

Alpha-Beta-Gamma Tracking Filter Analysis

The algorithm to estimate the position, velocity and acceleration is:

Predictor, Equations:

$$Y(k+1) = y(k) + T_s \cdot v(k) + \frac{1}{2} T_s^2 \cdot a(k) \quad \text{EQ 1}$$

$$V(k+1) = v(k) + T_s \cdot a(k) \quad \text{EQ 2}$$

$$A(k+1) = a(k) \quad \text{EQ 3}$$

Estimator (Corrector) Equations:

$$y(k) = Y(k) + \alpha \cdot (x_0(k) - Y(k)) \quad \text{EQ 4}$$

$$v(k) = V(k) + \frac{\beta}{T_s} \cdot (x_0(k) - Y(k)) \quad \text{EQ 5}$$

$$a(k) = A(k) + \frac{\gamma}{2 \cdot T_s^2} \cdot (x_0(k) - Y(k)) \quad \text{EQ 6}$$

$x_0(k)$ Measured Position @ time kT_s

Upper Case Predictive Parameters (One step ahead)

Lower Case Estimated Parameters (Smoothing)

T_s = Step Size (sampling time)

Alpha-Beta-Gamma Tracking Filter Analysis

To find the Z Transform of the Estimator Equations, Plug EQ 1, 2 and 3 into EQ 4, 5 and 6. Then rearrange equations so that the input (x_0) is on the right.

Next take the Z transform –

The Z transform of Estimated Parameters

$$(Z + \alpha - 1) \cdot y(Z) + (\alpha - 1) \cdot T_s \cdot v(Z) + \frac{(\alpha - 1)}{2} \cdot T_s^2 \cdot a(Z) = \alpha \cdot Z \cdot x_0(Z) \quad \text{EQ 7}$$

$$\beta \cdot y(Z) + (Z + \beta - 1) \cdot T_s \cdot v(Z) + \left(\frac{\beta}{2} - 1\right) \cdot T_s^2 \cdot a(Z) = \beta \cdot Z \cdot x_0(Z) \quad \text{EQ 8}$$

$$\frac{\gamma}{2} \cdot y(Z) + \frac{\gamma}{2} \cdot T_s \cdot v(Z) + \left(Z + \frac{\gamma}{4} - 1\right) \cdot T_s^2 \cdot a(Z) = \frac{\gamma}{2} \cdot Z \cdot x_0(Z) \quad \text{EQ 9}$$

In Matrix Form

$$\begin{bmatrix} (Z + \alpha - 1) & (\alpha - 1) \cdot T_s & \left(\frac{\alpha - 1}{2}\right) \cdot T_s^2 \\ \beta & (Z + \beta - 1) \cdot T_s & \left(\frac{\beta}{2} - 1\right) \cdot T_s^2 \\ \frac{\gamma}{2} & \frac{\gamma}{2} \cdot T_s & \left(Z + \frac{\gamma}{4} - 1\right) \cdot T_s^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y(Z) \\ v(Z) \\ a(Z) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \cdot Z \cdot x_0(Z) \\ \beta \cdot Z \cdot x_0(Z) \\ \frac{\gamma}{2} \cdot Z \cdot x_0(Z) \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{EQ 10}$$

Using Cramer's Rule to solve for $y(Z)$, $v(Z)$ and $a(Z)$ results in:

The Determinate, D , is equal to $T_s^3 \Delta$, where Δ is found to be:

$$\Delta = Z^3 + \left(\alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} - 3\right) \cdot Z^2 + \left(-2 \cdot \alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} + 3\right) \cdot Z + (\alpha - 1) \quad \text{EQ 11}$$

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$$Z\left(\frac{y(k)}{x_0(k)}\right) = \frac{Z \cdot \left[\alpha \cdot Z^2 + \left(-2 \cdot \alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} \right) \cdot Z + \left(\alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} \right) \right]}{\Delta} \quad \text{EQ 12}$$

$$Z\left(\frac{v(k)}{x_0(k)}\right) = \frac{Z \cdot \left[\beta \cdot Z^2 + \left(-2 \cdot \beta + \frac{\gamma}{2} \right) \cdot Z + \left(\beta - \frac{\gamma}{2} \right) \right]}{T_s \cdot \Delta} \quad \text{EQ 13}$$

$$Z\left(\frac{a(k)}{x_0(k)}\right) = \frac{Z \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot \gamma \cdot Z^2 - \gamma \cdot Z + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \gamma \right)}{T_s^2 \cdot \Delta} \quad \text{EQ 14}$$

To find the Predicted Parameters Z Transform we note that using EQ 1, 2 and 3:

Z Transform of Predictive Parameters:

$$\frac{Y(Z)}{x_0(Z)} = \frac{y(Z)}{Z} + T_s \cdot \frac{v(Z)}{Z} + T_s^2 \cdot \frac{a(Z)}{2 \cdot Z} \quad \text{EQ 15}$$

$$\frac{V(Z)}{x_0(Z)} = \frac{v(Z)}{Z} + T_s \cdot \frac{a(Z)}{Z} \quad \text{EQ 16}$$

$$\frac{A(Z)}{x_0(Z)} = \frac{a(Z)}{Z} \quad \text{EQ 17}$$

Which when substituting EQ 12, 13 and 14 into EQ 15, 16 and 17 the following is obtained:

Alpha-Beta-Gamma Tracking Filter Analysis

The Z Transform of Predictive Parameters

$$Z\left(\frac{Y(k)}{x_0(k)}\right) = \frac{\left(\alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4}\right) \cdot Z^2 + \left(-2 \cdot \alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4}\right) \cdot Z + \alpha}{\Delta} \quad \text{EQ 18}$$

$$Z\left(\frac{V(k)}{x_0(k)}\right) = \frac{\left(\beta + \frac{\gamma}{2}\right) \cdot Z^2 + \left(-2 \cdot \beta - \frac{\gamma}{2}\right) \cdot Z + \beta}{T_s \cdot \Delta} \quad \text{EQ 19}$$

$$Z\left(\frac{A(k)}{x_0(k)}\right) = \frac{\frac{\gamma}{2} \cdot Z^2 - \gamma \cdot Z + \frac{\gamma}{2}}{T_s^2 \cdot \Delta} \quad \text{EQ 20}$$

Alpha-Beta-Gamma Tracking Filter Analysis

Discrete Time Domain.

Finding the discrete time sequence

for EQ 12 -

$$Z\left(\frac{y(k)}{x_0(k)}\right) = \frac{Z \cdot \left[\alpha \cdot Z^2 + \left(-2 \cdot \alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4}\right) \cdot Z + \left(\alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4}\right) \right]}{\Delta} \quad \text{EQ 12}$$

Rearrange by factoring the bracketed numerator by Z^2 and the denominator by Z^3 (which of course cancel) leaving-

$$= \frac{\alpha + \left(-2 \cdot \alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4}\right) \cdot Z^{-1} + \left(\alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4}\right) \cdot Z^{-2}}{1 + \left(\alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} - 3\right) \cdot Z^{-1} + \left(-2 \cdot \alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} + 3\right) \cdot Z^{-2} + (\alpha - 1) \cdot Z^{-3}} \quad \text{EQ 21}$$

Using the relationship $Z(p(k-n)) = Z^{-n} p(Z)$

$$y_k = \alpha \cdot x_0(k) + \left(-2 \cdot \alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4}\right) \cdot x_0(k-1) + \left(\alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4}\right) \cdot x_0(k-2) \\ - \left(\alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} - 3\right) \cdot y_{k-1} - \left(-2 \cdot \alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} + 3\right) \cdot y_{k-2} - (\alpha - 1) \cdot y_{k-3} \quad \text{EQ 22}$$

Note that since Mathcad software starts matrix and vector references at 0, k is increased by +3.

This yields-

$$y_{k+3} = \alpha \cdot x_0(k+3) + \left(-2 \cdot \alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4}\right) \cdot x_0(k+2) + \left(\alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4}\right) \cdot x_0(k+1) \\ - \left(\alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} - 3\right) \cdot y_{k+2} - \left(-2 \cdot \alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} + 3\right) \cdot y_{k+1} - (\alpha - 1) \cdot y_k \quad \text{EQ 23}$$

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Likewise for EQ 18

$$Z\left(\frac{Y(k)}{x_0(k)}\right) = \frac{\left(\alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4}\right) \cdot Z^2 + \left(-2 \cdot \alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4}\right) \cdot Z + \alpha}{\Delta} \quad \text{EQ 18}$$

Rearrange by factoring the numerator by Z^2 and the denominator by Z^3 resulting in:

$$= \frac{\left(\alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4}\right) + \left(-2 \cdot \alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4}\right) \cdot Z^{-1} + \alpha \cdot Z^{-2}}{Z \cdot \left[1 + \left(\alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} - 3\right) \cdot Z^{-1} + \left(-2 \cdot \alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} + 3\right) \cdot Z^{-2} + (\alpha - 1) \cdot Z^{-3}\right]} \quad \text{EQ 24}$$

Using the relationships

$$Z(Y(k+1)) = Z \cdot Y(Z) - Z \cdot Y(0) \quad \text{and} \quad Z(x_0(k-n)) = Z^{-n} \cdot x_0(Z)$$

With $Y(0) = 0$

Again, k is increased (for Mathcad) but this time by 2 which results in

$$Y_{k+3} = \left(\alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4}\right) \cdot x_0(k+2) + \left(-2 \cdot \alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4}\right) \cdot x_0(k+1) + \alpha \cdot x_0(k) \\ - \left(\alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} - 3\right) \cdot Y_{k+2} - \left(-2 \cdot \alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} + 3\right) \cdot Y_{k+1} - (\alpha - 1) \cdot Y_k \quad \text{EQ 25}$$

Alpha-Beta-Gamma Tracking Filter Analysis

The remaining discrete equations are given below:

$$v_{k+3} = \frac{\beta \cdot x_0(k+3) + \left(-2 \cdot \beta + \frac{\gamma}{2}\right) \cdot x_0(k+2) + \left(\beta - \frac{\gamma}{2}\right) \cdot x_0(k+1)}{T_s}$$

$$\frac{-\left(\alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} - 3\right) \cdot v_{k+2} - \left(-2 \cdot \alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} + 3\right) \cdot v_{k+1} - (\alpha - 1) \cdot v_k}{T_s} \quad \text{EQ 26}$$

$$V_{k+3} = \frac{\left(\beta + \frac{\gamma}{2}\right) \cdot x_0(k+2) + \left(-2 \cdot \beta - \frac{\gamma}{2}\right) \cdot x_0(k+1) + \beta \cdot x_0(k)}{T_s}$$

$$\frac{-\left(\alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} - 3\right) \cdot V_{k+2} - \left(-2 \cdot \alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} + 3\right) \cdot V_{k+1} - (\alpha - 1) \cdot V_k}{T_s} \quad \text{EQ 27}$$

$$a_{k+3} = \frac{\frac{\gamma}{2} \cdot x_0(k+3) - \gamma \cdot x_0(k+2) + \frac{\gamma}{2} \cdot x_0(k+1)}{T_s^2}$$

$$\frac{-\left(\alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} - 3\right) \cdot a_{k+2} - \left(-2 \cdot \alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} + 3\right) \cdot a_{k+1} - (\alpha - 1) \cdot a_k}{T_s^2} \quad \text{EQ 28}$$

$$A_{k+3} = \frac{\frac{\gamma}{2} \cdot x_0(k+2) - \gamma \cdot x_0(k+1) + \frac{\gamma}{2} \cdot x_0(k)}{T_s^2}$$

$$\frac{-\left(\alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} - 3\right) \cdot A_{k+2} - \left(-2 \cdot \alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} + 3\right) \cdot A_{k+1} - (\alpha - 1) \cdot A_k}{T_s^2} \quad \text{EQ 29}$$

Alpha-Beta-Gamma Tracking Filter Analysis

Frequency Domain.

To find the frequency response for the transfer functions given in EQ 12, 13, 14 and EQ 18, 19 and 20 substitute $Z = \exp(+j\omega T_s)$. The ωT_s range is from 0 *rad to π rad (Nyquist Rate).

We will now compare EQ 12 and EQ 18 in the frequency domain.

$$Z \left(\frac{y(k)}{x_0(k)} \right) = G_Y(Z) \quad \text{EQ 30}$$

$$\text{With} \quad Z(\omega) := \exp(j \cdot \omega \cdot T_s)$$

$$G_Y(\omega) := \frac{Z(\omega) \cdot \left[\alpha \cdot (Z(\omega) - 1)^2 + \left(\beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} \right) \cdot (Z(\omega) - 1) + \frac{\gamma}{2} \right]}{Z(\omega)^3 + \left(\alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} - 3 \right) \cdot Z(\omega)^2 + \left(-2 \cdot \alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} + 3 \right) \cdot Z(\omega) + (\alpha - 1)} \quad \text{EQ 31}$$

$$G_{YdB}(\omega) := 20 \cdot \log(|G_Y(\omega)|) \quad \text{EQ 32} \quad \text{Gain Response}$$

$$\phi_Y(\omega) := \arg(G_Y(\omega)) \quad \text{EQ 33} \quad \text{Phase Response}$$

$$Z \left(\frac{Y(k)}{x_0(k)} \right) = G_Y(Z) \quad \text{EQ 34}$$

$$\text{With} \quad Z(\omega) := \exp(j \cdot \omega \cdot T_s)$$

$$G_Y(\omega) := \frac{\left(\alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} \right) \cdot (Z(\omega))^2 + \left(-2 \cdot \alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} \right) \cdot Z(\omega) + \alpha}{Z(\omega)^3 + \left(\alpha + \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} - 3 \right) \cdot Z(\omega)^2 + \left(-2 \cdot \alpha - \beta + \frac{\gamma}{4} + 3 \right) \cdot Z(\omega) + (\alpha - 1)} \quad \text{EQ 35}$$

$$G_{YdB}(\omega) := 20 \cdot \log(|G_Y(\omega)|) \quad \text{EQ 36}$$

$$\phi_Y(\omega) := \arg(G_Y(\omega)) \quad \text{EQ 37}$$

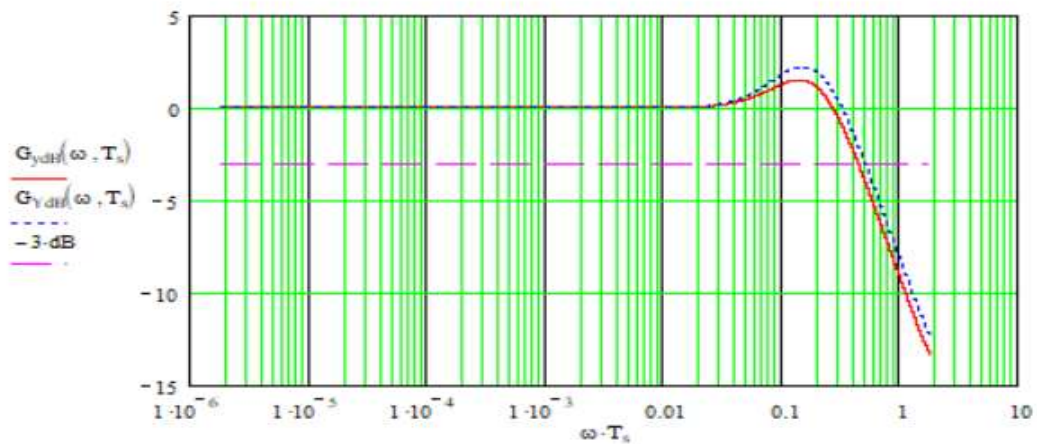
Alpha-Beta-Gamma Tracking Filter Analysis

Example 1

Let the following parameters be set as follows:

Note that throughout we don't specify T_s . When we plot a function vs ωT_s we obtain a consistent view, as scaling remains the same for any T_s .

Gain Comparison –



Phase Comparison

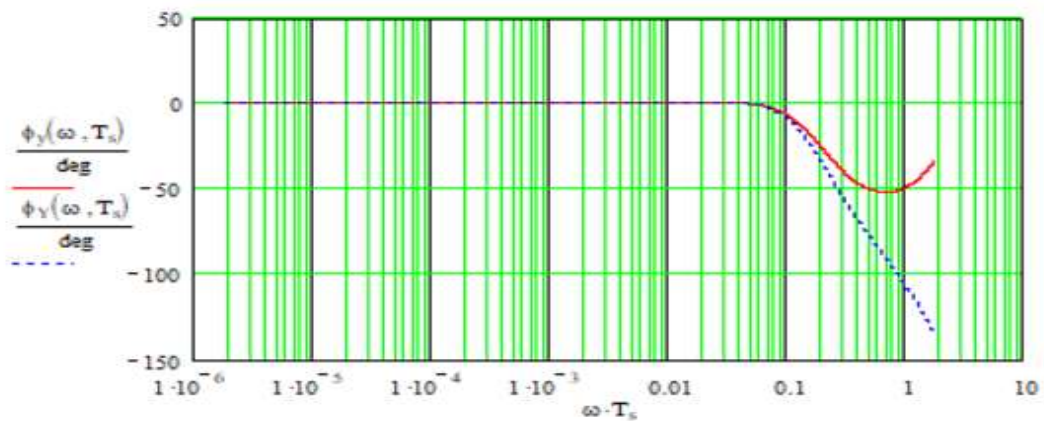


Figure 1A and 1B
Gain and Phase Comparisons

Alpha-Beta-Gamma Tracking Filter Analysis

Note that the estimated function offers a narrower (by ~ 13%) bandwidth with less gain peaking (~ 0.706 dB) than the predicted gain. The phase response is flattened (improved phase margin, by ~ 13 deg, when used in a closed loop) for the estimated function as well.

Analytical Expressions – From Trend-Following Filters – Part 2/2

By [Henry Stern](#) | January 21st, 2021 | [Research Insights](#), [Factor Investing](#), [Trend Following](#)

Given α

Discounted least squares error (equivalent to Critical Damping)

$$\beta = 3 - 1.5 \cdot (1 - \alpha)^{\frac{1}{3}} - 1.5 \cdot (1 - \alpha)^{\frac{2}{3}} - 1.5 \cdot \alpha \quad \text{EQ 38}$$

$$\gamma = -3 \cdot (1 - \alpha)^{\frac{1}{3}} + 3 \cdot (1 - \alpha)^{\frac{2}{3}} + \alpha \quad \text{EQ 39}$$

Random Velocity

$$\beta = \frac{\alpha^2}{2 - \alpha} \quad \text{EQ 40}$$

$$\gamma = \frac{\beta^2}{2 \cdot \alpha} \quad \text{EQ 41}$$

Random Acceleration

$$\beta = 4 - 2 \cdot \alpha - 4 \cdot \sqrt{1 - \alpha} \quad \text{EQ 42}$$

$$\gamma = \frac{\beta^2}{2 \cdot \alpha} \quad \text{same as EQ 41}$$

Note that with $\alpha = 0.3$ and using EQ 38 and EQ 39

$\beta = 0.0356$ and $\gamma = 1.4085 \times 10^{-3}$.

These were the values used in Example 1.

Alpha-Beta-Gamma Tracking Filter Analysis

Analytical Expressions – From Technical Report STEWS-ID-78-3 (1978)

Deals exclusively with estimated parameters.

$$\left| \frac{x_s(k)}{x_0(k)} \right| \begin{array}{l} \text{min gain} \\ @ \omega T_s = \pi \end{array} \quad \frac{2 \cdot \alpha - \beta}{4 - 2 \cdot \alpha - \beta} \quad \text{EQ 43}$$

$$\left| \frac{x_s(k)}{x_0(k)} \right| \begin{array}{l} \text{max} \\ @ (\omega \cdot T_s)_{\text{max}} \end{array} = \sqrt{\frac{\beta}{2}} \quad \text{EQ 44}$$

$$\left| \frac{x_s(k)}{x_0(k)} \right| = 1 \quad \text{when} \quad \omega \cdot T_s = \arccos(1 - \beta) \sim \sqrt{2 \cdot \beta} \quad \text{EQ 45}$$

$$\left| \frac{x_s(k)}{x_0(k)} \right| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \text{when} \quad \omega \cdot T_s = \sqrt{2 \cdot \beta} \cdot 10^{-0.15 \frac{\ln\left(\frac{\pi}{\sqrt{2 \cdot \beta}}\right)}{\ln\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)}} \quad \text{EQ 46}$$

$$\left| \frac{x_s(k)}{x_0(k)} \right| = \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{when} \quad \omega \cdot T_s = \sqrt{2 \cdot \beta} \cdot 10^{-0.3 \frac{\ln\left(\frac{\pi}{\sqrt{2 \cdot \beta}}\right)}{\ln\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)}} \quad \text{EQ 47}$$

Alpha-Beta-Gamma Tracking Filter Analysis

For Example 1 and other Parameters:

α	β	γ	Item	Description	Exact	Approximate	Notes
0.3	0.0356	$1.41 \cdot 10^{-3}$	1	Min Gain @ π	-15.5063 dB	-15.5064 dB	
			2	Max Gain ωT_s	0.133417 rad	0.133417 rad	1.4938 dB
			3	ωT_s for Gain = 0 dB	0.267631 rad	0.267631 rad	
			4	ωT_s for Gain = -3 dB	0.440 rad	0.418 rad	-2.644 dB for Approx
			5	ωT_s for Gain = -6 dB	0.6584 rad	0.6549 rad	-5.9589 dB for Approx
α	β	γ	Item	Description	Exact	Approximate	Notes
0.5	0.1145	$8.78 \cdot 10^{-3}$	1	Min Gain @ π	-10.26072 dB	-10.26071 dB	
			2	Max Gain ωT_s	0.262 rad	0.23928 rad	1.2309 dB
			3	ωT_s for Gain = 0 dB	0.4827 rad	0.482349	
			4	ωT_s for Gain = -3 dB	0.8244 rad	0.76479 rad	-2.5101 dB for Approx
			5	ωT_s for Gain = -6 dB	1.2773 rad	1.22221 rad	-5.69746 dB for Approx
α	β	γ	Item	Description	Exact	Approximate	Notes
0.75	0.3478	0.05067	1	Min Gain @ π	-5.38188 dB	-5.38188 dB	
			2	Max Gain ωT_s	0.485 rad	0.40913 rad	0.79836 dB
			3	ωT_s for Gain = 0 dB	0.8471 rad	0.843008	
			4	ωT_s for Gain = -3 dB	1.61521 rad	1.31412 rad	-1.91669 dB for Approx
			5	ωT_s for Gain = -6 dB	N/A See Min Gain	2.11044 rad	-4.32455 dB for Approx

Table 1

**Analytical Approximation vs. Actual Data
as a Function of Critically Damped Parameters**

Alpha-Beta-Gamma Tracking Filter Analysis

Analytical Expressions – From Trend-Following Filters – Part 2/2

By [Henry Stern](#) | January 21st, 2021 | [Research Insights](#), [Factor Investing](#), [Trend Following](#)

Discrete Time – Approximate Overshoot for estimated position function at $\omega T s_{\max OS}$

$$n := \frac{\alpha \cdot \beta}{2} - \gamma + \frac{3}{8} \cdot \beta^2 \quad \text{EQ 48}$$

$$M := \frac{3}{8} \cdot \beta^2 \cdot (1 - \alpha) \cdot \left(n + \frac{\beta}{3} \right) \quad \text{EQ 49}$$

$$N := \sqrt{\frac{\beta^3 \cdot (1 - \alpha)^2 \cdot n^2}{16}} \quad \text{EQ 50}$$

$$D := n^2 + \frac{\beta^3}{8} \quad \text{EQ 51}$$

$$\text{Overshoot} := \frac{M}{D} + \frac{M^2 + N^2}{2 \cdot D^2} \quad \text{EQ 52}$$

For Example 1, EQ 52 yields 0.261 while the actual overshoot for y_k is 0.155 ($k = 10, k+3 = 13$). Refer to Figure 2 below:

Input is

$$\text{STEP}(k) := 2.5 \cdot \Phi(k)$$

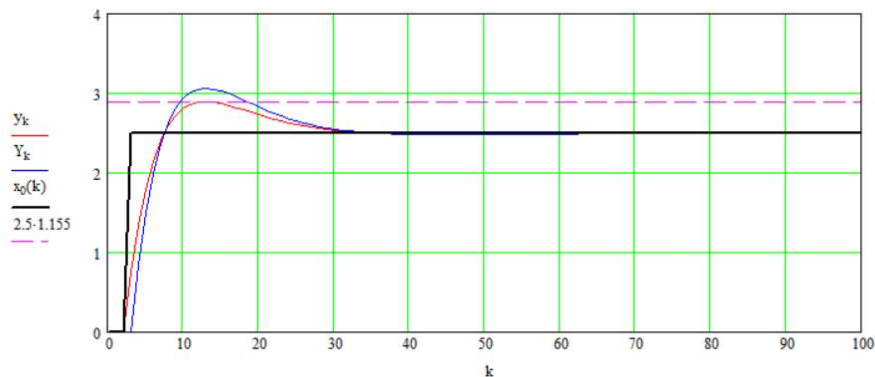


Figure 2
Step Response with Without Noise

Alpha-Beta-Gamma Tracking Filter Analysis

For noise performance, refer to the document, *Comparison of Smoothing Estimation Filters for Servo Motor Applications*. This document includes the Alpha-Beta-Gamma Filter noise performance by section (position, velocity and acceleration).

References:

- [1] J. E. Steelman (1978), *Frequency Response of Alpha-Beta-Gamma Trackers*
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- [2] Henry Stern (2021), *Analytical Expressions – From Trend-Following Filters – Part 1/2*
Research Insights, Factor Investing, Trend Following [Trend-Following Filters: Part 1/2 - \(alphaarchitect.com\)](https://alphaarchitect.com/trend-following-filters-part-1-2/)
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- [3] Henry Stern (2021), *Analytical Expressions – From Trend-Following Filters – Part 2/2*
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- [5] Khin Hooi Ng, Che Fai Yeong, Eileen Lee Ming Su, Liang Xuan Wong (2012), *Alpha Beta Gamma Filter for Cascaded PID Motor Position Control*, *Procedia Engineering* 41 (2012) Pages 244-250.