

# State estimation for bilinear systems through minimizing the covariance matrix of the state estimation errors

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## Summary

This paper considers the state estimation problem of bilinear systems in the presence of disturbances. The standard Kalman filter is recognized as the best state estimator for linear systems, but it is not applicable for bilinear systems. It is well known that the extended Kalman filter (EKF) is proposed based on the Taylor expansion to linearize the nonlinear model. In this paper, we show that the EKF method is not suitable for bilinear systems because the linearization method for bilinear systems cannot describe the behavior of the considered system. Therefore, this paper proposes a state filtering method for the single-input–single-output bilinear systems by minimizing the covariance matrix of the state estimation errors. Moreover, the state estimation algorithm is extended to multiple-input–multiple-output bilinear systems. The performance analysis indicates that the state estimates can track the true states. Finally, the numerical examples illustrate the specific performance of the proposed method.

## KEYWORDS

bilinear state estimator, Kalman filter, signal processing, state estimation

## 1 | INTRODUCTION

For decades, there are many activities in utilizing linear models,<sup>1–3</sup> bilinear models, and nonlinear models<sup>4,5</sup> and many identification methods have been developed. Specifically, much attractive attention has been paid to bilinear systems as they are simple nonlinear systems and represent the intermediary structure between linear models and nonlinear models.<sup>6</sup> Some methods based on the approximation idea have been used in parameter estimation for bilinear systems.<sup>7</sup> Dai and Sinha utilized the block functions for parameter estimation of the bilinear system.<sup>8</sup> Hizir et al identified the bilinear systems through equivalent linear models.<sup>9</sup> Nowadays, the Carleman linearization is an approach to reach the approximation, and the bilinear model is proven to be an effective approximator for some nonlinear systems, which can solve the nonlinear system state filtering problems in signal processing and control.<sup>10</sup>

Parameter estimation methods and state filtering can be applied to many areas,<sup>11,12</sup> such as information fusion and fault diagnosis,<sup>13,14</sup> system modelling,<sup>15,16</sup> and signal processing.<sup>17-19</sup> The Kalman filter (KF) is considered as one of the most common state filtering methods for the linear state-space systems with Gaussian noise since the 1960s.<sup>20</sup> However, the Kalman filtering method cannot be applied to bilinear systems. In the literature, the particle filters can be used for state estimation of nonlinear systems with non-Gaussian noise. For nonlinear systems with Gaussian noise, the typical filters such as the extended KF (EKF), the unscented KF, and the Gauss-Hermite quadrature filter can be applied to state filtering. Moreover, Zhao et al proposed a Kalman-like optimal unbiased finite impulse response filter.<sup>21,22</sup> Johnston and Krishnamurthy presented an iterative algorithm for the state estimation of bilinear systems based on the expectation maximum.<sup>23</sup> Germani et al proposed a decomposition-based robust filtering algorithm to estimate the states of the time-varying bilinear systems with unknown inputs.<sup>24</sup> Kulikov and Kulikova presented a continuous-discrete unscented state filter for nonlinear stochastic models in radar tracking.<sup>25</sup>

Regardless of the filtering technique for state estimation of bilinear systems, the state observer is vital in the field of control. Hara and Furuta considered a minimal order state estimator for bilinear systems, whose estimation error was independent of inputs.<sup>26</sup> Tsai developed a linear matrix inequality approach to design a robust H-infinity fuzzy observer for a class of time-delay Takagi-Sugeno uncertain discrete bilinear systems.<sup>27</sup> Gomez-Exposito et al presented a three-stage state estimation method for the energy management system based on the explicit nonlinear transformation and the linear weighted least squares solution.<sup>28</sup> Phan et al formulated a full-order bilinear state observer and optimized the observer gain by interaction matrices.<sup>29</sup>

Since the KF is the optimal linear filter for state estimation, it is not applicable for nonlinear state estimation. In this paper, a bilinear state estimator is formulated to solve the state estimation problem for the single-input–single-output bilinear system on the basis of the extremum principle. Then, the proposed state estimation method is extended to obtain the unknown states of the multiple-input–multiple-output bilinear system. The basic idea is to minimize the covariance matrix of the state estimation errors and to obtain the optimal gain vector based on the delta operator. The main contributions of this paper are listed as follows:

- present a bilinear state estimator for a bilinear state-space system disturbed by the process noise and the measurement noise;
- apply the delta operator to minimize the state estimation error covariance matrix and compute the optimal gain vector;
- analyze the convergence of the proposed algorithm and demonstrate the performance of the state filter through a numerical example.

The outline of this paper is as follows. Section 2 describes the state filtering problem of bilinear systems. According to the extremum principle, the derivation of the bilinear state estimator for the single-input–single-output bilinear system is presented in Section 3. Then, the extension of the state filtering method for the multiple-input–multiple-output bilinear system is proposed to estimate the unknown states in Section 4. In Section 5, the performance of the proposed algorithms is shown based on an illustrative example. Finally, some conclusions are given in Section 6.

## 2 | PROBLEM STATEMENT

In this paper, the following symbols are exploited in such a way that the expression “ $A =: X$ ” or “ $X := A$ ” stands for “ $A$  is defined as  $X$ ”, the superscript T denotes the matrix/vector transpose, the symbol  $I(I_n)$  stands for an identity matrix of appropriate sizes ( $n \times n$ ), and  $\mathbf{1}_n$  marks an  $n$ -dimensional column vector whose elements are all unity.

Consider a bilinear state-space model<sup>30-32</sup>

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{x}_k u_k + \mathbf{f}u_k + \mathbf{w}_k, \quad (1)$$

$$y_k = \mathbf{c}\mathbf{x}_k + d u_k + v_k, \quad (2)$$

where  $\mathbf{x}_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is the system state vector,  $u_k \in \mathbb{R}$  is the system input,  $y_k \in \mathbb{R}$  is the system output,  $v_k \in \mathbb{R}$  is an uncorrelated random noise with zero mean,  $\mathbf{w}_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is an uncorrelated process noise vector with zero mean, and  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $\mathbf{f} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times n}$ , and  $d \in \mathbb{R}$  are the known parameters of the system.

Assume that  $\mathbf{w}_k$  and  $v_k$  are uncorrelated and satisfy

$$(A1) \quad E[\mathbf{w}_k] = \mathbf{0}, E[v_k] = 0, E[\mathbf{w}_k v_j] = \mathbf{0},$$

- (A2)  $E[\mathbf{w}_k \mathbf{w}_s^T] = \mathbf{0}$ ,  $E[v_k v_s] = 0$ ,  $k \neq s$ ,  
 (A3)  $E[\mathbf{w}_k \mathbf{w}_k^T] = \mathbf{R}_w \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $E[v_k^2] = R_v \in \mathbb{R}$ .

*Remark 1.* It is well known that the standard KF is applied for linear system state filtering, which is not applicable for nonlinear systems. In order to overcome this difficulty, one uses the EKF to linearize a nonlinear system function by computing the partial derivative of the state and measurement equations to obtain the estimated states. Since the bilinear systems are a special class of nonlinear systems, it is curious whether we can utilize the linearization method to solve the state estimation problem for bilinear systems. The answer is no. The details are as follows.

The bilinear state-space model in (1)-(2) can be expressed as the following nonlinear model:

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_k, u_k) + \mathbf{w}_k, \quad (3)$$

$$y_k = \mathbf{c}\mathbf{x}_k + du_k + v_k, \quad (4)$$

$$\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_k, u_k) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{x}_k u_k + \mathbf{f}u_k. \quad (5)$$

Then we use the linearization method for (3) and get a linear approximate model

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}_{k+1} &= \frac{\partial \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{0}, 0)}{\partial \mathbf{x}_k} \mathbf{x}_k + \frac{\partial \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{0}, 0)}{\partial u_k} u_k + \mathbf{w}_k \\ &= \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{f}u_k + \mathbf{w}_k. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

*Remark 2.* This linearization method is utilized in the iterative linear-quadratic-Gaussian method for locally-optimal control and estimation of nonlinear stochastic systems.<sup>33</sup> However, the linearization of the bilinear system leads to a linear model and lost a bilinear term so it cannot describe the bilinear behavior of the original bilinear system. This motivates us to study new state estimation methods to solve the state filtering problem for bilinear systems. The main objectives of this paper lie in the following:

- to design a bilinear state estimator for the single-input–single-output bilinear system by minimizing the covariance matrix of the state estimation errors based on the delta operator;
- to extend the proposed bilinear state filtering algorithm to multiple-input–multiple-output bilinear systems;
- to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed methods through the convergence analysis and the numerical example.

### 3 | THE BILINEAR STATE ESTIMATOR

In this section, we derive a bilinear state estimator based on the extremum principle for state estimation and choose a suitable gain vector so that the state estimation error is minimal, which is similar to the requirement of the KF for the linear case.

#### 3.1 | The derivation of the bilinear state estimator

Similar to the state observer, we construct a bilinear state estimator

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1} = \mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k + \mathbf{B}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k u_k + \mathbf{f}u_k + \mathbf{L}_k(y_k - \mathbf{c}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k - du_k), \quad (7)$$

where  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k$  is the state estimation vector of  $\mathbf{x}_k$  and  $\mathbf{L}_k$  is the gain vector to be determined. Define the state estimation error

$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k := \mathbf{x}_k - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k. \quad (8)$$

Then, we have

$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1} = (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c})\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k + \mathbf{B}\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k u_k + \mathbf{w}_k - \mathbf{L}_k v_k. \quad (9)$$

Then, we have

$$E[\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1}] = (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c})E[\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k] + \mathbf{B}E[\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k]u_k.$$

Define the state estimation error covariance matrix  $\mathbf{P}_k$  as

$$\mathbf{P}_k = E[\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k^T]. \quad (10)$$

Thus,  $\mathbf{P}_{k+1}$  can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}_{k+1} &= E[\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1} \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1}^T] \\ &= (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c})E[\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k^T] (\mathbf{A}^T - \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{L}_k^T) + (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c})E[\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k^T] \mathbf{B}^T u_k \\ &\quad + \mathbf{B}u_k E[\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k^T] (\mathbf{A}^T - \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{L}_k^T) + \mathbf{B}u_k E[\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k^T] \mathbf{B}^T u_k + \mathbf{R}_w + \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{R}_v \mathbf{L}_k^T. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

The aim is to choose an optimal gain vector  $\mathbf{L}_k$  to minimize the state estimation error covariance matrix  $\mathbf{P}_{k+1}$ . From (11), we find that  $\mathbf{P}_{k+1}$  is complicated, and it is difficult to compute the partial derivative of  $\mathbf{P}_{k+1}$  with respect to  $\mathbf{L}_k$  on the condition that the order  $n \geq 2$ . Therefore, we first consider the scalar case that the system order  $n = 1$ , then we have

$$\begin{aligned} P_{k+1} &= E[\tilde{x}_{k+1}^2] \\ &= (A - L_k c)^2 P_k + 2(A - L_k c)B u_k P_k + R_w + L_k^2 R_v + B^2 u_k^2 P_k. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Calculating the partial derivative of  $P_{k+1}$  by  $L_k$  yields

$$\frac{\partial P_{k+1}}{\partial L_k} = 2[A - L_k c]c P_k - 2c B P_k u_k + 2L_k R_v = 0, \quad (13)$$

which gives

$$L_k = \frac{AcP_k + cBP_k u_k}{c^2 P_k + R_v}. \quad (14)$$

Suppose that  $n \geq 2$ . Equation (11) gives

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}_{k+1} &= (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c})\mathbf{P}_k (\mathbf{A}^T - \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{L}_k^T + \mathbf{B}^T u_k) + \mathbf{R}_w \\ &\quad + \mathbf{B}u_k \mathbf{P}_k (\mathbf{A}^T - \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{L}_k^T + \mathbf{B}^T u_k) + \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{R}_v \mathbf{L}_k^T. \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

*Remark 3.* It is difficult in the matrix case to compute the partial derivative of (15). Li and Todorov<sup>33</sup> computed the partial derivative of the trace of the covariance matrix with respect to the gain vector for the purpose of computing the optimal filter gain, which is different from the method in this paper. The basic idea of the derivation in this paper is to minimize the magnitude of the estimation errors by introducing the delta operator to minimize the state estimation error covariance matrix for the purpose of computing the optimal gain vector  $\mathbf{L}_k$ .

Assume that  $\mathbf{L}_k$  is the optimal gain vector to minimize the state estimation error covariance matrix  $\mathbf{P}_{k+1}$ , that is,  $\mathbf{P}_{k+1}$  is the minimal state estimation covariance matrix. Obviously, if there exists the departure  $\delta \mathbf{L}_k$  from the filtering gain vector to the optimal gain vector  $\mathbf{L}_k$ , the estimation error covariance matrix obtained from (15) will deviate from the minimal  $\mathbf{P}_{k+1}$  and reaches  $\mathbf{P}_{k+1} + \delta \mathbf{P}_{k+1}$ , where  $\delta \mathbf{P}_{k+1}$  is the nonnegative definite matrix. From (15), we find that  $\mathbf{L}_k + \delta \mathbf{L}_k$  and  $\mathbf{P}_{k+1} + \delta \mathbf{P}_{k+1}$  satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}_{k+1} + \delta \mathbf{P}_{k+1} &= [\mathbf{A} - (\mathbf{L}_k + \delta \mathbf{L}_k) \mathbf{c}] \mathbf{P}_k [\mathbf{A}^T - \mathbf{c}^T (\mathbf{L}_k + \delta \mathbf{L}_k)^T + \mathbf{B}^T u_k] \\ &\quad + \mathbf{B}u_k \mathbf{P}_k [\mathbf{A}^T - \mathbf{c}^T (\mathbf{L}_k + \delta \mathbf{L}_k)^T + \mathbf{B}^T u_k] \\ &\quad + \mathbf{R}_w + (\mathbf{L}_k + \delta \mathbf{L}_k) \mathbf{R}_v (\mathbf{L}_k + \delta \mathbf{L}_k)^T, \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

where  $\mathbf{P}_{k+1}$  and  $\mathbf{L}_k$  satisfy (15). Substituting (15) into (16) gives

$$\begin{aligned} \delta\mathbf{P}_{k+1} &= (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}_k\mathbf{c} - \delta\mathbf{L}_k\mathbf{c})\mathbf{P}_k (\mathbf{A}^\top - \mathbf{c}^\top\mathbf{L}_k^\top + \mathbf{B}^\top\mathbf{u}_k - \mathbf{c}^\top\delta\mathbf{L}_k^\top) + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}_k\mathbf{P}_k (\mathbf{A}^\top - \mathbf{c}^\top\mathbf{L}_k^\top + \mathbf{B}^\top\mathbf{u}_k) \\ &\quad - \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}_k\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{c}^\top\delta\mathbf{L}_k^\top + \mathbf{R}_w + \mathbf{L}_k\mathbf{R}_v\mathbf{L}_k^\top + \mathbf{L}_k\mathbf{R}_v\delta\mathbf{L}_k^\top + \delta\mathbf{L}_k\mathbf{R}_v\mathbf{L}_k^\top + \delta\mathbf{L}_k\mathbf{R}_v\delta\mathbf{L}_k^\top - \mathbf{P}_{k+1} \\ &= -\delta\mathbf{L}_k (\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{A}^\top - \mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{c}^\top\mathbf{L}_k^\top + \mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{B}^\top\mathbf{u}_k - \mathbf{R}_v\mathbf{L}_k^\top) \\ &\quad - (\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{A}^\top - \mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{c}^\top\mathbf{L}_k^\top + \mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{B}^\top\mathbf{u}_k - \mathbf{R}_v\mathbf{L}_k^\top)^\top \delta\mathbf{L}_k^\top + \delta\mathbf{L}_k(\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{c}^\top + \mathbf{R}_v)\delta\mathbf{L}_k^\top \\ &= \mathbf{W}_k + \mathbf{W}_k^\top + \delta\mathbf{L}_k(\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{c}^\top + \mathbf{R}_v)\delta\mathbf{L}_k^\top, \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

where  $\mathbf{W}_k := -\delta\mathbf{L}_k(\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{A}^\top - \mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{c}^\top\mathbf{L}_k^\top + \mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{B}^\top\mathbf{u}_k - \mathbf{R}_v\mathbf{L}_k^\top)$ . If we take

$$\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{A}^\top - \mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{c}^\top\mathbf{L}_k^\top + \mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{B}^\top\mathbf{u}_k - \mathbf{R}_v\mathbf{L}_k^\top = \mathbf{0},$$

then we can obtain

$$\mathbf{L}_k = (\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}_k)\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{c}^\top(\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{c}^\top + \mathbf{R}_v)^{-1}. \quad (18)$$

Thus, we have  $\mathbf{W}_k = \mathbf{0}$  and

$$\delta\mathbf{P}_{k+1} = \delta\mathbf{L}_k(\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{c}^\top + \mathbf{R}_v)\delta\mathbf{L}_k^\top. \quad (19)$$

*Remark 4.* From (19), we can see that  $\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{c}^\top + \mathbf{R}_v$  is nonnegative because  $\mathbf{R}_v$  is nonnegative,  $\mathbf{P}_k$  is nonnegative. If  $\delta\mathbf{L}_k \neq \mathbf{0}$ , then  $\delta\mathbf{P}_{k+1}$  is the nonnegative definite matrix. This explains that the nonnegative deviation  $\delta\mathbf{P}_{k+1}$  of the minimal covariance matrix  $\mathbf{P}_{k+1}$  is generated when any departure  $\delta\mathbf{L}_k$  affects the optimal gain vector  $\mathbf{L}_k$ . Therefore,  $\mathbf{L}_k = (\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}_k)\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{c}^\top(\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{c}^\top + \mathbf{R}_v)^{-1}$  in (18) is the optimal gain vector, which makes the state estimation error covariance matrix minimal.

To summarize, the bilinear state estimator is as follows:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1} = \mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k + \mathbf{B}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k\mathbf{u}_k + \mathbf{f}\mathbf{u}_k + \mathbf{L}_k(\mathbf{y}_k - \mathbf{c}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k - \mathbf{d}\mathbf{u}_k), \quad (20)$$

$$\mathbf{L}_k = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{c}^\top(\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{c}^\top + \mathbf{R}_v)^{-1} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}_k\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{c}^\top(\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{c}^\top + \mathbf{R}_v)^{-1}, \quad (21)$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{k+1} = (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}_k\mathbf{c} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}_k)\mathbf{P}_k (\mathbf{A}^\top - \mathbf{c}^\top\mathbf{L}_k^\top + \mathbf{B}^\top\mathbf{u}_k) + \mathbf{R}_w + \mathbf{L}_k\mathbf{R}_v\mathbf{L}_k^\top. \quad (22)$$

Let  $n = 1$ , Equation (21) reduces to

$$\mathbf{L}_k = \frac{\mathbf{A}\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_k + \mathbf{c}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{P}_k\mathbf{u}_k}{\mathbf{c}^2\mathbf{P}_k + \mathbf{R}_v}, \quad (23)$$

which means Equation (14).

### 3.2 | Theoretical analysis of the bilinear state estimator

From (9), we have

$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1} = (\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k\mathbf{c})\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k + \boldsymbol{\eta}_k, \quad (24)$$

where

$$\mathbf{G}_k := \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}_k, \quad (25)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\eta}_k := \mathbf{w}_k - \mathbf{L}_k\mathbf{v}_k. \quad (26)$$

In order to analyze the error dynamics, we give some lemmas.

**Definition 1.** If there exist real numbers  $0 < \rho, \zeta < \infty$  and  $0 < \phi < 1$  such that

$$\mathbb{E}\{\|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k\|^2\} \leq \rho\|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_0\|^2\phi^k + \zeta, \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, \quad (27)$$

then the stochastic process  $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k$  is called exponentially bounded in mean square.

**Definition 2.** If the stochastic process satisfies

$$\sup_{k \geq 0} \|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k\| < \infty, \text{ a.s., } k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, \quad (28)$$

then the stochastic process is said to be bounded with probability one.

**Lemma 1.** For the state estimation error in (9), if there exist a stochastic process  $V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k)$  and real numbers  $\chi_1, \chi_2, \mu > 0$  and  $0 < \beta < 1$  such that

$$\chi_1 \|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k\|^2 \leq V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k) \leq \chi_2 \|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k\|^2 \quad (29)$$

and

$$E\{V_{k+1}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1})|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k\} - V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k) \leq \mu - \beta V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k) \quad (30)$$

are fulfilled for every solution of (24), then the stochastic process is exponentially bounded in mean square, ie, we have

$$E\{\|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k\|^2\} \leq \frac{\chi_2}{\chi_1} \|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_0\|^2 (1 - \beta)^k + \frac{\mu}{\chi_1} \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} (1 - \beta)^i \quad (31)$$

$$\leq \frac{\chi_2}{\chi_1} \|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_0\|^2 (1 - \beta)^k + \frac{\mu}{\chi_1 \beta}, \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots \quad (32)$$

Moreover, the stochastic process  $V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k)$  is bounded with probability one.<sup>34,35</sup>

**Lemma 2.** For the system in (1)-(2) and the bilinear state estimator in (20)-(22), assume the conditions that  $\mathbf{G}_k$  is nonsingular and there exist positive real numbers  $0 < g, c_1 < \infty$  and  $p_1, p_2 > 0$  such that  $\|\mathbf{G}_k\| \leq g, \|\mathbf{c}\| \leq c_1, p_1 \mathbf{I}_n \leq \mathbf{P}_k \leq p_2 \mathbf{I}_n$  hold. Let  $0 < \beta := 1 - 1/[1 + \frac{q_1}{(g - gp_2 c_1^2/r)^2}] < 1$  and  $\Xi_k = \mathbf{P}_k^{-1}$ . Then, we have

$$(\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c})^T \Xi_{k+1} (\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c}) \leq (1 - \beta) \Xi_k, \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, \quad (33)$$

with  $\mathbf{L}_k$  given by (21).

*Proof.* From (21) and (22), we have

$$\mathbf{P}_{k+1} = \mathbf{G}_k \mathbf{P}_k \mathbf{G}_k^T + \mathbf{R}_w + \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{R}_v \mathbf{L}_k^T \quad (34)$$

$$= (\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c}) \mathbf{P}_k (\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c})^T + \mathbf{R}_w + (\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c}) \mathbf{P}_k \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{L}_k^T. \quad (35)$$

Inserting (21) into (35) obtains

$$(\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c}) \mathbf{P}_k = \mathbf{G}_k \mathbf{P}_k - \mathbf{G}_k \mathbf{P}_k \mathbf{c}^T (\mathbf{c} \mathbf{P}_k \mathbf{c}^T + \mathbf{R}_v)^{-1} \mathbf{c} \mathbf{P}_k. \quad (36)$$

Multiplying both sides of (36) by  $\mathbf{G}_k^{-1}$  gives

$$\mathbf{G}_k^{-1} (\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c}) \mathbf{P}_k = \mathbf{P}_k - \mathbf{P}_k \mathbf{c}^T (\mathbf{c} \mathbf{P}_k \mathbf{c}^T + \mathbf{R}_v)^{-1} \mathbf{c} \mathbf{P}_k, \quad (37)$$

which is a symmetric matrix. Then, we apply the matrix inversion lemma to obtain

$$\mathbf{G}_k^{-1} (\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c}) \mathbf{P}_k = (\mathbf{P}_k^{-1} + \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{R}_v^{-1} \mathbf{c})^{-1} > 0 \quad (38)$$

because  $\mathbf{P}_k^{-1}$  is positive definite. Moreover, since  $\mathbf{P}_k, \mathbf{R}_v > 0$ , from (21), we conclude that

$$\mathbf{P}_{k+1} \geq (\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c}) \mathbf{P}_k (\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c})^T + \mathbf{R}_w \geq \mathbf{R}_w.$$

Inequality (38) implies that the inverse of the matrix  $\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c}$  exists and then we may obtain

$$\mathbf{P}_{k+1} \geq (\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c}) [\mathbf{P}_k + (\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c})^{-1} \mathbf{R}_w (\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c})^{-T}] (\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c})^T. \quad (39)$$

From (21), the conditions in Lemma 2, and  $\mathbf{c} \mathbf{P}_k \mathbf{c}^T \geq 0$ , we have  $\|\mathbf{L}_k\| \leq \frac{gp_2 c_1}{r}$  and obtain

$$\mathbf{P}_{k+1} \geq (\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c}) \left[ \mathbf{P}_k + \frac{q_1}{(g - gp_2 c_1^2/r)^2} \mathbf{I}_n \right] (\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c})^T. \quad (40)$$

Using the assumptions that  $\mathbf{P}_k \geq p_1 \mathbf{I}_n$  and  $\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c}$  is nonsingular, by taking the inverse of both sides of (40), and premultiplying and postmultiplying by  $(\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c})^\top$  and  $\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c}$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c})^\top \boldsymbol{\Xi}_{k+1} (\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c}) &\leq \left[ \mathbf{P}_k + \frac{q_1}{(g - gp_2 c_1^2 / r)^2} \mathbf{I}_n \right]^{-1} \\ &= \left[ 1 + \frac{q_1}{(g - gp_2 c_1^2 / r)^2} \right]^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Xi}_k \\ &= (1 - \beta) \boldsymbol{\Xi}_k. \end{aligned} \quad (41)$$

The proof is completed.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.** For the system in (1)-(2) and the state estimator in (20)-(22), assume that the initial estimation error satisfies  $\|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_0\| \leq \varepsilon$  and the covariance matrices of the noise terms are bounded via  $q_1 \mathbf{I}_n \leq \mathbf{R}_w \leq \alpha \mathbf{I}_n$ ,  $r \leq R_v \leq \alpha$  for some  $q_1, r, \alpha, \varepsilon > 0$ . Let  $\boldsymbol{\Xi}_k = \mathbf{P}_k^{-1}$  and  $\kappa_n := n/p_1 + (gp_2 c_1)^2 / (p_1 r^2) > 0$  independent of  $\alpha$ . Then, we have

$$\mathbf{E} \{ \boldsymbol{\eta}_k^\top \boldsymbol{\Xi}_{k+1} \boldsymbol{\eta}_k \} \leq \kappa_n \alpha, \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, \quad (42)$$

with  $\boldsymbol{\eta}_k$  given by (26).

*Proof.* Since the noises  $\mathbf{w}_k$  and  $v_k$  are uncorrelated white noise, we establish the following relation:

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\eta}_k^\top \boldsymbol{\Xi}_{k+1} \boldsymbol{\eta}_k &= (\mathbf{w}_k - \mathbf{L}_k v_k)^\top \boldsymbol{\Xi}_{k+1} (\mathbf{w}_k - \mathbf{L}_k v_k) \\ &= \mathbf{w}_k^\top \boldsymbol{\Xi}_{k+1} \mathbf{w}_k - \mathbf{w}_k^\top \boldsymbol{\Xi}_{k+1} \mathbf{L}_k v_k - v_k \mathbf{L}_k^\top \boldsymbol{\Xi}_{k+1} \mathbf{w}_k + v_k \mathbf{L}_k^\top \boldsymbol{\Xi}_{k+1} \mathbf{L}_k v_k. \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

Taking the expectation yields

$$\mathbf{E} \{ \boldsymbol{\eta}_k^\top \boldsymbol{\Xi}_{k+1} \boldsymbol{\eta}_k \} = \mathbf{E} \{ \mathbf{w}_k^\top \boldsymbol{\Xi}_{k+1} \mathbf{w}_k \} + \mathbf{E} \{ \mathbf{L}_k^\top \boldsymbol{\Xi}_{k+1} \mathbf{L}_k v_k^2 \}. \quad (44)$$

From (21), the conditions in Theorem 1, and  $\mathbf{c} \mathbf{P}_k \mathbf{c}^\top \geq 0$ , we have  $\|\mathbf{L}_k\| \leq gp_2 c_1 / r$ . Using (44) and  $\mathbf{c} \mathbf{P}_k \mathbf{c}^\top \geq 0$ , we obtain

$$\mathbf{E} \{ \boldsymbol{\eta}_k^\top \boldsymbol{\Xi}_{k+1} \boldsymbol{\eta}_k \} \leq \frac{1}{p_1} \mathbf{E} \{ \mathbf{w}_k^\top \mathbf{w}_k \} + \frac{(gp_2 c_1)^2}{p_1 r^2} \mathbf{E} \{ v_k^2 \}. \quad (45)$$

Using  $\mathbf{w}_k^\top \mathbf{w}_k = \text{tr}[\mathbf{w}_k \mathbf{w}_k^\top]$  and combining the conditions (A1) to (A3), we have

$$\mathbf{E} \{ \boldsymbol{\eta}_k^\top \boldsymbol{\Xi}_{k+1} \boldsymbol{\eta}_k \} \leq \frac{1}{p_1} \text{tr}[\mathbf{R}_w] + \frac{(gp_2 c_1)^2}{p_1 r^2} R_v. \quad (46)$$

Then, using the conditions in Lemma 3 and the definition of  $\kappa_n$ , we have

$$\mathbf{E} \{ \boldsymbol{\eta}_k^\top \boldsymbol{\Xi}_{k+1} \boldsymbol{\eta}_k \} \leq \kappa_n \alpha.$$

The proof of Lemma 3 is finished.  $\square$

**Theorem 1.** For the bilinear system in (1)-(2) and the bilinear state estimator in (20)-(22), assume that the conditions in Lemma 2 and Lemma 3 hold. Let  $\chi_1 = 1/p_1$ ,  $\chi_2 = 1/p_2$ , and  $\mu = \kappa_n \alpha$ . For  $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ , the following inequalities hold:

$$\chi_1 \|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k\|^2 \leq V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k) \leq \chi_2 \|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k\|^2, \quad (47)$$

and

$$\mathbf{E} \{ V_{k+1}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1}) | \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k \} - V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k) \leq \mu - \beta V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k). \quad (48)$$

Then, the state estimation error  $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k$  given by (8) is exponentially bounded in mean square and bounded with probability one.

*Proof.* Choose a nonnegative function  $V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k) = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k^T \Xi_k \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k$ . From the conditions in Lemma 2, we have

$$\frac{1}{p_2} \|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k\|^2 \leq V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k) \leq \frac{1}{p_1} \|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k\|^2.$$

For the purpose of satisfying the requirements of Lemma 1, we need an upper bound on  $E\{V_{k+1}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1})|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k\}$ . From (24), we have

$$V_{k+1}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1}) = [\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c} \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k + \boldsymbol{\eta}_k]^T \Xi_{k+1} [\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c} \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k + \boldsymbol{\eta}_k]. \quad (49)$$

Applying Lemma 2 and combining  $V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k) = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k^T \Xi_k \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k$  obtain

$$\begin{aligned} V_{k+1}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1}) &\leq (1 - \beta)V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k) + \boldsymbol{\eta}_k^T \Xi_{k+1} \boldsymbol{\eta}_k \\ &\quad + \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k^T (\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c})^T \Xi_{k+1} \boldsymbol{\eta}_k + \boldsymbol{\eta}_k^T \Xi_{k+1} (\mathbf{G}_k - \mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c}) \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k. \end{aligned} \quad (50)$$

Because the terms  $\Xi_{k+1}$ ,  $\mathbf{G}_k$ ,  $\mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{c}$ ,  $\mathbf{c}$ , and  $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k$  are independent of  $\boldsymbol{\eta}_k$ . Taking the conditional expectation  $E\{V_{k+1}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1})|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k\}$  and applying Lemma 3 yield

$$\begin{aligned} E\{V_{k+1}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1})|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k\} - V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k) &\leq \kappa_n \alpha - \beta V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k) \\ &= \mu - \beta V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k), \end{aligned}$$

for  $\|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k\| \leq \varepsilon$ . According to Lemma 1, we conclude that the stochastic process  $V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k)$  is exponentially bounded in mean square and the stochastic process  $V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k)$  is bounded with probability one. However, we must notice that the supermartingale inequality

$$E\{V_{k+1}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1})|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k\} - V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k) \leq \kappa_n \alpha - \beta V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k) \leq 0 \quad (51)$$

is fulfilled to guarantee the boundedness of the state estimation error for  $\varepsilon' \leq \|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k\| \leq \varepsilon$ . Choosing  $\alpha \leq \frac{\beta \varepsilon'^2}{\kappa_n p_1}$ , we have

$$\kappa_n \alpha \leq \beta \frac{1}{p_1} \varepsilon'^2 \leq \beta \frac{1}{p_1} \|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k\|^2 \leq \beta V_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k),$$

then Inequality (51) holds. Thus, we conclude that the state estimation error  $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k$  remains bounded if the certain conditions are satisfied. The proof of Theorem 1 is finished.

In general, covariance matrix  $\mathbf{R}_w$  of the process noise vector  $\mathbf{w}_k$  and the variance  $R_v$  of the observation noise  $v_k$  in (21)-(22) are unknown. Therefore, the unknown  $\mathbf{R}_w$  and  $R_v$  in (21)-(22) may be replaced with their estimates  $\hat{\mathbf{R}}_{w,k}$  and  $\hat{R}_{v,k}$ , ie,

$$\hat{\mathbf{R}}_{w,k} = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k (\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{j+1} - \mathbf{A} \hat{\mathbf{x}}_j - \mathbf{B} \hat{\mathbf{x}}_j u_j - \mathbf{f} u_j)(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{j+1} - \mathbf{A} \hat{\mathbf{x}}_j - \mathbf{B} \hat{\mathbf{x}}_j u_j - \mathbf{f} u_j)^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, \quad (52)$$

$$\hat{R}_{v,k} = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k (y_j - \mathbf{c} \hat{\mathbf{x}}_j - d u_j)^2 \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (53)$$

Replacing  $R_v$  and  $\mathbf{R}_w$  with their estimates  $\hat{R}_{v,k}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{R}}_{w,k}$  obtains the bilinear state estimator. The steps of computing the state estimate  $\hat{\mathbf{R}}_k$  in (20)-(22) and (52)-(53) are listed in the following.

1. Let  $k = 1$ , set the initial values  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_1 = \mathbf{1}_n$ ,  $\mathbf{P}_1 = \mathbf{I}_n$ ,  $u_{k-i} = 0$ , and  $y_{k-i} = 0$ , for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , and the system parameters  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{c}$ , and  $d$ .
2. Collect the input-output data  $u_k$  and  $y_k$ .
3. Compute the gain vector  $\mathbf{L}_k$  by (21) and the covariance matrix  $\mathbf{P}_{k+1}$  by (22).
4. Update the state estimates  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1}$  by (20).
5. Compute the covariance matrix  $\hat{\mathbf{R}}_{w,k}$  by (52) and the variance  $\hat{R}_{v,k}$  by (53).
6. Increase  $k$  by 1 and go to Step 2 and continue the recursive calculation.

□



#### 4 | EXTENSION FOR THE MULTIVARIATE BILINEAR SYSTEM

In this section, we consider the following multiple-input-multiple-output bilinear system:

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_k + \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i \mathbf{x}_k u_{i,k} + \mathbf{f}\mathbf{u}_k + \mathbf{w}_k, \quad (54)$$

$$\mathbf{y}_k = \mathbf{c}\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{d}\mathbf{u}_k + \mathbf{v}_k, \quad (55)$$

where  $\mathbf{x}_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is the system state vector,  $\mathbf{u}_k \in \mathbb{R}^m$  is the system input vector,  $\mathbf{y}_k \in \mathbb{R}^l$  is the system output vector,  $\mathbf{v}_k \in \mathbb{R}^l$  is an uncorrelated random noise vector with zero mean,  $\mathbf{w}_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is an uncorrelated process noise vector with zero mean, and  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $\mathbf{B}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $\mathbf{f} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ ,  $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^{l \times n}$ , and  $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^{l \times m}$  are the parameter matrices of the system.

Assume that the state estimation algorithm adopts as follows:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1} = \mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k + \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k u_{i,k} + \mathbf{f}\mathbf{u}_k + \mathbf{L}_{1,k}(\mathbf{y}_k - \mathbf{c}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k - \mathbf{d}\mathbf{u}_k), \quad (56)$$

where  $\mathbf{L}_{1,k} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times l}$  is the gain matrix. Then, the state estimation error vector is formed as

$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1} = (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}_{1,k}\mathbf{c})\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k + \mathbf{w}_k - \mathbf{L}_{1,k}\mathbf{v}_k. \quad (57)$$

Define the state estimation error covariance matrix

$$\mathbf{P}_{1,k+1} := \mathbb{E}[\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1}\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1}^T]. \quad (58)$$

Hence, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}_{1,k+1} &= (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}_{1,k})\mathbf{P}_{1,k} \left[ (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}_{1,k}\mathbf{c})^T + \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i^T u_{i,k} \right] \\ &+ \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i \mathbf{P}_{1,k} \left[ (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}_{1,k}\mathbf{c})^T u_{i,k} + u_{i,k} \sum_{j=1}^m \mathbf{B}_j^T u_{j,k} \right] + \mathbf{R}_w + \mathbf{L}_{1,k}\mathbf{R}_v\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T. \end{aligned} \quad (59)$$

Similarly, introducing the departure  $\delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k}$  from the filtering gain vector to the optimal gain vector makes the estimation error covariance matrix obtained from (59) reach  $\mathbf{P}_{1,k+1} + \delta\mathbf{P}_{1,k+1}$ .  $\delta\mathbf{P}_{1,k+1}$  is the nonnegative definite matrix. From (59), we find that  $\mathbf{L}_{1,k} + \delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k}$  and  $\mathbf{P}_{1,k+1} + \delta\mathbf{P}_{1,k+1}$  satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}_{1,k+1} + \delta\mathbf{P}_{1,k+1} &= [\mathbf{A} - (\mathbf{L}_{1,k} + \delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k})\mathbf{c}]\mathbf{P}_{1,k} \left[ \mathbf{A}^T - \mathbf{c}^T(\mathbf{L}_{1,k} + \delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k})^T + \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i^T u_{i,k} \right] \\ &+ \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i \mathbf{P}_{1,k} \left\{ [\mathbf{A}^T - \mathbf{c}^T(\mathbf{L}_{1,k} + \delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k})^T] u_{i,k} + u_{i,k} \sum_{j=1}^m \mathbf{B}_j^T u_{j,k} \right\} \\ &+ \mathbf{R}_w + (\mathbf{L}_{1,k} + \delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k})\mathbf{R}_v(\mathbf{L}_{1,k} + \delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k})^T, \end{aligned} \quad (60)$$

where  $\mathbf{P}_{1,k+1}$  and  $\mathbf{L}_{1,k}$  satisfy (59). Substituting (59) into (60) obtains

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta\mathbf{P}_{1,k+1} &= (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}_{1,k}\mathbf{c} - \delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k}\mathbf{c})\mathbf{P}_{1,k} \left( \mathbf{A}^T - \mathbf{c}^T\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T - \mathbf{c}^T\delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T + \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i^T u_{i,k} \right) \\
&\quad + \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i \mathbf{P}_{1,k} \left( \mathbf{A}^T u_{i,k} - \mathbf{c}^T\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T + u_{i,k} \sum_{j=1}^m \mathbf{B}_j^T u_{j,k} - \mathbf{c}^T\delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T u_{i,k} \right) + \mathbf{R}_w + \mathbf{L}_{1,k}\mathbf{R}_v\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T \\
&\quad + \mathbf{L}_{1,k}\mathbf{R}_v\delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T + \delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k}\mathbf{R}_v\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T + \delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k}\mathbf{R}_v\delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T - \mathbf{P}_{1,k+1} \\
&= -\delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k} \left( \mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_{1,k}\mathbf{A}^T - \mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_{1,k}\mathbf{c}^T\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T + \mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_{1,k} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i^T u_{i,k} - \mathbf{R}_v\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T \right) \\
&\quad - \left( \mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_{1,k}\mathbf{A}^T - \mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_{1,k}\mathbf{c}^T\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T + \mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_{1,k} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i^T u_{i,k} - \mathbf{R}_v\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T \right)^T \delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T + \delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k}(\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_{1,k}\mathbf{c}^T + \mathbf{L}_v)\delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T \\
&= \mathbf{W}_k + \mathbf{W}_k^T + \delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k}(\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_{1,k}\mathbf{c}^T + \mathbf{R}_v)\delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T, \tag{61}
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\mathbf{W}_k := -\delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k} \left( \mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_{1,k}\mathbf{A}^T - \mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_{1,k}\mathbf{c}^T\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T + \mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_{1,k} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i^T u_{i,k} - \mathbf{R}_v\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T \right). \tag{62}$$

Taking

$$\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_{1,k}\mathbf{A}^T - \mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_{1,k}\mathbf{c}^T\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T + \mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_{1,k} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i^T u_{i,k} - \mathbf{R}_v\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T = \mathbf{0}$$

obtains the optimal gain matrix

$$\mathbf{L}_{1,k} = \left( \mathbf{P}\mathbf{A}_{1,k}\mathbf{c}^T + \mathbf{P}_{1,k}\mathbf{c}^T \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i u_{i,k} \right) (\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_{1,k}\mathbf{c}^T + \mathbf{R}_v)^{-1}. \tag{63}$$

Thus, we have

$$\delta\mathbf{P}_{1,k+1} = \delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k}(\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_{1,k}\mathbf{c}^T + \mathbf{R}_v)\delta\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T. \tag{64}$$

According to the explanation in Remark 4, we can conclude that  $\mathbf{L}_{1,k}$  in (63) is the optimal gain vector that makes the state estimation error covariance matrix minimal. Then, the bilinear state estimator for the multiple-input-multiple-output bilinear system is as follows:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1} = \mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k + \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k u_{i,k} + \mathbf{f}\mathbf{u}_k + \mathbf{L}_{1,k}(\mathbf{y}_k - \mathbf{c}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k - \mathbf{d}\mathbf{u}_k), \tag{65}$$

$$\mathbf{L}_{1,k} = \left( \mathbf{A}\mathbf{P}_{1,k}\mathbf{c}^T + \mathbf{P}_{1,k}\mathbf{c}^T \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i u_{i,k} \right) (\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_{1,k}\mathbf{c}^T + \mathbf{R}_v)^{-1}, \tag{66}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{P}_{1,k+1} &= (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}_{1,k}\mathbf{c})\mathbf{P}_{1,k} \left[ (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}_{1,k}\mathbf{c})^T + \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i^T u_{i,k} \right] \\
&\quad + \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i \mathbf{P}_{1,k} \left[ (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}_{1,k}\mathbf{c})^T u_{i,k} + u_{i,k} \sum_{j=1}^m \mathbf{B}_j^T u_{j,k} \right] + \mathbf{R}_w + \mathbf{L}_{1,k}\mathbf{R}_v\mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T. \tag{67}
\end{aligned}$$

Replacing the unknown  $\mathbf{R}_w$  and  $\mathbf{R}_v$  in (66)-(67) with their estimates  $\hat{\mathbf{R}}_{w,k}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{R}}_{v,k}$  obtains the following:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1} = \mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k + \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k u_{i,k} + \mathbf{f}\mathbf{u}_k + \mathbf{L}_{1,k}(\mathbf{y}_k - \mathbf{c}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k - \mathbf{d}\mathbf{u}_k), \tag{68}$$

$$\mathbf{L}_{1,k} = \left( \mathbf{A}\mathbf{P}_{1,k}\mathbf{c}^T + \mathbf{P}_{1,k}\mathbf{c}^T \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i \mathbf{u}_{i,k} \right) (\mathbf{c}\mathbf{P}_{1,k}\mathbf{c}^T + \hat{\mathbf{R}}_{v,k})^{-1}, \quad (69)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}_{1,k+1} = & (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}_{1,k})\mathbf{P}_{1,k} \left[ (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}_{1,k}\mathbf{c})^T + \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i^T \mathbf{u}_{i,k} \right] + \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i \mathbf{P}_{1,k} \left[ (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}_{1,k}\mathbf{c})^T \mathbf{u}_{i,k} + \mathbf{u}_{i,k} \sum_{j=1}^m \mathbf{B}_j^T \mathbf{u}_{j,k} \right] \\ & + \hat{\mathbf{R}}_{w,k} + \mathbf{L}_{1,k} \hat{\mathbf{R}}_{v,k} \mathbf{L}_{1,k}^T, \end{aligned} \quad (70)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{R}}_{w,k} = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k \left[ \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{j+1} - \mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_j - \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i \mathbf{x}_j \mathbf{u}_{i,j} - \mathbf{f}\mathbf{u}_j \right] \left[ \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{j+1} - \mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_j - \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{B}_i \mathbf{x}_j \mathbf{u}_{i,j} - \mathbf{f}\mathbf{u}_j \right]^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, \quad (71)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{R}}_{v,k} = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k [\mathbf{y}_j - \mathbf{c}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_j - \mathbf{d}\mathbf{u}_j][\mathbf{y}_j - \mathbf{c}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_j - \mathbf{d}\mathbf{u}_j]^T \in \mathbb{R}^{l \times l}. \quad (72)$$

Equations (68)-(72) form the state estimation algorithm for the multiple-input-multiple-output bilinear system in (54)-(55). The proposed methods can be used to study parameter estimation and state filtering of linear systems<sup>36-40</sup> and nonlinear systems with colored noise.<sup>41-43</sup>

## 5 | EXAMPLE

The numerical example is selected to test the effectiveness of the proposed bilinear state estimator. Consider the following bilinear system:

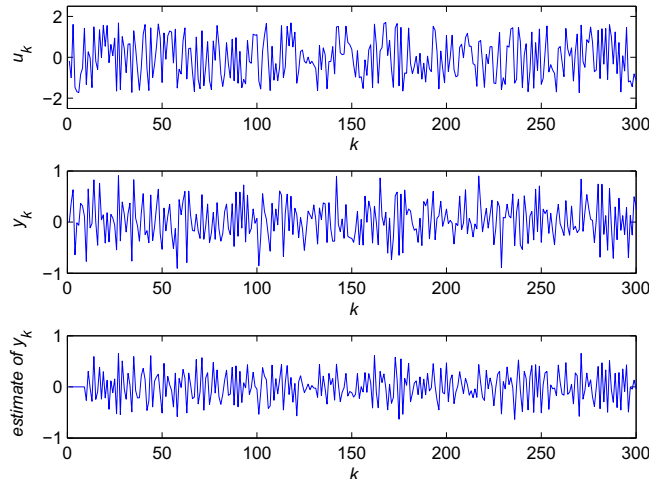
$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}_{k+1} &= \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{x}_k \mathbf{u}_k + \mathbf{f}\mathbf{u}_k + \mathbf{w}_k, \\ y_k &= \mathbf{c}\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{d}\mathbf{u}_k + v_k. \end{aligned}$$

In simulation, input  $\{u_k\}$  is taken as a persistently excited signal, and  $\{v_k\}$  and  $\{\mathbf{w}_k\}$  as uncorrelated Gaussian white noise sequence with zero mean and variance  $R_v$  and  $\mathbf{R}_w$ , respectively. The initial values include  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_1 = \mathbf{1}_n$ ,  $\mathbf{P}_1 = \mathbf{I}_n$ .

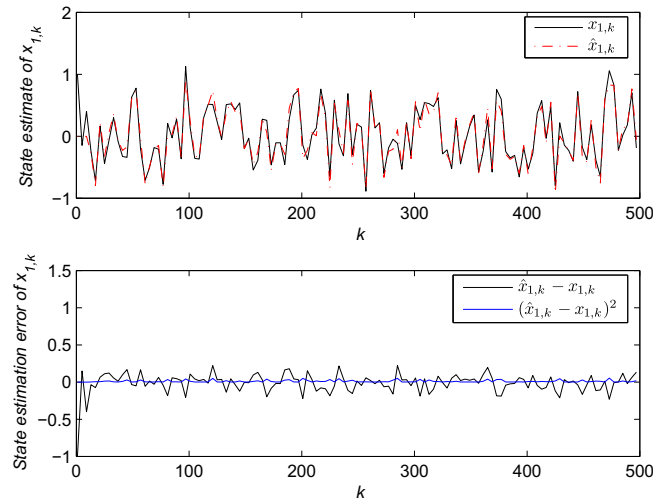
Case I: Consider a second-order bilinear state-space system, whose parameters are

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.20 & 0.25 \\ 0.25 & -0.35 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.20 & -0.15 \\ 0.10 & -0.17 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \mathbf{f} &= \begin{bmatrix} -0.45 \\ -0.25 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{c} = [0.30, 0.25], \quad d = 0.70. \end{aligned}$$

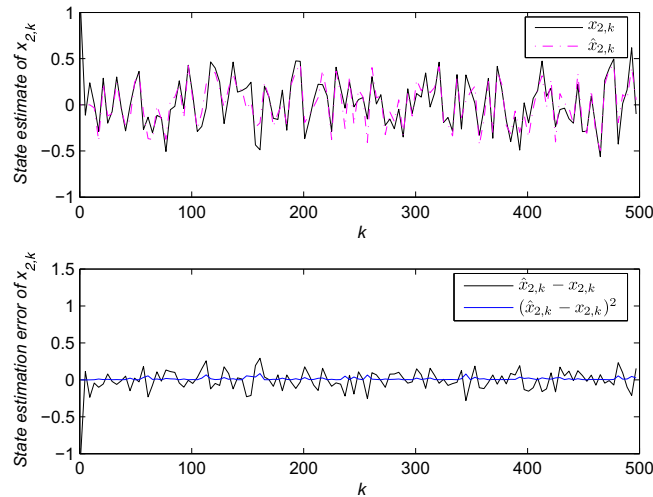
In simulation, input  $\{u_k\}$  is taken as a persistent excitation signal sequence with zero mean and unit variance. The covariance matrix of the process noise  $\mathbf{w}_k$  is  $\mathbf{R}_w$ , and the variance of the measurement noise  $v_k$  is  $R_v$ . Figure 1 shows the simulated



**FIGURE 1** System input  $u_k$ , output  $y_k$ , and its estimate  $\hat{y}_k$  [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]



**FIGURE 2** The state estimate  $\hat{x}_{1,k}$  and the estimation errors versus  $k$  ( $R_v = 0.20^2$ ,  $R_w = 0.10^2 \mathbf{I}_2$ ) [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]



**FIGURE 3** The state estimate  $\hat{x}_{2,k}$  and the estimation errors versus  $k$  ( $R_v = 0.20^2$ ,  $R_w = 0.10^2 \mathbf{I}_2$ ) [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

input-output data and the predicted output data. Figure 2 shows the true states  $x_{1,k}$  and its estimated value  $\hat{x}_{1,k}$  and their estimation errors computed by  $\hat{x}_{1,k} - x_{1,k}$  and  $(\hat{x}_{1,k} - x_{1,k})^2$ . Figure 3 shows the true state  $x_{2,k}$  and its estimate  $\hat{x}_{2,k}$  and their estimation errors  $\hat{x}_{2,k} - x_{2,k}$  and  $(\hat{x}_{2,k} - x_{2,k})^2$ . Then, the root mean square error (RMSE) is used to describe the error between the true state  $x_{i,k}$  and its estimated value  $\hat{x}_{i,k}$ , and the error between the true output  $y_k$  and its predicted output  $\hat{y}_k$ , which are defined as

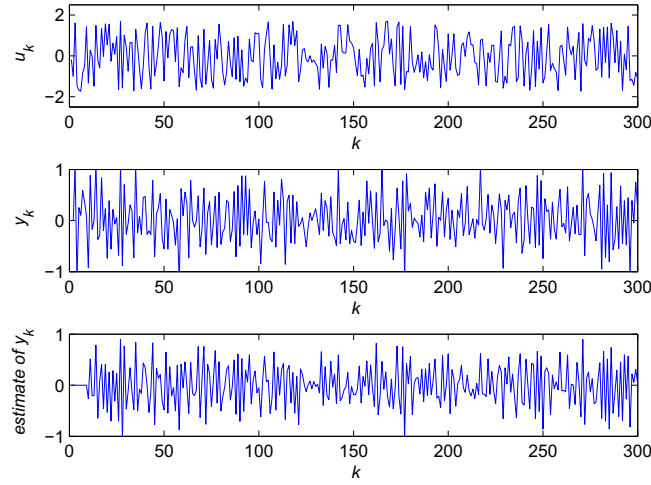
$$\text{Error}_x = \left\{ \frac{1}{L} \sum_{k=1}^L [\hat{x}_{i,k} - x_{i,k}]^2 \right\}^{1/2},$$

$$\text{Error}_y = \left\{ \frac{1}{L} \sum_{k=1}^L [\hat{y}_k - y_k]^2 \right\}^{1/2}.$$

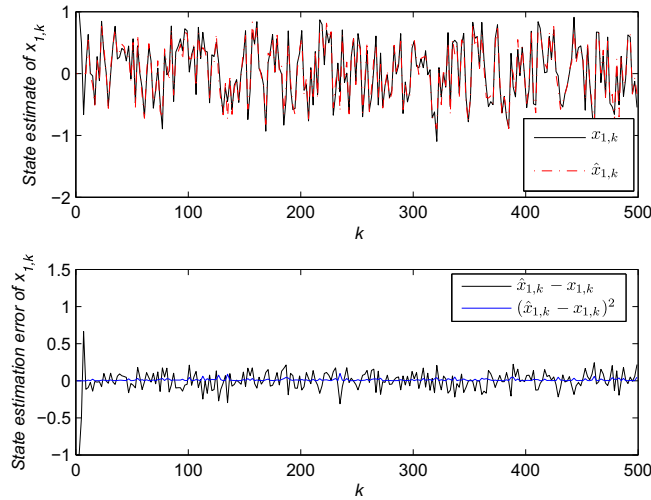
To show the influence of the noise level on the proposed algorithm, we study the bilinear state estimator in (20)–(22) with the noise variances  $R_v = 0.10^2$  and  $R_w = 0.10^2 \mathbf{I}_2$ ,  $R_v = 0.15^2$  and  $R_w = 0.10^2 \mathbf{I}_2$ ,  $R_v = 0.20^2$  and  $R_w = 0.10^2 \mathbf{I}_2$ ,  $R_v = 0.25^2$  and  $R_w = 0.10^2 \mathbf{I}_2$ ,  $R_v = 0.30^2$  and  $R_w = 0.10^2 \mathbf{I}_2$ . The RMSE results are shown in Table 1.

**TABLE 1** The root mean square errors (RMSEs) under different noise levels

Noise Level		RMSE		
$R_v$	$R_w$	$x_{1,k}$	$x_{2,k}$	$y_k$
$0.10^2$	$0.10^2 I_2$	0.08545	0.07354	0.14067
$0.15^2$	$0.10^2 I_2$	0.08549	0.07346	0.18116
$0.20^2$	$0.10^2 I_2$	0.08548	0.07341	0.22609
$0.25^2$	$0.10^2 I_2$	0.08546	0.07338	0.27327
$0.30^2$	$0.10^2 I_2$	0.08544	0.07336	0.32173



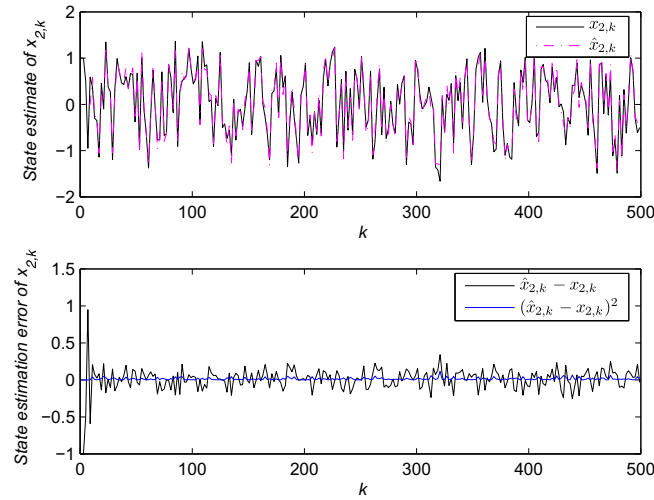
**FIGURE 4** System input  $u_k$ , output  $y_k$ , and its estimate  $\hat{y}_k$  [Colour figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]



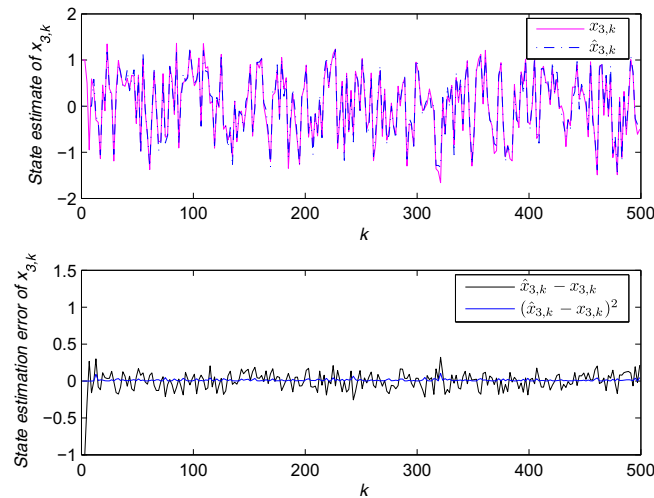
**FIGURE 5** The state estimate  $\hat{x}_{1,k}$  and the estimation errors versus  $k$  ( $R_v = 0.20^2$ ,  $R_w = 0.10^2 I_3$ ) [Colour figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]

Case II: Consider a third-order bilinear state-space system, whose parameters are

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{A} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.38 & -0.15 & -0.21 \\ 0.20 & -0.35 & -0.15 \\ 0.32 & -0.25 & -0.20 \end{bmatrix}, & \mathbf{f} &= \begin{bmatrix} -0.45 \\ -0.65 \\ -0.35 \end{bmatrix}, \\
 \mathbf{B} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.20 & -0.15 & -0.05 \\ 0.19 & -0.15 & -0.10 \\ 0.15 & -0.15 & -0.10 \end{bmatrix}, & d &= 0.20, & \mathbf{c} &= [0.30, 0.25, 0.15].
 \end{aligned} \tag{73}$$



**FIGURE 6** The state estimate  $\hat{x}_{2,k}$  and the estimation errors versus  $k$  ( $R_v = 0.20^2$ ,  $\mathbf{R}_w = 0.10^2 \mathbf{I}_3$ ) [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]



**FIGURE 7** The state estimate  $\hat{x}_{3,k}$  and the estimation errors versus  $k$  ( $R_v = 0.20^2$ ,  $\mathbf{R}_w = 0.10^2 \mathbf{I}_3$ ) [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

Assume that the covariance matrix of the process noise  $\mathbf{w}_k$  is  $\mathbf{R}_w = 0.10 \mathbf{I}_3$ , and the variance of the measurement noise  $v_k$  is  $R_v = 0.20$ . The simulation conditions are same as Case I. The proposed bilinear state estimator is used to obtain the state estimates. Figure 4 shows the system input-output data and the estimated output. Figures 5 to 7 show the true system states  $x_{1,k}$ ,  $x_{2,k}$ , and  $x_{3,k}$ , the estimated states  $\hat{x}_{1,k}$ ,  $\hat{x}_{2,k}$ , and  $\hat{x}_{3,k}$ , and their estimation errors  $\hat{x}_{1,k} - x_{1,k}$  and  $(\hat{x}_{1,k} - x_{1,k})^2$ ,  $\hat{x}_{2,k} - x_{2,k}$  and  $(\hat{x}_{2,k} - x_{2,k})^2$ , and  $\hat{x}_{3,k} - x_{3,k}$  and  $(\hat{x}_{3,k} - x_{3,k})^2$ . Under different noise levels  $R_v = 0.10^2$  and  $\mathbf{R}_w = 0.10^2 \mathbf{I}_3$ ,  $R_v = 0.15^2$  and  $\mathbf{R}_w = 0.10^2 \mathbf{I}_3$ ,  $R_v = 0.20^2$  and  $\mathbf{R}_w = 0.10^2 \mathbf{I}_3$ ,  $R_v = 0.25^2$  and  $\mathbf{R}_w = 0.10^2 \mathbf{I}_3$ ,  $R_v = 0.30^2$  and  $\mathbf{R}_w = 0.10^2 \mathbf{I}_3$ , the RMSEs between the true state  $x_{i,k}$  and its estimated value  $\hat{x}_{i,k}$ , and the error between the true output  $y_k$  and its predicted output  $\hat{y}_k$  are shown in Table 2.

From Figures 1 to 7 and Tables 1 to 2, we can draw the following conclusions.

- The bilinear state estimator has good performance because the estimated states are close to their true values with  $k$  increasing and the estimation errors between the true states and the estimated states are quite small (see Figures 2 and 3 and Figures 5 to 7).
- The bilinear state estimator can generate good estimates because the estimated output is close to the true output and the RMSEs under different noise levels are close to the noise standard deviation (see Tables 1 and 2, and Figures 1 and 4).

**TABLE 2** The root mean square errors (RMSEs) under different noise levels

Noise Level		RMSE			
$R_v$	$R_w$	$x_{1,k}$	$x_{2,k}$	$x_{3,k}$	$y_k$
$0.10^2$	$0.10^2 I_3$	0.10490	0.11541	0.09902	0.12590
$0.15^2$	$0.10^2 I_3$	0.10497	0.11550	0.09908	0.16902
$0.20^2$	$0.10^2 I_3$	0.10502	0.11555	0.09911	0.21551
$0.25^2$	$0.10^2 I_3$	0.10506	0.11559	0.09913	0.26359
$0.30^2$	$0.10^2 I_3$	0.10509	0.11563	0.09914	0.31253

## 6 | CONCLUSIONS

This paper proposes a bilinear state estimator for the single-input–single-output bilinear state-space system based on the delta operator. Different from the previous linearization method like Taylor expansion, we take use of the special structure of the bilinear system and propose the state filtering algorithm to obtain the unknown states by minimizing the covariance matrix of the state estimation errors based on the extremum principle. Moreover, the bilinear state estimator is extended for the multiple-input–multiple-output bilinear system. Finally, the convergence analysis and the simulation results show that the proposed state estimator has good performance in the state estimation of bilinear systems. The methods proposed in this paper can combine some statistical optimal strategies<sup>44–47</sup> to study the parameter estimation algorithms of linear and nonlinear systems<sup>48–52</sup> and can be applied to other fields,<sup>53–59</sup> such as fault detection, image processing, and sliding mode control.<sup>60–63</sup>

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