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## Three-level Stackelberg Strategies in Linear-Quadratic Descriptor Systems

by

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In this paper open-loop three-level Stackelberg strategies in deterministic, sequential decision-making problems for linear discrete-time descriptor systems and quadratic cost function are studied. Necessary conditions for existence of open-loop Stackelberg strategies are derived. Open-loop Stackelberg solutions (norm - minimizing) are calculated from the necessary conditions and the conditions for existence of a unique solution of the necessary conditions are given. An example is given to illustrate the results of the paper.

### 1. Introduction

A great deal of attention has been paid to methods of design and analysis of Stackelberg strategies in multi-level sequential decision-making problems [1,5,8-10]. During the last 20 years, there has been much interest in studying of the descriptor systems [3-4,6-7]. To the best knowledge of the present authors, there are no published results for multi-level sequential decision-making problems characterized by descriptor systems. In section 2, multi-level sequential

decision-making problems characterized by quadratic cost functions and linear time-invariant discrete descriptor systems are considered, and necessary conditions for the existence of open-loop Stackelberg strategies are given. In section 3, open-loop Stackelberg solutions (norm-minimizing) are calculated from the necessary conditions and the conditions for existence of a unique solution of the necessary conditions are given. An example is given to illustrate the results of the paper in section 4.

## 2. Problem formulation and derivation of necessary conditions

Consider a tree-level Stackelberg problem for a linear descriptor system

$$Ex(k+1) = Ax(k) + B^1u^1(k) + B^2u^2(k) + B^3u^3(k) \quad Ex(0) = Ex_0 \quad (2.1)$$

with associated cost function for each decision maker  $P_i$

$$\begin{aligned} J_i(u^1, u^2, u^3) = & \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} [x(k)'Q^i x(k) + \sum_{j=1}^3 u^j(k)'R^{ij}u^j(k)] \\ & + \frac{1}{2}x(K)'E'Q^i(K)Ex(K) \quad i = 1, 2, 3 \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

where  $E$  is a square matrix with  $\text{rank}(E) = r < n$ , and  $\det[sE - A] \neq 0$  for any  $s \in R$ ,  $x(k) \in R^n$  is a descriptor vector,  $u^j(k) \in R^{r_j}$  is control vector of  $P_j$ , the usual positive-(semi)definiteness conditions are imposed on  $Q^i, Q^i(k), R^{ij}, i, j = 1, 2, 3$ , as in the associated optimal control problem.

Now let us assume that the decision-making sequence is  $\{P_1, P_2, P_3\}$ , that is, decision maker  $P_3$  is the leader and selects his strategy first;  $P_2$  is the first follower and selects his strategy as the second; and  $P_1$  is the second follower and selects his strategy as the last. Consequently, in making his decision,  $P_1$  knows the control  $u^2$  and  $u^3$  of the other decision makers;  $P_2$  knows  $u^3$ , and he knows that  $P_1$  reacts according to declared functions  $u^2$  and  $u^3$ ;  $P_3$  knows that  $P_2$  reacts according to his declared control  $u^3$ , and he must take into account the reaction of  $P_1$  to declared controls  $u^2$  and  $u^3$ . The simplest problem is solved by  $P_1$  (an optimal control problem); a more complex problem is solved by  $P_2$  (a two-level Stackelberg problem); and the most complex problem is solved by  $P_3$  (a three-level Stackelberg problem). The complete solution of the problem is obtained by the solution of the leader's control problem, since the leader must solve problems faced by both  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  to determine their reactions to a given

$u^3$ , in order to select that control which is best with respect to  $J_3$ , taking these reactions of the followers into account.

Therefore, in order to solve three-level Stackelberg problem, we must first determine the rational reaction of  $P_1$  to controls  $u^2$  and  $u^3$  which are declared by  $P_2$  and  $P_3$ , respectively. Since the underlying information pattern is open-loop, the optimization problem faced by  $P_1$  is reduced to an optimal control problem defined by (2.1) and (2.2), for  $i = 1$ , given  $u^2$  and  $u^3$ . In order to solve this optimization problem we append the constraint (2.1) to the cost function  $J_1$  using the Lagrange multiplier  $p^1(k)$ :

$$J_1(u^1, u^2, u^3) = \frac{1}{2}x(K)'E'Q^1(K)Ex(K) + \sum_{k=0}^{k-1} [H_1(k) - p^1(k+1)'Ex(k+1)]$$

where

$$H_1(k) = p^1(k+1)'[Ax(k) + B^1u^1(k) + B^2u^2(k) + B^3u^3(k)] + \frac{1}{2}[x(k)'Q^1x(k) + \sum_{j=1}^3 u^j(k)'R^{1j}u^j(k)]$$

From the results of [3] or [6], we deduce that the necessary conditions, under which  $u^1$  constitutes the rational reaction to given  $u^2$  and  $u^3$ , take the form

$$Ex(k+1) = Ax(k) + B^1u^1(k) + B^2u^2(k) + B^3u^3(k) \quad Ex(0) = Ex_0 \quad (2.3a)$$

$$E'p^1(k) = Q^1x(k) + A'p^1(k+1) \quad E'p^1(K) = E'Q^1(K)Ex(K) \quad (2.3b)$$

$$0 = R^{11}u^1(k) + B^{1'}p^1(k+1) \quad (2.3c)$$

Now, let us consider the problem faced by  $P_2$ . In deciding on the rational reaction of the second follower  $P_2$  to  $u^3$ , the rational reaction of  $P_1$  to  $u^2$  and  $u^3$  must be taken into account. Thus what  $P_2$  must do is to minimize the cost function (2.2) for  $i = 2$  subject to (2.3). Toward this end, by introducing the Lagrange multipliers  $p^2(k)$ ,  $n^1(k)$ ,  $m^1(k)$  and  $n^1(K)$ , one can get

$$J_2(u^1, u^2, u^3) = \frac{1}{2}x(K)'E'Q^2(K)Ex(K) + n^1(K)'[E'Q^1(K)Ex(K) - E'p^1(K)] + \sum_{k=0}^{k-1} [H_2(k) - p^2(k+1)'Ex(k+1) - n^1(k)'E'p^1(k)]$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_2(k) &= p^2(k+1)'[Ax(k) + B^1u^1(k) + B^2u^2(k) + B^3u^3(k)] \\
 &+ 1/2[x(k)'Q^2x(k) + \sum_{j=1}^3 u^j(k)'R^{2j}u^j(k)] \\
 &+ n^1(k)'[Q^1x(k) + A'p^1(k+1)] \\
 &+ m^1(k)'[R^{11}u^1(k) + B^{1'}p^1(k+1)]
 \end{aligned}$$

By using the standard variational techniques, the necessary conditions that characterize  $u^2$  being the rational reaction of  $P_2$  to  $u^3$  are obtained in the form

$$Ex(k+1) = Ax(k) + B^1u^1(k) + B^2u^2(k) + B^3u^3(k) \quad Ex(0) = Ex_0 \quad (2.4a)$$

$$E'p^1(k) = Q^1x(k) + A'p^1(k+1) \quad E'p^1(K) = E'Q^1(K)Ex(K) \quad (2.4b)$$

$$0 = R^{11}u^1(k) + B^{1'}p^1(k+1) \quad (2.4c)$$

$$E'p^2(k) = Q^2x(k) + A'p^2(k+1) + Q^1n^1(k)$$

$$E'p^2(K) = E'Q^2(K)Ex(K) + E'Q^1(K)En^1(K) \quad (2.4d)$$

$$En^1(k+1) = An^1(k) + B^1m^1(k) \quad En^1(0) = 0 \quad (2.4e)$$

$$0 = R^{21}u^1(k) + B^{1'}p^2(k+1) + R^{11}m^1(k) \quad (2.4f)$$

$$0 = R^{22}u^2(k) + B^{2'}p^2(k+1) \quad (2.4g)$$

Finally, consider the problem solved by  $P_3$ .  $P_3$  minimizes his own function (2.2) for  $i = 3$ , and at the same time he must take account (2.4) which characterizes the rational reactions of  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  to  $u^3$ . Now by appending the constraints (2.4) to the cost function  $J_3$  by means of the Lagrange multipliers  $p^3(k)$ ,  $n^2(k)$ ,  $n^3(k)$ ,  $q(k)$ ,  $m^2(k)$ ,  $m^3(k)$ ,  $w(k)$ ,  $n^2(K)$  and  $n^3(K)$ , we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned}
 J_3(u^1, u^2, u^3) &= 1/2x(K)'E'Q^3(K)Ex(K) \\
 &+ n^2(K)'[E'Q^1(K)Ex(K) - E'p^1(K)] \\
 &+ n^3(K)'[E'Q^2(K)Ex(K) + E'Q^1(K)En^1(K) - E'p^2(K)] \\
 &+ \sum_{k=0}^{k-1} [H_3(k) - p^3(k+1)'Ex(k+1) - n^2(k)'E'p^1(k) \\
 &\quad - n^3(k)'E'p^2(k) - q(k+1)'En^1(k+1)]
 \end{aligned}$$



where

$$\begin{aligned}
H_3(k) &= p^3(k+1)'[Ax(k) + B^1u^1(k) + B^2u^2(k) + B^3u^3(k)] \\
&+ 1/2[x(k)'Q^3x(k) + \sum_{j=1}^3 u^j(k)'R^{3j}u^j(k)] \\
&+ n^2(k)'[Q^1x(k) + A'p^1(k+1)] \\
&+ n^3(k)'[Q^2x(k) + A'p^2(k+1) + Q^1n^1(k)] \\
&+ q(k+1)'[An^1(k) + B^1m^1(k)] \\
&+ m^2(k)'[R^{11}u^1(k) + B^{1'}p^1(k+1)] \\
&+ w(k)'[R^{21}u^1(k) + B^{1'}p^2(k+1) + R^{11}m^1(k)] \\
&+ m^3(k)'[R^{22}u^2(k) + B^{2'}p^2(k+1)]
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the necessary conditions for the control  $u^3$  constituting the open-loop Stackelberg solution of the leader  $p_3$  take the form

$$Ex(k+1) = Ax(k) + B^1u^1(k) + B^2u^2(k) + B^3u^3(k) \quad (2.5a)$$

$$E'p^1(k) = Q^1x(k) + A'p^1(k+1) \quad E'p^1(K) = E'Q^1(K)Ex(K) \quad (2.5b)$$

$$0 = R^{11}u^1(k) + B^{1'}p^1(k+1) \quad (2.5c)$$

$$E'p^2(k) = Q^2x(k) + A'p^2(k+1) + Q^1n^1(k)$$

$$E'p^2(K) = E'Q^2(K)Ex(K) + E'Q^1(K)En^1(K) \quad (2.5d)$$

$$En^1(k+1) = An^1(k) + B^1m^1(k) \quad En^1(0) = 0 \quad (2.5e)$$

$$0 = R^{21}u^1(k) + B^{1'}p^2(k+1) + R^{11}m^1(k) \quad (2.5f)$$

$$0 = R^{22}u^2(k) + B^{2'}p^2(k+1) \quad (2.5g)$$

$$E'p^3(k) = Q^3x(k) + A'p^3(k+1) + Q^1n^2(k) + Q^2n^3(k)$$

$$E'p^3(K) = E'Q^3(K)Ex(K) + E'Q^1(K)En^2(K) + E'Q^2(K)En^3(K) \quad (2.5h)$$

$$En^2(k+1) = An^2(k) + B^1m^2(k) \quad En^2(0) = 0 \quad (2.5i)$$

$$En^3(k+1) = An^3(k) + B^2m^3(k) + B^1w(k) \quad En^3(0) = 0 \quad (2.5j)$$

$$E'q(k) = Q^1n^3(k) + A'q(k+1) \quad E'q(K) = E'Q^1(K)En^3(K) \quad (2.5k)$$

$$0 = R^{31}u^1(k) + B^{1'}p^3(k+1) + R^{11}m^2(k) + R^{21}w(k) \quad (2.5l)$$

$$0 = R^{32}u^2(k) + B^{2'}p^3(k+1) + R^{22}m^3(k) \quad (2.5m)$$

$$0 = B^{1'}q(k+1) + R^{11}w(k) \quad (2.5n)$$

$$0 = R^{33}u^3(k) + B^{3'}p^3(k+1) \quad (2.5o)$$



$$\bar{S}_4 = (0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ A'_{21} \ Q^1_{12} \ 0 \ 0 \ Q^2_{12} \ 0 \ 0 \ 0) \quad (3.2e)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{u}(k)' = & (p^3_2(k+1), n^2_2(k)', m^2(k)', q_2(k+1)', n^3_2(k)', w(k)', \\ & m^3(k)', p^2_2(k+1)', n^1_2(k)', m^1(k)', p^1_2(k+1)', x_2(k)', \\ & u^1(k)', u^2(k)', u^3(k)') \end{aligned} \quad (3.2f)$$

Using this new notation, the necessary conditions (2.5) can be rewritten as follows:

$$x_1(k+1) = A_{11}x_1(k) + \bar{B}_1\bar{u}(k) \quad x_1(0) = x_{10} \quad (3.3a)$$

$$n^1_1(k+1) = A_{11}n^1_1(k) + \bar{B}_2\bar{u}(k) \quad n^1_1(0) = 0 \quad (3.3b)$$

$$n^2_1(k+1) = A_{11}n^2_1(k) + \bar{B}_3\bar{u}(k) \quad n^2_1(0) = 0 \quad (3.3c)$$

$$n^3_1(k+1) = A_{11}n^3_1(k) + \bar{B}_4\bar{u}(k) \quad n^3_1(0) = 0 \quad (3.3d)$$

$$p^1_1(k) = Q^1_{11}x_1(k) + A'_{11}p^1_1(k+1) + \bar{S}_3\bar{u}(k)$$

$$p^1_1(K) = Q^1_{11}(K)x_1(K) \quad (3.3e)$$

$$p^2_1(k) = Q^2_{11}x_1(k) + Q^1_{11}n^1_1(k) + A'_{11}p^2_1(k+1) + \bar{S}_4\bar{u}(k)$$

$$p^2_1(K) = Q^2_{11}(K)x_1(K) + Q^1_{11}(K)n^1_1(K) \quad (3.3f)$$

$$p^3_1(k) = Q^3_{11}x_1(k) + Q^1_{11}n^2_1(k) + Q^2_{11}n^3_1(k) + A'_{11}p^3_1(k+1) + \bar{S}_1\bar{u}(k)$$

$$p^3_1(K) = Q^3_{11}(K)x_1(K) + Q^2_{11}(K)n^3_1(K) + Q^1_{11}(K)n^2_1(K) \quad (3.3g)$$

$$q_1(k) = Q^1_{11}n^3_1(k) + A'_{11}q_1(k+1) + \bar{S}_2\bar{u}(k) \quad (3.3h)$$

$$q_1(K) = Q^1_{11}(K)n^3_1(K)$$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = & \bar{S}'_1x_1(k) + \bar{S}'_2n^1_1(k) + \bar{S}'_3n^2_1(k) + \bar{S}'_4n^3_1(k) + \bar{B}'_3p^1_1(k+1) \\ & + \bar{B}'_4p^2_1(k+1) + \bar{B}'_1p^3_1(k+1) + \bar{B}'_2q_1(k+1) + \bar{R}^{33}\bar{u}(k) \end{aligned} \quad (3.3i)$$

If the following matrices are defined

$$\bar{A} = \text{diag}(A_{11}, A_{11}, A_{11}, A_{11}) \quad \bar{R} = \bar{R}^{33} \quad (3.4a)$$

$$\bar{B}' = (\bar{B}'_1 \ \bar{B}'_2 \ \bar{B}'_3 \ \bar{B}'_4) \quad (3.4b)$$

$$\bar{S}' = (\bar{S}'_1 \ \bar{S}'_2 \ \bar{S}'_3 \ \bar{S}'_4) \quad (3.4c)$$

$$\bar{Q} = \begin{bmatrix} Q_{11}^3 & & Q_{11}^1 & Q_{11}^2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & Q_{11}^1 \\ Q_{11}^1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ Q_{11}^2 & Q_{11}^1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (3.4d)$$

then the system (3.3) can be written in the compact form

$$\bar{x}(k+1) = \bar{A}\bar{x}(k) + \bar{B}\bar{u}(k) \quad \bar{x}(0)' = (x'_{10} \ 0 \ 0 \ 0) \quad (3.5a)$$

$$\bar{p}(k) = \bar{Q}\bar{x}(k) + \bar{A}'\bar{p}(k+1) + \bar{S}\bar{u}(k) \quad \bar{p}(K) = \bar{Q}(K)\bar{x}(K) \quad (3.5b)$$

$$0 = \bar{S}'\bar{x}(k) + \bar{B}'\bar{p}(k+1) + \bar{R}\bar{u}(k) \quad (3.5c)$$

where  $\bar{x}(k)$  and  $\bar{p}(k)$  are defined by

$$\bar{x}(k)' = (x_1(k)', n_1^1(k)', n_1^2(k)', n_1^3(k)') \quad (3.5d)$$

$$\bar{p}(k)' = (p_1^3(k)', q_1(k)', p_1^1(k)', p_1^2(k)') \quad (3.5e)$$

Now, the two-point boundary value problem (3.5) is solved in the usual way by defining the linear transformation

$$\bar{p}(k) = P(k)\bar{x}(k) \quad (3.6a)$$

then, from (3.5a), we can get

$$\bar{p}(k+1) = P(k+1)\bar{A}\bar{x}(k) + P(k+1)\bar{B}\bar{u}(k) \quad (3.6b)$$

Substituting this into (3.5c) gives

$$[\bar{R} + \bar{B}'P(k+1)\bar{B}]\bar{u}(k) = -[\bar{S}' + \bar{B}'P(k+1)\bar{A}]\bar{x}(k) \quad (3.6c)$$

This equation may not have an exact solution; however, a least-square (norm-minimizing) solution is

$$\bar{u}(k) = -[\bar{R} + \bar{B}'P(k+1)\bar{B}]^{-1}[\bar{S}' + \bar{B}'P(k+1)\bar{A}]\bar{x}(k) \quad (3.7)$$

Substituting (3.6) and (3.7) into (3.5b), and assuming that it is true for  $\bar{x}(k)$ , we can obtain that  $P(k)$  must satisfy the matrix Riccati equation

$$P(k) = \bar{Q} + \bar{A}'P(k+1)\bar{A} - [\bar{S} + \bar{A}'P(k+1)\bar{B}]^{-1}[\bar{R} + \bar{B}'P(k+1)\bar{B}][\bar{S}' + \bar{B}'P(k+1)\bar{A}] \quad (3.8a)$$

$$P(K) = \bar{Q}(K) \quad (3.8b)$$



Substituting (3.7b) into (3.5a) gives

$$\bar{x}(k+1) = \bar{Z}(k)\bar{x}(k) \quad \bar{x}(0)' = (x'_{10} \ 0 \ 0 \ 0) \quad (3.9a)$$

with  $\bar{Z}(k)$  being defined as follows:

$$\bar{Z}(k) = \bar{A} - \bar{B}[\bar{R} + \bar{B}'P(k+1)\bar{B}]^{-1}[\bar{S}' + \bar{B}'P(k+1)\bar{A}] \quad (3.9b)$$

Up to now, norm-minimizing open-loop Stackelberg solutions  $u^1(k)$ ,  $u^2(k)$  and  $u^3(k)$  have been derived, which are 13th, 14th and 15th subvectors of  $\bar{u}(k)$ , respectively, according to (3.2f). In fact, if  $[R + B'P(k+1)B]$  is nonsingular for  $k = K-1, K-2, \dots, 0$ , then, from (3.6c) it follows that the solution is unique.

Now we shall conclude the above discussion with a theorem which gives conditions under which the necessary conditions in the section 2 admit a unique solution.

**THEOREM 1** *Under the assumptions (a) the matrix  $E$  has the form (3.1a); (b) the matrices  $L(k) = \bar{R} + \bar{B}'P(k+1)\bar{B}$  are all nonsingular for  $k = 0, \dots, K-1$ , the necessary conditions (2.5), i.e. (3.5), admit a unique solution which is given by*

$$\bar{u}(k) = -[\bar{R} + \bar{B}'P(k+1)\bar{B}]^{-1}[\bar{S}' + \bar{B}'P(k+1)\bar{A}]\bar{x}(k) \quad (3.10)$$

with  $P(k)$  and  $\bar{x}(k)$  being given by (3.8) and (3.9), respectively.

**PROOF:** The statement of Theorem 3.1 has already been verified in the discussion prior to Theorem 3.1.

## 4. Illustrative example

Let the system and the cost functions for a three-level Stackelberg problem be

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1(k+1) \\ x_2(k+2) \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1(k) \\ x_2(k) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} u^1(k) \\ &+ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} u^2(k) + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} u^3(k) \end{aligned}$$

$$x_1(0) = x_{10}$$

$$J_j = \sum_{k=0}^2 \{1/2x(k)'x(k) + 1/2[u^j(k)]^2\} + 1/2x(3)'x(3) \quad j = 1, 2, 3$$

where  $x(k)' = [x_1(k), x_2(k)]$ .

After developing a computer program, the matrices  $L(k)$  being invertible for  $k = 0, 1, 2$ , and the following results were obtained.

$$\begin{array}{lll} u^1(0) = -x_{10} & u^1(1) = 0.2590284x_1(1) & u^1(2) = 3.650466x_1(2) \\ u^2(0) = 0 & u^2(1) = 0.1244947x_1(1) & u^2(2) = 1.002068x_1(2) \\ u^3(0) = 0 & u^3(1) = -1.383523x_1(1) & u^3(2) = -5.652534x_1(2) \end{array}$$

## 5. Conclusion

This paper develops explicit expressions for three-level open-loop Stackelberg strategies for sequential decision making problems characterized by linear discrete-time descriptor system and quadratic cost function. The results of the note can be extended in a straightforward manner to multi-level Stackelberg problems. But the burden of computing multi-level open-loop Stackelberg strategies will be considerably increased, and so will the time of computation.

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## **Trzy poziomowe strategie Stackelberga w liniowo-kwadratowych systemach deskryptorowych**

W artykule rozwija się strategie Stackelberga w deterministycznych sekwencyjnych zadaniach podejmowania decyzji dla liniowych systemów deskryptorowych z czasem dyskretnym kwadratową funkcją kosztu. Wyprowadzono warunki konieczne istnienia strategii Stackelberga bez pamiętania. Rozwiązania minimalizujące Stackelberga są wyznaczone z warunków koniecznych i podano warunki istnienia jednoznacznego rozwiązania dla warunków koniecznych. Przytoczono przykład ilustrujący wyniki zawarte w artykule.

## **Трёхуровневая стратегия Стакельберга в линейно-квадратных дескрипторных системах**

В статье рассматривается стратегия Стакельберга в детерминированных последовательных задачах принятия решения для линейных дескрипторных систем, дискретных по времени, с квадратной функцией затрат. Формулируются необходимые условия существования незамкнутой стратегии Стакельберга. Решения Стакельберга по минимизации определяются из необходимых условий и приводятся условия существования однозначного решения для необходимых условий. Дается пример иллюстрирующий результаты приведенные в статье.

