

# **Research on Prediction of Vehicle Distance Based on Adaptive Kalman Filtering Principle**

**Hao Li<sup>1</sup>, Jinfeng Wang<sup>1</sup>, Chao Li<sup>1</sup>, Yi Wang<sup>2\*</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Guizhou Normal University, Guiyang, China, 550025

<sup>2\*</sup>Correspondent author: Yi Wang, Ph. D, Prof. Guizhou Normal University, e-mail: wyigz@126.com

E-mail: lihaopiaoran@163.com

**Abstract:** More than 1 million people die from traffic accidents each year around the world, which has aroused public concerns to the vehicle safety. This paper examines improvement plan on the existent system of avoiding automobile rear-end collision. Based on the distance measurement millimeter-wave radar, the paper makes predictions about relative distance and speed of the vehicle and the external substrate by principle of Kalman filtering. In order to predict the real distance of the vehicle and the outer, the author will correct the predicting process to the optimal estimation by comparing the predicted value with the observed value. That can improve vehicle safety and early warning mechanism accuracy.

**Keywords:** Millimeter-wave radar; Kalman Filtering; prediction; deviation

## **1 Introduction**

With the rapid development of the automobile industry, people's attention is gradually increasing, especially in its security. In terms of driving safety, the advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) includes adaptive cruise control (ACC), lane departure warning (LDW), Adaptive high beam control (AHBC), driver drowsiness detection, rear-end collision system and so on [1]-[4]. Based on the existent system of avoiding automobile rear-end collision, the author examines the solution to the deviation reduction of the vehicle's measured distance caused by the external substrates due to the outer factors and the auto-body inner factors.

To solve this problem, domestic and foreign scholars have conducted some researches, among whom Lv Xingxing, Wu Botao and others detected vehicles ahead of road with infrared distance measurement, and predicted the results of measurement by Kalman filter [5]. On this basis, this paper applied a more stable and fine millimeter-wave radar and the adaptive Kalman filtering to improve the prediction accuracy and stability of the vehicle distance.

## **2 Range tools**

The first problem in design of anti-rear-end pre-warning systems is distance measurement. At present, the ranging tools widely used in cars are ultrasonic, laser, millimeter-wave radar and so on.

### **2.1 Ultrasonic ranging**

Ultrasonic wave is a kind of mechanical wave whose frequency is more than 20 kHz. Ultrasonic distance measurement uses launcher to emit ultrasonic continuously, which will be reflected back to receiving device when ultrasonic encounters obstacles. And then, distance can be calculated by the time difference between the two things. Although the study on ultrasonic ranging method is mature, such as variable threshold detection method, envelope peak detection method and phase detection method [6], [7], but the best ranging distance is about 4 meters, because ultrasonic will be affected by temperature, humidity, air pressure, etc. in the process of transmission. So ultrasonic ranging application is mainly applied in automotive collision avoidance system.

## 2.2 Laser ranging

Principle of laser ranging is that laser emits a laser beam received by detector will return when aim at obstacles, and then round-trip distance by multiplied round-trip time and speed of light will be calculated [8]. This method will cause damage to people's vision and not conducive to universal because GaAs LED emits high-power laser beam in long-distance ranging.

## 2.3 Millimeter-wave radar ranging

When using radar to measure distance, electromagnetic interference, caused by the surrounding vehicles or obstacles, will cause inaccurate measurement of the distance, so millimeter-wave radar ranging is generated. Relatively speaking, the millimeter-wave radar that launches the millimeter-wave between 21.65 ~ 26.65GHz and 76 ~ 81GHz has high application value because of high precision resolution, less affection by climate, miniaturization and higher stability.

## 3 Vehicle distance prediction

### 3.1 Principle of millimeter-wave radar ranging

The methods of millimeter-wave radar ranging are pulse radar ranging and continuous wave radar ranging [9]. For pulse radar ranging, receiver cannot operate in the transmission process because of sharing transmit and receive antenna, so it is impossible to measure the very short distance. This paper mainly studies continuous wave radar ranging.

The basic principle of frequency modulated continuous wave ranging (FMCW), the way of continuous wave radar ranging, is that FM signals (this study is triangular wave signal) will be continuously transmitted through FM oscillator. When meets with the obstacles in transmitting, an echo signal will reflect to the receiving antenna, and then beat signal will be gained by directional coupler and mixer, after which ideal beat signal can be got by amplifier and filter. Finally, relative speed and distance between vehicle and obstacle can be obtained by digital signal processing. As shown is continuous wave radar ranging in figure 1.

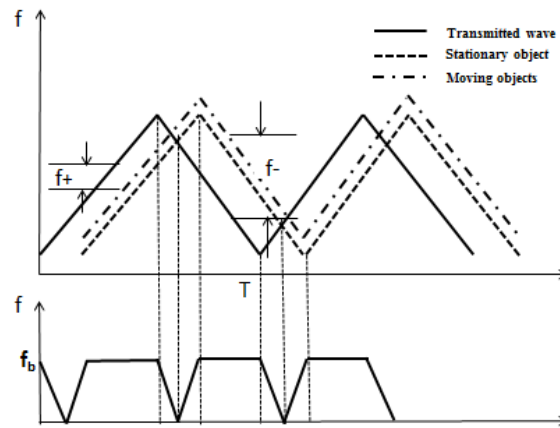


Figure 1 continuous wave radar ranging

The formula for transmission frequency  $f_t$  and echo frequency  $f_e$  of continuous wave radar is as follows.

$$f_t = f_0 + \frac{2F_m}{T}t \quad (1)$$

$$f_e = f_0 + f_d \pm \frac{2F_m}{T}(t - t_r) \quad (2)$$

Where  $f_0$  is center frequency of transmitted wave,  $F_m$  is the maximum deviation of transmitted frequency,  $t_r$  is lag time between echo signal and transmitted signal ( $t_r = 2D / c$ ,  $D$  is relative distance between vehicle and obstacle,  $c$  is

speed of light). Assuming relative distance between vehicle and obstacle is  $v$ . If  $v > 0$ , Doppler effect needs to be considered, and  $f_d$  is the Doppler frequency in (2). And beat signal can be obtained by subtraction between (1) and (2).

$$f_+ = f_t - f_e = \frac{4F_m}{Tc} D - f_d \quad (3)$$

$$f_- = f_e - f_t = \frac{4F_m}{Tc} D + f_d \quad (4)$$

So, relative distance and relative speed can be found.

$$D = (f_+ + f_-)Tc/8F_m \quad (5)$$

$$v = (f_- - f_+)c/4f_0 \quad (6)$$

From that, relative distance and velocity can be calculated as long as the  $f_+$  and  $f_-$  are known. The key to obtaining beat signal is studying its center frequency, so it is necessary to perform frequency spectrum analysis. At present, the commonly used methods are fast Fourier transform (FFT) and linear frequency modulation Z transform (Chirp-Z).

### 3.2 Adaptive Kalman filtering prediction

Kalman filtering, a Bayesian model similar to the hidden Markov model, seeks a recursive estimation algorithm by taking an optimal criterion that minimum mean squared error as an estimate [10]. The main idea of Kalman filtering is using a current estimate and a recent observation to estimate current value, and the following is a classic formula of Kalman filtering.

$$\hat{x}_t^- = F_t \hat{x}_{t-1} \quad (7)$$

$$P_t^- = F_t P_{t-1} F_t^T + \alpha_{t-1} \quad (8)$$

$$Z_t = H_t \hat{x}_t^- + \beta_t \quad (9)$$

$$K_t = P_t^- H_t^T (H_t P_t^- H_t^T + R_t)^{-1} \quad (10)$$

$$\hat{x}_t = \hat{x}_t^- + K_t (Z_t - H_t \hat{x}_t^-) \quad (11)$$

$$P_t = (I - K_t H_t) P_t^- \quad (12)$$

Where  $x_t = [D_t, v_t]$ ,  $F_t = [1 \ \Delta t; 0 \ 1]$ ,  $\alpha$  is prediction model noise,  $\beta$  is observation noise (in this paper,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are Gauss white noise),  $Z_t$  is observation matrix,  $K_t$  is Kalman coefficient. (7) and (8) are one step prediction equations, which predict state of current time by state of last time, but it is not the best estimate. (10), (11) and (12), state update equations, use current state values to update the state of  $x_t$  and noise covariance matrix  $P_t$ . In order to solve the problem that the noise is changing constantly and value of  $R$  is changed so that value of  $K$  is changed, adaptive genetic factor  $\lambda_t$  is introduced in this paper, which makes estimation reach better [11], [12]. The following is adaptive Kalman filter equations that introduce  $\lambda_t$ .

$$P_t^- = \lambda_t F_t P_{t-1} F_t^T + \alpha_{t-1} \quad (13)$$

$$\lambda_t = \max \left\{ 1, \frac{\text{trace}(N_t)}{\text{trace}(M_t)} \right\} \quad (14)$$

$$N_t = W_t - H_t \alpha_t H_t^T - R_t \quad (15)$$

$$W_t = \begin{cases} \frac{\lambda_{t-1} \beta_t \beta_t^T}{1 + \lambda_{t-1}} & (t > 2) \\ 1 & (t = 1) \\ \frac{2 \beta_1 \beta_1^T}{2} & (t = 1) \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

$$M_t = H_t F_t P_{t-1} F_t^T H_t^T \quad (17)$$

It can be seen from (13) to (17), when state changes abruptly,  $\beta_t$  and  $N_t$  become larger, which causes  $\lambda_t$  increase and thereby increasing filtering effect and reducing estimated bias.

## 4 Simulation

Calculation steps of predicting distance by using adaptive Kalman filtering theory are shown in figure 2. Set initial value before simulation.  $x_0=[0;0]$ ,  $\alpha_0=[0.04 \ 0;0 \ 0.04]$ ,  $P_0=[1 \ 0;0 \ 1]$ ,  $R_0=0.25$ ,  $H=[1 \ 0]$ . And the simulation results are obtained from initial values and calculation formulas.

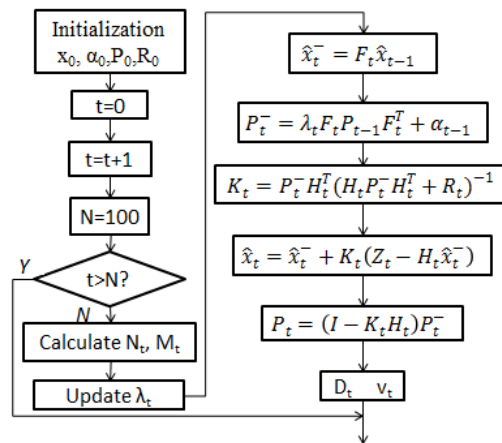


Figure 2 predict vehicle distance based on adaptive Kalman filter

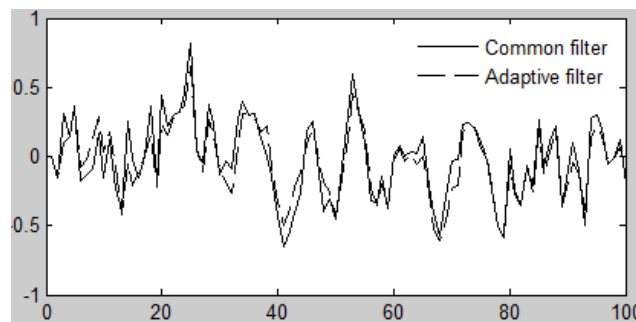


Figure 3 the Deviation between common and adaptive Kalman filter

From figure 3, it can be seen that adaptive Kalman filter produces less deviation, and the deviation can be reduced by half in the maximum case. That makes the vehicle distance closer to true value.

## 5 Conclusions

In order to achieving safe avoidance, this paper examines how to gain more accurate early warning mechanism of automobile by correct selection to the range tool, adaptive Kalman filter and analyzing the results of measurement and prediction. It will also provide feasibility for researching on anti-rear-end system.

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