FINITE-STEP METHOD FOR DETERMINING EQUILIBRIUM STATE OF GYROTHEODOLITE

The problem of orientation of a solid by using a torsion suspended gyrotheodolite is considered. Such gyrotheodolites are widely used in modern technology. During their operation, the problem arises of identifying the equilibrium position. It can be solved in many ways. A method is proposed for identifying the equilibrium position of a gyrotheodolite, which has several advantages over other well-known classical methods (least squares method, Kalman filter, and others). A mathematical description of the gyrotheodolite rotor motion is provided, a mathematical model of the method is given, and further development of the research is indicated.

Key words: gyrotheodolite, azimuth, gyroscope, inertial moment, damping moment, directing moment, moment from other unaccounted process forces.

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КІНЦЕВО-КРОКОВИЙ МЕТОД ВИЗНАЧЕННЯ РІВНОВАЖНОГО ПОЛОЖЕННЯ ГІРОТЕОДОЛІТА

Розглядається задача орієнтації твердого тіла за допомогою гіротеодоліта на торсіонному підвісі. Такі гіротеодоліти мають широке застосування в сучасній техніці. При їх роботі виникає задача ідентифікації положення рівноваги. Вона може вирішуватися багатьма способами. Запропоновано метод ідентифікації рівноважного положення гіротеодоліта, який має ряд переваг перед іншими відомими класичними методами (методом найменших квадратів, фільтром Калмана та іншими). Висвітлено математичний опис руху ротора гіротеодоліта, дана математична модель методу і зазначено подальший розвиток даних досліджень.

Ключові слова: гіротеодоліт, азимут, гіроскоп, інерційний момент, демпфуючий момент, спрямувальний момент, момент від інших неврахованих сил процесу.

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КОНЕЧНО-ШАГОВЫЙ МЕТОД ОПРЕДЕЛЕНИЯ РАВНОВЕСНОГО ПОЛОЖЕНИЯ ГИРОТЕОДОЛITA

Рассматривается задача орентации твердого тела с помощью гиротеодолита на торсийном подвесе. Такие гиротеодолиты имеют широкое применение в современной технике. При их работе возникает задача идентификации положения равновесия. Она может решаться многими способами. Предложен метод идентификации равновесного положения гиротеодолита, который имеет ряд преимуществ перед другими известными классическими методами (методом наименьших квадратов, фильтром Калмана и другими). Изложено математическое описание движения ротора гиротеодолита, дана математическая модель метода и обозначено дальнейшее развитие данных исследований.

Ключевые слова: гиротеодолит, азимут, гирокомпас, инерциальный момент, демпфирующий момент, направляющий момент, момент от прочих неучтенных сил процесса.

Introduction. Nowadays the majority of the problems of identification of the parameters of orientation systems by the measurement results are solved using the algorithms based on various numerical methods. When developing a competitive numerical method one needs to provide for a series of requirements which are due to the features of the specific practical problem considered. When identifying the gyrotheodolite equilibrium position it is of particular importance to meet the following requirements:

– providing the identification accuracy;
– the minimal amount of measurements;
– the algorithm performance;
– stability of the computational process;
– the algorithm simplicity;
– low interference susceptibility.

Previous to developing a mathematical model of the method proposed in this paper we consider the features of the mathematical description of the gyrotheodolite rotor motion.

A gyrotheodolite is commonly used for determining the azimuths of directions on the Earth’s surface. By its construction a gyrotheodolite is an angle gauge incorporating a gyroscope, which is the part of the device responsible for determining the direction of the true meridian, and a theodolite [1].

The problem of determining the azimuth arises in various applications, such as, for instance, navigation of aircrafts, ships, submarines, during surveying, mine tunneling, etc. For solving this problem gyroscopic azimuth-orientation instruments are widely used, which have several advantages over the astronomical, magnetic and other methods, such as the capability to operate in any season and at any time of the day, inside closed objects including indoor spaces [2].

Fig. 1 – Gyrotheodolite model.
In the majority of the gyrotheodolite models available the sensitive element, which is directly involved in determining the true meridian plane, consists of a torsion suspended pendulous gyroscope with automated tracking system (fig. 1).

Gyrorotor 1 in casing 2 is suspended by a flexible tape called torsion 3. In order to reduce the uncertainty torque caused by the torsion elastic torque (torsion bar spring tension) a tracking system or torsion support system is introduced, which rotates the torsion upper end fixation unit following the motion of the sensitive element. The tracking system is composed of mirror 4, error sensor 7, amplifier 6 and drive 5 connected to torsion upper end fixation unit 3 [2].

To simplify the explanation of the operation principle of a torsion suspended two-degree-of-freedom gyrotheodolite pendulum let us assume that the gyrotheodolite is placed at the Equator (fig. 2) and the main gyroscope axis is horizontal and aligned with the West-East direction at the initial moment of time, besides the kinetic momentum is directed eastwards (position I, fig. 2). In this case the sensitive element gravity center is in the vertical plane and, hence, does not generate a moment about the gyromotor axis. Due to the daily rotation of the Earth the horizon plane as well as the direction of the local vertical changes its location with respect to the inertial space continuously. At the same time the direction of the gyrorotor axis stays unchanged in the inertial space, since no momentum is applied to the gyroscope in position I, fig. 2. Hence, the main axis deviates from the local horizon plane (position II, fig. 2), besides the gyroscope rotates about the point at which it is attached to the torsion. The gravitational moment generated thereby \( M_p = P \ell \beta \), where \( \beta \) is the angle of deviation of the gyroscope main axis from the meridian plane (position II, fig. 2), induces the gyroscope precession in the direction which takes the kinetic moment \( \vec{H} \) to get aligned with the meridian plane (position IV, fig. 2).

In order for the gyroscope main axis to keep its northwards direction after being aligned with the meridian plane it needs to rotate with the same angular velocity as the meridian plane, i.e. \( \dot{\phi}_e \sin \phi \) at the latitude \( \phi \), where \( \dot{\phi}_e \) is the angular velocity of the Earth.

Thus at the deviation by angle \( \alpha_0 \) (or \( \beta_0 \)) the gyrocompass executes undamped oscillations about its equilibrium position, which lies in the meridian plane, moreover the trajectory of the gyroscope axis is an ellipse which semi-major axis is in the horizon plane and semi-minor axis is in the vertical plane. As a rule the ratio \( \alpha_{max} / \beta_{max} \) reaches 200 – 500 and the oscillation period is tens of minutes. Since the vertical component of the angular velocity of the Earth at the Equator is zero: \( \dot{\phi} = 0^\circ \), \( \dot{\phi}_p = \dot{\phi}_e \sin \phi = 0 \), the middle position of the oscillations of the gyroscope in the \( \beta \) angle (fig. 3) lies in the horizon plane. At arbitrary latitude the trajectory (fig. 4) of the gyroscope axis is also an ellipse with center shifted up by \( \beta^* \) (for northern latitude).

Thus the gravitational moment needs to give rise to gyroscope precession in azimuth with the velocity \( \omega_{pr} = \omega_e \sin \phi \) relative to the inertial space:

\[
\omega_{pr} = \frac{M_p}{H} \quad \text{or} \quad \omega_e \sin \phi = \frac{P \ell \beta^*}{H} , \tag{1}
\]
At the deviation of the main axis from the horizon plane the angle velocity of the gyroscope precession is the same as the velocity of the meridian plane rotation. Nevertheless, there occur the oscillations of the gyroscope main axis relative to the meridian plane, which origins are considered below.

Assume that at the initial moment of time the gyroscope main axis is in the horizon plane at the Equator and it is deviated from the meridian plane by the angle \( \alpha_0 \) (point 1 in fig. 3). Since at this position the angle \( \beta = 0 \) and the pendulosity \( M_p = 0 \), the gyroscope acts as a free gyroscope, i.e. the positive end of its main axis falls relative to the horizon plane due to the Earth’s rotation. The deviation of the gyroscope main axis by the angle \( \beta \) from the horizon plane results in the gyrotheodolite velocity. The motion of the gyrotheodolite main axis is approximately described by the following equation [4]:

\[
A\ddot{\alpha} + D\dot{\alpha} + HU \cos \phi \sin \phi = M, \tag{3}
\]

where \( A\ddot{\alpha} \) is the inertia moment; \( D\dot{\alpha} \) is the damping moment; \( HU \cos \phi \sin \phi \) is the meridian alignment moment; \( M \) stands for the moment resulting from other unaccounted forces; \( U \) is the gyrotheodolite velocity.

Equation (3) can be considered as a particular case of an automatic control system (ACS).

The problem of identification of system parameters by the output signal measurement results is one of the relevant identification problems, which in the case of equation (1) consists in identifying the true meridian or the angle \( \alpha \) equilibrium.

In those cases when in the process of problem solving the volume of the stored information and processing time are strictly regulated applying the classical methods (such as, for instance, Kalman filter, etc.) can’t be justified. Then the finite-step method proposed in this paper can be successfully applied, which provides a solution after a finite predetermined number of computations without any iterative procedure involved. At the same time the solution obtained by this method is mathematically exact.

We need to mention here that the algorithm proposed provides a solution to the identification problem for a real ACS with the given accuracy in the case when its mathematical model slightly differs from the real one.

**Problem setting. Main and secondary problems.** The solution to equation (1) and those which are similar to it can be given by the sum of a constant \( R \) and decaying sinusoids as follows:
\[ \alpha(t) = R + \sum_{k=1}^{N} A_k^\prime R^\beta_k \sin \left( \omega_k t + \psi_k \right), \] 
where \( \beta_k \) can be either positive or zero [4].

Since in the case of gyroaccelerometer and some ACS’s the constant is the main object to be identified, the problem of computing \( R \) with high accuracy in limited time is referred to as the main problem below. Then the secondary problem consists in identifying the parameters \( A_k^\prime, \beta_k, \omega_k, \psi_k \). The algorithm presented in the paper provides for solving both of these problems. Nevertheless, the main focus is on the substantiation of the main problem with outlining the ways for solving the secondary one. Let us name the method presented the method of equidistant points.

**Mathematical model. Method of equidistant points.** Solving the main problem, i.e. the problem of identifying the constant \( R \) in (4), requires sufficient number \( N \) of measurements \( \alpha(t_j) \). The number \( N \) depends on the quantity of the unknown parameters in (4) which need to be identified. We assume that the measurements are taken at regular intervals of time, then
\[ t_j = t_0 + j \Delta t, \quad (j = 0, 1, 2, ..., n), \]
where \( t_0 \) and \( t_j \) denote the moments of the initial and current measurements; \( \Delta t \) is the given step of measurements; \( j \) is the measurement number.

Let us choose a conditional midpoint on the measurement time interval from \( t_0 \) to \( t_N \):
\[ t_c = \frac{t_0 + t_N}{2} = t_0 + p' \Delta t, \]
where \( p = 2p' < N \). The specific values of \( p' \) and \( N \) are determined below.

In what follows we operate with the values \( t_j \) and \( t_{p-j} \) symmetric with respect to the midpoint. From (5) and (6) it follows that:
\[ t_c = \frac{t_j + t_{p-j}}{2}; \quad t_{p-j} = 2t_c - t_j, \]
that is why the method of solving the main problem given below is called the method of equidistant points:
\[ t_{p-j} \text{ and } t_j \text{ are distanced equally from } t_c. \]

Assuming that the measurement \( \alpha(t) \) can be given analytically by (4) we write down the differences and sums of measurements for equidistant points:
\[ \alpha_{p-j} - \alpha_j = \alpha_{p'-(p'-j)} - \alpha_{p'-(p'-j)} = R + \sum_{k=1}^{N} A_k^\prime e^{-\beta_k t_{p-j}} \sin \left( \omega_k t_{p-j} + \psi_k \right) - R - \sum_{k=1}^{N} A_k^\prime e^{\beta_k t_{p-j}} \sin \left( \omega_k t_j + \psi_k \right) = \]
\[ = \sum_{k=1}^{N} A_k^\prime \left[ e^{-\beta_k t_{p-j}} \sin \left( \omega_k t_{p-j} + \psi_k \right) - e^{\beta_k t_{p-j}} \sin \left( \omega_k t_j + \psi_k \right) \right]; \]
\[ \alpha_{p'-j} + \alpha_j = \alpha_{p'-(p'-j)} + \alpha_{p'-(p'-j)} = 2R + \sum_{k=1}^{N} A_k^\prime \left[ e^{-\beta_k t_{p-j}} \sin \left( \omega_k t_{p-j} + \psi_k \right) + e^{\beta_k t_{p-j}} \sin \left( \omega_k t_j + \psi_k \right) \right]. \]

The dependence of \( t_j \) and \( t_{p-j} \) on the midpoint \( t_c \) is given by:
\[ t_j = t_0 + j \Delta t = t_0 + p' \Delta t - (p' - j) \Delta t = t_c - (p' - j) \Delta t; \]
\[ t_{p-j} = t_0 + (p' - j) \Delta t = t_0 + p' \Delta t + (p' - j) \Delta t = t_c + (p' - j) \Delta t. \]

We transform the expression in square brackets in (7) using the Euler formulae:
\[ e^{-\beta_k t_{p-j}} \sin \left( \omega_k t_{p-j} + \psi_k \right) - e^{\beta_k t_{p-j}} \sin \left( \omega_k t_j + \psi_k \right) = \exp \left[ -\beta_k t_c - \beta_k (p' - j) \Delta t \right] \sin \left( \omega_k t_c + \omega_k (p' - j) \Delta t + \psi_k \right) - \]
\[ - \exp \left[ -\beta_k t_c + \beta_k (p' - j) \Delta t \right] \sin \left[ \omega_k t_c - \omega_k (p' - j) \Delta t + \psi_k \right] = \exp \left[ -\beta_k t_c - \beta_k (p' - j) \Delta t \right] \times \]
\[ \times \left[ \exp \left[ \left( \omega_k t_c + \omega_k (p' - j) \Delta t + \psi_k \right) i \right] - \exp \left[ \left( \omega_k t_c + \omega_k (p' - j) \Delta t + \psi_k \right)(-i) \right] \right] \frac{1}{2i} = \]
\[ = \exp \left[ -\beta_k t_c + i \left( \omega_k t_c + \psi_k \right) \right] \sin \left[ \left( p' - j \right) \Delta t \left( \omega_k + i \beta_k \right) \right] + \exp \left[ -\beta_k t_c - i \left( \omega_k t_c + \psi_k \right) \right] \sin \left[ \left( p' - j \right) \Delta t \left( \omega_k - i \beta_k \right) \right] = \]
\[ = a_k' \sin \left[ x_k' \left( p' - j \right) \Delta t \right] + a_k' \sin \left[ x_k' \left( p' - j \right) \Delta t \right], \]
where \( a_k' = \exp \left[ -\beta_k t_c + i \left( \omega_k t_c + \psi_k \right) \right]; \]
\[ a_k' = \exp \left[ -\beta_k t_c - i \left( \omega_k t_c + \psi_k \right) \right]; \]
\[ x_k' = \omega_k + i \beta_k; \quad x_k' = \omega_k - i \beta_k; \quad p' \] is the number.
ber of the measurement corresponding to the conditional midpoint.

Apparently the coefficients \( a'_i, a''_i, x'_i, x''_i \) are independent of the number \( j \) and, hence, are the same for any equidistant points \( \alpha_{p-j} \) and \( \alpha_j \) \( (j = 1, 2, \ldots) \).

By analogy transform the expression in the square brackets in (8):

\[
e^{-\beta_k(p-j)} \sin(\omega_k t_{p-j} + \psi_k) + e^{-\beta_k j} \cdot \sin(\omega_k t_j + \psi_k) = b'_k \cos[x'_k(p' - j) \Delta t] + b''_k \cos[x''_k(p' - j) \Delta t],
\]

where \( b'_k = -ia'_k, \ b''_k = ia''_k \).

In the case of zero coefficients \( \beta_k = 0 \) (10) and (11) are simplified to become:

\[
\sin(\omega_k t_{p-j} + \psi_k) - \sin(\omega_k t_j + \psi_k) = 2 \cos(\omega_k t_j + \psi_k) \sin(\omega_k (p' - j) \Delta t) = a''_k \sin(x''_k(p' - j) \Delta t);
\]

\[
\sin(\omega_k t_{p-j} + \psi_k) + \sin(\omega_k t_j + \psi_k) = 2 \sin(\omega_k t_j + \psi_k) \cos(\omega_k (p' - j) \Delta t) = b''_k \cos(x''_k(p' - j) \Delta t),
\]

where \( a''_k = 2 \cos(\omega_k t_j + \psi_k) \), \( b''_k = 2 \sin(\omega_k t_j + \psi_k) \), \((a''_k)^2 + (b''_k)^2 = 4\), \( x''_k = \omega_k \).

Clearly, the coefficients \( a''_k, b''_k, x''_k \) do not depend on the number in this case as well.

Comparing (10) and (12) we conclude that in the both cases \( \beta_k \neq 0 \) and \( \beta_k = 0 \) these expressions are of the same type with the only difference that for \( \beta_k \neq 0 \) we have two summands of the form \( a''_k \sin(x''_k(p' - j) \Delta t) \) and for \( \beta_k = 0 \) only one such summand, where \( a''_k \) and \( x''_k \) are unknown values \( (a''_k = a'_k, a''_k \text{ or } a''_k; x''_k = x'_k, x''_k \text{ or } x''_k) \).

Similarly, (11) and (13) are of the same form \( b''_k \cos(x''_k(p' - j) \Delta t) \) with the unknown \( b''_k \) and \( x''_k \), moreover, the coefficients \( b''_k \) can be written in terms of \( a''_k \). By the above argument, substituting (10) and (11) in (7) and (8) we get:

\[
\delta_m = \alpha_{p-j} - \alpha_j = \sum_{k=1}^{N} A_k \sin(x_k(p' - j) \Delta t); \quad \eta_m = \alpha_{p-j} + \alpha_j = 2R + \sum_{k=1}^{N} B_k \cos(x_k(p' - j) \Delta t),
\]

where \( A_k = A'_k a_k, \ B_k = A'_k b_k = f(A_k) \).

Form (8) and (10) it follows that for each summand of the form \( A'_k e^{-\beta_k j} \sin(\omega_k t_j + \psi_k) \) there are two corresponding summands of the form \( A'_k \sin(x_k(p' - j) \Delta t) \) in the first formula of (14) and two summands of the form \( B'_k \cos(x_k(p' - j) \Delta t) \) in the second formula of (14). Thus each decaying sinusoid is reduced to two complex sinusoids (cosinusoids) with complex amplitudes. From (12) and (13) we have that for each summand of the form \( A_k \sin(\omega_k t_j + \psi_k) \) there is one corresponding summand in (14).

Hence, in (14) the number \( N \) depends on the expected measurement composition and equals:

\[
N = 2n_1 + n_2,
\]

where \( n_1 \) is the number of the decaying sinusoids, \( n_2 \) is the number of the sinusoids that do not decay in formula (4), which is given a priory.

Consequently, formulae (14) derived above contain \( 2N + 1 \) unknowns: \( R, A_k, x_k \), all of which are independent of the measurement number.

To simplify the further argument we introduce the following notations:

\[
\Delta x_k = x_k \Delta t; \quad p' - i = m,
\]

then the differences and sums of measurements are reduces to the form:

\[
\delta_m = \alpha_{p'+m} - \alpha_{p'-m} = \sum_{k=1}^{N} A_k \sin(\Delta x_k \cdot m); \quad \eta_m = \alpha_{p'+m} + \alpha_{p'-m} = 2R + \sum_{k=1}^{N} B_k \cos(\Delta x_k \cdot m),
\]

with the coefficients \( A_k, B_k \) introduced in (14).

In what follows we omit the prime symbol from the notations \( a_k \) and \( x_k \) keeping in mind that these coefficients are the same as given by (19) depending on the value of \( \beta_k \).

Thus we arrive at:

\[
\delta_m = \alpha_{p'+m} - \alpha_{p'-m} = \sum_{k=1}^{N} A_k \sin(\Delta x_k \cdot m);
\]

\[
\eta_m = \alpha_{p'+m} + \alpha_{p'-m} = 2R + \sum_{k=1}^{N} B_k \cos(\Delta x_k \cdot m),
\]

where the unknowns \( R, A_k \) and \( \Delta x_k \) do not depend on the measurement number, \( B_k \) can be written in terms of \( A_k \) (see formulae (14)).
To identify the unknowns let us consequentially set \( m = 1, 2, 3, \ldots, N + 1 \) in (18) and write down the following system of equation:

\[
\delta_m = \sum_{k=1}^{N} A_k \sin \left( \Delta x_k \cdot m \right) \quad (m = 1, 2, 3, \ldots, N + 1),
\]

where \( A_k \) are the coefficients to be identified.

A non-trivial solution \( A_k \) exists if the following determinant equals zero [2]:

\[
\begin{vmatrix}
\delta_{N+1} \\
\delta_N \\
\delta_2 \\
\delta_1 \\
\end{vmatrix} \\
\begin{vmatrix}
\sin \left( (N+1) \Delta x_1 \right) & \sin \left( (N+1) \Delta x_N \right) \\
\sin (N \Delta x_1) & \sin (N \Delta x_N) \\
\sin (2 \Delta x_1) & \sin (2 \Delta x_N) \\
\sin \Delta x_1 & \sin \Delta x_N \\
\end{vmatrix} = 0,
\]

where \( \delta_m \) is given by the formula:

\[
\delta_m^{(l)} = 2 \delta_{m-l}^{(l-1)} \quad (m = 1, 2, \ldots, \ell; \; \ell = 2, 3, \ldots, N),
\]

which is derived by transforming \( D_1 \) as shown below.

We apply the following transformations to the determinant \( D_1 \) given by (21) [5].

We first subtract its third row from the first one, the forth row from the second one, and so on, i.e. we subtract the \((n + 2)\)-th row of the determinant from its \( n \)-th row; the last row but one is kept unchanged and the last one is multiplied by 2.

Then in the \( n \)-th row of the determinant we get:

\[
\sin (N + 2 - n) \Delta x_k - \sin (N + 2 - n - 2) \Delta x_k = 2 \cos (N - n + 1) \Delta x_k \cdot \sin \Delta x_k.
\]

We reduce each column by \( 2 \sin \Delta x_k \) (assuming that \( \Delta x_k \neq 0, k \pi \)).

Thus,

\[
\begin{vmatrix}
\delta_{N+1}^{(l)} & \cos N \Delta x_1 & \ldots & \cos N \Delta x_N \\
\delta_N^{(l)} & \cos (N-1) \Delta x_1 & \ldots & \cos (N-1) \Delta x_N \\
\delta_2^{(l)} & \cos \Delta x_1 & \ldots & \cos \Delta x_N \\
\delta_1^{(l)} & 1 & \ldots & 1 \\
\end{vmatrix} = 0,
\]

where \( \delta_m^{(l)} = \delta_m - \delta_{m-2} \quad (m = 3, 4, \ldots, N + 1) \), \( \delta_2^{(l)} = \delta_2 \), \( \delta_1^{(l)} = 2 \delta_1 \).

Next we add successively the first row of the determinant with its third row, the second row with the forth row, and so on up to the sum of the \((N-1)\)-st and \((N+1)\)-st rows; whereby we get in the \( n \)-th row:

\[
\cos (N + 1 - n) \Delta x_k + \cos (N + 1 - n - 2) \Delta x_k = 2 \cos (N - n) \Delta x_k \cos \Delta x_k.
\]

Multiplying the \( N \)-th and \((N+1)\)-st rows by 2 we then reduce each row of the determinant by 2:
where \( y_k = \cos \Delta x_k \) \( (k = 1, 2, ..., N) \); \( \delta_3^{(4)} = \delta_3^{(2)} + \delta_3^{(1)} \) \( (m = 3, 4, ..., N + 1) \); \( \delta_2^{(2)} = 2\delta_2^{(1)} \); \( \delta_1^{(2)} = 2\delta_1^{(1)} \).

Summing the determinant rows as above up to the sum of the \( (N - 2) \)-nd and \( N \)-th rows and multiplying the rows with numbers \( N \), \( N - 1 \) and \( N + 1 \) by 2, after reducing all the columns by 2 we arrive at the following equation:

\[
D_4^{(2)} = \begin{vmatrix}
\delta_{N+1}^{(2)} & y_1 \cos (N-1) \Delta x_1 & ... & y_N \cos (N-1) \Delta x_N \\
\delta_N^{(2)} & y_1 \cos (N-2) \Delta x_1 & ... & y_N \cos (N-2) \Delta x_N \\
\delta_3^{(2)} & y_1^2 & ... & y_N^2 \\
\delta_2^{(2)} & y_1 & ... & y_N \\
\delta_1^{(2)} & 1 & ... & 1
\end{vmatrix} = 0,
\]

where \( \delta_3^{(4)} = \delta_3^{(2)} + \delta_3^{(1)} \) \( (m = 4, 5, ..., N + 1) \); \( \delta_3^{(3)} = 2\delta_3^{(2)} \) \( (m = 1, 2, 3) \).

By repeating the procedure we get:

\[
D_4^{(3)} = \begin{vmatrix}
\delta_{N+1}^{(3)} & y_1^2 \cos [(N-2) \Delta x_1] & ... & y_N^2 \cos [(N-2) \Delta x_N] \\
\delta_N^{(3)} & y_1^2 \cos [(N-3) \Delta x_1] & ... & y_N^2 \cos [(N-3) \Delta x_N] \\
\delta_3^{(3)} & y_1^3 & ... & y_N^3 \\
\delta_2^{(3)} & y_1^2 & ... & y_N^2 \\
\delta_1^{(3)} & y_1 & ... & y_N \\
\delta_0^{(3)} & 1 & ... & 1
\end{vmatrix} = 0,
\]

where \( \delta_3^{(3)} = \delta_3^{(2)} + \delta_3^{(1)} \) \( (m = 4, 5, ..., N + 1) \); \( \delta_3^{(3)} = 2\delta_3^{(2)} \) \( (m = 1, 2, 3) \).

Expanding determinant (23) by the elements of its first column and dividing the equation obtained by the cofactors of the element \( \delta_{N+1}^{(N)} \) we have:

\[
\sum_{i=1}^N z_i \delta_{N+1-i}^{(N)} = -\delta_{N+1}^{(N)},
\]

where

\[
z_i = (-1)^i \cdot \frac{D_{i+1}}{D_1} \quad (i = 1, 2, 3, ..., N),
\]

and the determinants \( D_{i+1} \) \( (i = 0, 1, 2, 3, ..., N) \) are derived by deleting the \( (i+1) \)-st row from the table:
The determinant $D_1$ obtained from table (28) by deleting its first row is in fact the Vandermonde determinant and can be computed by the formula [2]:

$$D_1 = \left( y_1 - y_2 \right) \left( y_1 - y_3 \right) \cdots \left( y_1 - y_N \right) \left( y_2 - y_3 \right) \cdots \left( y_{N-1} - y_N \right).$$

The determinant $D_1$ does not vanish if $y_k \neq y_m$ for $k \neq m$ ($k, m = 1, 2, ..., N$).

Hence, if condition (30) holds then system (20) is reduced to a single linear equation (26) in $N$ unknowns $z_i$.

By analogy one reduces the system of equations obtained from (19) for $m$ equal to $0, 1, 2, ..., N$:

$$\eta_m = 2R + \sum_{k=1}^{N} B_k \cos(\Delta x_k \cdot m) \quad (m = 0, 1, 2, ..., N),$$

where the coefficients $B_k$ are unknown. A non-trivial solution $B_k$ exists if the following determinant is zero:

$$D_2 = \begin{vmatrix} \eta_N - 2R & \cos N\Delta x & \cdots & \cos N\Delta x_N \\ \eta_{N-1} - 2R & \cos[(N-1)\Delta x] & \cdots & \cos[(N-1)\Delta x_N] \\ \eta_2 - 2R & \cos(2\Delta x_1) & \cdots & \cos(2\Delta x_N) \\ \eta_1 - 2R & \cos \Delta x_1 & \cdots & \cos \Delta x_N \\ \eta_0 - 2R & 1 & \cdots & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 0.$$

Arguing as above, the determinant $D_2$ can be reduced to the form:

$$D_2^{(N)} = \begin{vmatrix} \eta_N^{(N)} - 2^N R & y_1^N & \cdots & y_N^N \\ \eta_{N-1}^{(N)} - 2^N R & y_1^{N-1} & \cdots & y_N^{N-1} \\ \eta_2^{(N)} - 2^N R & 1 & \cdots & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 0,$$

where

$$\eta_m^{(l)} = \eta_m^{(l-1)} + \eta_{m-2}^{(l-1)} \quad (m = \ell, \ell+1, ..., N); \quad \eta_m^{(l)} = 2\eta_m^{(l-1)} \quad (m = 1, 2, ..., \ell; \quad \ell = 2, 3, ..., N).$$

We expand determinant (32) following the same procedure as for determinant (22) above to get:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} z_i \left( \eta_{N-1}^{(N)} - 2^N R \right) = - \left( \eta_N^{(N)} - 2^N R \right),$$

where $z_i$ are given by (27).

Introducing the notations $\Phi_i = \delta_{N+1-i}^{(N)}$; $Q = \eta_{N-1}^{(N)}$ for simplifying the representation, we reduce equations (26) and (34) to the form:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} z_i \Phi_i = -Q_0; \quad \sum_{i=1}^{N} z_i \left( Q - 2^N R \right) = -\left( Q_0 - 2^N R \right).$$

Thus constructing the linear combinations of differences (18) and sums (19) of measurements at equidistant points by formulae (25) and (33) we arrive at system of equations (35) in $N+1$ unknowns, namely $N$ unknown values of $z_i$ and the unknown constant $R$. This transformation has place if inequality (30) holds, which since $y_k = \cos \Delta x_k$ (where $\Delta x_k = x_k \cdot \Delta t$, $x_k = \omega_k \pm i\beta_k$) can be written as follows: $\cos \Delta x_k \Delta t \neq \cos \Delta x_m \Delta t$ ($k \neq m$, $k = 1, 2, ..., N$, $m = 1, 2, ..., N$) or, otherwise:
that is the analytical form of measurements (4) does not contain same frequency sinusoids and the measurement step \( \Delta t \) must satisfy inequality (36).

In order to determine all the unknowns \( (N \) values of \( z_i \) and the constant \( R \)) from system (35) it needs to be expanded to contain \( N+1 \) equation. This can be done by using equation (35) \( N \) times, shifting the conditional midpoint by one step \( \Delta t \) to the right each next time, i.e.:

\[
\sum_{i=1}^{N} z_i \varphi_{i,S} = -\varphi_{0,S} \quad (S = 0, 1, 2, ..., N-1),
\]

where \( \varphi_{0,0} = \varphi_0 \) from (35); \( \varphi_{0,S} = \delta_{N+1-i+S} \cdot \delta_{i} \) are given by (25). \( z_i \) is given by (27).

Hence, the expanded system of equations for identifying \( N \) unknowns \( z_i \) and \( R \) is written in the form:

\[
\sum_{i=1}^{N} z_i \varphi_{i,S} = -\varphi_{0,S} \quad (S = 0, 1, 2, ..., N-1); \quad \sum_{i=1}^{N} z_i \left( Q_i - 2^N R \right) = -\left( Q - 2^N R \right). 
\]

All the values \( z_i \) can be found from the first \( N \) equations of system (37) in case the system determinant is non-zero:

\[
D = \begin{vmatrix}
\varphi_{0,0} & \varphi_{2,0} & \cdots & \varphi_{N,0} \\
\varphi_{0,1} & \varphi_{2,1} & \cdots & \varphi_{N,1} \\
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
\varphi_{0,N-1} & \varphi_{2,N-1} & \cdots & \varphi_{N,N} \\
\end{vmatrix} \neq 0,
\]

which has place for the actual measurements.

Then from the last equation of (37) we find \( R \):

\[
R = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} z_i Q_i + Q_0}{2^N \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N} z_i + 1 \right)}. 
\]

This concludes the solution of the main problem of the method of equidistant points.

Apparently, to solve the main problem by formulae (37), (38) one needs the measurement \( \alpha(t) \) taken at \( 3N+2 \) points, where \( N = 2n_1 + n_2 \) according to (15), i.e. the number of measurements needs to be greater than the number of the unknowns in the measurement analytical formula (4).

The sufficient number of measurements is \( N_1 = 3N+2 \), and the measurement corresponding to the conditional midpoint satisfies \( \rho' \geq N+2 \).

The solution to the secondary problem can be derived by determining \( z_i \) from (37) and subsequent computation of \( y_j \) \( (j = 1, 2, 3, ..., N) \), which are in fact the roots of the equation:

\[
y^N + \sum_{i=1}^{N} (-1)^i z_i y^{N-1} = 0 \quad [4].
\]

The values of \( y_j \) being determined we then find \( \Delta x = x_\Delta t \) and can compute \( \beta_k \) and \( \omega_k \) by formulae (10). We also note that \( A_k \) and \( B_k \) can be identified form (20) and (31), and their values can then be used to compute the amplitudes \( A_k \) and phases \( \varphi_k \) of the sinusoids in (4). Since this problem is not in the focus of the present paper we limit ourselves here to just outlining the ways of it’s solving.

**Prospects of further research.** The further development of the methods of identification of system parameters comprises:

- development of the algorithms for solving the main problem in the case when the process is given in the form:

\[
\alpha = R + \sum_{k=1}^{N} A_e(t) e^{-\beta_k t} \sin(\omega_k t + \varphi_k) .
\]


where $A_i'(i)$ is the polynomial corresponding to the multiple roots of the differential equation considered;

- development of the efficient methods for solving the secondary problem;
- improvement of the algorithms aimed at reducing the number of the measurements required;
- construction of the error correction algorithms providing the improvement in accuracy while reducing the information retrieval time.

Studying these points provides a sufficient solution for a wide range of practical problems.

**Conclusions.** In this paper a mathematical substantiation and computational formulae of an innovative finite-step computational method are presented. The algorithm developed is efficient for solving both main and secondary problems. When solving such problems for specific systems their respective features need to be taken into account, which essentially improves the accuracy of the results as well as the processing time. The results and computational formulae proposed can be used for solving similar problems of identification of various automatic control systems.

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