# Navigation-Compatible Hybrid Quantum Accelerometer Using a Kalman Filter

Pierrick Cheiney,<sup>1,2,\*</sup> Lauriane Fouché,<sup>2,†</sup> Simon Templier,<sup>1,2</sup> Fabien Napolitano,<sup>1</sup> Baptiste Battelier,<sup>2</sup> Philippe Bouyer,<sup>2</sup> and Brynle Barrett<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>iXblue, 34 Rue de la Croix de Fer, 78105 Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France

<sup>2</sup> LP2N, Laboratoire Photonique, Numérique et Nanosciences, Université Bordeaux-IOGS-CNRS:UMR 5298, rue F. Mitterrand, F-33400 Talence, France

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Long-term inertial navigation is currently limited by the bias drifts of gyroscopes and accelerometers and ultrastable cold-atom interferometers offer a promising alternative for the next generation of high-end navigation systems. Here, we present an experimental setup and an algorithm hybridizing a stable matterwave interferometer with a classical accelerometer. We use correlations between the quantum and classical devices to track the bias drift of the latter and form a hybrid sensor. We apply the Kalman-filter formalism to obtain an optimal estimate of the bias and simulate experimentally a harsh environment representative of that encountered in mobile sensing applications. We show that our method is more precise and robust than traditional sine-fitting methods. The resulting sensor exhibits a 400-Hz bandwidth and reaches a stability of 10 ng after 11 h of integration.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Inertial navigation systems determine the position of a moving vehicle by continuously measuring its acceleration and rotation rate and subsequently integrating the equations of motion [1]. These systems are limited by slow drifts of the biases inherent to their inertial sensors, which ultimately lead to large speed and position errors after integration. Currently, the long-term bias stability of navigation-grade accelerometers is on the order of 10  $\mu g$ —which, in the absence of aiding sensors such as satellite navigation systems, leads to horizontal position oscillations of 60 m at the Schuler period of 84.4 min [1,2].

Since their first demonstration in the early 1990s, atom interferometers (AIs) have proven to be excellent absolute inertial sensors—having been exploited as ultrahighsensitivity instruments for fundamental tests of physics [3–8] and as state-of-the-art gravimeters with accuracies in the range of 1–10 ng achieved in laboratories [9–14], as well as with compact transportable systems [15–19]. As a result, they have been proposed for the next generation of inertial navigation systems [20–23]. However, they generally possess a small bandwidth and suffer from low repetition rates (with the exceptions of Refs. [24,25]) and dead times during which no inertial measurements can be made. In comparison, mechanical accelerometers exhibit broad bandwidths compatible with navigation applications [26], but suffer from long-term bias and scale factor drifts. These two types of sensors can thus be hybridized [27] in order to benefit from the best of both worlds—in strong analogy with the strategy employed in atomic clocks [28].

Here, we use correlations between an AI and a classical accelerometer to track the bias of the latter, and we present an approach based on a nonlinear Kalman filter (KF) [29-33] to optimally track all of the interference fringe parameters-making the estimation of the accelerometer bias robust against variations of experimental parameters. We show that the hybridization procedure acts as a first-order high-pass filter on the errors of the mechanical sensor, effectively removing slow bias drifts. We simulate a mobile environment in the laboratory by adding simultaneously vibration noise, temperature variations, and laser-intensity fluctuations. Even under these conditions, we are able to track the accelerometer bias to less than 1  $\mu g$ . In a normal laboratory environment, our hybrid accelerometer reaches a precision of 10 ng after 11 h of integration.

Figure 1(a) presents the hybridization strategy. The classical and quantum accelerometers measure acceleration simultaneously and the correlation between them is used to isolate different parts of the acceleration. By applying a high-pass filter to the classical accelerometer, the ac acceleration can be subtracted from the atom interferometer output to create a hybrid gravimeter only sensitive to slow variations of the acceleration. This method has been used to reject vibrations digitally and improve the sensitivity of atom gravimeters in noisy environments [21,22,27,34,35]. Without this filtering step, the correlations can be washed

<sup>\*</sup>pierrick.cheiney@ixblue.com

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup>Present address: CEA CESTA, 15 Avenue des Sablières, 33114, Le Barp, France.



FIG. 1. (a) Hybridization strategy. The correlations between classical and quantum accelerometers can be used to isolate the slowly varying part of the acceleration (hybrid gravimeter) or to determine and subsequently reject the bias of the mechanical accelerometer (hybrid accelerometer). (b) Sketch of the experimental setup. The AI measures the free-fall acceleration of the atoms relative to the reference mirror, whose acceleration is simultaneously recorded by a mechanical accelerometer. The Raman and magneto-optical Trap (MOT) beams share the same optical path. Heating bands are used to control the accelerometer temperature and a loud speaker is used to generate vibration noise.

out by drifts of the classical accelerometer bias during the measurement. For navigation applications, however, the dc part of the acceleration also contains relevant information. Correlations between the atom interferometer (whose bias drift is negligible) and the classical accelerometer can then be used to track the bias drifts of the latter. This can be accomplished even in a moving apparatus with nonzero mean acceleration. A continuous high-bandwidth hybrid accelerometer is then obtained by subtracting the acceleration bias from the continuous output of the classical accelerometer.

# **II. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP**

Our setup is presented in Fig. 1(b). It consists of a <sup>87</sup>Rb Mach-Zender interferometer sensitive to the vertical component of acceleration. Every 1.25 s, we load approximately 10<sup>9</sup> atoms from background vapor into a 3D magneto-optical trap and apply standard optical molasses techniques to cool the sample to 4  $\mu$ K. Atoms are then prepared in the lowest magnetically insensitive state |F| =1,  $m_F = 0$  and are subjected to a  $\pi/2 - \pi - \pi/2$  Raman pulse sequence-with each pulse separated by an interrogation time of T = 20 ms. The choice of the interrogation time is the result of a trade-off between the sensitivity of the interferometer, which increases as  $T^2$ , and the fall distance of the atom, which should remain smaller than the Raman-beam diameter to permit operation in mobile environments with accelerations in the 0-2g range. After the interferometer sequence, atoms in the two hyperfine ground states are detected separately by time-resolved fluorescence imaging. We reverse the direction of momentum transfer between two consecutive shots in order to reject direction-insensitive systematic errors. A 400-Hz bandwidth low-noise mechanical accelerometer [36], attached to the back of the reference mirror, simultaneously records its acceleration. No antivibration system is implemented in our setup.

The output of the AI—given by the normalized atom number in the hyperfine state  $|F = 2, m_F = 0\rangle$  after the final  $\pi/2$  pulse—can be written as

$$y = y_0 - \frac{C}{2}\cos\left(\phi_{\text{las}} + \phi_{\text{acc}}\right) + \delta u, \qquad (1)$$

where  $y_0$  is the offset, *C* the contrast,  $\delta u$  the detection noise,  $\phi_{las}$  the laser phase, which is a control parameter, and  $\phi_{acc}$  the true inertial phase, which is proportional to the relative acceleration between the atoms and the reference mirror. For simplicity, we have omitted phase contributions due to systematic effects. We correlate the output of the AI with the inertial phase estimated using measurements from the mechanical accelerometer, which generally suffers from a bias  $a_b$  and high-frequency noise  $\delta a$ . The phase estimate can then be written as

$$\tilde{\phi}_{acc} = k_{eff} \int f(t)(a + a_b + \delta a)dt$$
$$= \phi_{acc} + \phi_b + \delta\varphi, \qquad (2)$$

where f(t) is the AI response function to acceleration [34,37] and  $\phi_{acc}$  is the true inertial phase. The bias phase  $\phi_b$  is related to the accelerometer bias via  $\phi_b = S_{acc}a_b$ , where  $S_{acc} = k_{eff} \int f(t) dt \simeq k_{eff}T^2$  is the scale factor of the AI and  $k_{eff} \simeq 4\pi/\lambda$  is the effective wave vector of the Raman light with wavelength  $\lambda$ . A full fringe of our interferometer thus corresponds to an acceleration variation of approximately 100  $\mu g$ . Finally, the phase-estimate noise  $\delta\varphi$  comprises errors due to the accelerometer noise, nonlinearity, and finite bandwidth.

In mobile applications or in harsh environments, difficulties in determining the bias phase can stem from variations of the AI contrast and offset due to, e.g., rotations, optical misalignments, or vapor-pressure variations. Furthermore, in the absence of real-time feedback, the vibration noise effectively randomizes the inertial phase—preventing the use of contrast-insensitive midfringe phase-modulation schemes.

### **III. THE KALMAN FILTER**

Traditionally, the contrast, offset, and bias phase are then retrieved by performing a least-squares fit of the reconstructed fringe pattern to a sinusoidal function [9,34]. However, when these parameters are time varying, it becomes necessary to form stacks of data to avoid washing out the fringe pattern. The choice of the number of points per stack is then associated with a trade-off between precision and bandwidth. This is characteristic of a waveform estimation problem, i.e., the search for the best estimator of the state of a *time-varying* system.

The KF formalism provides a more elegant method that avoids this trade-off and, under reasonable assumptions, provides an optimal estimate of the fringe pattern parameters along with their full statistical properties. The KF has become a very popular estimator thanks to its simplicity and versatility and is ubiquitous in optimal control theory [33]. It is used extensively to combine different types of sensors in inertial navigation [1,38] and has also been applied, for example, in optical interferometry [39] and, more recently, to track the state of an atomic magnetometer [40]. For linear systems driven by white Gaussian processes and observed with unbiased white Gaussian noise, the KF is an optimal estimator in the sense that it minimizes the mean-squared error of the estimation. The KF uses all previous data in an iterative way that requires very little memory and computational power-making it particularly attractive for real-time feedback and onboard applications. Even for nonlinear systems, as in the present case, the KF can be linearized and provides a near-optimal solution.

The iterative KF algorithm can be split into two steps: a *propagation* step, where the estimate of the tracked waveform and its covariance are updated between two measurements according to a model of the system dynamics, and

a *measurement* step, where the latest data point is used to correct the previous estimate. Although only the last estimate is used at each step, all previous measurements contribute to the construction of the estimate—unlike with sine-fitting or nonlinear locking techniques [34]. Specifically, we choose to model the AI fringe pattern with a four-parameter state vector

$$\boldsymbol{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \phi_b \\ \phi'_b \\ y_0 \\ C \end{bmatrix}, \qquad (3)$$

where  $\phi'_b$  is the time derivative of the bias phase  $\phi_b$ . We model the statistical evolution of  $\phi'_b$ ,  $y_0$ , and *C* with independent Wiener processes. The time evolution of the state vector is then governed by the discrete-time stochastic equation

$$\mathbf{x}(t+\delta t) = \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{w},\tag{4}$$

where  $\delta t$  is the time between two consecutive measurements and is not necessarily constant; **F** is the evolution matrix; and **w** is a vector of independent, normally distributed random variables with zero mean and standard deviations  $\sigma_j \delta t$  for each element *j* of the state vector. Since these stochastic-driving variables are independent, the associated covariance matrix **Q** contains only diagonal elements:

$$\mathbf{F} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \delta t & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{Q} = \delta t^2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_{\phi'}^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sigma_{y_0}^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \sigma_C^2 \end{bmatrix}.$$
(5)

We emphasize that the phase is driven indirectly through its time derivative (the top left element of the matrix  $\mathbf{Q}$  is zero). This permits us to optimally track a linearly varying bias phase without time-lag error, similar to the integral component of a feedback loop.

In the propagation step, the premeasurement estimate is deduced from the results of the previous postmeasurement estimate:

$$\boldsymbol{x}_{i+1}^{-} = \mathbf{F} \cdot \boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{+}, \tag{6a}$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{i+1}^{-} = \mathbf{F}\mathbf{P}_{i}^{+}\mathbf{F}^{T} + \mathbf{Q}, \tag{6b}$$

where the -(+) superscripts indicate the pre- (post-) measurement estimate, and the subscript *i* denotes the *i*th measurement. The covariance matrix **P** characterizes the estimation uncertainty. Since the measurement process described by Eq. (1) is a nonlinear function of the state vector, we use the extended nonlinear KF algorithm [32,33].

The trajectory is then refined after each measurement according to

$$\boldsymbol{x}_i^+ = \boldsymbol{x}_i^- + \mathbf{K}_i \boldsymbol{r}_i \tag{7a}$$

(a)

 $\phi_{b}$  (rad)

Offset **(a)** Phase rate **(d)** Phase  $y_0$   $\phi_b$  (rad/h)  $\phi_b$  (rad

(d)

Contrast

60

0

-100 0.44

0.4

0.38

0.2 ပ

0.15

,0<sup>0.42</sup>

$$\mathbf{P}_i^+ = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{K}_i \mathbf{H}_i) \mathbf{P}_i^-, \tag{7b}$$

where  $\mathbf{r}_i = \mathbf{y}_i - y(\mathbf{x}_i^-)$  is the *innovation* (i.e., the difference between the actual measurement and the expected output), I is the identity matrix, and the measurement matrix  $\mathbf{H} =$  $\nabla_x y$  is the Jacobian of the AI output

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{C}{2} \sin(\tilde{\phi}_{\text{acc}} - \phi_b) & 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} \cos(\tilde{\phi}_{\text{acc}} - \phi_b) \end{bmatrix}.$$
(8)

This matrix quantifies the sensitivity of the measurement to each parameter and is calculated at each step around the estimated trajectory. Finally, the KF is optimal for the Kalman gain

$$\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{H}^T(\mathbf{H}\mathbf{P}\mathbf{H}^T + \mathbf{R})^{-1},$$
(9)

where  $\mathbf{R}$  is the variance of the measurement noise [41]. We point out that the optimal Kalman gain K is the result of a compromise between the uncertainty of the previous estimate and the measurement noise.

### **IV. PERFORMANCES**

We apply the KF (see Appendix B for a discussion on the KF optimization) to a 16-hour data set, where the vertical acceleration is measured by the AI and where, to simulate a mobile environment, we add the following elements [see Fig. 1(b)]. (i) A loudspeaker fixed to the optical table generates a 5-mg-amplitude vibration noise at 38 Hz that randomly scans the AI phase across several fringes. (ii) Heating bands surrounding the accelerometer are used to modulate its temperature by approximately 5 °C in order to induce a large bias drift (approximately 1 mg). (iii) The Raman-beam intensity is modulated by approximately 10% using an acousto-optic modulator in the laser setup to simulate laser-power fluctuations.

Figures 2(a)-2(d) present the four components of the state vector x tracked by the KF. It is clear from Fig. 2(a) that the accelerometer bias variation corresponds to about 8 AI fringes. The steplike behavior of the heating process is clearly visible in the tracked phase rate shown in Fig. 2(b). The contrast and offset of the AI are also modulated by 10% due to the applied Raman-beam-intensity modulation. The covariance matrix P-computed by the KF algorithm at each step-provides the uncertainty of each waveform parameter. After an initial transient time of 20 s, the individual standard deviations stabilize to  $\delta \phi_b =$ 

10 ٥ 5 15 Time (h) (f) 0.6 0.4 0.2 0 -20  $\tilde{\phi}$  (rad) 40 (h) 0.6 0.4 0.2 -2  $\widetilde{\phi} {\mbox{-}} \phi_b^0$  (rad) 2 0 10 Probability density



56 mrad,  $\delta y_0 = 3 \times 10^{-3}$ , and  $\delta C = 4.5 \times 10^{-3}$ . The stabilization to a finite precision results from the competition between the amount of information provided by each measurement and the drift of the state vector. This behavior is characteristic of a waveform estimation problem [42].

Figure 2(e) shows the AI output as a function of the estimated phase without correction. The fringe pattern is completely washed out by the bias phase variations. Similarly, the output probability distribution presented in Fig. 2(f) is partially smeared out by the contrast and offset



FIG. 3. (a) Accelerometer bias determined by the KF algorithm (blue) and temperature (red) as a function of time. The temperature modulation produces large bias variations of approximately 1 mg. The standard deviation of the estimate is smaller than the line thickness. (b) Bias tracking error using the KF (blue) and by sine-fitting with 8 (brown) or 25 (red) points. The rms value of the true bias tracking error is  $\sqrt{\langle \epsilon_{KF}^2 \rangle} = 0.89 \ \mu g$  for the KF—in good agreement with the estimated standard deviation displayed as a shaded area. For the sine-fitting method, the true rms errors are  $\sqrt{\langle \epsilon_{SF8}^2 \rangle} = 2.3 \ \mu g$  and  $\sqrt{\langle \epsilon_{SF25}^2 \rangle} = 5.9 \ \mu g$  for 8- and 25-point stacks. (c),(d) Amplitude spectral density and Allan deviation of the standalone (black) and the hybrid accelerometers using the KF (blue) and sine-fitting with 8-point (brown) and 25-point (red) stacks. The ASD shows that, at low frequencies, the error rejection (inset) corresponds to a first-order high-pass filter. The error rejection is also visible in the Allan deviation, where the long-term drift of the hybrid accelerometer is reduced by more than 2 orders of magnitude compared to the standalone one.

variations. In comparison, well-defined scaled fringes are presented in Fig. 2(e), where the bias phase  $\phi_b$  has been subtracted from the inertial phase estimate and the output has been scaled similarly to account for the offset and contrast variations. In the same way, the scaled output probability density presented in Fig. 2(h) matches closely the expected arcsine distribution. Using the scaled fringe pattern, the standard deviation of the detection and phase noise can be determined independently (see Appendix B). We find  $\sigma_u = 2.5 \times 10^{-3}$  and  $\sigma_{\varphi} = 0.13$  rad, which indicates that the phase noise dominates and corresponds to an average sensitivity of 3.2  $\mu g$  per shot. This phase noise originates from the RF chain that generates the Raman frequencies, and is ultimately imprinted on the Raman lasers via electro-optic modulation.

To evaluate the precision of the bias tracking, we compare the acceleration bias estimate directly to the lowpass-filtered accelerometer output [43]. Indeed, in a static configuration, the real dc acceleration reduces to the gravitational field, which is constant to less than 10 ng after removal of the tidal gravity anomaly. We emphasize that although we use this method to assess the quality of the tracking, the tracking itself can be performed in movement. Figure 3(a) displays the KF bias estimate along with the sensor temperature. The temperature modulation produces a large bias modulation of approximately 1 mg in good agreement with the expected bias sensitivity of  $320 \mu g/^{\circ}C$ . The bias modulation is delayed by approximately 20 min compared to the temperature due to the thermal inertia of the accelerometer.

Figure 3(b) shows the acceleration bias tracking error  $\epsilon$  using the KF and the sine-fitting technique with stacks of 8 and 25 points [44]. The rms value of the tracking error using the KF is  $\sqrt{\langle \epsilon_{\rm KF}^2 \rangle} = 0.89 \ \mu g$ —in good agreement with the average KF standard deviation estimation  $\sigma = 0.8 \ \mu g$ . These results are significantly better than the error produced by sine-fitting with stacks of 8 ( $\sqrt{\langle \epsilon_{\rm SF8}^2 \rangle} = 2.3 \ \mu g$ ) and 25 points ( $\sqrt{\langle \epsilon_{\rm SF25}^2 \rangle} = 5.9 \ \mu g$ ). Although strongly reduced by almost 30 dB in the KF case, the large bias modulation is still clearly visible.

We now obtain a continuous high-bandwidth hybrid sensor by subtracting the bias from the classical accelerometer output. More insight on the hybridization and the advantages of the KF can then be gained by inspecting the amplitude spectral density (ASD) of the sensors. Figure 3(c) shows the ASD of the standalone (i.e., the bare mechanical accelerometer) and hybrid accelerometers using the KF and the sine-fitting techniques. For frequencies larger than the AI cycling rate (approximately 0.8 Hz), the hybridization has no effect and the ASD corresponds to the vibration excitation of the reference mirror. At frequencies f < 0.3 Hz, the ASD of the standalone accelerometer rises, reflecting the bias instability—with the main bias



FIG. 4. Allan deviation of acceleration signals from the standalone accelerometer (dashed red line) and the hybrid accelerometer using the KF with (solid blue line) and without (dotted green line) a tidal correction.

modulation component visible around  $10^{-4}$  Hz. In comparison, for both tracking algorithms, the ASD of the hybrid sensor is reduced by several orders of magnitude at low frequency. However, large differences can be observed between the performance of the different hybridization methods.

The inset of Fig. 3(c) shows the error rejection obtained by dividing the ASD of the hybrid accelerometer by that of the standalone one. Fitting sinusoids with stacks of 25 points performs better than with 8-point stacks by 5 dB in the frequency range of 10–50 mHz, but is worse by 3 dB for f < 10 mHz. Indeed, a large number of points reduces the uncertainty of each fit—hence reducing the highfrequency noise—but at the expense of decreased tracking bandwidth. The KF avoids this trade-off and outperforms the sine-fitting method over the whole frequency range. In all cases, the rejection scales as 1/f at low frequencies—indicating that these hybridization methods can be viewed as a first-order high-pass filter of the accelerometer error.

A complementary point of view is given by the Allan deviation of the standalone and the hybrid accelerometers presented in Fig. 3(d). The temperature modulation gives rise here to a large instability at integration times  $\tau$  of the order of 1 h. The hybridization allows us to reduce this instability by more than 2 orders of magnitude. In the case of the KF hybridization, the Allan deviation does not rise above 2  $\mu g$  and reaches the 100-ng level after 3 h of integration.

To evaluate the ultimate performance of the hybrid sensor, we record data continuously for 36 h using a T = 20 ms interferometer in a standard laboratory environment, without additional temperature or laser-intensity modulation. Figure 4 shows the Allan deviation of the standalone and hybrid accelerometers with and without subtraction of the tidal gravity anomaly. At small times, the Allan deviation of both sensors decreases as  $1/\tau$ , which is characteristic of averaging the sum of incommensurable periodic noises due to ambient vibrations in the laboratory. After only 30 s, the Allan deviation of the standalone accelerometer increases due to the bias instability. The Allan deviation of the hybrid sensor, however, stays below 1  $\mu g$  and decreases at large times as approximately  $\sigma_{AI}/\sqrt{\tau}$ , where  $\sigma_{AI} = 3.2 \ \mu g/\sqrt{Hz}$  corresponds to the AI sensitivity.

For integration times larger than 5000 s, the tidal anomaly limits the Allan deviation. Nevertheless, it can be removed efficiently using an appropriate theoretical model [45]. The Allan deviation then reaches a stability of 10 ng after  $4 \times 10^4$  s of integration. Up until this point, we observe no signs of long-term instability in the hybrid sensor.

#### **V. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, we have used a method based on the KF formalism to hybridize quantum and classical accelerometers in a simulated environment resembling that encountered in navigation applications. The hybrid sensor combines the large bandwidth and continuous measurement of a classical accelerometer with the long-term stability of a cold-atom interferometer. In addition to being more efficient computationally than least-squares sinefitting routines, we have shown that the KF allows for a significantly more precise and robust determination of the accelerometer bias. The short-term sensitivity of the hybrid sensor is determined by the classical accelerometer noise, while the long-term stability is given by the AI. For a total interrogation time of only 2T = 40 ms, we demonstrate a precision of 10 ng after 11 h of integration. Such a small bias would lead to Schuler position oscillations only 60 mm in amplitude.

For future studies, the modest interrogation times of our AI will permit operation along multiple axes [46,47] and in mobile environments with accelerations in the 0-2g range. The KF method presented here can also be extended to other AI configurations such as gyroscopes [48] or gradiometers [49] or for the differential phase extraction in dual-species tests of the equivalence principle [5,35,50]. In this work, we assumed that the phase and detection noise were constant in time, but extensions, such as the adaptive Kalman filter, could further improve the robustness of the bias estimate.

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# APPENDIX A: DETAILS ON THE KALMAN-FILTER ALGORITHM

In this appendix, we present further details on the Kalman-filter algorithm and demonstrate its optimality in the discrete-time linear Gaussian case. We follow closely Ref. [33] and we refer the reader to classic textbooks such as Refs. [31,32] for additional information.

The filtering problem consists of providing the best estimate  $\hat{x}$  of the true state vector x, which is a random variable driven stochastically and measured through noisy measurement.

As criteria for determining the efficiency of the filter, we use the mean-squared error of the estimation, which can be written as

$$\mathbf{P} = E[(\mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}})(\mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}})^T], \qquad (A1)$$

where  $E[\cdots]$  denotes the statistical expectation value.

In the discrete-time case, measurements are performed at times  $t_i$ , labeled by the integer index *i*. Between measurements, the state vector evolves according to a linear stochastic process. The evolution of the state vector can thus be written as

$$\boldsymbol{x}_{i+1} = \mathbf{F}_i \boldsymbol{x}_i + \boldsymbol{w}_i, \tag{A2}$$

where  $\mathbf{F}_i$  is the known deterministic evolution matrix and  $w_i$  is a vector of random variables. Furthermore, we assume a linear observation process such that at each time  $t_i$ , the measurement output  $z_i$  can be written as

$$\boldsymbol{z}_i = \mathbf{H}_i \boldsymbol{x}_i + \boldsymbol{v}_i, \tag{A3}$$

where  $\mathbf{H}_i$  is the measurement matrix and  $\mathbf{v}_i$  is a vector of measurement noises. Finally, we assume that both the stochastic-driving and measurement noises are uncorrelated, zero-mean white Gaussian processes such that

$$E[\boldsymbol{v}_i \boldsymbol{v}_i^T] = \delta_{ij} \,\mathbf{R}_i, \qquad (A4a)$$

$$E[\boldsymbol{w}_i \boldsymbol{w}_i^T] = \delta_{ij} \mathbf{Q}_i. \tag{A4b}$$

Let us now assume that we have an initial estimate of the state vector and covariance immediately after an observation  $\hat{x}_i^+$ ,  $\mathbf{P}_i^+$ . Since the stochastic driving  $w_i$  has zero mean,

the evolution of the state vector estimation between two measurements is simply

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{x}}_{i+1}^{-} = \mathbf{F}_i \hat{\boldsymbol{x}}_i^{+}. \tag{A5}$$

The estimation error is then

$$\boldsymbol{e}_{i+1}^{-} = \mathbf{F}_i \boldsymbol{e}_i + \boldsymbol{w}_i. \tag{A6}$$

Because the stochastic-driving and previous estimation errors are not correlated, the error covariance evolves according to

$$\mathbf{P}_{i+1}^{-} = E[\mathbf{e}_{i+1}^{-}\mathbf{e}_{i+1}^{-T}] = \mathbf{F}_i\mathbf{P}_i^{+}\mathbf{F}_i^{T} + \mathbf{Q}_i.$$
(A7)

Equations (A5) and (A7) constitute the propagation step of the KF. In the measurement step, the new measurement is blended into the state vector linearly:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{x}}_i^+ = \hat{\boldsymbol{x}}_i^- + \mathbf{K}_i(\boldsymbol{z}_i - \mathbf{H}_i \hat{\boldsymbol{x}}_i^-), \qquad (A8)$$

where the gain  $\mathbf{K}_i$  is not yet determined. The KF is optimal for a particular gain  $\mathbf{K}_i$  that minimizes the postmeasurement error, i.e., that minimizes the covariance:

$$\mathbf{P}_i^+ = E[(\mathbf{x}_i - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_i^+)(\mathbf{x}_i - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_i^+)^T].$$
(A9)

Substituting Eqs. (A8) and (A3) into (A9), we find

$$\mathbf{P}_{i}^{+} = E\{[(\mathbf{x}_{i} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{i}^{-}) - \mathbf{K}_{i}(\mathbf{H}_{i}(\mathbf{x}_{i} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{i}^{-}) + \mathbf{v}_{i})] \\ [(\mathbf{x}_{i} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{i}^{-}) - \mathbf{K}_{i}(\mathbf{H}_{i}(\mathbf{x}_{i} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{i}^{-}) + \mathbf{v}_{i})]^{T}\}, \\ = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{K}_{i}\mathbf{H}_{i})\mathbf{P}_{i}^{-}(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{K}_{i}\mathbf{H}_{i})^{T} + \mathbf{K}_{i}\mathbf{R}_{i}\mathbf{K}_{i}^{T}.$$
(A10)

The diagonal terms of the covariance  $\mathbf{P}_i^+$  correspond to the individual errors of the state vector parameters. The KF is thus optimal for the gain  $\mathbf{K}_i$  that minimizes these terms. Because  $\mathbf{K}_i$  possesses enough degrees of freedom, this optimization is equivalent to simply minimizing the trace of the postmeasurement covariance. By setting the derivative of Tr[ $\mathbf{P}_i^+$ ] with respect to  $\mathbf{K}_i$  to 0, we find the optimal gain:

$$\mathbf{K}_i = \mathbf{P}_i^{-} \mathbf{H}_i^{T} (\mathbf{H}_i \mathbf{P}_i^{-} \mathbf{H}_i^{T} + \mathbf{R}_i)^{-1}, \qquad (A11)$$

which is called the Kalman gain.

## **APPENDIX B: KALMAN-FILTER OPTIMIZATION**

The performance of the KF relies on the accurate knowledge of the statistical properties of the stochastic-driving parameters (described by the matrix  $\mathbf{Q}$ ) and of the measurement noise (described by the matrix  $\mathbf{R}$ ). The KF performance can be evaluated by inspecting the distribution of the *innovation r*. For a well-tuned KF, the width of the innovation distribution is limited by the measurement noise. Therefore, it is possible to optimize the KF by minimizing the variance of the innovation,  $\sigma_r^2$ . However, because of compensation effects between the parameters of the noise and the stochastic dynamics, the direct minimization of  $\sigma_r^2$  over all parameters often poorly estimates each parameter individually. To solve this issue, we find the optimal KF parameters in an iterative way. First, we apply the KF on the data set using an arbitrary set of parameters. This step provides an initial suboptimal waveform estimate that is used to estimate the measurement noise. We then minimize  $\sigma_r$  over the stochastic-driving variables only using the estimated noise parameters to obtain a more precise estimate of the waveform. This process is then iterated a few times until a stable state is reached.

### 1. Measurement noise estimation

In our case, the measurement noise can be decomposed into a phase noise, which comprises the phase estimation error from the accelerometer signal and the interferometer phase noise, and a detection noise associated with the fluorescence imaging system. To highlight these noise sources, we rewrite the interferometer signal in Eq. (B1) as

$$y = y_0 - \frac{C}{2}\cos(\phi + \delta\varphi) + \delta u,$$
 (B1)

where  $\phi$  is the total phase estimate,  $\delta \varphi$  represents the phase noise, and  $\delta u$  the detection noise.

We use a Bayesian approach to estimate the statistical properties of these noise sources. Let us denote N as an abstract noise model and D as a data set of M noisy measurements  $y_i$ . The probability distribution function p(N|D) of the noise model N given the data set D can be expressed using Bayes rule as

$$p(N|D) = \frac{p(D|N)p(N)}{p(D)}.$$
 (B2)

For uncorrelated noise, the probability of a given data set knowing the noise model can be expressed as a product over the individual measurements

$$p(D|N) = \prod_{i=1}^{M} p(y_i|N).$$
 (B3)

Here, we consider the specific case of normally distributed phase and detection noise,  $N(\sigma_{\varphi}, \sigma_u)$ , with standard deviations  $\sigma_{\varphi}$  and  $\sigma_u$ , respectively. The distribution of individual measurements can then be easily expressed as

$$p(y_i|N) \equiv p(y_i|\sigma_{\varphi}, \sigma_u) = \frac{1}{\sigma_i \sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-(1/2)(y_i/\sigma_i)^2},$$
 (B4)

where

$$\sigma_i^2 = \left( \left. \frac{\partial y}{\partial (\delta \varphi)} \right|_{\phi_i} \right)^2 \sigma_{\varphi}^2 + \left( \left. \frac{\partial y}{\partial (\delta u)} \right|_{\phi_i} \right)^2 \sigma_u^2 \qquad (B5)$$

is the variance of the overall Gaussian noise evaluated at the phase  $\phi_i$  of the *i*th measurement. In the absence of prior information, the distribution  $p(N) \equiv p(\sigma_{\varphi}, \sigma_u)$  is chosen as uniform and p(D) is simply a normalization factor. The probability distribution p(N|D) can then be computed easily using Eqs. (B2)–(B5), and statistical quantities that characterize the phase and detection noise can be obtained separately by integrating this distribution:

$$E[\sigma_{\varphi}] = \int \sigma_{\varphi} p(\sigma_{\varphi}, \sigma_u | D) d\sigma_{\varphi} d\sigma_u, \qquad (B6a)$$

$$E[\sigma_u] = \int \sigma_u p(\sigma_{\varphi}, \sigma_u | D) d\sigma_{\varphi} d\sigma_u, \qquad (B6b)$$

$$\operatorname{SD}[\sigma_{\varphi}] = \sqrt{E[\sigma_{\varphi}^{2}] - E[\sigma_{\varphi}]^{2}},$$
 (B6c)

$$SD[\sigma_u] = \sqrt{E[\sigma_u^2] - E[\sigma_u]^2}, \qquad (B6d)$$

where  $E[\cdots]$  and  $SD[\cdots]$  denote the expectation value and standard deviation, respectively.

Figures 5(a) and 5(b) show the phase and detection noise estimates calculated for a subset of the data shown in Fig. 2. After a brief transitory behavior, the noise estimates converge toward their true values. Figures 5(c) and 5(d) show the uncertainty of the noise determination that decreases as  $1/\sqrt{M}$ . We point out that this Bayesian method of noise characterization is an optimal and unbiased estimator, and can be applied in real time in order to adapt the KF parameters. Note also that this method can be easily generalized to non-Gaussian noise distributions or even to generic distributions [49] at the expense of a larger computational complexity.

### 2. Stochastic-driving optimization

Figure 6(a) shows the optimization of the KF over the stochastic-driving variable  $\sigma_{\phi'}$ .  $\sigma_r$  is minimized for  $\sigma_{\phi'} = 1.2 \times 10^{-4}$  rad/s<sup>2</sup>. Note that the sensitivity of the innovation variance to deviations of the driving parameters from the optimum is generally very small—reflecting the robustness of the KF against errors in the parameter estimates. Figure 6(b) displays an example of the bias phase tracking for optimal, under-, and overestimated values of  $\sigma_{\phi'}$ . When the driving estimation is too small, the KF does not allow fast variations of the phase and the reconstruction lags behind. On the other hand, when the driving is too large, the KF follows too tightly the output of each measurement—adding noise onto the tracked waveform.



FIG. 5. Expected value of the phase noise  $E[\sigma_{\varphi}]$  (a) and detection noise  $E[\sigma_u]$  (b) as a function of the number of points M considered in the data set. After an initial transitory behavior, the estimated values converge toward their true values. (c),(d) Standard deviations of the phase and detection noise estimates [also displayed as shaded areas in (a),(b)]. The standard deviations decrease as  $1/\sqrt{M}$  for a large number of points M.

### **APPENDIX C: KALMAN-FILTER CONSISTENCY**

### 1. Experimental consistency checks

A good estimator should be unbiased, and the estimate covariance should correspond to the true variance of the error. These properties constitute the consistency of the KF and ultimately depend on the true error properties. With real data, the true signal is generally not accessible, but some consistency checks can be tested on the KF innovation. Specifically, the innovation should be uncorrelated and unbiased and its probability distribution should be consistent with the probability distribution of the measurement noise. In this section, we verify the properties of the innovation on the hybrid sensor presented in Fig. 3.

Scaling the AI signal by the contrast and removing the offset, the output of the AI can be written as

$$n = -\cos(\phi + \delta\varphi) + \delta u. \tag{C1}$$

The AI output is the combination of three independent random variables. The AI phase  $\phi$  comprises the inertial and

> FIG. 6. (a) Standard deviation of the innovation  $\sigma_r$  as a function of the stochastic-driving parameter  $\sigma_{\phi'}$ .  $\sigma_r$  is minimized for  $\sigma_{\phi'} = 1.2 \times 10^{-4}$  rad/s<sup>2</sup>. (b) Enlarged view of the bias phase tracking for  $\sigma_{\phi'} = 1 \times 10^{-5}$  rad/s<sup>2</sup> (red),  $1.2 \times 10^{-4}$  rad/s<sup>2</sup> (blue), and  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  rad/s<sup>2</sup> (green). The dashed black curve corresponds to the true bias obtained by direct averaging. The tracking lags behind for underestimated driving and is noisier for overestimated driving.





FIG. 7. (a) Histogram of the innovation probability distribution, which is in excellent agreement with the analytical model of Eq. (C4) (orange curve). (b) Autocorrelation of the innovation as a function of delay time. After one AI cycle time, no significant correlation is visible.

laser phases and can be considered to be uniformly distributed over  $2\pi$  for large vibration noise. The phase noise  $\delta\varphi$  and detection noise  $\delta u$  are normally distributed variables with deviations  $\sigma_{\varphi}$  and  $\sigma_{u}$ , respectively. For phase noise  $\delta\varphi \ll \pi$ , the error of the (scaled) innovation can be deduced from Eq. (C1) and reads

$$\delta n = \sin(\phi)\delta\varphi + \delta u. \tag{C2}$$

Because of the sinusoidal output of the AI, even for the normally distributed phase and detection noise, the



combined noise is non-Gaussian. Considering phase noise only, the probability density function of the innovation error  $\delta n$  can be calculated analytically as

$$p(\delta n) = e^{-\delta n^2/2\sigma_{\varphi}^2} K_0\left(\frac{\delta n^2}{4\sigma_{\varphi}^2}\right), \tag{C3}$$

where  $K_0$  is a modified Bessel function of the second kind. The detection noise can then be included by convolving

FIG. 8. Tracking of (a) the bias phase, (b) bias phase rate, (c) offset, and (d) contrast using the nonlinear KF with a simulated waveform and data set. The shaded areas correspond to the standard deviations estimated by the KF, and the yellow line is the true waveform.

this distribution with the corresponding normal distribution

$$p(\delta n) = \int e^{-z^2/2\sigma_{\varphi}^2} K_0\left(\frac{z^2}{4\sigma_{\varphi}^2}\right) e^{-(z-\delta n)^2/2\sigma_u^2} dz. \quad (C4)$$

Figure 7(a) shows a histogram of the innovation probability distribution, in excellent agreement with the theoretical predictions of Eq. (C4). Note that this is not an *ab initio* comparison as the noise variances have been determined experimentally using the procedure described in Appendix B. However, it constitutes a good check of the Gaussian nature of the noise. Figure 7(b) shows the autocorrelation of the innovation as a function of delay time. Already after a delay of one AI cycle (approximately 1.25 s), no significant correlations subsist. The complete absence of correlation likely stems from an aliasing effect. Indeed, the AI interrogation time is small compared to the cycling time so that the phase estimation or detection error are not correlated between two successive AI shots. This confirms the white noise hypothesis used in the KF.

### 2. Monte Carlo consistency checks

To further test the consistency of our KF, we use simulated data. It is thus possible to produce waveforms that follow exactly the dynamics of the stochastic Eq. (C4). In addition, this permits one to compare the KF estimate to the true value of all components of the state vector (and not only the bias phase). We generate a waveform and an AI data set that includes the phase and detection noise and apply the KF with the true driving and noise parameters. Figure 8 shows the tracking of the state vector along with its true value for the optimal parameters obtained in our experiment. We observe that the KF tracks efficiently the waveform and that the estimation standard deviation corresponds to the typical true error.

We now compute the true estimator bias and standard deviations. To do so, we generate 1000 independent waveforms and measurement data sets to which we apply the KF and we compare the waveform estimate to its true value. Table I shows the true bias and rms error of the estimation along with the estimation standard deviation for the bias phase, offset and contrast. We verify that the bias phase and offset estimates are unbiased and the true error rms is in excellent agreement with the estimation standard deviation. However, the contrast estimation is slightly biased, showing that the KF tends to underestimate the contrast. This effect is already visible in Fig. 8(d) and originates from the linear approximation that is used to compute the expected AI output. During the measurement step, the KF uses the most likely AI output to update the state vector. However, because of the nonlinearity of the cosine function, the expected and most likely values do not coincide, and the KF systematically over- (under-) estimates the

TABLE I. Monte Carlo simulation results for the true error bias, true error rms, and estimation standard deviation of each waveform parameter estimate. The bias phase is listed in radians, while the offset and contrast are unitless quantities.

	True error bias	True error rms	Estimation SD
Bias phase Offset Contrast	$\begin{array}{c} -1.1\times 10^{-4} \\ +5.4\times 10^{-6} \\ -2.6\times 10^{-3} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 4.025\times 10^{-2}\\ 3.45\times 10^{-3}\\ 6.01\times 10^{-3}\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 4.016 \times 10^{-2} \\ 3.43 \times 10^{-3} \\ 5.34 \times 10^{-3} \end{array}$

expected output on the top (bottom) of the fringe. The KF adapts to this error by reducing the contrast estimation. For our experimental parameters, this does not significantly affect the phase and offset estimations but it could affect the KF performances for larger phase noise. This issue can be efficiently solved by using other KF extensions such as Monte Carlo or unscented filters, which are beyond the scope of this article.

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*Correction:* The inadvertent omission of the Greek letter mu before g in the fourth paragraph of Sec. I has been fixed; acceleration g terms now appear consistently.