Mean-Square Performance of Adaptive Filter Algorithms in Nonstationary Environments

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Abstract—Employing a recently introduced unified adaptive filter theory, we show how the performance of a large number of important adaptive filter algorithms can be predicted within a general framework in nonstationary environment. This approach is based on energy conservation arguments and does not need to assume a Gaussian or white distribution for the regressors. This general performance analysis can be used to evaluate the mean square performance of the Least Mean Square (LMS) algorithm, its normalized version (NLMS), the family of Affine Projection Algorithms (APA), the Recursive Least Squares (RLS), the Data-Reusing LMS (DR-LMS), its normalized version (NDR-LMS), the Block Least Mean Squares (BLMS), the Block Normalized LMS (BNLMS), the Transform Domain Adaptive Filters (TDAF) and the Subband Adaptive Filters (SAF) in nonstationary environment. Also, we establish the general expressions for the steady-state excess mean square in this environment for all these adaptive algorithms. Finally, we demonstrate through simulations that these results are useful in predicting the adaptive filter performance.

Keywords—Adaptive filter, general framework, energy conservation, mean-square performance, nonstationary environment.

I. INTRODUCTION

PERFORMANCE analysis of adaptive filtering algorithms in nonstationary environments has been, and still is, an area of active research [1], [2], [3]. When the input signal properties vary with time, the adaptive filters are able to track these variations. The aim of tracking performance analysis is to characterize this tracking ability in nonstationary environments. In this area, many contributions focus on a particular algorithm, making more or less restrictive assumptions on the input signal. For example in [4], [5], the transient performance of the LMS was presented in the nonstationary environments. The former uses a random-walk model for the variations in the optimal weight vector, while the latter assumes deterministic variations in the optimal weight vector. The steady-state performance of this algorithm in the nonstationary environment for the white input is presented in [6]. The tracking performance analysis of the signed regressor LMS algorithm can be found in [7], [8], [9]. Also, the steady-state and tracking analysis of this algorithm without the explicit use of the independence assumptions are presented in [10].

Obviously, a more general analysis encompassing as many different algorithms as possible as special cases, while at the same time making as few restrictive assumptions as possible, is highly desirable. In [11], a unified approach for steady-state and tracking analysis of LMS, NLMS, and some adaptive filters with the nonlinearity property in the error is presented. Their approach was based on energy-conservation relation which was originally derived in [12] and [13]. Also in [14], a unified approach to steady-state performance analysis of a family of affine projection and data-reusing adaptive filter algorithms in the stationary environments and without using the independence assumptions have been presented based on a theory of averaging analysis.

An important recent contribution is the tracking analysis of the Affine Projection Algorithm(s) (APA) [15]. The analysis is based on an energy conservation argument and using the energy relation. Also, the transient and steady-state analysis of data-reusing adaptive algorithms in the stationary environments is presented in [16] based on the weighted energy relation. But the performance of these algorithms in nonstationary environment is not presented. There is a general performance analysis of adaptive filters in [17] and [18]. But again, this analysis was performed in the stationary environments.

We have shown previously [19] that the least mean squares (LMS), the normalized LMS (NLMS), the affine projection algorithm [3], the recursive least squares (RLS), the transform domain adaptive filters (TDAF) [20] and the subband adaptive filters (SAF) [21], [22], [23] can be derived through parameter selections in the generic filter vector update equations presented in [19]. In this paper we extend these generic update equations to show that other adaptive filter algorithms such as the binormalized data-reusing (BNDR-LMS) [24], the NLMS with orthogonal correction factors (NLMS-OCF) [25], the data-reusing adaptive algorithms such as the data-reusing LMS (DR-LMS) [26], the normalized data-reusing LMS (NDR-LMS) [27] and the block adaptive algorithms such as the block LMS (BLMS) and the block NLMS (BNLMS) adaptive algorithms [2] are established through parameter selections in these generic update equations. Accordingly, a general formalism for the mean-square performance analysis of adaptive filters in nonstationary environment is presented. The strategy of the analysis is based on energy conservation arguments and does not need to assume a Gaussian or white distribution for the regressors [3]. Especially, we derive the general expressions for the steady-state mean square error in nonstationary environment for all the adaptive filter algorithms covered by the generic update equations.

We have organized our paper as follows: In the following section we briefly present and extend the generic adaptive filter update equations of [19] forming the basis of our analysis. In the next section, the general mean square performance analysis of adaptive filters in nonstationary environment and the general expression for the steady-state mean square error in this environment are established. We conclude the paper by showing a comprehensive set of simulations supporting the
validity of our results. Throughout the paper, the following notations are adopted:

\[ ||\cdot|| \] Euclidean norm of a vector.

\[ ||\cdot||_2 \] Weighted Euclidean norm of a column vector \( \mathbf{t} \) defined as \( \mathbf{t}^T \mathbf{S} \mathbf{t} \).

\[ \text{vec}(\mathbf{T}) \] Creating an \( M^2 \times 1 \) column vector \( \mathbf{t} \) through stacking the columns of the \( M \times M \) matrix \( \mathbf{T} \).

\[ \text{vec}(\mathbf{t}) \] Creating an \( M \times M \) matrix \( \mathbf{T} \) from the \( M^2 \times 1 \) column vector \( \mathbf{t} \).

\[ \mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{B} \] Kronecker product of matrices \( \mathbf{A} \) and \( \mathbf{B} \).

\[ \text{Tr}(\cdot) \] Trace of a matrix.

\[ (\cdot)^T \] Transpose of a vector or a matrix.

\[ \text{diag}\{(\cdot)\} \] Diagonal matrix of its entries \( \{(\cdot)\} \).

\[ E[\cdot] \] Expectation operator.

II. THE GENERIC ADAPTIVE FILTER UPDATE EQUATIONS AND ADAPTIVE FILTER ALGORITHMS

In Figure 1 we show the prototypical adaptive filter setup, where \( x(n) \), \( d(n) \) and \( e(n) \) are the input, desired and output error signals, respectively. \( \mathbf{h}(n) \) is the \( M \times 1 \) column vector of filter coefficients at time \( n \). From [19], the generic filter vector update equation can be stated as,

\[ \mathbf{h}(n+1) = \mathbf{h}(n) + \mu \mathbf{C}(n) \mathbf{X}(n) e(n), \quad (1) \]

where

\[ e(n) = \mathbf{d}(n) - \mathbf{X}^T(n) \mathbf{h}(n), \quad (2) \]

is the output error vector. The matrix \( \mathbf{X}(n) \) is the \( M \times K \) input signal matrix defined as

\[ \mathbf{X}(n) = [x(nL), x(nL - D), \ldots, x(nL - (K - 1)D)], \quad (3) \]

where \( x(nL) = [x(nL), x(nL - 1), \ldots, x(nL - M + 1)]^T \), and \( \mathbf{d}(n) \) is a \( K \times 1 \) vector of desired signal which is defined as

\[ \mathbf{d}(n) = [d(nL), d(nL - D), \ldots, d(nL - (K - 1)D)]^T. \quad (4) \]

The parameter \( K \) is a positive integer (usually, but not necessarily \( K \leq M \)), \( L \) is the block length, and \( D \) is the positive integer parameter (\( D \geq 1 \)) that can increase the separation, and consequently reduce the correlation among the regressors in \( \mathbf{X}(n) \).

The desired signal arise from the following data model

\[ d(n) = \mathbf{X}^T(n) \mathbf{h}_e(n) + v(n), \quad (5) \]

where \( v(n) \) is the measurement noise and assumed to be zero mean, white, Gaussian, and independent of the input signal matrix \( \mathbf{X}(n) \) and \( \mathbf{h}_e(n) \) is the true time-variant independent column vector. We assume that the variation of \( \mathbf{h}_e(n) \) is according to the random walk model [1], [2], [3]

\[ \mathbf{h}_e(n+1) = \mathbf{h}_e(n) + q(n), \quad (6) \]

In Eq. 6, the sequence of \( q(n) \) is an independent and identically distributed sequence with autocorrelation matrix \( \mathbf{Q} = E[q(n)q^T(n)] \) and independent of other sequences.

The matrix \( \mathbf{C}(n) \) is some \( M \times M \) invertible matrix called the preconditioner. Selecting \( \mathbf{C}(n) \) as an approximate inverse of the autocorrelation matrix, we can improve the convergence speed dramatically relative to the case when no preconditioner is employed [19]. One strategy for selecting the matrix \( \mathbf{C}(n) \) is using the regularized inverse of the estimated autocorrelation matrix as a preconditioner. In this case, by using the matrix inversion lemma, we can write

\[ \mathbf{C}(n) \mathbf{X}(n) = \mathbf{X}(n) \mathbf{W}(n) \]

where \( \mathbf{W}(n) \) is the \( K \times K \) invertible matrix called the weighting matrix [17], [18]. For more details please refer to [19]. From this one might argue that in some cases, a suitable alternative form of the generic adaptive filter of Eq. 1 can be stated as:

\[ \mathbf{h}(n+1) = \mathbf{h}(n) + \mu \mathbf{X}(n) \mathbf{W}(n) e(n). \quad (8) \]

We are now in the position to make specific choices for the preconditioner matrix \( \mathbf{C}(n) \) or the weighting matrix \( \mathbf{W}(n) \) as well as for the parameters \( K, L, D \). Different adaptive filter algorithms can now be seen as specific instantiations of the generic adaptive filter update equations (Eq. 1 and Eq. 8). These algorithms are the least mean squares (LMS), the normalized LMS (NLMS), \( \epsilon \)-NLMS, family of affine projection algorithms (APA) such as the standard version of APA, the regularized APA (R-APA) [28], the binormalized data-reusing LMS (BNDR-LMS) [24], the NLMS with orthogonal correction factors (NLMS-OCF) [25], the data-reusing adaptive algorithms such as the data-reusing LMS (DR-LMS), and the normalized DR-LMS (NDR-LMS) [27], the recursive least squares (RLS), the transform domain adaptive filter (TDAF) algorithms [20], and the subband adaptive filters (SAF) [6]. The particular choices and their corresponding algorithms are summarized in Table I. It is interesting to note that the adaptive filter algorithms in [21], [22], [23], while derived from different points of view, are the same [18]. Selecting the parameters in the generic adaptive filter according to Table I for the SAF and setting \( \epsilon = 0 \), result in Eq. 8 from [22].
III. GENERAL MEAN-SQUARE PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS OF ADAPTIVE FILTER ALGORITHMS IN NONSTATIONARY ENVIRONMENT

In this section based on the generic update equations, we present the general mean-square performance analysis and develop the general expression for the steady-state excess mean square error (EMSE) in nonstationary environment.

A. General mean-square performance analysis of adaptive filter algorithms in nonstationary environment based on Eq. 1

In the mean-square performance analysis, we need to study the time evolution of the $E \{ \|g(n)\|_2^2 \}$, where $\Sigma$ is any Hermitian and positive-definite matrix\(^7\), and $\xi(n)$ is the weight-error vector which is defined as

$$\xi(n) = h(n) - \hat{h}(n).$$

From Eq. 9, the generic weight-error vector update equation based on Eq. 1 can be stated as

$$\xi(n + 1) = \xi(n) + q(n) - \mu C(n) X(n) \xi(n).$$

From Eq. 2 and Eq. 5, the output estimation error vector $\xi(n)$ can be represented as

$$\xi(n) = X^T(n) \xi(n) + \xi(n).$$

\(^7\)When $\Sigma = I$, the Mean Square Deviation (MSD) and when $\Sigma = \mathbf{R}$, where $\mathbf{R} = E \{ [g(n)]^T (n) [g(n)]^T (n) \}$ is the autocorrelation matrix of the input signal, the Excess Mean Square Error (EMSE) expressions are established.

Substitute Eq. 11 in Eq. 10, we obtain

$$\xi(n + 1) = \xi(n) + q(n) - \mu C(n) X(n) (X^T(n) \xi(n) + \xi(n)).$$

Now taking the $\Sigma$-weighted norm from both sides of Eq. 12,

$$\|\xi(n + 1)\|_2^2 = \|\xi(n)\|_2^2 + \|q(n)\|_2^2 + \mu^2 \Sigma (n) X^T(n) C(n) X(n) \Sigma (n) + \mu^2 \Sigma (n) X^T(n) \Sigma (n) X(n).$$

Taking the expectation from both sides of Eq. 13

$$E \{ \|g(n + 1)\|_2^2 \} = E \{ \|g(n)\|_2^2 \} + \mu^2 \Sigma (n) X^T(n) \Sigma (n) X(n),$$

we obtain the time evolution of the weight-error variance. The expectation of $\|g(n)\|_2^2$ is difficult to calculate because of dependency of $\Sigma'$ on $C(n), X(n)$, and of $\xi(n)$ on prior regressors. To solve this problem we need to use the following independence assumptions [15].

1) The matrix sequence $X(n)$ is independent and identically distributed. This assumption guarantees that $\xi(n)$ is independent of both $\Sigma'$ and $X(n)$.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Algorithm</th>
<th>$K$</th>
<th>$L$</th>
<th>$D$</th>
<th>$C(n)/W(n)$</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LMS</td>
<td>$K = 1$</td>
<td>$L = 1$</td>
<td>$D = 1$</td>
<td>$C(n) = 1$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NLMS</td>
<td>$K = 1$</td>
<td>$L = 1$</td>
<td>$D = 1$</td>
<td>$W(n) = [1/|g(n)|^2]_1$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\epsilon$-NLMS</td>
<td>$K = 1$</td>
<td>$L = 1$</td>
<td>$D = 1$</td>
<td>$W(n) = (\epsilon + 1/|g(n)|)^{-1} I$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APA</td>
<td>$K \leq M$</td>
<td>$L = 1$</td>
<td>$D = 1$</td>
<td>$W(n) = (X^T(n)X(n))^{-1}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BDNR - LMS</td>
<td>$K = 2$</td>
<td>$L = 1$</td>
<td>$D = 1$</td>
<td>$W(n) = (X^T(n)X(n))^{-1}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R - APA</td>
<td>$K \leq M$</td>
<td>$L = 1$</td>
<td>$D = 1$</td>
<td>$W(n) = (I + X^T(n)X(n))^{-1}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NLMS - OCF</td>
<td>$K \leq M$</td>
<td>$L = 1$</td>
<td>$D \geq 1$</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR - LMS</td>
<td>$K = L$</td>
<td>$L &lt; = M$</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>$D = 1$</td>
<td>$C(n) = (X^T(n)X(n))^{-1}$</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$K = 1$</td>
<td>$L = 1$</td>
<td>$D = 1$</td>
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</tbody>
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2) \( \varepsilon(n) \) is independent of \( C(n)X(n)X^T(n) \).

Using these independence assumptions, the final results are
\[
E[\|e(n+1)\|^2] = E[\|e(n)\|^2] + E[\|e(n)\|^2] + \mu^2 E[\{e(n)X\Sigma(n)e(n)\}].
\]

where now \( \Sigma^\prime \) is
\[
\Sigma^\prime = \Sigma - \mu E[C(n)X(n)X^T(n)] - \mu E[X(n)X^T(n)C^T(n)] \Sigma + \mu^2 E[X(n)X^T(n)X^T(n)].
\]

Looking only at the second term of the right hand side of Eq. 17 we obtain
\[
E[\{\Sigma \Sigma(n)\} - E(\{\Sigma \Sigma(n)\})] = E(\{\Sigma \Sigma(n)\}).
\]

Since \( E(\{\Sigma \Sigma(n)\}) = \sigma_v^2 I \), where \( \sigma_v^2 \) is the variance of the measurement noise, and \( E[\|e(n)\|^2] \), Eq. 17 can be stated as
\[
E[\|e(n+1)\|^2] = E[\|e(n)\|^2] + \mu^2 E[\{e(n)X\Sigma(n)e(n)\}] + \sigma_v^2 E[\{\Sigma \Sigma(n)\}]\Sigma + \Sigma + \mu^2 E[X(n)X^T(n)X^T(n)].
\]

Applying the \( \text{vec}(.) \) operator [29] on both sides of Eq. 18 yields
\[
\text{vec}(\Sigma^\prime) = \text{vec}(\Sigma) - \mu \text{vec}(\Sigma E[C(n)X(n)X^T(n)]) - \mu \text{vec}(E[X(n)X^T(n)C^T(n)]) \Sigma - \mu^2 \text{vec}(E[X(n)X^T(n)X^T(n)])\Sigma.
\]

Since, in general \( \text{vec}(PQ) = \text{Q}^T \otimes \text{vec}(P) \) [29], we find that Eq. 21 can be written as
\[
\sigma^2 = \eta - \mu E(X(n)X^T(n)C^T(n)) \otimes I, \sigma^2 - \mu E(X(n)X^T(n)C^T(n)) \otimes I + \mu^2 E((X(n)X^T(n)C^T(n)) \otimes (X(n)X^T(n)C^T(n)))\Sigma.
\]

where \( \sigma^2 = \text{vec}(\Sigma^\prime) \) and \( \sigma = \text{vec}(\Sigma) \). With definition of the \( M^2 \times M^2 \) matrix \( \Sigma \)
\[
\Sigma = I - \mu E(X(n)X^T(n)C^T(n)) \otimes I - \mu E(X(n)X^T(n)C^T(n)) \otimes I + \mu^2 E((X(n)X^T(n)C^T(n)) \otimes (X(n)X^T(n)C^T(n)))
\]

Eq. 22 can be stated as
\[
\sigma^2 = \Sigma \sigma.
\]

The second term of the right hand side of Eq. 20 can be written as
\[
\text{Tr}(E[X\Sigma(n)] \text{vec}(E[C(n)X(n)X^T(n)X^T(n)]) \Sigma).
\]

Defining \( \gamma \) through
\[
\gamma = \text{vec}(E[C(n)X(n)X^T(n)C^T(n)])
\]

we have
\[
\text{Tr}(E[C(n)X(n)X^T(n)C^T(n)]) = \gamma^T \sigma.
\]

With the above considerations, the recursion of Eq. 20 can now be stated as
\[
E[\|e(n+1)\|^2] = E[\|e(n)\|^2] + \mu^2 \gamma^T \sigma + \text{Tr}(\Sigma).
\]

From this recursion, we will be able to evaluate the steady-state mean square error (EMSE). When \( n \) goes to infinity, we obtain
\[
E[\|e(\infty)\|^2] = E[\|e(\infty)\|^2] + \mu^2 \gamma^T \sigma + \text{Tr}(\Sigma).
\]

Also, from Eq. 11, we know that \( \varepsilon(n) = x^T(n)\varepsilon(n) + \varepsilon(n) \). Therefore, the steady-state MSE is given by
\[
\text{MSE} = \text{EMSE} + \sigma_v^2.
\]

From the general expression (Eq. 31), we will be able to predict the steady-state performance of LMS, \( \varepsilon \)-NLMS, R-AP, BNDR-LMS, NLMS-OCF, BLMS, BNLMS, DR-LMS, NDR-LMS, and the transform domain adaptive filter algorithms in nonstationary environment.

B. General mean-square performance analysis of adaptive filter algorithms in nonstationary environment based on Eq. 8

Following the same approach in previous section for the generic update equation (Eq. 8), the steady-state EMSE is given by:
\[
\text{EMSE} = \mu^2 \gamma^T \sigma + \text{Tr}(\Sigma).
\]

Also, the mean square coefficient deviation (MSD) in the steady-state is obtained by
\[
\text{MSD} = \mu^2 \gamma^T \sigma + \text{Tr}(\Sigma).
\]

From the general expression (Eq. 34), we will be able to predict the steady-state performance of LMS, \( \varepsilon \)-NLMS, AP, R-AP, BNDR-LMS, NLMS-OCF, BLMS, BNLMS, DR-LMS, NDR-LMS, and the subband adaptive filter algorithms in nonstationary environment.
IV. SIMULATION RESULTS

We justify the theoretical results presented in this paper by several computer simulations in a system identification setup. The unknown system has 8 taps and is selected at random. The input signal, $x(n)$, is a first order autoregressive (AR(1)) signal generated according to

$$x(n) = \rho x(n-1) + w(n),$$

where $w(n)$ can be either a zero mean white Gaussian signal or a zero mean uniformly distributed random sequence between −1 and 1. For the Gaussian case, $\rho$ is set to 0.9. As a result, a highly colored Gaussian signal is generated. For the uniform case, $\rho$ is set to 0.5. The measurement noise, $v(n)$, with $\sigma_v^2 = 10^{-3}$ was added to the noise free desired signal generated through $d(n) = h_v(n)T x(n)$. The unknown channel changes according to Eq. 6. We assumed an independent and identically distributed sequence for $q(n)$ with autocorrelation matrix $Q = \rho_q^2 I$ where $\rho_q^2 = 0.0025 \sigma_w^2$. The adaptive filter and the unknown channel are assumed to have the same number of taps. For the TDAF algorithm, an 8-point Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT) was employed as the orthogonal transform. The filter bank used in the subband adaptive filters was the four subband Extended Lapped Transform (ELT) [30]. In all the simulations actually observed steady-state MSE are obtained by averaging over 500 steady-state samples from 500 independent realizations for each $\mu$ value for a given algorithm.

Figs. 2 and 3 show the steady-state MSE curves of NDR-LMS adaptive algorithm as a function of the step-size in nonstationary environment for both colored Gaussian and uniform input signals with $K = 2$. The theoretical results are calculated according to Eq. 33 and Eq. 34. As we can see there is a global minimum for the steady-state MSE in nonstationary environment. The theoretical results are in good agreement with simulation results. The agreement is better for the small value of the step-size for both colored and Gaussian input signals. For the large value of the step-size, some deviation between simulated and theoretical values is observed. But the results are still useful.

Figs. 4 and 5 show the the steady-state MSE curves of the TDAF algorithm as a function of the step-size in nonstationary environment. Fig. 4 shows the results for colored Gaussian input. The theoretical results have been obtained through Eq. 31 and Eq. 33. Again in the results, there is an optimal value for the step-size, that minimizes the MSE in the nonstationary environments. This fact can be seen in Fig. 5 for colored uniform input signal. Good agreement between simulated and theoretical values, especially for small step-size is again observed.

Figs. 6 and 7 show the steady-state MSE curves of the subband adaptive filter algorithm as a function of the step-size in nonstationary environment for both colored Gaussian and uniform input signals. In both simulations, the number of subband is set to 4. The theoretical results are calculated according to Eq. 33 and Eq. 34. The results are in good agreement with simulation results and as before, there is an optimal value for the step-size, that minimizes the MSE in nonstationary environment. Compared with the other simulations, the theoretical values don’t have as good agreement with the simulated values as before. But still, reasonable agreements, especially for the large value of the step-size for both colored Gaussian and uniform input signals are observed.

V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In this paper we have presented a general framework for the mean square performance analysis of adaptive filter algorithms based on generic adaptive filter update equations presented in [19] in the nonstationary environments. Through the general expressions and selection of the parameters according to Table I, the steady-state EMSE of the LMS, NLMS, $\epsilon$-NLMS, family of AP (R-APA, BNDR-LMS, NLMS-OCF), the data-reusing (DR-LMS, NDR-LMS), RLS, the transform domain,
the block adaptive filters (BLMS, BNLMS), and the subband, adaptive filter algorithms were predicted in the nonstationary environment. We demonstrated the usefulness of the general performance results for NDR-LMS, the transform domain, and the subband adaptive filter algorithms.

REFERENCES


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