

# A Derivation of the Steady-State MSE of RLS: Stationary and Nonstationary Cases

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## Abstract

In this report we combine the approach of Yousef and Sayed [1] with that of Rupp and Sayed [2] to derive the steady-state mean-squared error (MSE) of the recursive least squares (RLS) algorithm in both stationary and non-stationary environments. Comparisons with the steady-state MSE of LMS are included.

## 1 Introduction

The recursive least squares (RLS) parameter update equation can be written as

$$\mathbf{w}(n) = \mathbf{w}(n-1) + \underbrace{\mathbf{P}(n)\mathbf{u}(n)}_{\mathbf{k}(n)} \underbrace{(d(n) - \mathbf{w}^H(n-1)\mathbf{u}(n))^*}_{\xi^*(n)}$$

where  $\mathbf{P}(n)$  is the inverse of the deterministic autocorrelation matrix  $\Phi(n)$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{P}(n) &= \Phi^{-1}(n) \\ \Phi(n) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda^{n-i} \mathbf{u}(i) \mathbf{u}^H(i) + \delta \lambda^n \mathbf{I}\end{aligned}$$

with  $0 < \lambda \leq 1$ . We assume a nonstationary environment with time-varying Wiener filter  $\mathbf{w}_*(n)$  that evolves as a random walk:

$$\begin{aligned}d(n) &= \mathbf{w}_*^H(n-1)\mathbf{u}(n) + \xi_*(n) \\ \mathbf{w}_*(n) &= \mathbf{w}_*(n-1) + \mathbf{q}(n)\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

$\xi_*(n)$  denotes the MMSE version of  $\xi(n)$  which, due to the MMSE orthogonality principle, is uncorrelated with  $\mathbf{u}(n)$ :

$$E\{\mathbf{u}(n)\xi_*(n)\} = \mathbf{0}$$

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Other statistical assumptions will be stated later.

We will make extensive use of the parameter error vector  $\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n)$ , the a posteriori error  $e_p(n)$ , and the a priori error  $e_a(n)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n) &:= \mathbf{w}_*(n) - \mathbf{w}(n) \\
e_p(n) &:= (d(n) - \mathbf{w}^H(n)\mathbf{u}(n)) - \xi_*(n) \\
&= (\tilde{\mathbf{w}}^H(n) - \mathbf{q}(n))^H \mathbf{u}(n) \\
e_a(n) &:= (d(n) - \mathbf{w}^H(n-1)\mathbf{u}(n)) - \xi_*(n) = \xi(n) - \xi_*(n) \\
&= \tilde{\mathbf{w}}^H(n-1)\mathbf{u}(n)
\end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

## 2 Energy Relation

In this section we will derive a fundamental deterministic energy relationship.

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{w}(n) &= \mathbf{w}(n-1) + \mathbf{P}(n)\mathbf{u}(n)\xi^*(n) \\
\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n) &= \tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n-1) - \mathbf{P}(n)\mathbf{u}(n)\xi^*(n) + \mathbf{q}(n)
\end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

$$\underbrace{(\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n) - \mathbf{q}(n))^H \mathbf{u}(n)}_{e_p(n)} = \underbrace{\tilde{\mathbf{w}}^H(n-1)\mathbf{u}(n)}_{e_a(n)} - \underbrace{\mathbf{u}^H(n)\mathbf{P}(n)\mathbf{u}(n)}_{\|\mathbf{u}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}(n)}^2} \xi(n) \tag{4}$$

Note the use of the weighted Euclidean norm

$$\|\mathbf{a}\|_{\mathbf{B}}^2 := \mathbf{a}^H \mathbf{B} \mathbf{a}$$

where  $\mathbf{B}$  is a Hermitian positive-semi-definite matrix. Equation (4) implies that

$$\begin{aligned}
\xi(n) &= \|\mathbf{u}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}(n)}^{-2} (e_a(n) - e_p(n)) \quad \text{when } \mathbf{u}(n) \neq 0 \\
\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n) - \mathbf{q}(n) &= \begin{cases} \tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n-1) - \|\mathbf{u}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}(n)}^{-2} \mathbf{P}(n)\mathbf{u}(n)(e_a(n) - e_p(n))^* & \mathbf{u}(n) \neq 0 \\ \tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n-1) & \mathbf{u}(n) = 0 \end{cases} \\
&= \tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n-1) - \bar{\mu}(n)\mathbf{P}(n)\mathbf{u}(n)(e_a(n) - e_p(n))^*
\end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

where we use the psuedo-inverse to define

$$\bar{\mu}(n) := \left( \|\mathbf{u}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}(n)}^2 \right)^{\dagger}$$

Taking the  $\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)$ -weighted norm of both sides of (5), we get  $\|\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n) - \mathbf{q}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)}^2$  for the left side and the following quantity for the right.

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left( \tilde{\mathbf{w}}^H(n-1) - \bar{\mu}(n)e_a(n)\mathbf{u}^H(n)\mathbf{P}(n) + \bar{\mu}(n)e_p(n)\mathbf{u}^H(n)\mathbf{P}(n) \right) \mathbf{P}^{-1}(n) \\
&\cdot \left( \tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n-1) - \bar{\mu}(n)e_a^*(n)\mathbf{P}(n)\mathbf{u}(n) + \bar{\mu}(n)e_p^*(n)\mathbf{P}(n)\mathbf{u}(n) \right) \\
&= \|\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n-1)\|_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)}^2 - \bar{\mu}(n)|e_a(n)|^2 + \bar{\mu}(n)e_p^*(n)e_a(n) \\
&\quad - \bar{\mu}(n)|e_a(n)|^2 + \bar{\mu}(n)|e_a(n)|^2 - \bar{\mu}(n)e_a(n)e_p^*(n) \\
&\quad + \bar{\mu}(n)e_p(n)e_a^*(n) - \bar{\mu}(n)e_p(n)e_a^*(n) + \bar{\mu}(n)|e_p(n)|^2 \\
&= \|\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n-1)\|_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)}^2 - \bar{\mu}(n)|e_a(n)|^2 + \bar{\mu}(n)|e_p(n)|^2
\end{aligned}$$

The energy relation is then summarized as

$$\|\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n) - \mathbf{q}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)}^2 + \bar{\mu}(n)|e_a(n)|^2 = \|\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n-1)\|_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)}^2 + \bar{\mu}(n)|e_p(n)|^2 \quad (6)$$

### 3 Random Walk Assumptions

We assume the following about the random-walk driving-noise  $\{\mathbf{q}(n)\}$  in (1).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{A.1)} \quad \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{q}(n)\} &= 0 \\ \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{q}(n)\mathbf{q}^H(n-k)\} &= \mathbf{Q}\delta_k \quad \text{where } \delta_k \text{ denotes the Kronecker delta} \\ \{\mathbf{q}(n)\} &\perp\!\!\!\perp \{\mathbf{u}(n)\} \\ \{\mathbf{q}(n)\} &\perp\!\!\!\perp \{\boldsymbol{\xi}(n)\} \end{aligned}$$

Examining the expectation of the leftmost term of the energy relation (6), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}\{\|\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n) - \mathbf{q}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)}^2\} \\ = \mathbb{E}\{\|\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)}^2\} - 2\Re \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{q}^H(n)\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n)\} + \mathbb{E}\{\|\mathbf{q}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)}^2\} \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

From (3) we have

$$\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n) = \tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n-1) + \mathbf{q}(n) - \mathbf{P}(n)\mathbf{u}(n)\xi^*(n)$$

allowing us to simplify the second term on the right side of (7):

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{q}^H(n)\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n)\} \\ = \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{q}^H(n)\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n-1)\} + \mathbb{E}\{\|\mathbf{q}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)}^2\} - \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{q}^H(n)\mathbf{u}(n)\xi^*(n)\} \\ = \mathbb{E}\{\|\mathbf{q}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)}^2\} \end{aligned}$$

where the first and third terms vanished as a result of A.1). Plugging the previous (real-valued) expression into (7) yields

$$\mathbb{E}\{\|\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n) - \mathbf{q}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)}^2\} = \mathbb{E}\{\|\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)}^2\} - \mathbb{E}\{\|\mathbf{q}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)}^2\} \quad (8)$$

### 4 Steady-State Analysis

We claim that when the adaptation algorithm has reached “steady state”,

$$\mathbb{E}\{\|\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)}^2\} = \mathbb{E}\{\|\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n-1)\|_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)}^2\}$$

Taking the expectation of (6) and incorporating (8), we find the following steady state relationship:

$$\mathbb{E}\{\bar{\mu}(n)|e_a(n)|^2\} = \mathbb{E}\{\bar{\mu}(n)|e_p(n)|^2\} + \mathbb{E}\{\|\mathbf{q}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)}^2\} \quad (9)$$

To proceed further, we make a few assumptions:

- A.2)  $E\{\mathbf{u}(n)\mathbf{u}^H(n)\} = \mathbf{R}$  and  $\mathbf{R} > 0$
- A.3)  $\{\xi_*(n)\}$  i.i.d.  $\Rightarrow \{\xi_*(n)\} \perp\!\!\!\perp \{\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(n-1)\}$   
 $\{\xi_*(n)\} \perp\!\!\!\perp \{\mathbf{u}(n)\}$   $\Rightarrow \{\xi_*(n)\} \perp\!\!\!\perp \{e_a(n)\}$
- A.4)  $E\{\mathbf{P}(n)\mathbf{u}(n)\mathbf{u}^H(n)\} = E\{\mathbf{P}(n)\} E\{\mathbf{u}(n)\mathbf{u}^H(n)\}$  (e.g., from  $\lambda \approx 1$ )
- A.5)  $E\{\|\mathbf{u}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}(n)}^2 | e_a(n)|^2\} = E\{\|\mathbf{u}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}(n)}^2\} E\{|e_a(n)|^2\}$  (e.g., from large  $M$ )
- A.6)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E\{\Phi^{-1}(n)\} = (\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E\{\Phi(n)\})^{-1}$  (e.g., Wishart theory [3, p. 452])

First, using the implications of A.3), we have

$$\begin{aligned} J(n) &:= E\{|\xi(n)|^2\} \\ &= E\{|e_a(n) + \xi_*(n)|^2\} \\ &= E\{|e_a(n)|^2\} + E\{|\xi_*(n)|^2\} \\ &= E\{|e_a(n)|^2\} + J_{\min} \\ J_{\text{emse}} &:= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} J(n) - J_{\min} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E\{|e_a(n)|^2\} \end{aligned}$$

Then, from (2), (4), and A.3), we see that the first term on the right side of (9) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} &E\{\bar{\mu}(n)|e_p(n)|^2\} \\ &= E\left\{\bar{\mu}(n) \left| e_a(n) - \|\mathbf{u}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}(n)}^2 \xi(n) \right|^2\right\} \\ &= E\left\{\bar{\mu}(n) \left| (1 - \|\mathbf{u}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}(n)}^2) e_a(n) + \|\mathbf{u}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}(n)}^2 \xi_*(n) \right|^2\right\} \\ &= E\left\{\bar{\mu}(n) |e_a(n)|^2\right\} - 2 E\left\{|e_a(n)|^2\right\} + E\left\{\|\mathbf{u}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}(n)}^2 |e_a(n)|^2\right\} + E\left\{\|\mathbf{u}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}(n)}^2 |\xi_*(n)|^2\right\} \end{aligned}$$

So the steady-state relationship (9) becomes (after cancellation of  $E\{\bar{\mu}(n)|e_a(n)|^2\}$  terms)

$$2 E\{|e_a(n)|^2\} = E\left\{\|\mathbf{u}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}(n)}^2 |e_a(n)|^2\right\} + E\left\{\|\mathbf{u}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}(n)}^2 |\xi_*(n)|^2\right\} + E\left\{\|\mathbf{q}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)}^2\right\} \quad (10)$$

Looking at the first term on the right side of (10), we have, from A.4) and A.5),

$$\begin{aligned} E\left\{\|\mathbf{u}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}(n)}^2 |e_a(n)|^2\right\} &= E\left\{\|\mathbf{u}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}(n)}^2\right\} E\{|e_a(n)|^2\} \\ &= \text{tr}\left(E\{\mathbf{P}(n)\mathbf{u}(n)\mathbf{u}^H(n)\}\right) E\{|e_a(n)|^2\} \\ &= \text{tr}\left(E\{\mathbf{P}(n)\} E\{\mathbf{u}(n)\mathbf{u}^H(n)\}\right) E\{|e_a(n)|^2\} \\ &= \text{tr}\left(E\{\mathbf{P}(n)\}\mathbf{R}\right) E\{|e_a(n)|^2\} \end{aligned}$$

where  $E\{\mathbf{P}(n)\}$  requires further investigation. Using the fact that

$$\begin{aligned} E\{\Phi(n)\} &= \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda^{n-i} E\{\mathbf{u}(n)\mathbf{u}^H(n)\} + \delta\lambda^n \mathbf{I} \\ &= \begin{cases} \frac{1-\lambda^n}{1-\lambda} \mathbf{R} + \delta\lambda^n \mathbf{I} & \lambda < 1 \\ n\mathbf{R} + \delta\mathbf{I} & \lambda = 1 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

we find, via A.6),

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E\{\mathbf{P}(n)\} &= \left( \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E\{\Phi(n)\} \right)^{-1} \\ &= \begin{cases} (1-\lambda) \mathbf{R}^{-1} & \lambda < 1 \\ 0 & \lambda = 1 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

implying that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E\left\{ \|\mathbf{u}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}(n)}^2 |e_a(n)|^2 \right\} = \begin{cases} M(1-\lambda)J_{\text{emse}} & \lambda < 1 \\ 0 & \lambda = 1 \end{cases}$$

Looking next at the second term on the right side of (10), we get from A.3) and A.6)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E\left\{ \|\mathbf{u}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}(n)}^2 |\xi_\star(n)|^2 \right\} = \begin{cases} M(1-\lambda)J_{\min} & \lambda < 1 \\ 0 & \lambda = 1 \end{cases}$$

For the last term on the right side of (10), assumptions A.1) and A.2) yield

$$\begin{aligned} E\{\|\mathbf{q}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)}^2\} &= E\{\mathbf{q}^H(n)\Phi(n)\mathbf{q}(n)\} \\ &= \text{tr}(E\{\mathbf{q}(n)\mathbf{q}^H(n)\Phi(n)\}) \\ &= \text{tr}\left(E\{\mathbf{q}(n)\mathbf{q}^H(n)\} \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda^{n-i} E\{\mathbf{u}(n)\mathbf{u}^H(n)\} + \delta\lambda^n E\{\mathbf{q}(n)\mathbf{q}^H(n)\}\right) \\ &= \text{tr}(\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R}) \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda^{n-i} + \delta\lambda^n \text{tr}(\mathbf{Q}) \\ &= \begin{cases} \frac{1-\lambda^n}{1-\lambda} \text{tr}(\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R}) + \delta\lambda^n \text{tr}(\mathbf{Q}) & \lambda < 1 \\ n \text{tr}(\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R}) + \delta \text{tr}(\mathbf{Q}) & \lambda = 1 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

so that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E\{\|\mathbf{q}(n)\|_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}(n)}^2\} = \begin{cases} (1-\lambda)^{-1} \text{tr}(\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R}) & \lambda < 1 \\ \infty & \lambda = 1 \text{ and } \mathbf{Q} \neq \mathbf{0} \\ 0 & \lambda = 1 \text{ and } \mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{0} \end{cases}$$

Collecting our findings on the asymptotic behavior of (10), we have

$$2J_{\text{emse}} = \begin{cases} M(1-\lambda)J_{\text{emse}} + M(1-\lambda)J_{\min} + (1-\lambda)^{-1} \text{tr}(\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R}) & \lambda < 1 \\ \infty & \lambda = 1 \text{ and } \mathbf{Q} \neq \mathbf{0} \\ 0 & \lambda = 1 \text{ and } \mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{0} \end{cases}$$

which, for the  $\lambda < 1$  case, gives

$$J_{\text{emse, RLS}} = \frac{M(1-\lambda)J_{\min} + (1-\lambda)^{-1} \text{tr}(\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R})}{2 - M(1-\lambda)} \quad (11)$$

$$\approx \frac{1}{2} \left( M(1-\lambda)J_{\min} + (1-\lambda)^{-1} \text{tr}(\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R}) \right) \quad \text{when } |M(1-\lambda)| \ll 2 \quad (12)$$

Note the EMSE component due to  $J_{\min}$  and due to time variations (i.e.,  $\mathbf{Q}$ ).

## 5 Optimum Forgetting Factor

The value of  $\lambda$  that minimizes  $J_{\text{emse}}$  can be obtained by zeroing the partial derivative of (12) with respect to  $(1-\lambda)$ . This yields

$$\lambda_{\text{opt}} \approx 1 - \sqrt{\frac{\text{tr}(\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R})}{MJ_{\min}}} \quad (13)$$

$$J_{\text{emse, RLS}}|_{\text{opt}} \approx \sqrt{MJ_{\min} \text{tr}(\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R})} \quad (14)$$

## 6 Comparison to LMS

Recall the counterparts of (11)–(14) for LMS:

$$J_{\text{emse, LMS}} = \frac{\mu \text{tr}(\mathbf{R})J_{\min} + \mu^{-1} \text{tr}(\mathbf{Q})}{2 - \mu \text{tr}(\mathbf{R})} \quad (15)$$

$$\approx \frac{1}{2} \left( \mu \text{tr}(\mathbf{R})J_{\min} + \mu^{-1} \text{tr}(\mathbf{Q}) \right) \quad \text{when } \mu \text{tr}(\mathbf{R}) \ll 2 \quad (16)$$

$$\mu_{\text{opt}} \approx \sqrt{\frac{\text{tr}(\mathbf{Q})}{J_{\min} \text{tr}(\mathbf{R})}} \quad (17)$$

$$J_{\text{emse, LMS}}|_{\text{opt}} \approx \sqrt{J_{\min} \text{tr}(\mathbf{R}) \text{tr}(\mathbf{Q})} \quad (18)$$

Comparing the optimal values of EMSE for LMS and RLS we find

$$\frac{J_{\text{emse, LMS}}|_{\text{opt}}}{J_{\text{emse, RLS}}|_{\text{opt}}} = \sqrt{\frac{\text{tr}(\mathbf{R}) \text{tr}(\mathbf{Q})}{M \text{tr}(\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R})}} \quad (19)$$

Thus the relationship between  $\mathbf{R}$  and  $\mathbf{Q}$  will determine which of the two algorithms gives lower steady-state MSE. A few instructive cases are presented below [3]. It is interesting to note that the simple LMS algorithm can have exhibit *tracking* performance superior to the computationally-intensive RLS algorithm in certain environments. However, it should be noted that the *convergence* of RLS is typically much faster than that of LMS.

- $\underline{\mathbf{Q} = \sigma_q^2 \mathbf{I}}$ : In this case we find that the two algorithms provide essentially the same level of steady-state MSE.

$$J_{\text{emse}} \approx \sqrt{M J_{\min} \sigma_q^2 \text{tr}(\mathbf{R})}$$

- $\underline{\mathbf{Q} = c\mathbf{R}}$ : In this case LMS yields lower steady-state MSE:

$$\frac{J_{\text{emse, LMS}}|_{\text{opt}}}{J_{\text{emse, RLS}}|_{\text{opt}}} = \sqrt{\frac{\text{tr}(\mathbf{R})^2}{M \text{tr}(\mathbf{R}^2)}} < 1$$

- $\underline{\mathbf{Q} = c\mathbf{R}^{-1}}$ : In this case RLS yields lower steady-state MSE:

$$\frac{J_{\text{emse, LMS}}|_{\text{opt}}}{J_{\text{emse, RLS}}|_{\text{opt}}} = \frac{1}{M} \sqrt{\text{tr}(\mathbf{R}) \text{tr}(\mathbf{R}^{-1})} > 1$$

The inequalities above can be proven using the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality for vectors:  $|\mathbf{x}^H \mathbf{y}|^2 \leq \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \|\mathbf{y}\|^2$ .

## References

- [1] N. B. Yousef and A. H. Sayed, “A unified approach to the steady-state and tracking analyses of adaptive filters,” *IEEE Trans. on Signal Processing*, vol. 49, pp. 314–324, Feb. 2001.
- [2] M. Rupp and A. H. Sayed, “Robustness of Gauss-Newton recursive methods: A deterministic feedback analysis,” *Signal Processing*, vol. 50, pp. 165–187, 1996.
- [3] S. Haykin, *Adaptive Filter Theory*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 4th ed., 2001.