Linear System Theory

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Chapter 6: Controllability & Observability

Chapter 7: Minimal Realizations

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Recap

- ► State space equation
- ► Linear Algebra
- Solutions of LTI and LTV system
- Stability

We will study

- Controllability & Observability
- ► Kalman Decomposition
- Minimal realizations

Controllability & Observability

Controllability (informal): we want to know whether the state of the system is controllable or not from the input

- Analyze the system structure from the input
- With the input, we want to move the state to the desired point in a finite time.

Observability (informal): we want to observe the initial state of the system from the output and input to quantify the behavior of the system

- ▶ State: position, velocity, acceleration, etc
- Sensors are required to measure the state. We are not able to use many sensors in real applications.

Controllability & Observability

- ▶ Important concepts in control, estimation, and filtering problems
- Optimal control (LQG, Kalman filtering, etc.)

Controllability & Observability

Example

$$\dot{x} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} x + \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{pmatrix} u, \ x = (x_1 \ x_2)^T$$

- ▶ $(b_1, b_2)^T = (-1, 1)^T$: can move both eigenvalues \Leftrightarrow can control the state x_1 and x_2
- ▶ $(b_1, b_2)^T = (1, 0)^T$: cannot move the eigenvalue $3 \Leftrightarrow$ cannot control state x_2
- ▶ $(b_1, b_2)^T = (1, 0)^T$: No matter input, x_2 diverges \Leftrightarrow we cannot control x_2

Controllability & Observability

Example

$$\dot{x} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} x, \ y = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & c_2 \end{pmatrix} x$$

- $(c_1, c_2) = (1, 1)$: can observe the state x_1 and x_2
- $(c_1, c_2) = (1, 0)$: cannot observe the state x_2
- $(c_1, c_2) = (1, 0)$: Output is always stable, but the system is internally unstable

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

Definition (Definition 6.1)

The state equation with the pair (A, B) is said to be controllable if for any initial state $x(0) = x_0$, any final state x_1 , there exists an input that transfers x_0 to x_1 in a finite time.

Equivalent Definition:

A system is controllable at time t_0 if there exists a finite time t_f such that for any initial condition x_0 , and any final state x_f , there is a control input u defined on $[t_0, t_f]$ such that $x(t_f) = x_f$.

- We need an input u to transfer the state from the initial to the final state
- ▶ Given initial and finial state conditions in \mathbb{R}^n , is it possible to steer x(t) to the final state by choosing an appropriate input u(t)?

Controllability: A Preview

Discrete-time LTI system

$$x(k+1) = Ax(k) + Bu(k), \ x(0) = 0, \ x \in \mathbb{R}^{n}, \ u \in \mathbb{R}^{m}$$

$$x(1) = Bu(0)$$

$$x(2) = Ax(1) + Bu(1) = ABu(0) + Bu(1)$$

$$x(3) = A^{2}Bu(0) + ABu(1) + Bu(2)$$

$$\vdots$$

$$x(r) = A^{r-1}Bu(0) + A^{r-1}Bu(1) + \dots + Bu(r-1)$$

$$x(r) = (B \quad AB \quad \dots A^{r-1}B) \begin{pmatrix} u(r-1) \\ u(r-2) \\ \vdots \\ u(0) \end{pmatrix}$$

Controllability: A Preview

$$x(r) = \begin{pmatrix} B & AB & \cdots A^{r-1}B \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u(r-1) \\ u(r-2) \\ \vdots \\ u(0) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$R((B AB \cdots A^{r-1}B)) = \{z \in \mathbb{R}^n, \ z = (B AB \cdots A^{r-1}B)p, \ p \in \mathbb{R}^{nm}\}$$
 If $x_f \in R((B AB \cdots A^{r-1}B))$, then x_f is reachable Namely, there exists a sequence of control $\{u(0), \dots, u(r-1)\}$ that transfers the state to x_f .

Controllability: A Preview

This implies that we can reach arbitrary $x_f \in \mathbb{R}^n$ at time $t_f = r$ if and only if $R((B AB \cdots A^{r-1}B)) = \mathbb{R}^n$ that is equivalent to $rank((B AB \cdots A^{r-1}B)) = n$

Rank of $(B AB \cdots A^{r-1}B)$

- ▶ By C-H theorem, A^k is a linear combination of $\{I, A, ..., A^{n-1}\}$
- ▶ For $r \ge n$, the rank of $(B \ AB \ \cdots \ A^{r-1}B))$ cannot increase

Hence, if $rank((B AB \cdots A^{n-1}B)) = n$, then we can find u for an arbitrary $x_f \in \mathbb{R}^n$ for any finite time

$$\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + Bu(t), \ x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$
 $x(t) = e^{At}x(0) + \int_0^t e^{A(t-\tau)}Bu(\tau)d\tau$

The system is controllable (page 213 of the textbook)

- ▶ \Leftrightarrow for any x_0 , there exists u(t) on $[t_0, t_f]$ that transfers x_0 to the origin at t_f (controllability to the origin)
- ▶ \Leftrightarrow there exists u(t) on $[t_0, t_f]$ that transfers state from the origin to any final state x_f at t_f (reachability)

Proof: Exercise!! (note that $e^{A(t-t_0)}$ is always invertible!)

$$\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + Bu(t), \ x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \ u \in \mathbb{R}^m, \ x_0 = 0$$

Set of reachable state for a fixed time t:

$$\mathcal{R}_t = \{ \xi \in \mathbb{R}^n, \text{ there exists } u \text{ such that } x(t) = \xi \}$$

Note that \mathcal{R}_t is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n

$$\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + Bu(t), \ x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \ u \in \mathbb{R}^m, \ x_0 = 0$$

Controllability matrix and controllability subspace

$$C_{AB} = \{ \xi \in \mathbb{R}^n : \xi = (B \quad AB \quad \cdots \quad A^{n-1}B) z, z \in \mathbb{R}^{nm} \}$$

$$\mathcal{C}_{AB}$$
: range space of \mathcal{C} , where $\mathcal{C} = (B \ AB \ \cdots \ A^{n-1}B) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times nm}$

$$\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + Bu(t), \ x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \ u \in \mathbb{R}^m, \ x_0 = 0$$

Controllability Gramian

$$W_t = \int_0^t e^{A(t-\tau)}BB^T e^{A^T(t-\tau)}d\tau = \int_0^t e^{A\tau}BB^T e^{A^T\tau}d\tau \ge 0$$

 $R(W_t)$: the range space of W_t . Note that W_t is a symmetric positive semi-definite matrix

Theorem: Controllability (Theorem 6.1 of the textbook) For each time t > 0, the following set equality holds:

$$\mathcal{R}_t = \mathcal{C}_{AB} = R(W_t).$$

- $\mathcal{C} = (B \ AB \ \cdots \ A^{n-1}B)$: controllability matrix
- ▶ Hence if dim $C_{AB} = rank((B \ AB \ \cdots \ A^{n-1}B)) = n$, the system is controllable
- ▶ Due to C_{AB} , the controllability is independent of the time
- ▶ If the system is controllable, then $\mathcal{R}_t = \mathbb{R}^n$, all the states are reachable by an appropriate choice of the control u

We will show that

 $\blacktriangleright \ \mathcal{R}_t \subset \mathcal{C}_{AB}, \ \mathcal{C}_{AB} \subset R(W_t), \ R(W_t) \subset \mathcal{R}_t$

Required tools

- ► C-H theorem (Chapter 3)
- ► $R(A^T) = (N(A))^{\perp}$

Theorem: $\mathcal{R}_t \subset \mathcal{C}_{AB}$

Proof:

Fix t > 0, and choose any reachable state $\xi \in \mathcal{R}_t$. We need to show that $\xi \in \mathcal{R}_t$ implies $\xi \in \mathcal{C}_{AB}$.

We have $\xi \in \mathcal{R}_t$, which implies $\xi = \int_0^t e^{A(t-\tau)} Bu(\tau) d\tau$. Then by C-H theorem, $e^{At} = \beta_0(t)I + \cdots + \beta_{n-1}(t)A^{n-1}$ ($\beta_i(t)$: scalar function); hence,

$$\xi = B \int_0^t \beta_0(t - \tau) u(\tau) d\tau + \dots + A^{n-1} B \int_0^t \beta_{n-1}(t - \tau) u(\tau) d\tau$$

$$= (B \quad AB \quad \dots \quad A^{n-1}B) \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \int_0^t \beta_0(t - \tau) u(\tau) d\tau \\ \vdots \\ \int_0^t \beta_{n-1}(t - \tau) u(\tau) d\tau \end{pmatrix}}_{\in \mathbb{R}^{nm}}$$

Hence, $\xi \in \mathcal{C}_{AB}$

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Theorem: C_{AB} \subset R(W_t)
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Proof:

Since $C_{AB} \subset R(W_t)$ is equivalent to $C_{AB}^{\perp} \supset R(W_t)^{\perp}$ (proof: exercise!!), we will show that $C_{AB}^{\perp} \supset R(W_t)^{\perp}$.

From Problem 1 in HW3, $R(W_t) = (N(W_t))^{\perp}$, which is equivalent to $(R(W_t))^{\perp} = N(W_t)$, and similarly, $\mathcal{C}_{AB}^{\perp} = N((B \ AB \ \cdots \ A^{n-1}B))$.

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Hence we need to show that if \xi \in N(W_t), then \xi \in N((B \ AB \ \cdots \ A^{n-1}B)). Let \xi \in N(W_t), then W_t \xi = 0 \in \mathbb{R}^n, which also implies \xi^T W_t \xi = 0 \in \mathbb{R}. Then 0 = \xi^T \int_0^t e^{A\tau} BB^T e^{A^T \tau} d\tau \xi = \int_0^t \|B^T e^{A^T \tau} \xi\|^2 d\tau \Leftrightarrow B^T e^{A^T \tau} \xi = 0, \ \forall \tau \in [0,t]
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Since
$$y(\tau) = \xi^T e^{A\tau} B = 0$$
, $\forall \tau \in [0, t]$, we have

$$\xi^{T} \left(\frac{d^{k}}{d\tau^{k}} e^{A\tau} \right) \Big|_{\tau=0} B = \xi^{T} A^{k} B = 0, \ \forall k \ge 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \xi^{T} \left(B \quad AB \quad \cdots \quad A^{n-1} B \right) = 0 \Rightarrow \xi \in N((B \ AB \quad \cdots \quad A^{n-1} B)) = \mathcal{C}_{AB}^{\perp}$$

Therefore, we have the desired result, i.e., $C_{AB} \subset R(W_t)$.

Theorem: $R(W_t) \subset \mathcal{R}_t$

Proof:

Let $\xi \in R(W_t)$. Then there exists $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that

$$\xi = W_t v = \int_0^t e^{A\tau} B B^T e^{A^T \tau} v d\tau$$

Define $u(\tau) = B^T e^{A^T(t-\tau)} v, \ \tau \in [0, t]$

Then, since $\dot{x} = Ax + Bu$ with x(0) = 0, we have

$$x(t) = \int_0^t e^{A(t-\tau)} Bu(\tau) d\tau$$
$$= \int_0^t e^{A(t-\tau)} BB^T e^{A^T(t-\tau)} v d\tau = W_t v = \xi$$

This means that $\xi \in \mathcal{R}_t$, since we have found the control u that steers the state to ξ from the origin. Hence, $R(W_t) \subset \mathcal{R}_t$.

Theorem (Theorem 6.1 of the textbook)

If (A, B) is controllable, and A is stable (eigenvalues of A have negative real parts), then there exists a unique solution of

$$AP + PA^T = -BB^T$$
,

where
$$P = \int_0^\infty e^{A au} B B^T e^{A^T au} d au > 0$$

- ▶ Note that $BB^T \ge 0$
- ▶ In Chapter 5, $AP + PA^T = -Q$ where Q > 0

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Theorem (Theorem 6.1 of the textbook) (A, B) is controllable if and only if rank((A - \lambda I B)) = n for all eigenvalues, \lambda, of A.
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Hautus-Rosenbrock test

Theorem (Theorem 6.1 of the textbook) (A,B) is controllable if and only if $W_t>0$, that is, the controllability Gramian is non-singular

Theorem (Theorem 6.2 of the textbook) Let $\bar{A} = PAP^{-1}$ and $\bar{B} = PB$. Then (A, B) is controllable if and only if (\bar{A}, \bar{B}) is controllable

Controllability is invariant under the similarity transformation

Fact: The state space equation with the controllable canonical form is always controllable.

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu, \ G(s) = \frac{X(s)}{U(s)} = (sI - A)^{-1}B$$

Kalman Decomposition Theorem (Theorem 6.6 of the textbook): Suppose that $\mathcal{C}_{AB} = r < n$. Let

$$P = (v_1, \ldots, v_r, v_{r+1}, \ldots, v_n)$$

where v_i , i = 1, 2, ..., r is eigenvectors of C, and $v_{r+1}, ..., v_n$ are arbitrary vectors that guarantees P being nonsingular.

Let
$$z = Px$$
. Then

$$\begin{split} \dot{z} &= PAP^{-1}z + PBu \\ \bar{A} &= PAP^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{A}_{11} & \bar{A}_{12} \\ 0 & \bar{A}_{22} \end{pmatrix}, \ \bar{B} = PB = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{B}_{1} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \bar{A}_{11} &\in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r}, \ \bar{B}_{1} &\in \mathbb{R}^{r \times m} \end{split}$$

Also, $(\bar{A}_{11}, \bar{B}_1)$ is controllable, and $G(s) = (sI - \bar{A}_{11})^{-1}\bar{B}_1$.

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu, \ y = Cx, \ x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \ y \in \mathbb{R}^p$$

Definition (Definition 6.01)

The state-space equation is said to be observable if for any unknown initial condition, there exists a finite t_1 such that the knowledge of the input and the output over $[0, t_1]$ is suffices to determine uniquely the initial condition x(0).

W.L.G.,
$$u = 0$$
, (since u is completely known)

Note that

$$y(t) = Ce^{At}x(0)$$

Hence, if $N(Ce^{At}) = \emptyset$, i.e., $\dim(N(Ce^{At})) = nullity(Ce^{At}) = 0$, then the system is observable.

 \triangleright $N(Ce^{At})$: unobservable subspace

Let

$$\mathcal{O} = \begin{pmatrix} C \\ CA \\ \vdots \\ CA^{n-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

 \mathcal{O} : Observability matrix, $\mathcal{O} \in \mathbb{R}^{pn \times n}$

Theorem: $N(Ce^{At}) = N(\mathcal{O})$ Proof: We will show that $N(Ce^{At}) \subset N(\mathcal{O})$ and $N(Ce^{At}) \supset N(\mathcal{O})$. If $x_0 \in N(Ce^{At})$, then

$$0 = Ce^{At}x_0 \Rightarrow 0 = C\left(\frac{d}{dt}e^{At}\right)\Big|_{t=0}x_0 \Rightarrow 0 = CA^kx_0, \ \forall k \ge 0$$

Hence, $x_0 \in N(\mathcal{O})$.

If $x_0 \in N(\mathcal{O})$, then $x_0 \in N(Ce^{At})$, since by C-H Theorem, we have

$$Ce^{At} = C\beta_0(t)I + \cdots + CA^{n-1}\beta_{n-1}(t)$$

If $N(Ce^{At}) = \emptyset$, i.e., $\dim(N(Ce^{At})) = nullity(Ce^{At}) = 0$, then the system is observable.

- We need $N(Ce^{At}) = N(\mathcal{O}) = \emptyset$
- ▶ Hence, by the rank-nullity theorem, the system is observable if $rank(\mathcal{O}) = n$
- ▶ We say that the system is observable if and only if the pair (C, A) is observable
- ▶ Observability also does not depend on the time (by C-H Theorem)

Duality Theorem (Theorem 6.5 of the textbook) The following are equivalent:

- ightharpoonup (C, A) is observable
- \triangleright (A^T, C^T) is controllable

Proof: (A^T, C^T) is controllable if and only if

$$\mathcal{O}^{T} = (C^{T} A^{T} C^{T} \cdots (A^{T})^{n-1} C^{T})$$

$$rank(\mathcal{O}^{T}) = n = rank(\mathcal{O})$$

$$\mathcal{O} = \begin{pmatrix} C \\ CA \\ \vdots \\ CA^{n-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

Theorem (Theorem 6.01) If (A, C) is observable, and A is stable, then there exists a unique solution of

$$A^T P + PA = -C^T C$$

where
$$P = \int_0^\infty e^{A^T \tau} C^T C e^{A \tau} d\tau > 0$$
.

Theorem (Theorem 6.O1) (C, A) is observable if and only if

$$rank \begin{pmatrix} C \\ A - \lambda I \end{pmatrix} = n$$

Theorem (Theorem 6.01) (C, A) is observable if and only if the observability Gramian

$$Q_t = \int_0^t e^{A^T \tau} C^T C e^{A \tau} d\tau > 0$$

Theorem (Theorem 6.O3) Let $\bar{A} = PAP^{-1}$ and $\bar{C} = CP^{-1}$. Then (C, A) is observable if and only if (\bar{C}, \bar{A}) is observable.

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu, \ y = Cx, \ G(s) = \frac{Y(s)}{U(s)} = C(sI - A)^{-1}B$$

Kalman Decomposition Theorem (Theorem 6.06 of the textbook): Suppose that $rank(\mathcal{O}) = q < n$. Let

$$P = egin{pmatrix} v_1 \ dots \ v_q \ v_{q+1} \ dots \ v_n \end{pmatrix}, \ v_1, \ldots, v_q$$
: eigenvectors.

Let
$$z=Px$$
. Then $\dot{z}=PAP^{-1}z+PBu,\ y(t)=CP^{-1}z,$ and
$$\bar{A}=PAP^{-1}=\begin{pmatrix}\bar{A}_{11}&0\\\bar{A}_{21}&\bar{A}_{22}\end{pmatrix},\ \bar{B}=PB=\begin{pmatrix}\bar{B}_{1}\\\bar{B}_{2}\end{pmatrix},\ \bar{C}=\begin{pmatrix}\bar{C}_{1}&0\end{pmatrix}$$
 $\bar{A}_{11}\in\mathbb{R}^{q\times q},\ \bar{C}_{1}\in\mathbb{R}^{p\times q}$

Also, $(\bar{C}_1, \bar{A}_{11})$ is observable, and $G(s) = \bar{C}_1(sI - A_{11})^{-1}\bar{B}_1$.

Kalman Decomposition Theorem

Theorem (Theorem 6.7 of the textbook) We can extract the state that is controllable and observable.

Fact: The state space equation with the observable canonical form is always observable

Discrete-time LTI system

$$x(k+1) = Ax(k) + Bu(k), \ y(k) = Cx(k)$$

- ▶ (A, B) is controllable if and only if rank(C) = n
- ▶ (C, A) is observable if and only if rank(O) = n

Minimum Energy Control (page 189)

$$\dot{x}=Ax+Bu,\;x(0)=x_0,\;x(t_1)=x_f,\;(A,B)$$
 controllable $W_{t_1}=\int_0^{t_1}\mathrm{e}^{A\tau}BB^T\mathrm{e}^{A^T\tau}d au>0,\;\mathrm{invertible}$

Let

$$u^{*}(t) = -B^{T} e^{A^{T}(t_{1}-t)} W_{t_{1}}^{-1}(e^{At_{1}}x_{0} - x_{f})$$

$$x(t_{1}) = e^{At_{1}}x_{0} - \underbrace{\left(\int_{0}^{t_{1}} e^{A(t_{1}-\tau)}BB^{T} e^{A^{T}(t_{1}-\tau)}d\tau\right)}_{W_{t_{1}}} W_{t_{1}}^{-1}(e^{At_{1}}x_{0} - x_{f}) = x_{f}$$

We can show that the controller u^* is the minimum energy controller in the sense that for any controller u that transfers the state from x_0 to x_f , we have

$$\int_0^{t_1} \|u(t)\|^2 dt \ge \int_0^{t_1} \|u^*(t)\|^2 dt, \ \forall u$$



Stabilizability & Detectability

Weaker notions of controllability and observability

A system is stabilizable if and only if \bar{A}_{22} is stable and $(\bar{A}_{11}, \bar{B}_1)$ is controllable

A system is detectable if and only if \bar{A}_{22} is stable and $(\bar{C}_1, \bar{A}_{11})$ is observable

How about the example on pages 4-5. Is it stabilizable? Is it detectable?

Controllability & Observability: LTV system

$$\begin{split} \dot{x}(t) &= A(t)x(t) + B(t)u(t), \ y(t) = C(t)x(t) \\ W_t &= \int_0^t \Phi(t,\tau)B(\tau)B^T(\tau)\Phi^T(t,\tau)d\tau \ge 0, \ \forall t \ge 0 \\ Q_t &= \int_0^t \Phi^T(t,\tau)C^T(\tau)C(\tau)\Phi(t,\tau)d\tau \ge 0, \ \forall t \ge 0 \end{split}$$

The LTV system is

- lacktriangle is controllable if and only if there exists $t_f>0$ such that $W_{t_f}>0$
- lacktriangle is observable if and only if there exists $t_f>0$ such that $Q_{t_f}>0$
- ▶ *W_t*: controllability Graminan
- ▶ *Q_t*: observability Graminan

Minimal Realizations

We have seen that the realization of the state-space equation is not unique.

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu, \ y = Cx + Du, \ x(0) = 0
\dot{x} = A_1x + B_1u, \ y = C_1x + D_1u, \ x(0) = 0
y(t) = C \int_0^t e^{A(t-\tau)}Bu(\tau)d\tau = C_1 \int_0^t e^{A_1(t-\tau)}B_1u(\tau)d\tau$$

Lemmas (not in the textbook)

▶ Two system realizations (A, B, C, D) and (A_1, B_1, C_1, D_1) are equivalent if and only if $D = D_1$ and

$$Ce^{At}B = C_1e^{A_1t}B_1, \ \forall t \geq 0$$

▶ Two system realizations (A, B, C, D) and (A_1, B_1, C_1, D_1) are equivalent if and only if $D = D_1$ and

$$CA^kB = C_1A_1^kB, \ \forall k \geq 0$$



Minimal Realizations

In view of the Kalman decomposition, we have the following result:

 \Rightarrow Suppose (A, B, C, D) is a system realization. If either (C, A) is not observable or (A, B) is not controllable, then there exists a lower-order realization (A_1, B_1, C_1, D_1) for the system

Definition (page 233 of the textbook)

Realizations with the smallest possible dimension are called minimal realizations

Theorem (Theorem 7.M2 (page 254))

(A, B, C, D) is a minimial realization of the transfer function G(s) if and only if (A, B) is controllable and (C, A) is observable

If the system is not controllable or not observable (or not controllable and observable), then there are pole-zero cancellations in a transfer function.

MATLAB Commands

- controllability matrix: ctrb(A, B)
- observability matrix: $ctrb(A^T, C^T)$
- ▶ minimal realization: minreal(A, B, C, D) ⇒ reduce the system order that has only controllable and observable state
- Mostly, we use the balanced realization (Chapter 7.4) ⇒ related to controllability and observability Gramians (robust control, advanced control topic)