

# Modified Subspace Identification for Periodically Non-uniformly Sampled Systems by Using the Lifting Technique

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**Abstract** This paper studies identification problems for a class of multirate systems—non-uniformly sampled systems. The lifting technique is employed to handle the non-uniformly sampled input and output data, a lifted state-space model is derived to represent the non-uniform discrete-time systems, and a novel subspace identification method is proposed to deal with the causality constraints in the lifted model. Simulation results show that the algorithm is effective.

**Keywords** Parameter estimation · Subspace identification · Causality constraint · Lifting technique · Non-uniform sampling

## 1 Introduction

For conventional discrete-time sampled-data systems, the input and output are sampled at a single rate and the sampling intervals are assumed to be equally spaced in time [1, 3–6]. In practice, different variables of a system may be sampled at different sampling rates [2, 22] and the sampling frequency may be varying, namely, non-equally spaced in time. The non-uniform sampling scheme has advantages over the uniform one, such as always preserving controllability and observability in discretization when a non-uniformly sampled system is described by a lifted state-space model [11, 17].

Literature on non-uniformly sampled multirate systems includes the generalized predictive control [26], the fault detection and isolation with non-uniformly sampled

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data [18, 19], the system reconstruction from non-uniformly sampled discrete-time systems [11], etc. Recently, the non-uniformly sampled multirate system identification has attracted much attention. Using lifting technique which is a standard tool of dealing with multirate systems, Ding et al. proposed a hierarchical identification method [11] for the lifted state-space model of the non-uniformly sampled systems [20].

The direct input–output representation is frequently considered when dealing with the non-uniformly sampled systems. Zhu et al. proposed the output error method for slowly and irregularly sampled system [35]. Ding et al. developed the partially coupled stochastic gradient algorithm for non-uniformly sampled-data systems [10]. Liu et al. proposed a recursive least squares algorithm for non-uniformly sampled systems with the aid of an auxiliary model [21]. See also [32–34] and the references therein.

Most of the existing systems can be modeled by state-space equations [12, 14], and the subspace identification methods are quite effective for the identification of state-space models of single-rate discrete-time linear systems [15, 16, 24, 27, 28]. This paper is concerned with the extension of the subspace identification from dual-rate sampled systems [25] to non-uniformly sampled multirate systems. The main purpose of this paper is to develop a subspace identification method that could cope with the causality constraints.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Sect. 2, the lifted state-space model is derived by using the lifting technique, and the identification problem is discussed. Further, a subspace identification algorithm taking the causality constraints into consideration is presented in Sect. 3. In Sect. 4, a simulation example is illustrated for the proposed algorithm. Finally, some concluding remarks are offered in Sect. 5.

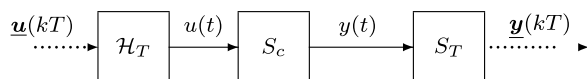
## 2 Problem Description

Consider a class of periodically non-uniformly sampled systems as depicted in Fig. 1 [11, 26], where  $S_c$  is a continuous process,

$$S_c : \begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{A}_c \mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{B}_c u(t), \\ y(t) = \mathbf{C}_c \mathbf{x}(t) + D_c u(t), \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

$\mathbf{x}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is the state vector,  $u(t) \in \mathbb{R}$  is the control input,  $y(t) \in \mathbb{R}$  is the system output,  $\mathbf{A}_c, \mathbf{B}_c, \mathbf{C}_c, D_c$  the matrices with proper dimensions;  $\mathcal{H}_T$  and  $S_T$  are the non-uniformly periodical zero-order holder and sampler with the frame period  $T$ , and with the updating and sampling intervals  $\{\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots, \tau_p\}$ , namely, the zero-order holder/sampler non-uniformly updates/samples at time  $t = kT + t_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, p$ ,

**Fig. 1** The periodically non-uniformly sampled systems



$k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , where  $t_i := \tau_1 + \tau_2 + \dots + \tau_i$  ( $t_0 = 0$ ), thus the frame period  $T := \tau_1 + \tau_2 + \dots + \tau_p$ .

In the  $k$ th period  $[kT, (k + 1)T)$ , the control input  $u(t)$  and output  $y(t)$  are non-uniformly updated at time  $t = kT + t_i$  ( $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, p - 1$ ), the non-uniformly updating properties [10, 11] are

$$u(t) = \begin{cases} u(kT), & kT \leq t < kT + t_1, \\ u(kT + t_1), & kT + t_1 \leq t < kT + t_2, \\ \vdots \\ u(kT + t_{p-1}), & kT + t_{p-1} \leq t < (k + 1)T. \end{cases} \tag{2}$$

The system input and output are updated by  $\{\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots, \tau_p\}$  periodically, thus the discrete-time system from the input to output is a time-varying single-input single-output system. By the lifting technique,  $p$  inputs are grouped and  $p$  outputs are listed together to form  $\underline{u}$  and  $\underline{y}$ , leading to a time-invariant multi-input multi-output system:

$$S : \begin{cases} \underline{x}(kT + T) = \mathbf{A}\underline{x}(kT) + \mathbf{B}\underline{u}(kT), \\ \underline{y}(kT) = \mathbf{C}\underline{x}(kT) + \mathbf{D}\underline{u}(kT), \end{cases} \tag{3}$$

with the available non-uniformly sampled data  $\{u(kT + t_i), y(kT + t_i), i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, p - 1\}$ .

Referring to the method in [11] and discretizing (3) yields

$$\underline{x}(kT + T) = e^{\mathbf{A}cT} \underline{x}(kT) + \int_{kT}^{(k+1)T} e^{\mathbf{A}c((k+1)T-\tau)} \mathbf{B}_c u(\tau) d\tau \tag{4}$$

$$=: \mathbf{A}\underline{x}(kT) + \sum_{i=1}^p \mathbf{B}_i u(kT + t_{i-1}), \tag{5}$$

$$=: \mathbf{A}\underline{x}(kT) + \mathbf{B}\underline{u}(kT), \tag{6}$$

where

$$\mathbf{A} := e^{\mathbf{A}cT} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, \tag{7}$$

$$\mathbf{B} := [\mathbf{B}_1, \mathbf{B}_2, \dots, \mathbf{B}_p] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}, \tag{8}$$

$$\mathbf{B}_i := e^{\mathbf{A}c(T-t_i)} \int_0^{t_i} e^{\mathbf{A}ct} dt \mathbf{B}_c, \tag{9}$$

$$\underline{u}(kT) := [u(kT), u(kT + t_1), \dots, u(kT + t_{p-1})]^T \in \mathbb{R}^p. \tag{10}$$

Because of the non-uniformly zero-order holder in system (1), it is easy to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{x}(kT + t_i) &= e^{A_c t_i} \mathbf{x}(kT) + \int_{kT}^{kT+t_i} e^{A_c(kT+t_i-\tau)} \mathbf{B}_c u(\tau) d\tau \\
 &= e^{A_c t_i} \mathbf{x}(kT) \\
 &\quad + [\mathbf{B}_1, \mathbf{B}_2, \dots, \mathbf{B}_i] [u(kT), u(kT + t_1), \dots, u(kT + t_{i-1})]^T.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{11}$$

The output equation is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 y(kT + t_i) &= \mathbf{C}_c \mathbf{x}(kT + t_i) + D_c u(kT + t_i) \\
 &= \mathbf{C}_c e^{A_c t_i} \mathbf{x}(kT) + [\mathbf{C}_c \mathbf{B}_1, \mathbf{C}_c \mathbf{B}_2, \dots, \mathbf{C}_c \mathbf{B}_i] \underline{\mathbf{u}}(kT) + D_c u(kT + t_i) \\
 &=: \mathbf{C}_i \mathbf{x}(kT) + [D_1, D_2, \dots, D_i, D_c] \begin{bmatrix} u(kT) \\ u(kT + t_1) \\ \vdots \\ u(kT + t_{i-1}) \\ u(kT + t_i) \end{bmatrix},
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{12}$$

where  $\mathbf{C}_i := \mathbf{C}_c e^{A_c t_i}$ ,  $D_i := \mathbf{C}_c \mathbf{B}_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, p - 1$ . Thus, we obtain the lifted state-space model in (3) for the multirate system, where

$$\underline{\mathbf{y}}(kT) = [y(kT), y(kT + t_1), \dots, y(kT + t_{p-1})]^T \in \mathbb{R}^p,
 \tag{13}$$

$$\mathbf{C} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C}_c \\ \mathbf{C}_1 \\ \mathbf{C}_2 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{C}_{p-1} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n}
 \tag{14}$$

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{bmatrix} D_c & 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 \\ D_1 & D_c & & & \vdots \\ D_1 & D_2 & \ddots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & D_c & 0 \\ D_1 & D_2 & \dots & D_{p-1} & D_c \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}.
 \tag{15}$$

Replacing the lifted output  $\underline{\mathbf{y}}(kT)$  by the lifted noise-contaminated one  $\underline{\mathbf{z}}(kT)$  and omitting the frame period  $T$  yields

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}(k + 1) = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}(k) + \mathbf{B} \underline{\mathbf{u}}(k), \\ \underline{\mathbf{z}}(k) = \mathbf{C} \mathbf{x}(k) + \mathbf{D} \underline{\mathbf{u}}(k) + \underline{\mathbf{v}}(k), \end{cases}
 \tag{16}$$

with  $\underline{\mathbf{v}}(k) := [v(k), v(k + t_1), \dots, v(k + t_{p-1})]^T \in \mathbb{R}^p$  the lifted noise vector.

### 3 Subspace Identification Method

Given the periodically non-uniformly sampled data  $\{u(kT + t_i), z(kT + t_i), i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, p - 1\}$ , the lifted input and output data are  $\{\underline{u}(k), \underline{z}(k)\}$ , while the input and output block Hankel matrices can be defined as

$$U_{0|l-1} := \begin{bmatrix} \underline{u}(0) & \underline{u}(1) & \dots & \underline{u}(N-1) \\ \underline{u}(1) & \underline{u}(2) & \dots & \underline{u}(N) \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \underline{u}(l-1) & \underline{u}(l) & \dots & \underline{u}(l+N-2) \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{lp \times N}, \tag{17}$$

$$Z_{0|l-1} := \begin{bmatrix} \underline{z}(0) & \underline{z}(1) & \dots & \underline{z}(N-1) \\ \underline{z}(1) & \underline{z}(2) & \dots & \underline{z}(N) \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \underline{z}(l-1) & \underline{z}(l) & \dots & \underline{z}(l+N-2) \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{lp \times N}, \tag{18}$$

where  $l$  is strictly greater than the dimension  $n$  of state vector,  $N$  is sufficiently large, the indices 0 and  $l - 1$  denote the arguments of the upper-left and lower-left elements, respectively.

$U_{l|2l-1}$  and  $Z_{l|2l-1}$  can be defined in a similar way. The block Hankel matrices  $U_{0|l-1}$  and  $Z_{0|l-1}$  are usually called the past inputs and outputs, respectively, whereas the block Hankel matrices  $U_{l|2l-1}$  and  $Z_{l|2l-1}$  are called the future inputs and outputs, respectively. Define  $W_p := \begin{bmatrix} U_{0|l-1} \\ Z_{0|l-1} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2lp \times N}$ , the LQ decomposition of the input and output block Hankel matrices can be performed as

$$\begin{bmatrix} U_{l|2l-1} \\ W_p \\ Z_{l|2l-1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ R_{21} & R_{22} & 0 \\ R_{31} & R_{32} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Q_1^T \\ Q_2^T \\ Q_3^T \end{bmatrix} \tag{19}$$

where  $R_{11} \in \mathbb{R}^{lp \times lp}$ ,  $R_{22} \in \mathbb{R}^{2lp \times 2lp}$ ,  $Q_1, Q_3 \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times lp}$ ,  $Q_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times 2lp}$ .

Defining  $\xi$  as the oblique projection of  $Z_{l|2l-1}$  onto  $W_p$  along  $U_{l|2l-1}$ , with the above LQ decomposition, we have

$$\xi = R_{32} R_{22}^\dagger W_p, \tag{20}$$

$\dagger$  denoting the pseudo inverse. The details are referred to Theorem 6.3 in [16], and thus omitted here.

Let the SVD of  $\xi$  be

$$\xi = [U_1, U_2] \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_1 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_1^T \\ V_2^T \end{bmatrix} = U_1 \Sigma_1 V_1^T. \tag{21}$$

Defining the state sequence  $X_l := [\mathbf{x}(l), \mathbf{x}(l + 1), \dots, \mathbf{x}(l + N - 1)]$ , we have the estimated state sequence

$$\hat{X} := [\hat{\mathbf{x}}(l), \hat{\mathbf{x}}(l + 1), \dots, \hat{\mathbf{x}}(l + N - 1)] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times N}. \tag{22}$$

By defining

$$\hat{\mathbf{X}}_{l+1} := [\hat{\mathbf{x}}(l+1), \hat{\mathbf{x}}(l+2), \dots, \hat{\mathbf{x}}(l+N-1)] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times (N-1)}, \tag{23}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{X}}_l := [\hat{\mathbf{x}}(l), \hat{\mathbf{x}}(l+1), \dots, \hat{\mathbf{x}}(l+N-2)] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times (N-1)}, \tag{24}$$

$$\mathbf{U}_{l|l} := [\mathbf{u}(l), \mathbf{u}(l+1), \dots, \mathbf{u}(l+N-2)] \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times (N-1)}, \tag{25}$$

$$\mathbf{Z}_{l|l} := [\mathbf{z}(l), \mathbf{z}(l+1), \dots, \mathbf{z}(l+N-2)] \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times (N-1)}, \tag{26}$$

it follows that

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{X}}_{l+1} \\ \mathbf{Z}_{l|l} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{C} & \mathbf{D} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{X}}_l \\ \mathbf{U}_{l|l} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{27}$$

then the system matrices can be estimated by using the least-squares technique,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{A}} & \hat{\mathbf{B}} \\ \hat{\mathbf{C}} & \hat{\mathbf{D}} \end{bmatrix} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{X}}_{l+1} \\ \mathbf{Z}_{l|l} \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{X}}_{l+1} \\ \mathbf{Z}_{l|l} \end{bmatrix} \right\}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{X}}_{l+1} \\ \mathbf{Z}_{l|l} \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{X}}_l \\ \mathbf{U}_{l|l} \end{bmatrix}. \tag{28}$$

Note that the upper triangular blocks in  $\mathbf{D}$  are zero, namely, the zero-entries of this upper triangular block in  $\mathbf{D}$  do not need to be identified, but the upper triangular blocks may not equal zero in  $\hat{\mathbf{D}}$ . In order to tackle this *causality constraint* for the lifted model, we propose a two-stage way to estimate the matrices  $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{D})$ .

From (27), one can get the estimates of  $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B})$  by solving the following least-squares form:

$$\hat{\mathbf{X}}_{l+1} = [\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}] \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{X}}_l \\ \mathbf{U}_{l|l} \end{bmatrix}. \tag{29}$$

To obtain the non-zero subblock matrices in  $\mathbf{D}$ , we decompose the matrix  $\mathbf{Z}_{l|l}$  in (26) and  $\mathbf{U}_{l|l}$  in (25) into  $p$  row vectors according to their row dimension,

$$\mathbf{Z}_{l|l} := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Z}_1 \\ \mathbf{Z}_2 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{Z}_p \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{U}_{l|l} := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{U}_1 \\ \mathbf{U}_2 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{U}_p \end{bmatrix}, \tag{30}$$

From Equation (14) and

$$\mathbf{Z}_{l|l} = [\mathbf{C}, \mathbf{D}] \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{X}}_l \\ \mathbf{U}_{l|l} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{31}$$

we have

$$\mathbf{Z}_1 = [\mathbf{C}_c, D_c] \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{X}}_l \\ \mathbf{U}_1 \end{bmatrix}, \tag{32}$$

$$\mathbf{Z}_2 = [\mathbf{C}_1, D_1, D_c] \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{X}}_l \\ \mathbf{U}_1 \\ \mathbf{U}_2 \end{bmatrix}, \tag{33}$$

⋮

$$\mathbf{Z}_p = [\mathbf{C}_{p-1}, D_1, D_2, \dots, D_{p-1}, D_c] \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{X}}_l \\ \mathbf{U}_1 \\ \mathbf{U}_2 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{U}_p \end{bmatrix}. \tag{34}$$

Note that  $D_c$  can be estimated by solving (32), thus it can be used to estimate  $D_1$  in (33), and the rest unknown entries in  $\mathbf{D}$  can be estimated in a similar way.

### 4 Example

Consider a continuous process model described by

$$G(s) = \frac{1}{100s^2 + 10s + 1},$$

its canonical state space form being

$$S_c : \begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} -0.1 & -0.1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}(t) + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} u(t), \\ z(t) = [0, 0.01]\mathbf{x}(t) + v(t). \end{cases}$$

Taking  $p = 2$ ,  $\tau_1 = 0.618$  s,  $\tau_2 = 0.382$  s, hence,  $t_1 = \tau_1 = 0.618$  s,  $t_2 = \tau_1 + \tau_2 = T = 1$  s. Then the corresponding lifted state-space model is

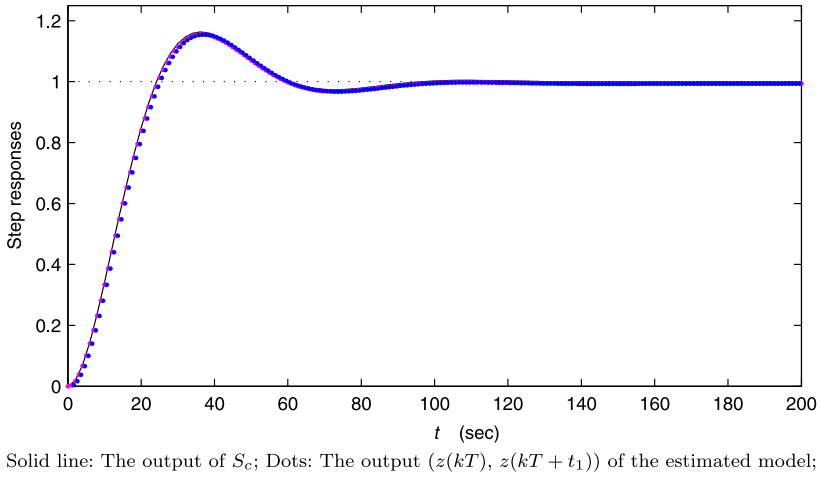
$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}(kT + T) &= \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}(kT) + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}(kT) \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.9002 & -0.0095 \\ 0.9500 & 0.9952 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}(kT) + \begin{bmatrix} 0.5753 & 0.37470 \\ 0.4113 & 0.07203 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u(kT) \\ u(kT + t_1) \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} z(kT) \\ z(kT + t_1) \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0.01 \\ 0.005989 & 0.009981 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}(kT) \\ &+ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0.004113 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u(kT) \\ u(kT + t_1) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} v(kT) \\ v(kT + t_1) \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

The input signals  $u(kT)$  and  $u(kT + t_1)$  are taken as two random signal sequences with zero mean and unit variances and two uncorrelated noise sequences with zero mean and variances  $\sigma^2 = 0.10^2$ . The noise terms are independent of the inputs.

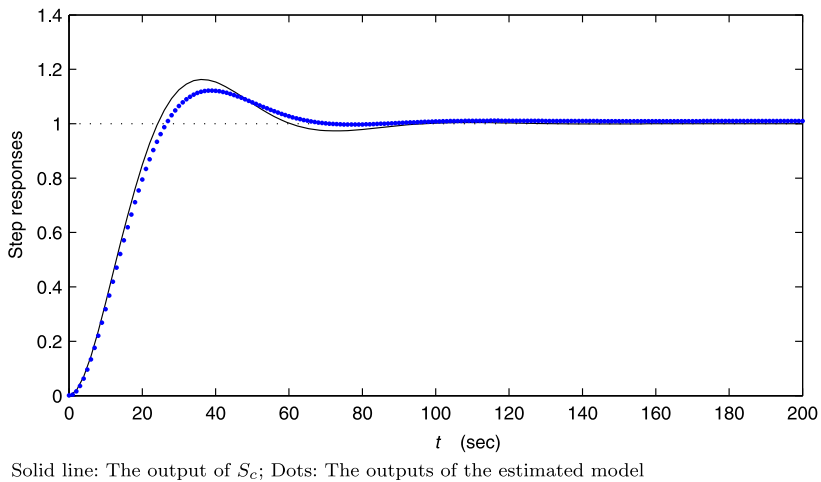
With the non-uniformly sampled input and output data, we apply the modified subspace identification method respectively to the above lifted model and to the following single-rate model, as follows.

Taking  $T = 1$  s for a single-rate sampled system yields the discrete-time state-space model

$$S_d : \begin{cases} \mathbf{x}(kT + T) = \begin{bmatrix} 0.9783 & -0.0095 \\ 0.95 & 0.9952 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}(kT) + \begin{bmatrix} 0.95 \\ 0.4833 \end{bmatrix} u(kT), \\ z(kT) = [0, 0.01]\mathbf{x}(kT) + v(kT). \end{cases}$$



**Fig. 2** The step responses of the actual system and the estimated model under non-uniform sampling



**Fig. 3** The step responses of the actual system and the estimated model under single-rate sampling

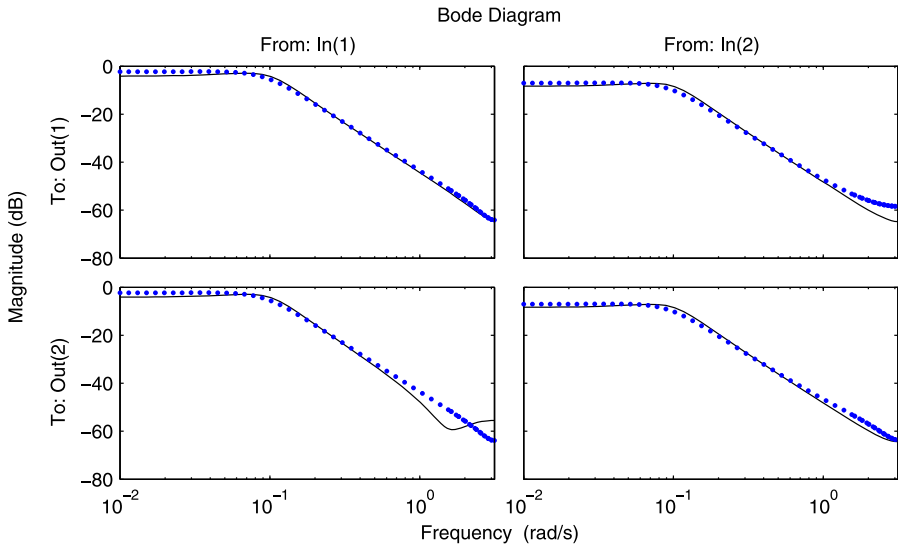
The step responses of the identified lifted system and single-rate system are shown in Figs. 2–3: The lifted model can capture the actual system dynamics better than the single-rate model does. The estimated poles of the lifted model and the single-rate model are listed in Table 1: the estimated poles of the lifted model are closer to the actual system poles than that of the single-rate model.

Furthermore, the Bode diagrams of the actual system and the estimated systems are shown in Figs. 4–5. This indicates that the estimated lifted model can achieve satisfactory results.



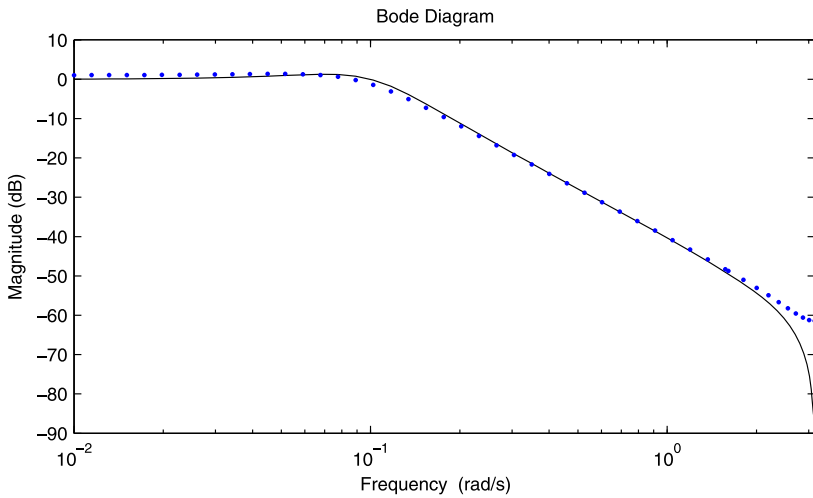
**Table 1** The estimated poles of the lifted model and the single-rate model

| Models            | Poles                |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Lifted model      | $0.9444 \pm 0.0778i$ |
| Single-rate model | $0.9409 \pm 0.0733i$ |
| Actual model      | $0.9477 \pm 0.0823i$ |



Solid line: The lifted model; Dots: The estimated system

**Fig. 4** The Bode diagrams of the actual system and the estimated system



Solid line: The single-rate model; Dots: The estimated system

**Fig. 5** The Bode diagrams of the actual system and the estimated single-rate system

## 5 Conclusions

We have discussed the identification methods for periodically non-uniformly sampled system. By using the lifting technique, we propose a two-stage subspace identification method to identify the lifted state-space models, the advantages of the proposed method lie in that:

- The lifted system can be estimated by using non-uniformly sampled data directly, thus it can achieve better performance than the single-rate one.
- The developed algorithm can tackle the causality constraints in the lifted state-space model.

The proposed method can be extended to other linear or nonlinear systems [7–9, 13, 23, 29–31].

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