

# Linear Dynamical Systems

Week 3 and 4 - Controllability and State Feedback

# Outline of Week 3 and 4

- 1 Controllable and Reachable Subspaces
- 2 Fundamental Theorem of Linear Equations (review)
- 3 Various Tests for Controllability
- 4 Controllable Decompositions
- 5 Stabilizability
- 6 State feedback controller design
- 7 Regulation and Tracking control problems

# Simple Illustration of Controllability

# Controllability

Consider the continuous-time LTV system

$$\dot{x} = A(t)x + B(t)u, \quad y = C(t)x + D(t)u, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, u \in \mathbb{R}^k$$

Using variation of constants formula, a given input  $u(\bullet)$  transfers the state  $x(t_0) := x_0$  at time  $t_0$  to the state  $x(t_1) := x_1$  at time  $t_1$ ,

$$x_1 = \phi(t_1, t_0)x_0 + \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \phi(t_1, \tau)B(\tau)u(\tau)d\tau$$

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## Definition (Controllability)

The LTV<sup>1</sup> system is said to be *controllable* at  $t_0$ , whenever there exists a finite  $t_1 > t_0$  such that for any  $x_0$  and any  $x_1$ , there exists an input  $u(\cdot)$  that transfers  $x_0$  to  $x_1$  at time  $t_1$ .

Otherwise, the system is uncontrollable at  $t_0$ .

<sup>1</sup>In the time-invariant case, if the state equation is controllable then it is controllable at every  $t_0$  and for every  $t_1 > t_0$ ; thus there is **no need to specify**  $t_0$  and  $t_1$ . In the time-varying case, the specification of  $t_0$  and  $t_1$  is *crucial*.

# Subspaces

## Controllability from the origin

### Definition (Reachable Subspace)

## Controllability to the origin

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# Subspaces

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### Definition (Reachable Subspace)

Given two times  $t_1 > t_0 \geq 0$ , the *reachable* or *controllable-from-the-origin* on  $[t_0, t_1]$  subspace  $\mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1]$  consists of all states  $x_1$  for which there exists an input  $u : [t_0, t_1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$  that transfers the state from  $x(t_0) = 0$  to  $x(t_1) = x_1$ ; i.e

$$\mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] \triangleq \left\{ x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^n : \exists u(\bullet), x_1 = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \phi(t_1, \tau) B(\tau) u(\tau) d\tau \right\}.$$

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## Controllability to the origin

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Given two times  $t_1 > t_0 \geq 0$ , the *controllable* or *controllable-to-the-origin* on  $[t_0, t_1]$  subspace  $\mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1]$  consists of all states  $x_0$  for which there exists an input  $u : [t_0, t_1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$  that transfers the state from  $x(t_0) = x_0$  to  $x(t_1) = 0$ ; i.e.,

$$\mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1] \triangleq \left\{ x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n : \exists u(\bullet), 0 = \phi(t_1, t_0) x_0 + \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \phi(t_1, \tau) B(\tau) u(\tau) d\tau \right\}.$$

# Subspaces

The matrices  $C(\cdot)$  and  $D(\cdot)$  play no role in these definitions; therefore one often simply talks about the reachable or controllable subspaces of the system

$$\dot{x} = A(t)x + B(t)u, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, u \in \mathbb{R}^k \quad (\text{AB-CLTV})$$

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## Attention!

Determining the reachable subspace amounts to finding for which vectors  $x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , the equation

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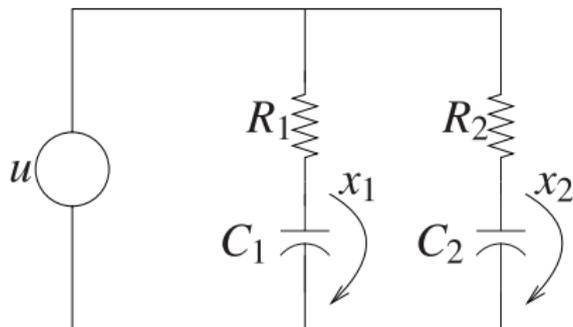
Similarly, determining the controllable subspace amounts to finding the vectors  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  for which the equation

$$0 = \phi(t_1, t_0)x_0 + \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \phi(t_1, \tau) B(\tau) u(\tau) d\tau \iff x_0 = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \phi(t_0, \tau) B(\tau) v(\tau) d\tau$$

has a solution  $v(\cdot) = -u(\cdot)$ .

## Examples and System Interconnections

## Parallel RC network

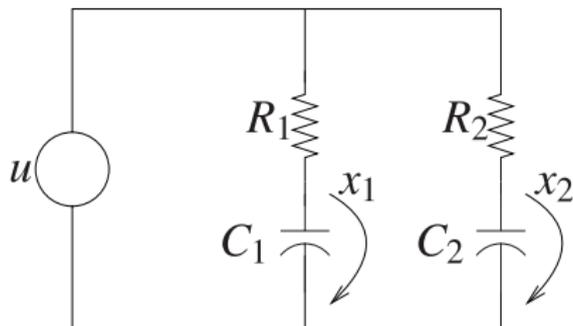


State space model of parallel electrical network is given as

$$\dot{x} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{R_1 C_1} & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{R_2 C_2} \end{bmatrix} x + \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{R_1 C_1} \\ \frac{1}{R_2 C_2} \end{bmatrix} u$$

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The solution to this system is given by

$$x(t) = \begin{bmatrix} x_1(t) \\ x_2(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} e^{-\frac{t}{R_1 C_1}} x_1(0) \\ e^{-\frac{t}{R_2 C_2}} x_2(0) \end{bmatrix} + \int_0^t \begin{bmatrix} \frac{e^{-\frac{t-\tau}{R_1 C_1}}}{R_1 C_1} \\ \frac{e^{-\frac{t-\tau}{R_2 C_2}}}{R_2 C_2} \end{bmatrix} u(\tau) d\tau$$

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When the two branches have the same time constant, i.e.

$\frac{1}{R_1C_1} = \frac{1}{R_2C_2} = \omega$ , we have

$$x(t) = e^{-\omega t}x(0) + \omega \int_0^t e^{-\omega(t-\tau)}u(\tau)d\tau \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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If  $x(0) = 0$ , then  $x(t)$  reduces to

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We can observe that transferring the system from the origin to any state with  $x_1(t) = x_2(t)$  is permissible. Hence, the reachable subspace of this system is

$$\mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \left\{ \alpha \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} : \alpha \in \mathbb{R} \right\}, \quad \forall t_1 > t_0 \geq 0.$$

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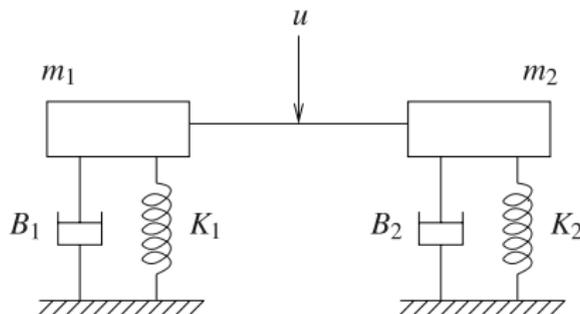
$$\mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1] = \left\{ \alpha \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} : \alpha \in \mathbb{R} \right\}, \quad \forall t_1 > t_0 \geq 0.$$

However, we shall see shortly that when the time constants are different; i.e.  $\frac{1}{R_1C_1} \neq \frac{1}{R_2C_2}$ , *any* vector in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  can be reached from the origin and the origin can be reached from *any* initial condition in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ; i.e.

$$\mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1] = \mathbb{R}^2$$

## Examples and System Interconnections

## Suspension System



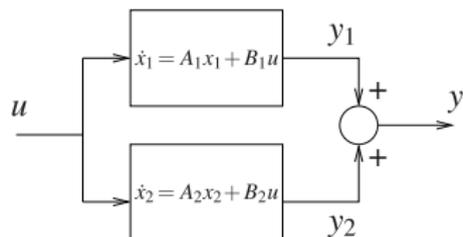
The steady state space model of the mechanical system is given by

$$\dot{x} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{b_1}{m_1} & -\frac{k_1}{m_1} & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{b_2}{m_2} & -\frac{k_2}{m_2} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} x + \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2m_1} \\ 0 \\ \frac{1}{2m_2} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} u$$

where  $x = [x_1 \ x_2 \ x_3 \ x_4]'$ , and  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are the spring displacements with respect to the equilibrium position. We assumed that the bar has negligible mass and therefore the force  $u$  is equally distributed between the two spring systems.

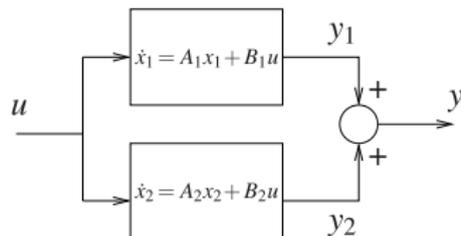
# Examples and System Interconnections

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Consider the parallel interconnection of two systems with states  $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . The overall system corresponds to the state space model:

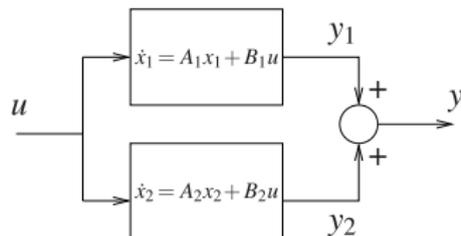
$$\dot{x} = \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & 0 \\ 0 & A_2 \end{bmatrix} x + \begin{bmatrix} B_1 \\ B_2 \end{bmatrix} u$$

The solution to the system when  $A_1 = A_2 = A$ ,  $B_1 = B_2 = B$  is given by

$$x(t) = \begin{bmatrix} e^{At} x_1(0) \\ e^{At} x_2(0) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} I \\ I \end{bmatrix} \int_0^t e^{A(t-\tau)} B u(\tau) d\tau.$$

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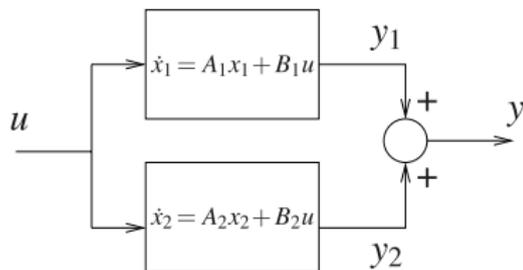
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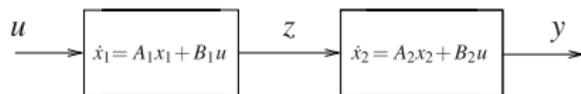
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This shows that if  $x(0) = 0$ , we cannot transfer the system from the origin to any state with  $x_1(t) \neq x_2(t)$ . Similarly, to transfer a state  $x(t_0)$  to the origin, we must have  $x_1(t_0) = x_2(t_0)$ .

# Examples and System Interconnections



(a) parallel

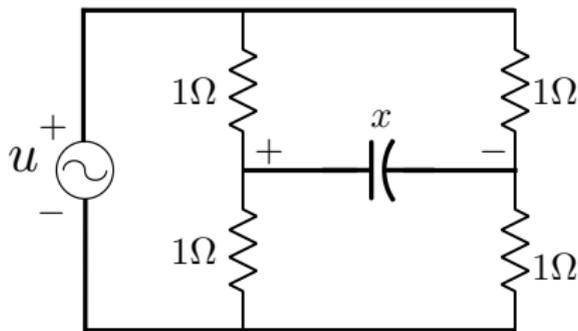


(b) cascade

## Attention

- Parallel connections of similar systems are a common mechanism that leads to lack of reachability and controllability.
- Cascade connections, generally do not have this problem. However, they may lead to stability problems through resonance.

## Examples and System Interconnections



State variable  $x$  is the voltage across the capacitor.

If  $x(0) = 0$ , then  $x(t) = 0$  for all  $t \geq 0$  no matter what input is applied.

This is due to the symmetry of the network, and the input has no effect on the voltage across the capacitor.

# Fundamental theorem of linear equations

Given an  $m \times n$  matrix  $W$

Definition (Image and Rank of a matrix)

Definition (Kernel and Nullity of a matrix)

# Fundamental theorem of linear equations

Given an  $m \times n$  matrix  $W$

## Definition (Image and Rank of a matrix)

The *range* or *image* is the set of vectors  $y \in \mathbb{R}^m$  for which  $y = Wx$  has a solution  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ; i.e.,

$$\text{Im}W \triangleq \{y \in \mathbb{R}^m : \exists x \in \mathbb{R}^n, y = Wx\}$$

The image of  $W$  is a linear subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^m$  and its dimension is called the *rank* of the matrix  $W$ .

## Definition (Kernel and Nullity of a matrix)

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The rank of  $W$  is equal to the number of linearly independent columns of  $W$ , which is also equal to the number of linearly independent rows of  $W$ .

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## Definition (Kernel and Nullity of a matrix)

The *kernel* or *null space* is the set

$$\ker W = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Wx = 0\}$$

The kernel of  $W$  is a linear subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , and its dimension is called the *nullity* of the matrix  $W$ .

# Fundamental theorem of linear equations

Theorem (Fundamental theorem of linear equations<sup>1</sup>)

For every  $m \times n$  matrix  $W$ ,

$$\dim \ker W + \dim \operatorname{Im} W = n.$$

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$$\mathcal{V}^\perp = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x'z = 0, \forall z \in \mathcal{V}\}.$$

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## Theorem (Range vs null space)

For every  $m \times n$  matrix  $W$ ,

$$\operatorname{Im} W = (\ker W')^\perp, \quad \ker W = (\operatorname{Im} W')^\perp.$$

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# Reachability and Controllability Gramians

As the name suggests, the Gramians allow one to compute the aforesaid subspaces.

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## Definition (Gramians)

Given two times  $t_1 > t_0 \geq 0$ , the reachability and controllability Gramians of the system (AB-CLTV) are defined, respectively, by

$$W_R(t_0, t_1) = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \phi(t_1, \tau) B(\tau) B(\tau)^T \phi(t_1, \tau)^T d\tau$$

$$W_C(t_0, t_1) = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \phi(t_0, \tau) B(\tau) B(\tau)^T \phi(t_0, \tau)^T d\tau$$

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## Note

Both Gramians are symmetric and positive-semidefinite  $n \times n$  matrices.

# Reachability and Controllability Gramians

Definition (Reachable Subspace, Gramian, Image)

$$\mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] \triangleq \left\{ x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^n : \exists u(\bullet), x_1 = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \phi(t_1, \tau) B(\tau) u(\tau) d\tau \right\}$$

$$W_R(t_0, t_1) \triangleq \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \phi(t_1, \tau) B(\tau) B(\tau)^T \phi(t_1, \tau)^T d\tau, \quad \text{Im}W \triangleq \{y \in \mathbb{R}^m : \exists x \in \mathbb{R}^n, y = Wx\}$$

# Reachability and Controllability Gramians

Definition (Reachable Subspace, Gramian, Image)

$$\mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] \triangleq \left\{ x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^n : \exists u(\bullet), x_1 = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \phi(t_1, \tau) B(\tau) u(\tau) d\tau \right\}$$

$$W_R(t_0, t_1) \triangleq \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \phi(t_1, \tau) B(\tau) B(\tau)^T \phi(t_1, \tau)^T d\tau, \quad \text{Im}W \triangleq \{y \in \mathbb{R}^m : \exists x \in \mathbb{R}^n, y = Wx\}$$

Theorem (Reachable subspace)

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Logical idea of the proof.

The proof shall be done in two parts

- $x_1 \in \text{Im}W_R(t_0, t_1) \implies x_1 \in \mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1]$
- $x_1 \in \mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] \implies x_1 \in \text{Im}W_R(t_0, t_1)$

Proof:  $x_1 \in \text{Im}W_R(t_0, t_1) \implies x_1 \in \mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1]$

Recall

$$W_R(t_0, t_1) = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \phi(t_1, \tau) B(\tau) B(\tau)^T \phi(t_1, \tau)^T d\tau$$
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From this and (3), we conclude that (2) indeed holds.

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Moreover, if  $x_0 = W_C(t_0, t_1)\eta_0 \in \text{Im}W_C(t_0, t_1)$ , the control

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# Controllability Matrix (LTI)

Consider the continuous time LTI system

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, u \in \mathbb{R}^k \quad (\text{AB-CLTI})$$

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For this system, the reachability and controllability Gramians are given, respectively, by

$$W_R[t_0, t_1] = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} e^{A(t_1-\tau)} BB^T e^{A^T(t_1-\tau)} d\tau = \int_0^{t_1-t_0} e^{At} BB^T e^{A^T t} dt$$

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The *controllability matrix* of (AB-CLTI) is to be defined by

$$\mathfrak{C} = [B \quad AB \quad A^2B \quad \dots \quad A^{n-1}B]_{n \times (kn)}$$

and provides a “simple method” to compute the reachable and controllable subspace.

# Controllability Matrix (LTI)

## Theorem

*For any two times  $t_0$  and  $t_1$ , with  $t_1 > t_0 \geq 0$*

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## Attention

The notion of reachability and controllability **coincide** for continuous time LTI system, which means if one can go from origin to some state  $x_1$ , then one can also go from  $x_1$  to origin.

Because of this, one studies controllability for continuous time system, and neglect reachability.

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## Logical idea of the proof.

$$\underbrace{\mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \text{Im}W_R(t_0, t_1)}_{\text{Reachable subspace}} = \text{Im}\mathcal{C} = \overbrace{\text{Im}W_C(t_0, t_1)}^{\text{Controllable subspace}} = \mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1]$$

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$$\underbrace{\mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \text{Im}W_R(t_0, t_1)}_{\text{Reachable subspace}} = \text{Im}\mathcal{C} = \overbrace{\text{Im}W_C(t_0, t_1)}^{\text{Controllable subspace}} = \mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1]$$

The rest of the proof shall be done in two parts

- $x_1 \in \mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \text{Im}W_R[t_0, t_1] \implies x_1 \in \text{Im}\mathcal{C}$ .
- $x_1 \in \mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \text{Im}W_R[t_0, t_1] \longleftarrow x_1 \in \text{Im}\mathcal{C}$ .

**Proof:**  $x_1 \in \mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \text{Im}W_R[t_0, t_1] \implies x_1 \in \text{Im}\mathcal{C}$

When  $x_1 \in \mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1]$ , there exists an input  $u(\cdot)$  that transfers the state from  $x(t_0) = 0$  to  $x(t_1) = x_1$ , and therefore

$$x_1 = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} e^{A(t_1-\tau)} B u(\tau) d\tau$$

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Recall

**Theorem (Caley-Hamilton theorem)**

*For every  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ ,*

$$\Delta(A) = A^n + a_1 A^{n-1} + a_2 A^{n-2} + \cdots + a_{n-1} A + a_n I_{n \times n} = 0_{n \times n}$$

*where*

$$\Delta(s) = s^n + a_1 s^{n-1} + a_2 s^{n-2} + \cdots + a_{n-1} s + a_n$$

*is the characteristics polynomial of  $A$ .*

**Proof:**  $x_1 \in \mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \text{Im}W_R[t_0, t_1] \implies x_1 \in \text{Im}\mathcal{C}$

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Using Caley-Hamilton theorem, we can write

$$e^{At} = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \alpha_i(t) A^i, \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}$$

for appropriately defined scalar functions  $\alpha_0(t), \alpha_1(t), \alpha_2(t), \dots, \alpha_{n-1}(t)$ .

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Therefore,

$$x_1 = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} A^i B \left( \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \alpha_i(t_1 - \tau) u(\tau) d\tau \right) = \mathfrak{C} \begin{bmatrix} \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \alpha_0(t_1 - \tau) u(\tau) d\tau \\ \vdots \\ \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \alpha_{n-1}(t_1 - \tau) u(\tau) d\tau \end{bmatrix}$$

which shows that  $x_1 \in \text{Im}\mathfrak{C}$ .

Proof:  $x_1 \in \mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \text{Im}W_R[t_0, t_1] \iff x_1 \in \text{Im}\mathcal{C}$

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We show next that this leads to  $x_1 \in \text{Im}W_R(t_0, t_1) = (\ker W_R(t_0, t_1))^\perp$ , which is to say that

$$\eta_1^T x_1 = \eta_1^T \mathfrak{C}v = 0, \quad \forall \eta_1 \in \ker W_R(t_0, t_1). \quad (4)$$

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To verify that this is so, we pick an arbitrary vector  $\eta_1 \in \ker W_R(t_0, t_1)$ .

We saw in the proof of the reachable subspace that such vector  $\eta_1$  has the property that

$$\eta_1^T e^{A(t_1-\tau)} B = 0, \quad \forall \tau \in [t_0, t_1].$$

To verify that, we pick some arbitrary vector  $\eta_1 \in \ker W_R(t_0, t_1)$  and compute

$$x_1^T \eta_1 = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} u(\tau)^T B(\tau)^T \phi(t_1, \tau)^T \eta_1 d\tau \quad (3)$$

But since  $\eta_1 \in \ker W_R(t_0, t_1)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_1^T W_R(t_0, t_1) \eta_1 &= \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \eta_1^T \phi(t_1, \tau) B(\tau) B(\tau)^T \phi(t_1, \tau)^T \eta_1 d\tau \\ &= \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \|B(\tau)^T \phi(t_1, \tau)^T \eta_1\|^2 d\tau = 0 \end{aligned}$$

which implies that

$$B(\tau)^T \phi(t_1, \tau)^T \eta_1 = 0, \quad \forall \tau \in [t_0, t_1].$$

**Proof:**  $x_1 \in \mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \text{Im}W_R[t_0, t_1] \iff x_1 \in \text{Im}\mathfrak{C}$

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Taking  $k$  time derivatives with respect to  $\tau$ , we further conclude that

$$(-1)^k \eta_1^T A^k e^{A(t_1-\tau)} B = 0, \quad \forall \tau \in [t_0, t_1], k \geq 0.$$

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Taking  $k$  time derivatives with respect to  $\tau$ , we further conclude that

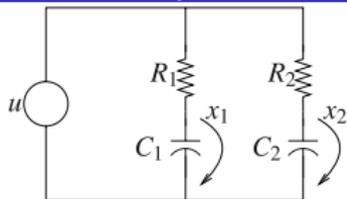
$$(-1)^k \eta_1^T A^k e^{A(t_1-\tau)} B = 0, \quad \forall \tau \in [t_0, t_1], k \geq 0.$$

and in particular for  $\tau = t_1$ , we obtain

$$\eta_1^T A^k B = 0, \quad \forall k \geq 0$$

It follows that  $\eta_1^T \mathfrak{C} = 0$  and therefore (4) indeed holds.

## Parallel RC network example (continued)



The controllability matrix for the network is given by

$$\mathfrak{C} = [B \quad AB] = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{R_1 C_1} & \frac{-1}{R_1^2 C_1^2} \\ \frac{1}{R_2 C_2} & \frac{-1}{R_2^2 C_2^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

When two branches have the same time constants, i.e.,  $\frac{1}{R_1 C_1} = \frac{1}{R_2 C_2} = \omega$ , we have

$$\mathfrak{C} = \begin{bmatrix} \omega & -\omega^2 \\ \omega & -\omega^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

and therefore

$$\mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1] = \text{Im} \mathfrak{C} = \left\{ \alpha \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} : \alpha \in \mathbb{R} \right\}, \quad \forall t_1 > t_0 \geq 0$$

However, when the time constants are different, i.e.  $\frac{1}{R_1 C_1} \neq \frac{1}{R_2 C_2}$ .

$$\det \mathfrak{C} = \frac{1}{R_1^2 C_1^2 R_2 C_2} - \frac{1}{R_1 C_1 R_2^2 C_2^2} = \frac{1}{R_1 C_1 R_2 C_2} \left( \frac{1}{R_1 C_1} - \frac{1}{R_2 C_2} \right) \neq 0$$

which means that  $\mathfrak{C}$  is nonsingular, and therefore

$$\mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1] = \text{Im} \mathfrak{C} = \mathbb{R}^2$$

# Discrete-Time Case

Consider discrete-time LTV system

$$x(t+1) = A(t)x(t) + B(t)u(t), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, u \in \mathbb{R}^k \quad (\text{AB-DLTV})$$

A given input  $u(\cdot)$  transfers of state  $x(t_0) = x_0$  at time  $t_0$  to the state  $x(t_1) = x_1$  at time  $t_1$  given by the variation of constants formula,

$$x_1 = \phi(t_1, t_0)x_0 + \sum_{\tau=t_0}^{t_1-1} \phi(t_1, \tau+1)B(\tau)u(\tau),$$

where  $\phi(\cdot)$  denotes the system's state transition matrix.

We want to express how powerful the input is in terms of transferring the state between two given states.

# Discrete-Time Case

## Definition (Reachable subspace)

Given two times  $t_1 > t_0 \geq 0$ , the *reachable* or *controllable-from-the-origin* on  $[t_0, t_1]$  subspace  $\mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1]$  consists of all states  $x_1$  for which there exists an input  $u : \{t_0, t_0 + 1, \dots, t_1 - 1\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$  that transfers the state from  $x(t_0) = 0$  to  $x(t_1) = x_1$ ; i.e.

$$\mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \left\{ x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^n : \exists u(\cdot), x_1 = \sum_{\tau=t_0}^{t_1-1} \phi(t_1, \tau + 1)B(\tau)u(\tau) \right\}.$$

## Definition (Controllable subspace)

Given two times  $t_1 > t_0 \geq 0$ , the *controllable* or *controller-to-the-origin* on  $[t_0, t_1]$  subspace  $\mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1]$  consists of all states  $x_0$  for which there exists an input  $u : \{t_0, t_0 + 1, \dots, t_1 - 1\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$  that transfers the state from  $x(t_0) = x_0$  to  $x(t_1) = 0$ ; i.e.,

$$\mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1] = \left\{ x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n : \exists u(\cdot), 0 = \phi(t_1, t_0)x_0 + \sum_{\tau=t_0}^{t_1-1} \phi(t_1, \tau + 1)B(\tau)u(\tau) \right\}.$$

# Discrete-Time Case

## Theorem (Reachability and controllability Gramians)

Given two times  $t_1 > t_0 \geq 0$ , the reachability and controllability Gramians of the system (AB-DLTV) are defined, respectively, by

$$W_R(t_0, t_1) := \sum_{\tau=t_0}^{t_1-1} \phi(t_1, \tau + 1)B(\tau)B(\tau)'\phi(t_1, \tau + 1)',$$
$$W_C(t_0, t_1) := \sum_{\tau=t_0}^{t_1-1} \phi(t_0, \tau + 1)B(\tau)B(\tau)'\phi(t_0, \tau + 1)'.$$

These Gramians allow us to determine exactly what the reachable and controllable spaces are.

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### Attention!

The discrete-time controllability Gramian requires a backward-in-time state transition matrix  $\phi(t_0, \tau + 1)$  from time  $\tau + 1$  to time  $t_0 \leq \tau < \tau + 1$ .

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The matrix is well defined *only* when

$$x(\tau+1) = A(\tau)A(\tau-1)\cdots A(t_0)x(t_0), \quad t_0 \leq \tau < t_1 - 1$$

can be solved for  $x(t_0)$ , i.e. when all the matrices  $A(t_0), A(t_0+1)\dots A(t_1-1)$  are **nonsingular**.

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When this does not happen, *the controllability Gramian cannot be defined*.

These Gramians allow us to determine exactly what the reachable and controllable spaces are.

# Discrete-Time Case

## Theorem (Reachable and controllable subspaces)

Given two times  $t_1 > t_0 \geq 0$ ,

$$\mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \text{Im}W_R(t_0, t_1),$$

Moreover

- ① if  $x_1 = W_R(t_0, t_1)\eta_1 \in \text{Im}W_R(t_0, t_1)$ , the control

$$u(t) = B(t)^T \phi(t_1, t+1)^T \eta_1, \quad t \in [t_0, t_1 - 1]$$

can be used to transfer the state from  $x(t_0) = 0$  to  $x(t_1) = x_1$ ,

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- ② if  $x_0 = W_C(t_0, t_1)\eta_0 \in \text{Im}W_C(t_0, t_1)$ , the control

$$u(t) = -B(t)^T \phi(t_0, t+1)^T \eta_0, \quad t \in [t_0, t_1 - 1]$$

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can be used to transfer the state from  $x(t_0) = x_0$  to  $x(t_1) = 0$ .

## Logical idea of the proof.

The proof can be done in two parts

- $x_1 \in \text{Im}W_R(t_0, t_1) \implies x_1 \in \mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1]$
- $x_1 \in \text{Im}W_R(t_0, t_1) \longleftarrow x_1 \in \mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1]$

## Discrete-Time Case: LTI

Consider now the discrete-time LTI system

$$x^+ = Ax + Bu, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, u \in \mathbb{R}^k \quad (\text{AB-DLTI})$$

For this system, the reachability and controllability Gramians are given, respectively, by

$$W_R(t_0, t_1) = \sum_{\tau=t_0}^{t_1-1} A^{t_1-1-\tau} B B^T (A^T)^{t_1-1-\tau},$$

$$W_C(t_0, t_1)^1 = \sum_{\tau=t_0}^{t_1-1} A^{t_0-1-\tau} B B^T (A^T)^{t_0-1-\tau}$$

and the *controllability matrix* is given by

$$\mathfrak{C} = [B \quad AB \quad \dots \quad A^{n-1}B]_{n \times (kn)}.$$

<sup>1</sup>The controllability Gramian can be defined only when  $A$  is nonsingular.

## Discrete-Time Case: LTI

## Theorem

For any two times  $t_1 > t_0 \geq 0$ , with  $t_1 \geq t_0 + n$ , we have<sup>1</sup>

$$\mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \text{Im}W_R(t_0, t_1) = \text{Im}\mathfrak{C} = \text{Im}W_C(t_0, t_1) = \mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1].$$

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<sup>1</sup>The results regarding the controllability Gramian implicitly assume that  $A$  is nonsingular.

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## Attention

In discrete time, the notions of controllable and reachable subspaces **coincide** only when the matrix  $A$  is **nonsingular**.

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In discrete time, the notions of controllable and reachable subspaces **coincide** only when the matrix  $A$  is **nonsingular**.

Otherwise, we have

$$\mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \text{Im}\mathfrak{C} \subset \mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1],$$

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## Discrete-Time Case: LTI

## Theorem

For any two times  $t_1 > t_0 \geq 0$ , with  $t_1 \geq t_0 + n$ , we have<sup>1</sup>

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Because of this, one *must* study reachability and controllability of discrete time systems separately.

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## Logical idea of the proof.

$$\underbrace{\mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \text{Im}W_R(t_0, t_1)}_{\text{Reachable subspace}} = \text{Im}\mathcal{E} = \overbrace{\text{Im}W_C(t_0, t_1)}^{\text{Controllable subspace}} = \mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1]$$

The proof can be done in two parts

- $x_1 \in \mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \text{Im}W_R[t_0, t_1] \implies x_1 \in \text{Im}\mathcal{E}.$
- $x_1 \in \mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \text{Im}W_R[t_0, t_1] \longleftarrow x_1 \in \text{Im}\mathcal{E}.$



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# Outline of Controllable Systems

- 1 Matrix test
- 2 Eigenvector test
- 3 Lyapunov test

# Matrix Test

Consider the following continuous and discrete-time LTV systems

$$\dot{x} = A(t)x + B(t)u \quad / \quad x(t+1) = A(t)x(t) + B(t)u(t), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, u \in \mathbb{R}^k$$

(AB-LTV)

## Definition (Reachable system)

Given two times  $t_1 > t_0 \geq 0$ , the system (AB-LTV), or simply the pair  $(A(\cdot), B(\cdot))$ , is (*completely state-*) *reachable on*  $[t_0, t_1]$  whenever  $\mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \mathbb{R}^n$ , i.e., whenever the origin can be transferred to every state.

## Definition (Controllable system)

Given two times  $t_1 > t_0 \geq 0$ , the system (AB-LTV), or simply the pair  $(A(\cdot), B(\cdot))$ , is (*completely state-*) *controllable on*  $[t_0, t_1]$  whenever  $\mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1] = \mathbb{R}^n$ , i.e., whenever every state can be transferred to the origin.

---

<sup>1</sup>Here, we jointly present the results for continuous and discrete time and use a slash to separate the two cases.

# Matrix Test

## Theorem

*The following two statements are equivalent.*

- 1 *The  $n$ -dimensional pair  $(A(t), B(t))$  is controllable at time  $t_0$ .*
- 2 *there exists a finite  $t_1 > t_0$  such that the  $n \times n$  matrix*

$$W_C(t_0, t_1) = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \phi(t_1, \tau) B(\tau) B(\tau)' \phi(t_1, \tau)' d\tau$$

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$$u(t) = -B'(t)\phi'(t_1, t)\eta, \quad \eta = W_C^{-1}(t_0, t_1)[\phi(t_1, t_0)(x_0 - x_1)]$$

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Proof:  $2 \iff 1$  OR  $\neg 2 \implies \neg 1$

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This contradicts the hypothesis  $v \neq 0$ .

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- 3 This is possible if we have additional conditions on  $A(t)$  and  $B(t)$
- 4 Recall that we have assumed  $A(t)$  and  $B(t)$  to be continuous. Now we require them to be  $(n - 1)$  times continuously differentiable.

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Define  $M_0(t) \triangleq B(t)$ , define using recursion:

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$$M_{m+1}(t) = -A(t)M_m(t) + \frac{d}{dt}M_m(t); \quad m = 0, 1, \dots, (n-1)$$

Clearly, we have

$$\phi(t_2, t)B(t) = \phi(t_2, t)M_0(t) \text{ for any fixed } t_2$$

Using

$$\frac{d}{dt}\phi(t_2, t) = -\phi(t_2, t)A(t),$$

compute

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} [\phi(t_2, t)B(t)] &= \frac{d}{dt} [\phi(t_2, t)] B(t) + \phi(t_2, t) \frac{d}{dt} B(t) \\ &= \phi(t_2, t) \left[ -A(t)M_0(t) + \frac{d}{dt}M_0(t) \right] = \phi(t_2, t)M_1(t) \end{aligned}$$

Proceeding forward, we have

$$\frac{d^m}{dt^m} \phi(t_2, t)B(t) = \phi(t_2, t)M_m(t); \quad m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

# Matrix Test

## Theorem

Let  $A(t)$  and  $B(t)$  be  $(n - 1)$  times continuously differentiable, then the  $n$ -dimensional pair  $(A(t), B(t))$  is controllable at  $t_0$  if there exists a finite  $t_1 > t_0$  such that

$$\text{rank} \begin{bmatrix} M_0(t_1) & M_1(t_1) & \cdots & M_{n-1}(t_1) \end{bmatrix} = n$$

$$M_0(t) = B(t)$$

$$M_{m+1}(t) = -A(t)M_m(t) + \frac{d}{dt}M_m(t); \quad m = 0, 1, \dots, (n - 1)$$

## Note

The above theorem is sufficient but not necessary.

# Proof

We show that if the rank condition holds, then  $W_c(t_0, t_1)$  is non-singular for all  $t \geq t_1$ .

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Suppose not, i.e.  $W_c(t_0, t_1)$  is singular or positive semidefinite for some  $t_2 \geq t_1$ . Then there exists a nonzero constant vector  $v$  such that

$$v'W_c(t_0, t_2)v = 0 = \int_{t_0}^{t_2} \|B'(\tau)\phi'(t_2, \tau)v\|^2 d\tau$$

which implies

$$B'(\tau)\phi'(t_2, \tau)v = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad v'\phi(t_2, \tau)B(\tau) = 0$$

for all  $\tau$  in  $[t_0, t_2]$ .

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$$v'\phi(t_2, t_1) [M_0(t_1) \quad M_1(t_1) \quad \cdots \quad M_{n-1}(t_1)] = 0$$

Because  $\phi(t_2, t_1)$  is nonsingular,  $v'\phi(t_2, t_1)$  is nonzero. This contradicts the rank condition.

# Example

Consider

$$\dot{x} = \begin{bmatrix} t & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -t & t \\ 0 & 0 & t \end{bmatrix} x + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} u$$

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$$M_1 = -A(t)M_0 + \frac{d}{dt}M_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -t \end{bmatrix}$$

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The determinant of the matrix

$$[M_0 \ M_1 \ M_2] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & -t \\ 1 & 0 & t^2 \\ 1 & -t & t^2 - 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

is  $t^2 + 1$ , which is nonzero for all  $t$ .

# Matrix Test

Consider now the LTI systems

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu \quad / \quad x(t+1) = Ax(t) + Bu(t), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, u \in \mathbb{R}^k \quad (\text{AB-LTI})$$

## Notes

- For continuous-time LTI systems  $\mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1]$ , and therefore one often talks about only controllability.
- A system that is not controllable is called *uncontrollable*.
- In discrete time, this holds for  $t_1 - t_0 \geq n$ , and nonsingular  $A$ .

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Earlier, we saw that

$$\text{Im}\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1].$$

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*The LTI system (AB-LTI) is controllable if and only if*

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## Notes

In discrete time, when  $A$  is singular, we simply have

$$\text{Im}\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] \subset \mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1]$$

and

- $\text{rank}\mathcal{C} = n \implies \mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] = \mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1] = \mathbb{R}^n$
- $\text{rank}\mathcal{C} < n \implies \text{Im}\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{R}[t_0, t_1] \subset \mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1] = \mathbb{R}^n$

# Eigenvector Test

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## Definition ( $A$ -invariant)

Given an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ , a linear subspace  $\mathcal{V}$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is said to be  *$A$ -invariant* whenever for every vector  $v \in \mathcal{V}$  we have  $Av \in \mathcal{V}$ .

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**Properties:** Given an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ , a linear subspace  $\mathcal{V} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , the following statements are true.

## Lemma (Property 1)

If one constructs an  $n \times k$  matrix  $V$  whose columns form a basis for  $\mathcal{V}$ , there exists a  $k \times k$  matrix  $\Gamma$  such that

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Putting all these equations together, we conclude that

$$[Av_1 \quad Av_2 \quad \cdots \quad Av_k] = [V\gamma_1 \quad V\gamma_2 \quad \cdots \quad V\gamma_k] \iff AV = V\Gamma$$

where all the  $\gamma_i$  are used as columns for  $\Gamma$ . □

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and therefore,  $v := V\bar{v}$  is an eigenvector of the matrix  $A$ .  
Moreover, since  $v$  is a linear combination of the columns of  $V$ , it must belong to  $\mathcal{V}$ . □

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## Theorem (Eigenvector test for controllability)

*The following two statements are equivalent.*

- 1 *The LTI system (AB-LTI) is controllable.*
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$$\dim \ker \mathfrak{C}^T \geq 1 \implies \text{rank} \mathfrak{C}^T = n - \dim \ker \mathfrak{C}^T < n$$



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which contradicts the controllability of (AB-LTI). □

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To prove this part, firstly we shall show that the subspace  $\ker \mathcal{C}^T$  is  $A^T$ -invariant.

Subsequently, we use the property 2 to conclude that if (AB-LTI) is *not* controllable then there exists an eigenvector of  $A^T$  in the kernel of  $B^T$ .

#### Property 2

$\mathcal{V}$  contains at least one eigenvector of  $A$ .

Proof: 2  $\implies$  1 OR  $\neg 2 \iff \neg 1$  $\ker \mathfrak{C}^T$  is  $A^T$ -invariant

Since (AB-LTI) is not controllable, we have

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Indeed, if  $x \in \ker \mathfrak{C}^T$ , then (7) holds, and therefore

$$x \in \ker \mathfrak{C}^T \implies \mathfrak{C}^T A^T x = \begin{bmatrix} B^T A^T \\ B^T (A^T)^2 \\ \vdots \\ B^T (A^T)^n \end{bmatrix} x = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ B^T (A^T)^n x \end{bmatrix}$$

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But by the Caley-Hamilton theorem,  $(A^T)^n$  can be written as a linear combination of the lower powers of  $A^T$ , and therefore  $B^T (A^T)^n x$  can be written as a linear combination of the terms

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which are all zero because of (7). We therefore conclude that

$$x \in \ker \mathfrak{C}^T \implies \mathfrak{C}^T A^T x = 0 \implies A^T x \in \ker \mathfrak{C}^T.$$

Proof: 2  $\implies$  1 OR  $\neg 2 \iff \neg 1$

## Property 2

$\mathcal{V}$  contains at least one eigenvector of  $A$ .

## Use Property 2

From Property 2, we then conclude that  $\ker \mathfrak{C}^T$  must contain at least one eigenvector  $x$  of  $A^T$ . But since  $\mathfrak{C}^T x = 0$ , we necessarily have  $B^T x = 0$ .

$$\mathfrak{C}^T x = \begin{bmatrix} B^T \\ B^T A^T \\ \vdots \\ B^T (A^T)^{n-1} \end{bmatrix} x = \begin{bmatrix} B^T x \\ \lambda B^T x \\ \vdots \\ \lambda^{n-1} B^T x \end{bmatrix} = 0.$$

# Eigenvector Test (Elegant *restatement*)

Theorem (Popov-Belevitch-Hautus (PBH) test for controllability)

*The LTI system (AB-LTI) is controllable if and only if*

$$\text{rank} \begin{bmatrix} A - \lambda I & B \end{bmatrix} = n \quad \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \quad (8)$$

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which is precisely equivalent to the statement that there can be no eigenvector of  $A^T$  in the kernel of  $B^T$ .  $\square$

# Lyapunov test for controllability

Consider now the LTI systems

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu \quad / \quad x(t+1) = Ax(t) + Bu(t), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, u \in \mathbb{R}^k$$

## Theorem (Lyapunov test for controllability)

Assume that  $A$  is a stability matrix. The LTI system (AB-LTI) is controllable if and only if there is a unique positive-definite solution  $W$  to the following Lyapunov equation

$$AW + WA^T = -BB^T \quad / \quad AWA^T - W = -BB^T \quad (\mathfrak{C}\text{-Lyapunov Eq.})$$

Moreover, the unique solution to ( $\mathfrak{C}$ -Lyapunov Eq.) is equal to

$$W = \int_0^{\infty} e^{A\tau} BB^T e^{A^T\tau} d\tau = \lim_{t_1-t_0 \rightarrow \infty} W_R(t_0, t_1)$$

$$/ \quad W = \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} A^{\tau} BB^T (A^T)^{\tau} = \lim_{t_1-t_0 \rightarrow \infty} W_R(t_0, t_1) \quad (9)$$

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$$x^*(AW + WA^T)x = -x^*BB^T x = -\|B^T x\|^2, \quad (10)$$

where  $(\cdot)^*$  denotes the complex conjugate transpose.

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$$(A^T x^{*T})^T W x + x^* W A^T x = \lambda^* x^* W x + \lambda x^* W x = 2\operatorname{Re}[\lambda] x^* W x. \quad (11)$$

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We conclude that every eigenvalue of  $A^T$  is not in the kernel of  $B^T$ , which implies controllability by the eigenvector test.

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Assume that (AB-LTI) is controllable. The previously studied Lyapunov equation can be written as

$$\bar{A}^T W + W \bar{A} = -Q, \quad \bar{A} := A^T, \quad Q := BB^T.$$

Since  $A$  is a stability matrix,  $\bar{A} := A^T$  is also a stability matrix, and therefore we can reuse the proof of the Lyapunov stability theorem to conclude that (9) is a unique solution to (C-Lyapunov Eq.).

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because  $W_R(0, 1) > 0$ , due to controllability.

# Lyapunov test for controllability

The result of the above theorem allow us to add a six equivalent conditions to the Lyapunov stability theorem.

## Theorem (Lyapunov stability, *updated*)

*The following six conditions are equivalent.*

- 1 *The system (H-CLTI) is asymptotically stable.*
- 2 *The system (H-CLTI) is exponentially stable.*
- 3 *All the eigenvalues of  $A$  have strictly negative real parts.*
- 4 *For every symmetric positive-definite matrix  $Q$ , there exists a unique solution  $P$  to the Lyapunov equation*

$$A^T P + P A = -Q \quad (\text{Lyapunov Eq.})$$

*Moreover,  $P$  is symmetric, positive-definite, and equal to  $P := \int_0^\infty e^{A^T t} Q e^{A t} dt$ .*

- 5 *There exists symmetric, positive-definite matrix  $P$  for which the following Lyapunov matrix inequality holds*

$$A^T P + P A < 0 \quad (\text{LMI})$$

- 6 *For every matrix  $B$  for which the pair  $(A, B)$  is controllable, there exists a unique solution  $P$  to the Lyapunov equation*

$$A P + P A^T = -B B^T \quad (\text{C-Lyapunov Eq.})$$

*Moreover,  $P$  is symmetric, positive-definite, and equal to*

$$P = \int_0^\infty e^{A \tau} B B^T e^{A^T \tau} d\tau.$$

# Summary of Controllability Tests

The following statements are equivalent.

- 1 The  $n$ -dimensional pair  $(A, B)$  is controllable.
- 2 The  $n \times n$  Gramian

$$W_c(t) = \int_0^t e^{At} B B' e^{A'\tau} d\tau = \int_0^t e^{A(t-\tau)} B B' e^{A'(t-\tau)} d\tau$$

(Gramian - Matrix Test)

is non-singular for any  $t > 0$ .

- 3 The  $n \times kn$  controllability matrix

$$\mathfrak{C} = [B \quad AB \quad A^2B \quad \dots \quad A^{n-1}B]$$

(Matrix Test)

has rank  $n$  (full row rank).

- 4 The matrix

$$[A - \lambda I \quad B]$$

(PBH Test)

has full row rank at every eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $A$ .

- 5 If, in addition, all eigenvalues of  $A$  have negative real parts, then the unique solution of

$$AW_c + W_c A = -BB'$$

(ℳ-Lyapunov Eq.)

is positive definite and can be expressed as  $W_c = \int_0^\infty e^{A\tau} B B' \exp^{A'\tau} d\tau$ .

# Outline of this section

- 1 Invariance with respect to similarity transformations
- 2 Controllable decomposition
- 3 Block diagram interpretation
- 4 Transfer function

# Invariance with Respect to Similarity Transformations

Consider the LTI systems

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu \quad / \quad x^+ = Ax + Bu, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, u \in \mathbb{R}^k$$

and a similarity transformation  $\bar{x} = T^{-1}x$ , leading to

$$\dot{\bar{x}} = \bar{A}\bar{x} + \bar{B}u, \quad \bar{A} = T^{-1}AT \quad \bar{B} = T^{-1}B \quad (\bar{A}\bar{B}\text{-LTI})$$

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The controllability matrices  $\mathfrak{C}$  and  $\bar{\mathfrak{C}}$  of the systems (AB-LTI) and ( $\bar{A}\bar{B}$ -LTI), respectively, are related by

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Therefore,

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Therefore,

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because  $T^{-1}$  is nonsingular. Since the controllability of a system is determined by the rank of its controllability matrix, we conclude that controllability is *preserved* through similarity transformations.

# Invariance with Respect to Similarity Transformations

Consider the LTI systems

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu \quad / \quad x^+ = Ax + Bu, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, u \in \mathbb{R}^k$$

and a similarity transformation  $\bar{x} = T^{-1}x$ , leading to

$$\dot{\bar{x}} = \bar{A}\bar{x} + \bar{B}u, \quad \bar{A} = T^{-1}AT \quad \bar{B} = T^{-1}B \quad (\bar{A}\bar{B}\text{-LTI})$$

The controllability matrices  $\mathfrak{C}$  and  $\bar{\mathfrak{C}}$  of the systems (AB-LTI) and ( $\bar{A}\bar{B}$ -LTI), respectively, are related by

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathfrak{C}} &= [\bar{B} \quad \bar{A}\bar{B} \quad \dots \quad \bar{A}^{n-1}\bar{B}] \\ &= [T^{-1}B \quad T^{-1}AB \quad \dots \quad T^{-1}A^{n-1}B] = T^{-1}\mathfrak{C} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

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**Theorem (Invariance with respect to Similarity transformation)**

*The pair  $(A, B)$  is controllable if and only if  $(\bar{A}, \bar{B}) = (T^{-1}AT, T^{-1}B)$  is controllable.*

# Controllable Decomposition

Consider again the LTI systems

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu \quad / \quad x^+ = Ax + Bu, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, u \in \mathbb{R}^k \quad (\text{AB-LTI})$$

## Note

The controllable subspace  $\mathcal{C}$  of the system (AB-LTI) is  $A$ -invariant and contains  $\text{Im}B$ .

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Because of  $A$ -invariance, by constructing an  $n \times \bar{n}$  matrix  $V^2$  whose columns form a basis for  $\mathcal{C}$ , there exists an  $\bar{n} \times \bar{n}$  matrix  $A_c$  such that

$$AV = VA_c$$

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<sup>2</sup>The number of columns of  $V$  is  $\bar{n}$ , and therefore  $\bar{n}$  is also the dimension of the controllable subspace.

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When the system (AB-LTI) is controllable,  $\bar{n} = \dim \mathcal{C} = n$ , and the matrix  $V$  is square and nonsingular.

---

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$$AT = T \begin{bmatrix} A_c & A_{12} \\ 0 & A_u \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = VB_c = T \begin{bmatrix} B_c \\ 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

which can be rewritten as

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_c & A_{12} \\ 0 & A_u \end{bmatrix} = T^{-1}AT, \quad \begin{bmatrix} B_c \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = T^{-1}B.$$

The similarity transformation constructed using this procedure is called a *controllable decomposition*.

# Controllable Decomposition

Recall<sup>3</sup>

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_c & A_{12} \\ 0 & A_u \end{bmatrix} = T^{-1}AT, \quad \begin{bmatrix} B_c \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = T^{-1}B. \quad (12)$$

## Theorem (Controllable decomposition)

For every LTI system (AB-LTI), there is a similarity transformation that takes the system to the form (12)<sup>3</sup> for which

- 1 the controllable subspace of the transformed system (12) is given by

$$\bar{C} = \text{Im} \begin{bmatrix} I_{\bar{n} \times \bar{n}} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

and

- 2 the pair  $(A_c, B_c)$  is controllable.

<sup>3</sup>This form is often called the *standard form for uncontrollable systems*.

<sup>3</sup>MATLAB:  $[\bar{A}, \bar{B}, \bar{C}, T] = \text{ctrbf}(A, B, C)$  computes the controllable decomposition of the system with realization  $A, B, C$ .

# Proof (Controllable decomposition)

To compute the controllability subspace of the transformed system, we compute its controllability matrix

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{\mathcal{C}} &= \left[ \begin{bmatrix} B_c \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} A_c & A_{12} \\ 0 & A_u \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} B_c \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \cdots \quad \begin{bmatrix} A_c & A_{12} \\ 0 & A_u \end{bmatrix}^{n-1} \begin{bmatrix} B_c \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right] \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} B_c & A_c B_c & \cdots & A_c^{n-1} B_c \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix}.\end{aligned}$$

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$$\text{rank} \bar{\mathcal{C}} = \bar{n}.$$

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Since the number of nonzero rows of  $\bar{\mathcal{C}}$  is exactly  $\bar{n}$ , all these rows must be linearly independent. Therefore

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But since  $A_c$  is  $\bar{n} \times \bar{n}$ , by the Cayley-Hamilton theorem,

$$\text{rank} \begin{bmatrix} B_c & A_c B_c & \cdots & A_c^{n-1} B_c \end{bmatrix} = \text{rank} \begin{bmatrix} B_c & A_c B_c & \cdots & A_c^{\bar{n}-1} B_c \end{bmatrix} = \bar{n},$$

which proves the pair  $(A_c, B_c)$  is controllable.

# Block Diagram Interpretation

Consider now the LTI systems with outputs

$$\dot{x}/x^+ = Ax + Bu, \quad y = Cx + Du, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, u \in \mathbb{R}^k, y \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

(AB-LTI)

and let  $T$  be the similarity transformation that leads to the controllable decomposition

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_c & A_{12} \\ 0 & A_u \end{bmatrix} = T^{-1}AT, \quad \begin{bmatrix} B_c \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = T^{-1}B, \quad [C_c \quad C_u] = CT.$$

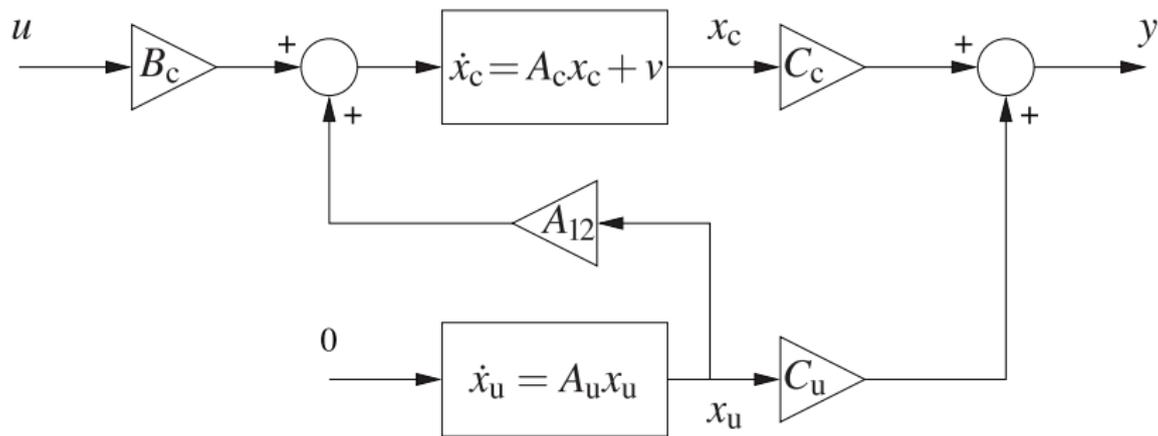
Partitioning the state of the transformed system as

$$\bar{x} = T^{-1}x = \begin{bmatrix} x_c \\ x_u \end{bmatrix} \quad x_c \in \mathbb{R}^{\bar{n}}, x_u \in \mathbb{R}^{n-\bar{n}}$$

its state space model can be written as

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_c \\ \dot{x}_u \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_c & A_{12} \\ 0 & A_u \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_c \\ x_u \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} B_c \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} u \quad y = [C_c \quad C_u] \begin{bmatrix} x_c \\ x_u \end{bmatrix} + Du.$$

## Block Diagram Interpretation



**Figure:** Controllable decomposition. The direct feed-through term  $D$  was eliminated to simplify the diagram

- 1 This figure highlights the fact that the input  $u$  *cannot affect* the  $x_u$  component of the state.
- 2 The controllability of the pair  $(A_c, B_c)$  means that the  $x_c$  component of the state can *always* be taken to the origin by the appropriate choice of  $u(\cdot)$ .

# Transfer function

Since similarity transformations do not change the system's transfer function, we can use the state-space model for the transformed system to compute the transfer function  $T(s)$  of the original system

$$T(s) = [C_c \quad C_u] \begin{bmatrix} sI - A & -A_{12} \\ 0 & sI - A_u \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} B_c \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + D$$

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Since the matrix that needs to be inverted is upper triangular, its inverse is also upper triangular, and the diagonal blocks of the inverse are the inverses of the diagonal block of the matrix. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} T(s) &= [C_c \quad C_u] \begin{bmatrix} (sI - A)^{-1} & * \\ 0 & (sI - A_u)^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} B_c \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + D \\ &= C_c (sI - A_c)^{-1} B_c + D. \end{aligned}$$

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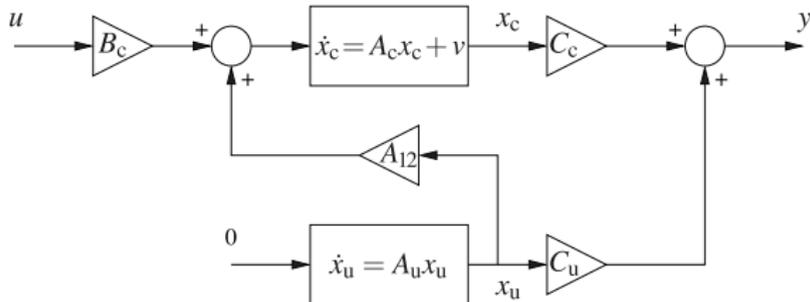
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This shows that the transfer function of the system (LTI) is equal to the transfer function of its controllable part.

# Outline of this section

- 1 Stabilizable system
- 2 Tests for stabilizability
  - 1 Eigenvector test
  - 2 PBH test
  - 3 Lyapunov test



# Stabilizable system

Earlier we saw that any LTI system is *algebraically equivalent* to a system in the following standard form for uncontrollable systems:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_c/x_c^+ \\ \dot{x}_u/x_u^+ \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_c & A_{12} \\ 0 & A_u \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_c \\ x_u \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} B_c \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} u, \quad x_c \in \mathbb{R}^{\bar{n}}, x_u \in \mathbb{R}^{n-\bar{n}} \quad (13)$$

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## Definition (Stabilizable systems)

The pair  $(A, B)$  is *stabilizable* whenever it is algebraically equivalent to a system in the standard form for uncontrollable systems (13) with  $n = \bar{n}$  (i.e.,  $A_u$  nonexistent) or with  $A_u$  a stability matrix.

# Stabilizable System

Since for stabilizable systems we have

$$\dot{x}_u/x_u^+ = A_u x_u,$$

with  $A_u$  a stability matrix,  $x_u$  converges to zero exponentially fast, and therefore we have

$$\dot{x}_c/x_c^+ = A_c x_c + B_c u + d, \quad y = C_c x_c + D u + n,$$

where

$$d(t) := A_{12} x_u(t), \quad n(t) := C_u x_u(t), \quad \forall t \geq 0$$

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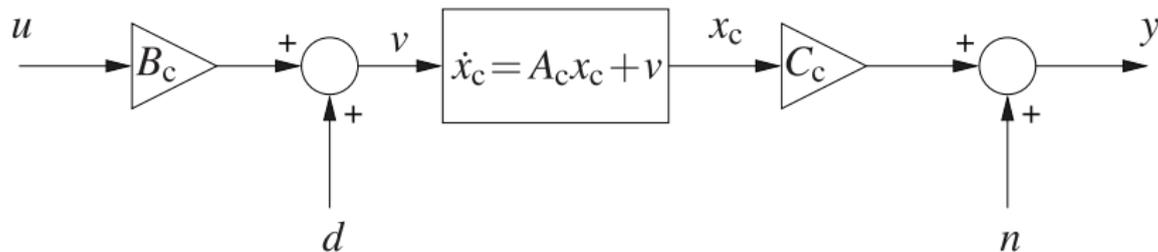
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**Figure:** Controllable part of a stabilizable system. The direct feed-through term  $D$  was omitted to simplify the diagram

# Eigenvector test for stabilizability

Investigating the stabilizability of an LTI system

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu \quad / \quad x^+ = Ax + Bu, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, u \in \mathbb{R}^k \quad (\text{AB-LTI})$$

from the definition *requires* the computation of its controllable decomposition.

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from the definition *requires* the computation of its controllable decomposition. However, there are alternative tests that avoid this intermediate step.

## Theorem (Eigenvector test for stabilizability)

- 1 The continuous-time system (AB-LTI) is stabilizable if and only if every eigenvector of  $A'$  corresponding to an eigenvalue *with a positive or zero real part* is not in kernel of  $B'$ .
- 2 The discrete-time system (AB-LTI) is stabilizable if and only if every eigenvector of  $A'$  corresponding to an eigenvalue *with magnitude larger or equal to 1* is not in the kernel of  $B'$ .

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- ② *The discrete-time system (AB-LTI) is stabilizable if and only if every eigenvector of  $A'$  corresponding to an eigenvalue with magnitude larger or equal to 1 is not in the kernel of  $B'$ .*

Before seeing the proof, let us recall a couple of things.

Let  $T$  be the similarity transformation that leads the system (AB-LTI) to the controllable decomposition; i.e.,

$$\bar{A} := \begin{bmatrix} A_c & A_{12} \\ 0 & A_u \end{bmatrix} = T^{-1}AT, \quad \bar{B} := \begin{bmatrix} B_c \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = T^{-1}B$$

$$\bar{x} = T^{-1}x.$$

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# Proof ((AB-LTI) is stabilizable $\implies$ every “unstable” eigenvector of $A' \notin \ker B'$ )

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Assume that there exists an “unstable” eigenvalue-eigenvector<sup>4</sup> pair  $(\lambda, x)$  for which

$$\begin{aligned}
 A'x = \lambda x, \quad B'x = 0 &\iff (T\bar{A}T^{-1})'x = \lambda x, & (T\bar{B})'x = 0 \\
 &\iff \begin{bmatrix} A'_c & 0 \\ A'_{12} & A'_u \end{bmatrix} T'x = \lambda T'x, & \begin{bmatrix} B'_c & 0 \end{bmatrix} T'x = 0 \\
 &\iff \begin{bmatrix} A'_c & 0 \\ A'_{12} & A'_u \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_c \\ x_u \end{bmatrix} = \lambda \begin{bmatrix} x_c \\ x_u \end{bmatrix}, & \begin{bmatrix} B'_c & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_c \\ x_u \end{bmatrix} = 0
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where  $\begin{bmatrix} x'_c & x'_u \end{bmatrix}' := T'x \neq 0$ .

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$$A'_c x_c = \lambda x_c, \quad B'_c x_c = 0,$$

we must have  $x_c = 0$  (and consequently  $x_u \neq 0$ ), since otherwise this would violate the eigenvector test for controllability.

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we must have  $x_c = 0$  (and consequently  $x_u \neq 0$ ), since otherwise this would violate the eigenvector test for controllability. This means that  $\lambda$  must be an eigenvalue of  $A_u$  because

$$A'_u x_u = \lambda x_u$$

which contradicts the stabilizability of the system (AB-LTI) because  $\lambda$  is “unstable”.

<sup>4</sup>for the purposes of stabilizability, eigenvalues on the “boundary” are considered unstable.

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To conclude that the original pair  $(A, B)$  is also not stabilizable we use the equivalence shown in part 1 to conclude that

$$x := (T')^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ x_u \end{bmatrix} \iff \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ x_u \end{bmatrix} := T'x$$

is an “unstable” eigenvector of  $A'$  in the kernel of  $B'$ .

# Popov-Belevitch-Hautus (PBH) Test for Stabilizability

For stabilizability, one can also reformulate the eigenvector test as a rank condition, similar to that for controllability.

## Theorem (PBH test for stabilizability)

- ① *The continuous-time LTI system (AB-LTI) is stabilizable if and only if*

$$\text{rank} \begin{bmatrix} A - \lambda I & B \end{bmatrix} = n, \quad \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{C} : \text{Re}[\lambda] \geq 0.$$

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$$\text{rank} \begin{bmatrix} A - \lambda I & B \end{bmatrix} = n, \quad \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{C} : |\lambda| \geq 1.$$

The proof of this theorem is analogous to the earlier proof, except that now we need to *restrict* our attention to only the “unstable” portion of  $\mathbb{C}$ .

# Lyapunov Test for Stabilizability

## Theorem (Lyapunov test for stabilizability)

*The LTI system (AB-LTI) is stabilizable if and only if there is a positive-definite solution  $P$  to the following Lyapunov matrix inequality*

$$AP + PA' - BB' < 0 \quad / \quad APA' - P - BB' < 0 \quad (\text{LMI})$$

Proof: ((LMI) has positive-definite solution  $P \implies$  (AB-LTI) is stabilizable)

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Assume that

- 1 (LMI) holds, and
- 2  $x \neq 0$  be an eigenvector of  $A'$  associated with the “unstable” eigenvalue  $\lambda$ ; i.e.,  $A'x = \lambda x$ .

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Then,

$$x^*(AP + PA')x < x^*BB'x = \|B'x\|^2,$$

where  $(\cdot)^*$  denotes the complex conjugate transpose.

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$$(A'x^*)'Px + x^*PA'x = \lambda^*x^*Px + \lambda x^*Px = 2\text{Re}[\lambda]x^*Px.$$

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Since  $P$  is positive-definite and  $\operatorname{Re}[\lambda] \geq 0$ , we conclude that

$$0 \leq 2\operatorname{Re}[\lambda]x^*Px < \|B'x\|^2,$$

and therefore  $x$  must not belong to the kernel of  $B'$ .

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$$A_c P_c + P_c A_c' - B_c B_c' = -Q_c < 0.$$

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$$\bar{P} = \begin{bmatrix} P_c & 0 \\ 0 & \rho P_u \end{bmatrix}$$

for some scalar  $\rho > 0$  to be determined shortly, we conclude that

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$$P = T \begin{bmatrix} P_c & 0 \\ 0 & \rho P_u \end{bmatrix} T'$$

satisfies (LMI).

# Controllability after sampling

Consider a continuous-time state equation

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu \quad (\text{AB-LTI})$$

If the input is piecewise constant or

$$u(k) := u(kT) = u(t) \quad \text{for } kT \leq t < (k+1)T$$

then the equation can be described by

$$\bar{x}(k+1) = \bar{A}\bar{x}(k) + \bar{B}u(k) \quad (\text{C2D})$$

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This problem is important in designing so-called dead-beat sampled-data systems and in computer control of continuous-time systems.

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$$|\text{Imag}(\lambda_i - \lambda_j)| \neq \frac{2\pi m}{T}, \quad m = 1, 2, \dots$$

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*For the single input case, the condition is necessary as well.*

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*For the single input case, the condition is necessary as well.*

It is straightforward to verify that if  $A$  has only real eigenvalues, then the discretized equation with any sampling period  $T > 0$  is always controllable.

# Controllability after sampling

## Further remarks:

Suppose  $A$  has complex conjugate eigenvalues  $\alpha \pm j\beta$ .

- If the sampling period  $T$  does not equal any integer multiple of  $\pi/\beta$ , then the discretized state equation is controllable.
- If  $T = m\pi/\beta$  for some integer  $m$ , then the discretized equation *may not* be controllable.

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Since  $\bar{A} = e^{AT}$ , if  $\lambda_i$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$ , then  $\bar{\lambda}_i := e^{\lambda_i T}$  is an eigenvalue of  $\bar{A}$ .

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## Theorem

*If the continuous time LTI state equation is not controllable, then its discretized state equation with any sampling period, is not controllable.*