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The linear-quadratic stochastic optimal control problem with random horizon at the finite number of infinitesimal events

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Abstract – The aim of the article is to expand the results of the theory of Linear Quadratic Control (the state of the system is described with the help of stochastic linear equation while the quality coefficient is of a quadratic form) in the case of random horizon independent of the states of the system. As for the question under consideration the control system horizon is an independent variable with a discreet decomposition and has got a limited number of possible accomplishments. The above mentioned situation takes places when the number of controls is brought out by the outside factor (generally independent of the system).

1 Introduction

The greatest part of the tasks of the theory of (adaptive, stochastic, linear quadratic etc.) control is defined for a finite or infinite horizon (see e.g. [1–3, 5, 6], [7, 11–13, 15]). The tasks with a random horizon are less noticeable in the object literature and can be divided into two types. The first type is based on the classic optimal stopping of the decision process (see [8, 9, 14]) or the changing of stopping into control (see [4]). The second type of the task is based on the assumption that the finite or infinite horizon does not depend on the system (the state of the system does not influence the horizon). Such a situation occurs in the case of when the definition of the control horizon e.g. the number of losses, the number of requests. In this case we must define the horizon using a random variable state independent (see [10]).

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The paper presents the linear quadratic control problem with the random horizon independent in the system. Then decomposition of LQC with a random discrete time to LQC with the deterministic time and modified quality coefficient is shown. Also the optimal control laws are derived and the functional quality and quantity of controls for the systems with the determined time horizon and random horizon are compared.

The arrangement of the article is as follows. Section 2 introduces the task of linear quadratic control with the random horizon. Section 3 presents the modification of the task under consideration the one with the deterministic horizon. Section 4 gives the comparison of optimal controls with the classical deterministic horizon and random horizon for the simple linear system. Section 5 presents the numerical simulation of the above mentioned system.

2 Problem formulation

Let (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) be a complete probability space. Suppose that w_1, \dots, w_N are independent m -dimensional random vectors in this space, with the normal $N(0, I_m)$ distribution, let ξ be a k -dimensional vector with a priori distribution $P(d\xi)$, and let y_0 be an initial state. We assume that all the above objects are stochastically independent and we define $\mathcal{F}_k \triangleq \sigma(\xi) \vee \sigma\{w_i : i = 1, 2, \dots, k\}$ and $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_N$.

We will consider the control problem for a linear system with the state equation

$$y_{i+1} = Ay_i + B\xi - Cu_i + d + \sigma w_{i+1}, \quad (1)$$

where $i = 0, \dots, N-1$, $y_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $d \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}$, $C \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times l}$, $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$. The matrix A is called the matrix of transformation of state. On (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) we define the family of sub- σ -fields $\mathbb{Y}_k = \sigma\{y_i : i = 0, 1, \dots, k\}$. A \mathbb{Y}_j -measurable vector $u_j \in \mathbb{R}^l$ will be called a control action, and $u = (u_0, u_1, \dots, u_{N-1})$ an admissible control. The class of admissible controls is denoted by U .

Let τ represent the random horizon of control, which is state of system independent and has the density

$$P(\tau = k) = p_k \geq 0, \quad \sum_{k=0}^N p_k = 1.$$

Let us consider the following task. We want to move the system from the state y_0 to the state a in τ steps and at the same time we would like to have the least energetic costs and have the least losses connected with a missing target. We assume that the energetic costs in the form $u_i^T R_i u_i$ represent loss functions for every $i = 0, 1, \dots, \tau-1$, however, the heredity function $(y_\tau - a)^T Q_\tau (y_\tau - a)$ represents losses connected with the missing state a . We introduce performance criteria, which represent the joint costs and final loss and are described by

$$J(u) = E \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^{\tau-1} u_i^T R_i u_i + (y_\tau - a)^T Q_\tau (y_\tau - a) \right\}, \quad (2)$$

where $R_i \in \mathbb{R}^{l \times l}$ for $i = 0, \dots, N-1$ and $Q_N \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$. The task is to find

$$\inf_{u \in U} J(u) \quad (3)$$

and to determine an admissible control $u^* = (u_0^*, \dots, u_{\tau-1}^*)$ for which \inf is attained.

3 Decomposition LQC with the random horizon to deterministic horizon

In the case, where the random variable τ , which presents the horizon of performance criterion, has distribution with the finite number of infinitesimal events i.e.

$$P(\tau = k) = p_k$$

and $k \geq 0$, $p_k \geq 0$, $\sum_{k=0}^N p_k = 1$. From the total probability formula we can present functional (2) in the form

$$\begin{aligned} J(u) &= P(\tau = 0) (y_0 - a)^T Q_0 (y_0 - a) \\ &+ P(\tau = 1) \int \left[u_0^T R_0 u_0 + (y_1 - a)^T Q_1 (y_1 - a) \right] P(dy_1) \\ &+ P(\tau = 2) \int \int \left[u_0^T R_0 u_0 + u_1^T R_1 u_1 + (y_2 - a)^T Q_2 (y_2 - a) \right] P(dy_1) P(dy_2) \\ &+ \dots \\ &+ P(\tau = N) \int \dots \int \left[\sum_{i=0}^{N-1} u_i^T R_i u_i + (y_N - a)^T Q_N (y_N - a) \right] P(dy_1) \dots P(dy_N) \\ &= P(\tau = 0) h(y_0) \\ &+ \sum_{j=1}^N P(\tau = j) \int \dots \int \left[\sum_{i=0}^{j-1} u_i^T R_i u_i + (y_j - a)^T Q_j (y_j - a) \right] P(dy_1) \dots P(dy_j). \end{aligned}$$

Finally

$$\begin{aligned} J(u) &= P(\tau = 0) (y_0 - a)^T Q_0 (y_0 - a) \\ &+ \int \dots \int \left[\sum_{j=0}^{N-1} u_j^T R_j u_j \sum_{i=j+1}^N P(\tau = i) \right. \\ &\left. + \sum_{j=1}^N (y_j - a)^T Q_j (y_j - a) P(\tau = j) \right] P(dy_1) \dots P(dy_N). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the above mentioned functional can be presented as

$$J(u) = E \left[\sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \phi_j(y_j, u_j) + h_N(y_N) \right], \quad (4)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_j(y_j, u_j) &= u_j^T R_j u_j \sum_{i=j+1}^N P(\tau = i) + P(\tau = j) (y_j - a)^T Q_j (y_j - a) \\ &= u_j^T R_j u_j [1 - P(\tau \leq j)] + P(\tau = j) (y_j - a)^T Q_j (y_j - a) \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

and

$$h_N(y_N) = P(\tau = N) (y_N - a)^T Q_N (y_N - a). \quad (6)$$

Therefore, we substitute the task of optimal control with the random horizon of the finite number of events (3) for the task of optimal control with the finite horizon

$$\inf_{u \in U} E J(u). \quad (7)$$

The technical results for arbitrary functionals (losses and heredity) and random horizon (finite and infinite number of events) can be seen in [10]. The theorem below represents both necessary and sufficient conditions of optimal control for the task (quadratic form) (7), which are obtained by equating the derivatives to zero.

Theorem 1. If $\det(\sigma\sigma^T) \neq 0$ and

$$\begin{aligned} E \left\{ \left(\sum_{i=j+1}^{N-1} \phi_i^N(y_i, u_i^*) + h_N(y_N) \right) (y_{j+1} - Ay_j - B\xi + Cu_j^* - d)^T (\sigma\sigma^T)^{-1} C \middle| \mathbb{Y}_j \right\} \\ = 2[1 - P(\tau \leq j)] R_j u_j^* \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

then u_j^* is an optimal control of system (1) for all $j = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$.

PROOF. From the properties of conditional expectation it follows that for every $j \geq 0$ the functional (4) can be represented as

$$\begin{aligned}
J(u) &= E \left[\sum_{i=0}^j \phi_i(y_i, u_i) + E \left(\sum_{i=j+1}^{N-1} \phi_i(y_i, u_i) + h_N(y_N) \middle| \mathcal{F}_j \right) \right] \\
&= \int \left(\sum_{i=0}^j \phi_i(y_i, u_i) \right) P(d\xi, dy_0, \dots, dy_j) \\
&+ \int \left(\int \left[\sum_{i=j+1}^N \phi_i(y_i, u_i) + h_N(y_N) \right] P_{j+1,N}(dy_{j+1}, \dots, dy_N) \right) \\
&\times P(d\xi, dy_0, \dots, dy_j), \tag{9}
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$P_{ji}(dy_j, \dots, dy_i) = \prod_{k=j}^i \mathbb{P}(dy_k | \mathcal{F}_{k-1}), \tag{10}$$

$$P(d\xi, dy_0, \dots, dy_j) = P(d\xi) P(dy_0) P_{1j}(dy_1, \dots, dy_j), \tag{11}$$

for $0 \leq j < i \leq N$. Note that $\mathbb{P}(dy_k | \mathcal{F}_{k-1})$ is the transition probability for the process $\{y_i; 0 \leq i \leq N\}$ defined by (1); we write it in the form

$$\mathbb{P}(dy_k | \mathcal{F}_{k-1}) = \gamma(y_k - Ay_k - B\xi + Cu_i - d, \sigma\sigma^T) dy_k, \tag{12}$$

where

$$\gamma(x - m, Q) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^n |Q|}} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2} [x - m]^T Q^{-1} [x - m] \right) \tag{13}$$

is the density of normal distribution.

Let u^* be an optimal control. For every $0 \leq j \leq N-1$ from (9) we compute

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial}{\partial u_j} J(u) &= \int \dots \int [\nabla_{u_j} \phi_j(y_j, u_j) \\
&+ \int \dots \int \left(\sum_{i=j+1}^{N-1} \phi_i^N(y_i, u_i) + h_N(y_N) \right) \nabla_{u_j} P_{j+1,N}(dy_{j+1}, \dots, dy_N) \\
&\times P(d\xi, dy_0, \dots, dy_j)]. \tag{14}
\end{aligned}$$

From (10)-(13) we have

$$\nabla_{u_j} P_{j+1,N} = -(y_{j+1} - Ay_j - B\xi + Cu_j - d)^T (\sigma\sigma^T)^{-1} C P_{j+1,N}(dy_{j+1}, \dots, dy_N). \tag{15}$$

An optimal control u^* must be satisfied by the condition

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial u_j} J(u^*) = 0$$

thus substituting (15) to (14) and equating to zero we obtain

$$\int \cdots \int \left[2[1 - P(\tau \leq j)] R_j u_j^* - \int \cdots \int \left(\sum_{i=j+1}^{N-1} \phi_i(y_i, u_i^*) + h_N(y_N) \right) (y_{j+1} - Ay_j - B\xi + Cu_j - d)^T (\sigma \sigma^T)^{-1} CP(dy_{j+1} \dots dy_N) \right] P(d\xi, dy_0, \dots, dy_j) = 0 \quad (16)$$

which proves the assertion. \square

4 Comparison of optimal controls with deterministic and random horizons

We consider a linear system with the state equation

$$y_{i+1} = y_i - Cu_i + \sigma w_{i+1}. \quad (17)$$

The quadratic criterion with the random horizon is

$$\inf_{u \in U} E \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^{\tau-1} u_i^T R u_i + (y_\tau - a)^T Q (y_\tau - a) \right\}. \quad (18)$$

We can decompose the above task to the other form

$$\inf_{u \in U} E \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \left[u_i^T R_i u_i + (y_i - a)^T Q_i (y_i - a) \right] + (y_N - a)^T Q_N (y_N - a) \right\},$$

where $R_i = [1 - P(\tau \leq i)] R$ and $Q_i = P(\tau = i) Q$ for $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N$.

We have the optimal control of linear system (17), which contains the following:

Lemma 1. If $\det(R_i + C^T G_{i+1} C) \neq 0$ for $i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$ where

$$G_i = Q_i + G_{i+1} - G_{i+1}^T C [R_i + C^T G_{i+1} C]^{-1} C^T G_{i+1} \text{ and } G_N = Q_N \quad (19)$$

then the optimal control for the task with random horizon (17) is

$$u_i^* = [R_i + C^T G_{i+1} C]^{-1} C^T G_{i+1} (y_i - a) \quad (20)$$

and

$$\inf_{u \in U} E \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \left[u_i^T R_i u_i + (y_i - a)^T Q_i (y_i - a) \right] + (y_N - a)^T Q_N (y_N - a) \right\} = W_0(y_0),$$

where

$$W_N(y_N) = (y_N - a)^T G_N (y_N - a), \quad (21)$$

$$W_i(y_i) = (y_i - a)^T G_i (y_i - a) + \sum_{j=i+1}^N \text{tr}(\sigma^T G_j \sigma). \quad (22)$$

PROOF. The value of Bellmann's function in the step N is

$$W_N(y_N) = (y_N - a)^T G_N (y_N - a).$$

We assume that equation (22) is true for $i+1$ and

$$W_i(y_i) = \min_{u_i} E \left\{ u_i^T R_i u_i + (y_i - a)^T Q_i (y_i - a) + W_{i+1}(y_{i+1}) \middle| F_i \right\}.$$

From (22) and the properties of condition expectation we have

$$\begin{aligned} & E \left\{ u_i^T R_i u_i + (y_i - a)^T Q_i (y_i - a) + W_{i+1}(y_{i+1}) \middle| F_i \right\} \\ &= u_i^T R_i u_i + (y_i - a)^T Q_i (y_i - a) \\ &+ E \left\{ (y_{i+1} - a)^T G_{i+1} (y_{i+1} - a) + \sum_{j=i+2}^N \text{tr}(\sigma^T G_j \sigma) \middle| F_i \right\} \\ &= u_i^T R_i u_i + (y_i - a)^T Q_i (y_i - a) + \sum_{j=i+2}^N \text{tr}(\sigma^T G_j \sigma) \\ &+ E \left\{ (y_i - C u_i + \sigma w_{i+1} - a)^T G_{i+1} (y_i - C u_i + \sigma w_{i+1} - a) \middle| F_i \right\} \\ &= u_i^T [R_i + C^T G_{i+1} C] u_i - 2 u_i C^T G_{i+1} (y_i - a) \\ &+ (y_i - a)^T [Q_i + G_{i+1}] (y_i - a) + \sum_{j=i+1}^N \text{tr}(\sigma^T G_j \sigma). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the optimal control is

$$u_i^* = [R_i + C^T G_{i+1} C]^{-1} C^T G_{i+1} (y_i - a)$$

and finally

$$\begin{aligned}
 W_i(y_i) &= (y_i - a)^T \left[Q_i + G_{i+1} - G_{i+1}^T C [R_i + C^T G_{i+1} C]^{-1} C^T G_{i+1} \right] (y_i - a) \\
 &+ \sum_{j=i+1}^N \text{tr}(\sigma^T G_j \sigma) \\
 &= (y_i - a)^T G_i (y_i - a) + \sum_{j=i+1}^N \text{tr}(\sigma^T G_j \sigma)
 \end{aligned}$$

□

Remark 1. We use formulas (19)–(22) for the linear quadratic control with the deterministic horizon N

$$\inf_{u \in U} E \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} u_i^T R u_i + (y_N - a)^T Q (y_N - a) \right\}.$$

It is sufficient to express, that the density of random horizon is $P(\tau = i) = 0$ for $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N-1$ and $P(\tau = N) = 1$.

Corollary 1. For both random and detreministic horizons we have:

(1) the optimal controls of system (17) are

$$u_i^* = [R_i + C^T G_{i+1} C]^{-1} C^T G_{i+1} (y_i - a).$$

(2) The values of Bellman functions are given by equations (21)–(22).

(3) The values of performance criterion are

$$W_0(y_0) = (y_0 - a)^T G_0 (y_0 - a) + \sum_{j=1}^N \text{tr}(\sigma^T G_j \sigma),$$

where the matrices G_i and R_i are given:

- in the case with the random horizon

$$\begin{aligned}
 G_i &= P(\tau = i) Q + G_{i+1} - G_{i+1}^T C, \\
 &\times [[1 - P(\tau \leq i)] R + C^T G_{i+1} C]^{-1} C^T G_{i+1} \\
 G_N &= P(\tau = N) Q, \\
 R_i &= [1 - P(\tau \leq i)] R.
 \end{aligned}$$

- in the case with the deterministic horizon

$$\begin{aligned} G_i &= G_{i+1} - G_{i+1}^T C [R + C^T G_{i+1} C]^{-1} C^T G_{i+1}, \\ G_N &= Q, \\ R_i &= R. \end{aligned}$$

For $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N - 1$.

Example 1. We consider the control problem for a linear system with state equation (17) and quadratic criterion with random horizon (18). Let us assume

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} 0.27 & 0.03 \\ 0.03 & 0.35 \end{bmatrix}, \quad Q = \begin{bmatrix} 4.43 & 1 \\ 1 & 5.56 \end{bmatrix}, \quad C = \begin{bmatrix} 1.3 & -0.2 \\ -0.4 & 2.1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 1.2 & -0.3 \\ 0.2 & 0.9 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We must remove system (17) from the initial point $y_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 125 \\ -120 \end{pmatrix}$ to the target point $a = \begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 15 \end{pmatrix}$.

Table 1. Discrete densities of random horizon.

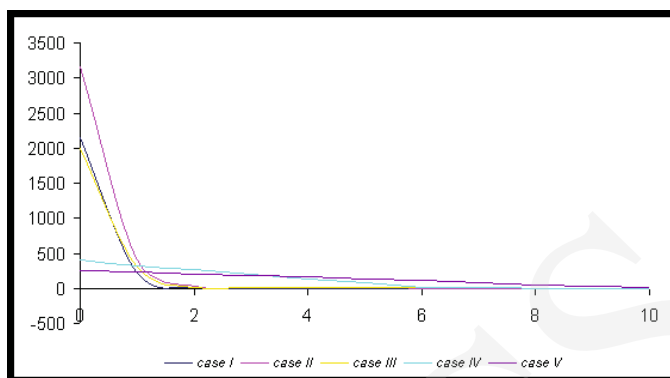
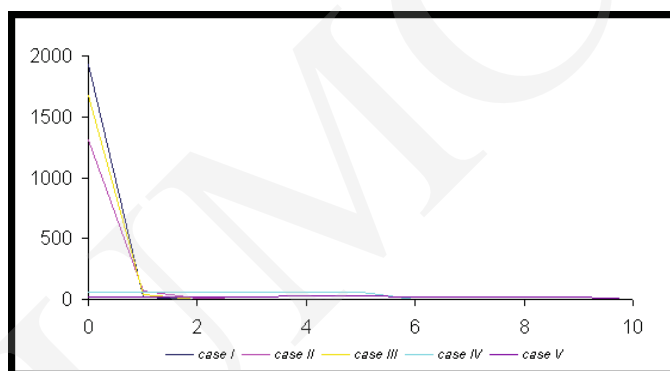
j	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	$E\tau$
<i>caseI</i>	0	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2.75
<i>caseII</i>	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.1	0.15	0.2	0.15	0.1	0.05	0.05	0.05	5
<i>caseIII</i>	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	5.5
<i>caseIV</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	7.6
<i>caseV</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10

Table 1 includes possible discrete densities of the random horizon $P(\tau = j)$. Case I presents the distribution of random horizon of control process, which is more concentrated at the beginning of time scale, in case II the random horizon is concentrated in the middle of time scale, in case III evenly distributed on the set of events $\{1, 2, \dots, 10\}$, in case IV concentrated at the end of time scale. Case V presents the deterministic horizon of control $P(\tau = 10) = 1$.

Table 2 presents possible trajectories y_j of states, optimal controls u_j^* and the values of Bellman's function $W_j(y_j)$ for each case. Fig. 1 and 2 present the values of Bellman's function $W_j(y_j)$ and energetic costs $u_j^T R_j u_j$ on the generated trajectories included in Table 2 siutably.

Table 2. The optimal controls, the values of Bellmann's function and possible trajectories.

j	case I			case II			case III			case IV			case V		
	y_j	u_j	W_j	y_j	u_j	W_j	y_j	u_j	W_j	y_j	u_j	W_j	y_j	u_j	W_j
0	(125;-120)	(70.84;-47.19)	2147.73	(125;-120)	(57.32;-42.56)	3159.16	(125;-120)	(64.6;-45.41)	1996.28	(125;-120)	(13.17;-8.1)	400.19	(125;-120)	(8.07;-4.88)	248.59
1	(243;9.4)	(9.57;-0.75)	214.79	(41.1;-8.1)	(16.12;-6.24)	397.46	(31.4;1.2)	(12.63;-3.59)	311.4	(103.4;-97)	(12.74;-8.11)	322.69	(115.5;-105.2)	(8.25;-4.77)	229.09
2	(11.7;13.9)	(1.19;-0.31)	9.32	(19;11.2)	(5.44;-0.61)	37.37	(13.6;15.2)	(2.26;0.5)	17.51	(86.6;-75.9)	(12.98;-8.18)	269.77	(103.2;-92.2)	(8.19;-4.81)	203.78
3	(9.96;16)	(0.03;0.47)	4.09	(8.2;12.2)	(-1.35;-1.48)	16.98	(12.4;14.6)	(1.51;0.12)	11.63	(67.1;-54.6)	(12.72;-8.42)	205.14	(93.1;-78.2)	(8.36;-4.73)	183.43
4	(9.5;15.3)	(-0.32;0.09)	1.32	(10.8;14)	(0.53;-0.37)	8.32	(9.9;15.4)	(-0.01;0.19)	7.45	(48.1;-31.5)	(12.46;-8.37)	139.05	(82.8;-63.4)	(8.58;-4.57)	162.09
5	(10.5;16)	(0.36;0.53)	1.01	(10.7;14.2)	(0.47;-0.28)	5.76	(10.3;15)	(0.19;0.02)	6.09	(29;-10.2)	(11.57;-9.1)	76.36	(71.3;-52.4)	(8.63;-4.76)	140.88
6	(11.4;14.3)	(0.94;-0.15)	0.59	(10.2;16.1)	(0.17;0.55)	4.12	(9.3;14.7)	(-0.5;-0.21)	5.11	(12.6;14.2)	(1.8;0.01)	15.9	(57.3;-38.5)	(8.28;-4.76)	109.3
7	(9.2;14.1)	(-0.63;-0.55)	0.46	(9.8;14.9)	(-0.13;-0.07)	1.79	(10.5;13.6)	(0.25;-0.6)	4.66	(10.4;16.5)	(0.37;0.78)	10.42	(44;-24.4)	(7.91;-4.73)	79.92
8	(10.5;13.5)	(0.31;-0.64)	0.36	(10.7;13.4)	(0.43;-0.66)	1.89	(11.4;14.7)	(0.99;0.05)	3.19	(10.4;16.9)	(0.34;0.47)	4.05	(31.3;-12.4)	(7.28;-5.22)	55.42
9	(10.6;15.2)	(0.43;0.16)	0.13	(10.3;13.8)	(0.16;-0.53)	0.95	(10.6;16.4)	(0.55;0.74)	2.53	(11.3;14.7)	(0.98;0.06)	1.9	(20.9;0.57)	(7.29;-5.4)	34.12
10	(9.9;15.7)	-	0.02	(9.2;14.5)	-	0.26	(10;16.1)	-	0.66	(7.8;14.4)	-	2.68	(11.6;14.3)	-	11.54

Fig. 1. The values of Bellman's function $W_j(y_j)$.Fig. 2. The values of energetic costs $u_j^T R u_j$.

5 Conclusion

In this article, the problem of control of a linear quadratic stochastic system with the random horizon and independent states system was introduced and the laws of control were worked out. The problem of random horizon with a finite number of events was reduced to the task with the deterministic horizon; at the same time the functions of losses and the functions of heredities were modified. In the above mentioned linear system the noises as well as parameters of system were modelled by the Gaussian distributions.

Then it was shown the comparison of optimal linear controls for the simple linear system (only control transformations and outer noises without transformation of the parameters of the system and drift) were added to the previous system state) with the random horizon of a finite number of events and the deterministic horizon. Similarities and differences of controls and values of quality functions were discussed. From the obtained results we can conclude that the knowledge about density of horizon has the essential influence on the value of losses and heredity sum.

Analyzing the behaviour of such a simple system we can conclude:

- the controls for deterministic horizon systems in the random horizon systems must not be used directly;
- the values of controls (control norms, value of costs, outlays) for the random horizon systems are definitely larger at the beginning whereas the values of controls for the deterministic horizon systems are evenly distributed until the end of the control horizon;
- the values of controls for the random horizon systems are definitely larger up to the moment $E\tau$ (expected value of control horizon) and are used for achieving of the main aim of control (hitting point a), however after the moment the values of the controls are smaller and the costs are reserved for leveling the results of outer disturbances in the systems (after the moment the system practically oscillates around point a).

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