T F^m \mathbb{E} (V_{S+i} V_{S+i}^T \mid F_{S+i-1}) F^{mT} H_k^T \\ &= (X_S^T H_\ell^T H_\ell X_S) H_k^T F^m Q_{S+i-1} F^{mT} H_k^T \\ &< \|X_S\|^2 \times \text{constant}, \end{aligned}$$

since  $Q_t$  is assumed to be uniformly bounded.

As a consequence,

$$(III.6) \quad \langle M, M \rangle_S \leq \text{constant} \cdot A_S$$

Then, thanks to a suitable version of the law of large numbers for the martingales (see Appendix B), we get

$$(III.7) \quad M_S / A_S \rightarrow 0 \text{ w.p.1 as } S \rightarrow \infty$$

since  $A_S \rightarrow +\infty$  w.p.1 by assumption. Set

$$(III.8) \quad P_S = \frac{1}{A_S} \sum_{t=1}^S X_t X_t^T ;$$

(\*)  $\mathbb{E}(X/A)$  denotes the conditional expectation of  $X$  with respect to the  $\sigma$ -algebra  $A$ .



In appendix C, using a martingale argument, we prove the following lemma, where conditions (I.7) and (I.8) are used :

LEMMA : Setting

$$(III.15) \quad G_S G_S^T = \frac{1}{A_S} \sum_{t=0}^{S-1} V_{t+1} V_{t+1}^T,$$

we have w.p. 1 when  $S \rightarrow \infty$  :

$$(III.16) \quad P_S - F P_S F^T - G_S G_S^T \rightarrow 0.$$

Hence, the solution  $\tilde{P}_S$  of the Lyapunov equation

$$(III.17) \quad \tilde{P}_S = F \tilde{P}_S F^T + G_S G_S^T$$

satisfies  $\tilde{P}_S - P_S \rightarrow 0$  w.p.1 for  $S \rightarrow \infty$ . So we can replace  $P_S$  by  $\tilde{P}_S$  in the formula (III.14), and we drop the superscript " $\tilde{\cdot}$ " for simplicity.

Now, the bracket  $(H, F, G_S)$  define a stationary Gauss-Markov process of the form (II.1), and we shall apply the results of section II to this process. But, with the rotations (II.8), we get, using appendix A :

$$(III.18) \quad \sigma_{\min}(C_N(F, P_S H^T) C_N^T(F, P_S H^T) O_n^T) > \sigma_{\min}^2(C_N(F, P_S H^T)) \sigma_{\min}(O_n^T).$$

On the other hand, one verifies that

$$(III.19) \quad C_{\infty}(F, P_S H^T) = C_{\infty}(F, G_S) R^{T/2}(S),$$

where  $R(S)$  is the infinite covariance matrix of the stationary process  $y_t(S)$  generated by the bracket  $(H, F, G_S)$ . We shall finish the proof by giving



- lower bounds for  $\sigma_{\min} (C_{\infty}(F, G_S))$
  - lower bounds for  $S_{\min} (Y_t^S)$
  - upper bounds for  $C_{\infty}(F, P_S H^T) C_{\infty}^T(F, P_S H^T) - C_N(F, P_S H^T) C_N^T(F, P_S H^T)$ ,
- and using (III.18) together with theorem 4.

Lower bounds for  $\sigma_{\min} (C_{\infty}(F, G_S))$ .

Here, we use simply assumption (I.7)  $G_S G_S^T > G_{**} G_{**}^T$ ,  
 which implies, since the pair  $(F, G_{**})$  is controllable :

$$(III.20) \quad C_{\infty}(F, G_S) C_{\infty}^T(F, G_S) \geq C_{\infty}(F, G_{**}) C_{\infty}^T(F, G_{**}) > 0,$$

hence the corresponding inequality for the singular values.

Lower bounds for  $S_{\min} (Y_t^S)$ .

Here, again, we have, for  $0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$

$$(III.21) \quad \begin{aligned} & H(I - e^{i\theta} F)^{-1} G_S G_S^T (I - e^{-i\theta} F^T)^{-1} H^T \\ & \geq H(I - e^{i\theta} F)^{-1} G_{**} G_{**}^T (I - e^{-i\theta} F^T)^{-1} H^T, \end{aligned}$$

so that, with  $Y_t^*$  generated by the bracket  $(H, F, G_{**})$  :

$$(III.22) \quad S_{\min}(Y_t^S) \geq S_{\min}(Y_t^*) > 0.$$

Upper bounds for  $C_{\infty}(F, P_S H^T) C_{\infty}^T(F, P_S H^T) - C_N^T(F, P_S H^T) C_N(F, P_S H^T)$ .

Since  $A_S = \text{Tr} \sum_1^S X_t X_t^T$ ,  $P_S$  is bounded uniformly in  $S$ .

Hence there exists a constant  $c$  such that  $P_S H^T H P_S < c I$ , so that

$$(III.23) \quad \begin{aligned} & C_{\infty}(F, P_S H^T) C_{\infty}^T(F, P_S H^T) - C_N(F, P_S H^T) C_N^T(F, P_S H^T) \\ & = \sum_{n < N} F^n (P_S H^T H P_S) F^{n^T} \\ & \leq \text{constant} \times \left( \sum_{n > N} \rho^{2n} \right) \cdot I, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\rho$  denotes the spectral radius of  $F$ . Since  $F$  is asymptotically stable, we have  $\rho < 1$ . Hence the first member of (III.23) tends to zéro uniformly in  $S$  when  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

Finally, thanks to (II. 10-b) of theorem 4, and using (III.23), (III.20) and (III.22), we obtain that there exists  $N$  such that

$$(III.24) \quad \liminf_{S \rightarrow \infty} \sigma_{\min}(C_N(F, P_S H^T)) > 0,$$

which finishes the proof of theorem 1, thanks to (III.14) and (III.18).

The proof of theroem 2 goes through the same steps as above. Here, the key point is that (III.14) is now replaced by

$$(III.25) \quad \frac{1}{A_S} (\widehat{F}^N(S) - \widehat{F}) H_N^{HO}(S) H_N^{HO}(S)^T \rightarrow 0;$$

$$\frac{1}{A_S} (\widehat{H}^N(S) - \widehat{H}) H_N^{HO}(S) H_N^{HO}(S)^T \rightarrow 0$$

w.p.1 when  $S \rightarrow \infty$ ; but

$$(III.26) \quad \frac{1}{A_S} H_N^{HO}(S) H_N^{HO}(S) = O^{HO} C_N(F, P_S H^T) C_N^T(F, P_S H^T) (O^{HO})^T + \epsilon(S),$$

so that we can proceed as before, and obtain the theorem 2, taking into account the fact that  $O^{HO}$  is here a square invertible matrix.

The proof of theorem 3 is also similar. Starting with  $\Gamma_1(S)$  instead of  $\Gamma_0(S)$  is the Hankel matrix allows us to annihilate the effect of the measurement noise, using again a martingale argument. Here, the relevant factorization is

$$(III.27) \quad \frac{1}{A_S} H_{n,N}(S) H_{n,N}^T(S) = O_n C_N(F, FP_S H^T) C_N^T(F, FP_S H^T) O_n^T + \epsilon(S),$$

and we finish the proof using the lower bounds in (II.26).



PROOF : For  $A = U_A \Delta_A V_A^T$  (as in (A.1)), set

$$(A.7) \quad A^\dagger = V_A \Delta_A^{-T} U_A^T,$$

where, according to the notations of (A.2)

$$(A.8) \quad \Delta_A^{-T} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sigma_1 & & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & & 1/\sigma_m \\ & & 0 & \end{bmatrix}, \text{ with } 1/0 \triangleq 0.$$

Now assume  $A$  is  $n \times p$  matrix and  $B$  is  $p \times p$  with  $p \geq n$ . Then

$$(A.9) \quad ABB^\dagger A^\dagger = ABB^{-1} A^\dagger = U_A \Delta_A \Delta_A^{-T} U_A^{-T} = U_A \begin{bmatrix} I_r & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} U_A^T,$$

where  $r \leq n$  is the rank of  $A$ . If  $r < n$ , (A.6) reduces to  $0 = 0$ ; if  $r = n$ , using (A.9) and (A.3), and thanks to  $ABx = AB(B^\dagger A^\dagger ABx)$  for every  $x$ , we get

$$(A.10) \quad \sigma_{\min}(AB) \triangleq \min_x \frac{\|ABx\|}{\|x\|} \geq \min_y \frac{\|ABB^\dagger A^\dagger y\|}{\|B^\dagger A^\dagger y\|} = 1/\sigma_{\max}(B^\dagger A^\dagger),$$

hence (A.6), using (A.4). When  $p \leq n$ , apply the argument to  $B^T A^T$ , the key point being  $\Delta_A^T \Delta_A^{-1} = I_p$  when  $A$  is of full rank. (A.6) is false in the general case. ■

Now assume  $A$  is  $n \times p$ ,  $B$  is  $p \times m$  with  $p = \min(m, n, p)$ . Set

$\sigma_{\min}(AB) \triangleq \sigma_p(AB)$ , which is the lowest non trivial singular value of  $AB$  ( $\text{rank}(AB) \leq p$ ). Then, again

$$(A.11) \quad \sigma_{\min}(AB) (\triangleq \sigma_p(AB)) \geq \sigma_{\min}(A) \sigma_{\min}(B)$$

PROOF : Here again we can assume A and B of full rank. Then, using

$\Delta_B \Delta_B^{-T} = I_p$ , we get

$$(A.12) \quad ABB^+A^+ = U_A \Delta_A \Delta_A^{-T} U_A^T = U_A \begin{bmatrix} I_p & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} U_A^T$$

so that, again ,

$$(A.13) \quad \sigma_{\min}(AB) \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \sigma_p(AB) = \min \frac{\|ABB^+A^+y\|}{\|B^+A^+y\|} \\ \geq \frac{1}{\sigma_{\max}(B^+A^+)},$$

hence (A.11) ■

The inequalities (A.6) and (A.11) are used in the section II for obtaining the lower bounds on the singular values of the Hankel matrices. The lower bound can't be directly obtained for  $C_N(F, P_S^{HT})$  since this matrix is the product of two matrices A and B with  $p > n$  and  $m$ , and neither (A.11) nor (A.6) can be applied in this case.

APPENDIX B : A strong law of large  
numbers of martingales.

The following result is proved in [25] :

LEMMA : Let  $M_t$  be a locally square integrable martingale with respect to a family  $(\mathcal{F}_t)$  of  $\sigma$  - algebras, such that  $M_0 = 0$ . Set

$$(B.1) \quad \langle M, M \rangle_t = \sum_{s=1}^t \mathbb{E}((M_s - M_{s-1})^2 / \mathcal{F}_{s-1}).$$

Then, w.p.1 we have :

$$(B.2) \quad \frac{1}{\langle M, M \rangle_t} M_t \rightarrow 0 \text{ on the set } \left\{ \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \langle M, M \rangle_t = +\infty \right\},$$

$$(B.3) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} M_t \text{ exists and is finite on the set } \left\{ \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \langle M, M \rangle_t < +\infty \right\}.$$

An immediate consequence is that the lemma still holds if  $\langle M, M \rangle_t$  is replaced by a process  $A_t$  satisfying

$$(B.4) \quad \langle M, M \rangle_t \leq A_t \quad \text{w.p.1.}$$

This is the results we use in the martingale arguments.

APPENDIX C : miscellaneous.

C.1 : PROOF OF (III.16)

We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_0^S X_t X_t^T &= X_0 X_0^T + \sum_0^{S-1} (FX_t + V_{t+1}) (FX_t + V_{t+1})^T \\
 &= X_0 X_0^T + F \left( \sum_0^{S-1} X_t X_t^T \right) F^T + \sum_1^S V_t V_t^T \\
 \text{(C.1)} \quad &+ F \left( \sum_0^{S-1} X_t V_{t+1}^T \right) + \left( \sum_0^{S-1} V_{t+1} X_t^T \right) F^T \\
 &= \textcircled{1} + \textcircled{2} + \textcircled{3} + \textcircled{4} + \textcircled{5} .
 \end{aligned}$$

Neglecting  $X_0 X_0^T$  and  $X_S X_S^T$  with respect to  $A_S$ , we have only to prove that  $\textcircled{4}$  and  $\textcircled{5}$  are also neglectible with respect to  $A_S$ . This is obtained by applying the argument used in (III.3) to (III.5). Note we have only used the conditions :  $A_S \uparrow + \infty$ , and  $Q_t$  is uniformly bounded.

C.2 : PROOF OF LEMMA 1

Step 1 :

$$\frac{1}{S} \sum_1^S V_t V_t^T \geq G_* G_*^T - \epsilon(S) \cdot I$$

with  $\epsilon(S) \rightarrow 0$  w.P.1 as  $S \rightarrow \infty$ .

PROOF : Under (I.9), we can decompose the noise  $V_t$  into

$$\text{(C.2)} \quad V_t = \tilde{V}_t + \hat{V}_t, \quad \text{Cov } \tilde{V}_t = G_* G_*^T, \quad \tilde{V} \text{ and } \hat{V} \text{ orthogonal.}$$

Then we get

$$(C.3) \quad \sum_1^S v_t v_t^T = \sum_1^S \tilde{v}_t \tilde{v}_t^T + \sum_1^S \tilde{v}_t \tilde{v}_t^T + \sum_1^S (\tilde{v}_t \tilde{v}_t^T + \tilde{v}_t \tilde{v}_t^T).$$

Consider the scalar martingale ( $k, \ell$  fixed)

$$(C.4) \quad M_S = \sum_1^S \tilde{v}_t^\ell \tilde{v}_t^k ;$$

we have

$$(C.5) \quad \langle M, M \rangle_S = Q_*^{\ell\ell} \left( \sum_1^S \tilde{v}_t^{kk} \right), \quad Q_* = G_* G_*^T, \quad \tilde{Q}_t = Q_t - Q_*.$$

Since  $\tilde{Q}_t$  is bounded, we get, using appendix B,  $\frac{1}{S} M_S \rightarrow 0$ , hence the result.

Step 2 :  $A_S \uparrow + \infty$  w.p.1

PROOF : Assume  $\text{IP} \{ \lim A_S < + \infty \} > 0$ . Then, considering the martingale

$$M_S = \sum_0^{S-1} X_t^\ell v_{t+1}^k$$

for  $k$  and  $\ell$  fixed, we can use the remark in the appendix C for

obtaining that, on the set  $\{ \lim A_S < + \infty \}$ ,  $\sum_0^{S-1} X_t v_{t+1}^T$  converges

to a finite value w.p.1. Then, taking the trace on both sides of

(C.1) we get

$$(C.6) \quad \lim_{S \rightarrow \infty} \sum_1^S \|v_t\|^2 \text{ exists and is finite w.p.1 on the set}$$

$\{ \lim A_S < \infty \}$ , which is impossible, in view of the results of step 1.



Step 3 :

$$0 < \liminf_{S \rightarrow \infty} \frac{A_S}{S} < \limsup_{S \rightarrow \infty} \frac{A_S}{S} < +\infty \quad \text{w.p.1}$$

PROOF : Since  $A_S \uparrow +\infty$  w.p.1, we can neglect the terms (1), (4) and (5) in (C.1), thus obtaining

$$(C.7) \quad \frac{1}{S} \sum_0^{S-1} X_t X_t^T = F \left( \frac{1}{S} \sum_0^{S-1} X_t X_t^T \right) F^T + \frac{1}{S} \sum_1^S V_t V_t^T + \varepsilon(S),$$

hence, thanks to the result of step 1,  $\frac{1}{S} \sum_0^{S-1} X_t X_t^T$  is uniformly

bounded from above and from below, which implies obviously the result of step 3.

The lemma 1 follows then obviously.

## CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

It has been shown that the classical linear methods (Instrumental Variable method, Ho-Kalman algorithm,...) for identifying the pole part of a Gauss-Markov model are robust in the presence of nonstationary excitation noise, and that the identification can be achieved using only a single sample of the corresponding (nonstationary) signal.

The accuracy of these identification methods may be evaluated by looking at the bounds on the Hankel matrices which are given in the section II : it is clear that well excited modes are identified with more accuracy than the other ones.

A question remains open : what happens when model reduction is done in the nonstationary case ? Note that the martingale argument, the proof is based upon, no longer holds in the case of underparametrization ; hence, obtaining consistency results in the nonstationary case with model reduction seems to be a hard task. Nevertheless, the experimental results reported in [1][2][3] show that the methods still work in reasonable situations.

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