Season 4: Stability Analysis, State Feedback, and LQR

Learning Outcomes:

- · Analyze system stability using eigenvalues, Lyapunov theory, and BIBO criteria
- · Solve Lyapunov equations for continuous and discrete systems
- Test matrix definiteness using Cholesky decomposition
- Design state feedback controllers using pole placement
- Apply LQR (Linear Quadratic Regulator) for optimal control
- Understand and solve Riccati equations
- · Design digital controllers using discretization

Prerequisites: Seasons 1-3

MATLAB Version: R2025b

Toolboxes Required: Control System Toolbox

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Section 4.1: Stability - Eigenvalue Analysis

Mathematical Background

rng(0);

For continuous-time system $\dot{x} = Ax$:

- Stable: all eigenvalues have Re(λ) < 0
- Marginally stable: eigenvalues on imaginary axis, none with $Re(\lambda) > 0$
- **Unstable**: at least one eigenvalue with $Re(\lambda) > 0$

For discrete-time system x[k+1] = Ax[k]:

- Stable: all eigenvalues have λ < 1
- **Unstable**: at least one eigenvalue with λ ≥ 1

Example 1: Stable system

```
A_{stable} = [-1 0;
               0 -2];
 eig_stable = eig(A_stable);
 fprintf('Example 1: Stable system\n');
 Example 1: Stable system
 fprintf('A =\n'); disp(A_stable);
           0
     -1
          -2
 fprintf('Eigenvalues: ');
 Eigenvalues:
 fprintf('%.4f ', eig_stable);
 -2.0000 -1.0000
 fprintf('\n');
 if all(real(eig_stable) < 0)</pre>
      fprintf('√ STABLE (all eigenvalues have negative real part)\n\n');
 else
      fprintf('X UNSTABLE\n\n');
 end

√ STABLE (all eigenvalues have negative real part)

Example 2: Unstable system
 A_{unstable} = [1 0;
                0 -3];
 eig unstable = eig(A unstable);
 fprintf('Example 2: Unstable system\n');
 Example 2: Unstable system
 fprintf('A =\n'); disp(A_unstable);
 A =
          -3
 fprintf('Eigenvalues: ');
 Eigenvalues:
 fprintf('%.4f ', eig_unstable);
```

```
Example 3: Marginally stable (oscillatory)

fprintf('A =\n'); disp(A_marginal);

A =
    0    1
    -1    0
```

```
fprintf('Eigenvalues: ');
```

Eigenvalues:

```
fprintf('%.4f%+.4fi ', real(eig_marginal), imag(eig_marginal));
```

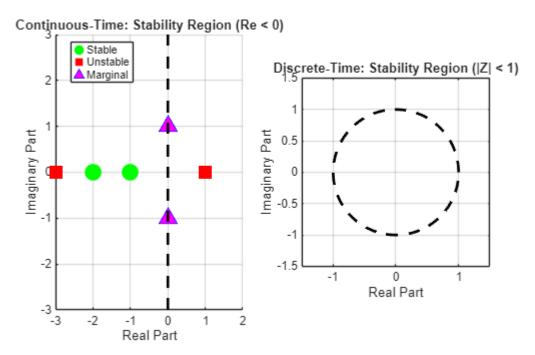
0.0000+0.0000i 1.0000-1.0000i

```
fprintf('\n');
fprintf('Pure imaginary eigenvalues → Marginally stable (oscillatory)');
```

Pure imaginary eigenvalues \rightarrow Marginally stable (oscillatory)

Visualize eigenvalues on complex plane

```
'MarkerFaceColor', 'magenta', 'DisplayName', 'Marginal');
% Draw stability boundary (imaginary axis)
plot([0 0], [-3 3], 'k--', 'LineWidth', 2, 'HandleVisibility', 'off');
xlim([-3 2]);
ylim([-3 3]);
grid on;
xlabel('Real Part');
ylabel('Imaginary Part');
title('Continuous-Time: Stability Region (Re < 0)');</pre>
legend('Location', 'best');
subplot(1,2,2); % Discrete-time stability region (unit circle)
theta = linspace(0, 2*pi, 100);
plot(cos(theta), sin(theta), 'k--', 'LineWidth', 2);
hold on;
grid on;
axis equal;
xlim([-1.5 1.5]);
ylim([-1.5 1.5]);
xlabel('Real Part');
ylabel('Imaginary Part');
title('Discrete-Time: Stability Region (|Z| < 1)');
```



Section 4.2: Lyapunov Stability Theory

Mathematical Background

Lyapunov's Direct Method:

For $\dot{x} = Ax$, if \exists positive definite matrix P such that:

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

where Q > 0, then the system is asymptotically stable.

Lyapunov Equation: $A^TP + PA + Q = 0$

System matrix A:

```
disp(A_lyap);
    -1.0000     0.5000
    -0.5000     -2.0000

fprintf('Eigenvalues: ');
```

Eigenvalues:

```
fprintf('%.4f ', eig(A_lyap));
```

-1.5000 -1.5000

```
fprintf('\n\n');
```

Solve Lyapunov equation: A'P + PA + Q = 0

```
Q = eye(2); % Choose Q = I (positive definite)
```

Solving Lyapunov equation $A^TP + PA + Q = 0$ with Q = I:

```
fprintf('Solution P:\n');
```

Solution P:

```
P = lyap(A_lyap', Q);
disp(P);
```

0.4815 0.0370 0.0370 0.2593

Verify solution

```
residual = A_lyap'*P + P*A_lyap + Q; % must be near zero
fprintf('Residual A^TP + PA + Q:\n');
```

```
Residual A^TP + PA + Q:
```

```
disp(residual);
```

```
1.0e-15 *
         0
             -0.0278
    -0.0278
             -0.2220
 fprintf('Residual norm: %.2e\n\n', norm(residual));
 Residual norm: 2.25e-16
Check if P is positive definite
 eig_P = eig(P);
 fprintf('Eigenvalues of P: ');
 Eigenvalues of P:
 fprintf('%.4f ', eig_P);
 0.2532 0.4875
 fprintf('\n');
 if all(eig_P > 0)
      fprintf('√ P is positive definite → System is STABLE\n\n');
 else
      fprintf('X P is not positive definite → System is UNSTABLE\n\n');
 end
 ✓ P is positive definite → System is STABLE
Try with unstable system
 A_unstable_lyap = [0.5 2;
                      0 1];
 fprintf('Testing unstable system:\n');
 Testing unstable system:
 fprintf('A =\n'); disp(A_unstable_lyap);
     0.5000
              2.0000
              1.0000
 fprintf('Eigenvalues:\n');disp(eig(A_unstable_lyap));
 Eigenvalues:
     0.5000
     1.0000
```

The "try ... catch" block is used to handle errors safely.

MATLAB first runs the code inside the "try" section.

If everything runs correctly, it skips the "catch" section.

But if an error happens (for example, the Lyapunov equation cannot be solved), MATLAB immediately jumps to the "catch" section instead of stopping the program.

This lets you handle the error gracefully — for example, by printing a message instead of crashing the script. use "help try" to read more.

```
try
    P_unstable = lyap(A_unstable_lyap', Q);
    fprintf('P computed:\n');
    disp(P_unstable);
    fprintf('Eigenvalues of P: ');
    fprintf('%.4f ', eig(P_unstable));
    fprintf('\n');
catch ME
    fprintf('\sqrt{Lyapunov equation has no solution\n');
end

P computed:
    -1.0000     1.3333
```

-1.0000 1.3333 1.3333 -3.1667 Eigenvalues of P: -3.8013 -0.3654

The Lyapunov equation always has a formal solution, but only for stable A will P be positive definite.

Negative eigenvalues of P confirm the system is unstable.

Section 4.3: Matrix Definiteness and Cholesky Decomposition

Concept Overview

A symmetric matrix M is:

• Positive definite: $x^T M x > 0$ for all $x \neq 0$

• Positive semi-definite: $x^T M x \ge 0$

Cholesky Test: $M > 0 \square M = L L^T exists (L lower triangular)$

Positive definite matrix

```
Matrix M:
```

```
disp(M_pd);
```

```
4 1
1 3
```

Test using Cholesky decomposition

```
try
      L = chol(M_pd, 'lower');
      fprintf('Cholesky decomposition succeeded:\n');
      fprintf('L (lower triangular):\n');
      disp(L);
      fprintf('Verification L*L^T:\n');
      disp(L*L');
      fprintf('√ Matrix is POSITIVE DEFINITE\n\n');
 catch
      fprintf('X Matrix is NOT positive definite\n\n');
 end
 Cholesky decomposition succeeded:
 L (lower triangular):
     2.0000
     0.5000
             1.6583
 Verification L*L^T:
      1
           3
 ✓ Matrix is POSITIVE DEFINITE
Check eigenvalues
 fprintf('Eigenvalues of M: ');
 Eigenvalues of M:
 fprintf('%.4f', eig(M_pd));
 2.3820 4.6180
 fprintf('All positive → positive definite\n\n');
 All positive → positive definite
Not positive definite matrix
 M_nd = [1 2;
          2 1];
 fprintf('Testing semi-definite matrix:\n');
 Testing semi-definite matrix:
 fprintf('M =\n'); disp(M_nd);
 M =
           2
      1
           1
 try
      L_nd = chol(M_nd, 'lower');
```

```
fprintf(' Positive definite\n');
catch
    fprintf('X NOT positive definite (Cholesky failed)\n');
end

X NOT positive definite (Cholesky failed)

fprintf('Eigenvalues: ');

Eigenvalues:

fprintf('%.4f ', eig(M_nd));
-1.0000 3.0000

fprintf('(Has negative eigenvalue)\n\n');

(Has negative eigenvalue)
```

Section 4.4: BIBO Stability

Mathematical Background

Bounded-Input Bounded-Output (BIBO) Stability:

System is BIBO stable if bounded input produces bounded output.

For LTI systems: BIBO stable \square all poles have Re(s) < 0

Create transfer functions

```
num1 = [1];
den1 = [1 3 2];  % Poles at s = -1, -2

num2 = [1];
den2 = [1 -1 -2];  % Poles at s = -2, +1

fprintf('Transfer Function 1:\n');
```

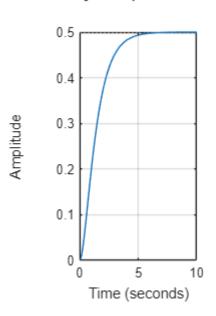
Transfer Function 1:

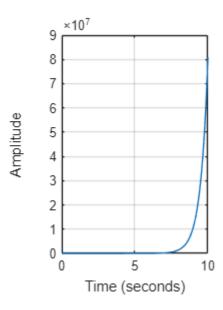
Poles:

```
fprintf('%.4f', poles1);
 -2.0000 -1.0000
 fprintf('\n');
 if all(real(poles1) < 0)</pre>
      fprintf('√ BIBO STABLE\n\n');
 else
      fprintf('X BIBO UNSTABLE\n\n');
 end
 √ BIBO STABLE
 fprintf('Transfer Function 2:\n');
 Transfer Function 2:
 G2 = tf(num2, den2)
 G2 =
       1
   s^2 - s - 2
 Continuous-time transfer function.
 Model Properties
 poles2 = pole(G2);
 fprintf('Poles: ');
 Poles:
 fprintf('%.4f', poles2);
 2.0000 -1.0000
 fprintf('\n');
 if all(real(poles2) < 0)</pre>
      fprintf('√ BIBO STABLE\n\n');
 else
      fprintf('X BIBO UNSTABLE (pole at s = %.2f)\n\n', poles2(real(poles2)>0));
 end
 X BIBO UNSTABLE (pole at s = 2.00)
Demonstrate with step response
 figure('Name', 'BIBO Stability Comparison');
 subplot(1,2,1);
 step(G1, 10);
```

```
grid on;
title('Stable System (bounded output)');
subplot(1,2,2);
try
    step(G2, 10);
    grid on;
    title('Unstable System (unbounded output)');
catch
    fprintf('Unstable system produces unbounded output\n');
end
```

Stable System (bounded output) Unstable System (unbounded output





Section 4.5: State Feedback and Pole Placement

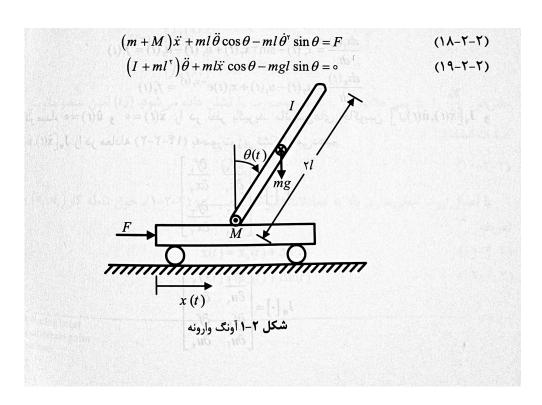
Mathematical Background

State feedback: u = -Kx + r

Closed-loop system: $\dot{x} = (A - BK)x + Br$

Goal: Choose K to place closed-loop poles at desired locations

Requirement: System must be controllable



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```
syms m M l I g real
syms x dx th dth F real
X = [x; dx; th; dth];
u = sym('F','real');
syms ddx ddth real
eq1 = (m+M)*ddx + m*1*ddth*cos(th) - m*1*dth^2*sin(th) - F == 0;
eq2 = (I + m*1^2)*ddth + m*1*ddx*cos(th) - m*g*1*sin(th) == 0;
S = solve([eq1, eq2],[ddx, ddth],'ReturnConditions',false);
ddx_expr = simplify(S.ddx);
ddth_expr = simplify(S.ddth);
f = [dx;
      ddx_expr;
      dth;
      ddth_expr ];
% Linearize: at upright equilibrium (x=0,dx=0,th=0,dth=0,u=0)
A_sym = jacobian(f, X);
B_sym = jacobian(f, u);
x_{eq} = [0; 0; 0; 0];
u_eq = 0;
A = simplify(subs(A_sym, [X; u], [x_eq; u_eq]));
```

```
B = simplify(subs(B_sym, [X; u], [x_eq; u_eq]));

C = eye(4);
D = zeros(4,1);

disp('A ='); disp(A);
```

A =

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{g \, l^2 \, m^2}{M \, m \, l^2 + I \, m + I \, M} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{g \, l \, m \, (M + m)}{M \, m \, l^2 + I \, m + I \, M} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

disp('B ='); disp(B);

B =

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{m l^2 + I}{M m l^2 + I m + I M} \\ 0 \\ -\frac{l m}{M m l^2 + I m + I M} \end{pmatrix}$$

C =

disp('D ='); disp(D);

D =

0

0

0

```
disp('A (numeric) ='); disp(A_pend);
 A (numeric) =
             1.0000
                                   0
         a
                          a
         0
                     -9.4596
                                   0
                 0
         0
                               1.0000
                  0
                          0
         0
                    57.8089
 disp('B (numeric) ='); disp(B_pend);
 B (numeric) =
     1.7857
    -5.3571
 fprintf('Inverted pendulum system (4 states):\n');
 Inverted pendulum system (4 states):
 fprintf('Open-loop eigenvalues: ');
 Open-loop eigenvalues:
 fprintf('%.4f', eig(A_pend));
 0.0000 0.0000 7.6032 -7.6032
 fprintf('\n');
 fprintf('System is UNSTABLE (positive eigenvalues)\n\n');
 System is UNSTABLE (positive eigenvalues)
Check controllability
 C_ctrb = ctrb(A_pend, B_pend);
 if rank(C_ctrb) == size(A_pend, 1)
     fprintf('√ System is controllable → Pole placement possible\n\n');
     fprintf('The controllability rank is: %d',rank(C_ctrb));
     fprintf('The rank is: %d',size(A_pend,1));
 else
     fprintf('X System not controllable → Cannot place all poles\n\n');
     fprintf('The controllability rank is: %d',rank(C_ctrb));
     fprintf('The rank is: %d',size(A_pend,1));
 end
```

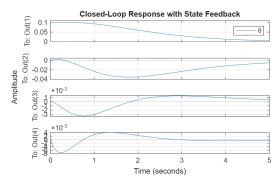
```
\checkmark System is controllable \rightarrow Pole placement possible The controllability rank is: 4 The rank is: 4
```

Desired pole locations (all in left half-plane for stability)

```
poles_desired = [-1, -1.5, -2, -2.5];
```

```
fprintf('Desired closed-loop poles: ');
 Desired closed-loop poles:
 fprintf('%.4f', poles_desired);
 -1.0000 -1.5000 -2.0000 -2.5000
Design state feedback using place
 K = place(A_pend, B_pend, poles_desired);
 fprintf('State feedback gain K:\n');
 State feedback gain K:
 disp(K);
    -0.1427
             -0.3663 -14.1519
                              -1.4288
Closed-loop system
 A_cl = A_pend - B_pend*K;
 fprintf('Closed-loop eigenvalues: ');
 Closed-loop eigenvalues:
 fprintf('%.4f ', eig(A_cl));
 -2.5000 -2.0000 -1.5000 -1.0000
Verify poles are at desired locations
 pole_error = sort(eig(A_cl)) - sort(poles_desired)';
 fprintf('Pole placement error: %.2e\n\n', norm(pole_error));
 Pole placement error: 3.16e-13
 % Simulate closed-loop response
 sys_cl = ss(A_cl, B_pend, eye(4), 0);
 x0 = [0.1; 0; 0; 0]; % Initial angle perturbation
 figure('Name', 'Pole Placement - Inverted Pendulum');
 initial(sys_cl, x0, 5);
 grid on;
 title('Closed-Loop Response with State Feedback');
```

legend(' θ ', ' $d\theta$ /dt', 'x', 'dx/dt');



Warning: Ignoring extra legend entries.

Section 4.6: Ackermann's Formula

Mathematical Background

For single-input systems (m=1):

$$K = [0 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ 1] \mathscr{C}^{-1} \alpha(A)$$

where $\alpha(s)$ is desired characteristic polynomial

```
A_acker = [0 1; -2 -3];
B_acker = [0; 1];

fprintf('Second-order system:\n');
```

Second-order system:

```
fprintf('A =\n'); disp(A_acker);
```

A = 0 1 -2 -3

```
fprintf('B =\n'); disp(B_acker);
```

B = 0 1

```
% Desired poles
p1 = -4;
p2 = -5;
fprintf('Desired poles: %.1f, %.1f\n', p1, p2);
```

Desired poles: -4.0, -5.0

```
% Using acker function
K_acker = acker(A_acker, B_acker, [p1 p2]);
fprintf('Gain using acker(): K = [%.4f %.4f]\n', K_acker);
```

```
Gain using acker(): K = [18.0000 6.0000]
```

```
% Using place function for comparison
K_place = place(A_acker, B_acker, [p1 p2]);
fprintf('Gain using place(): K = [%.4f %.4f]\n', K_place);
Gain using place(): K = [18.0000 6.0000]
fprintf('Difference: %.2e\n\n', norm(K_acker - K_place));
Difference: 7.32e-15
```

```
% Verify closed-loop poles
A_cl_acker = A_acker - B_acker*K_acker;
fprintf('Closed-loop poles: ');
```

Closed-loop poles:

```
fprintf('%.4f ', eig(A_cl_acker));
-4.0000 -5.0000
```

```
fprintf('\n\n');
```

Section 4.8: LQR - Linear Quadratic Regulator

Mathematical Background

(This topic is covered in Season 8 (Optimal Control) of Control Modern Fundamentals by A. Khaki Sedigh, which is not covered in class. Still useful to know and use.)

LQR Problem: Minimize cost function

$$J = \int_0^\infty (x^T Q x + u^T R u) dt$$

Solution: u = -Kx where $K = R^{-1}B^TP$

P solves Continuous Algebraic Riccati Equation (CARE):

$$A^T P + PA - PBR^{-1}B^T P + O = 0$$

```
A_lqr = [0 1; -1 -0.5];
B_lqr = [0; 1];
C_lqr = [1 0];
D_lqr = 0;

fprintf('System:\n');
```

System:

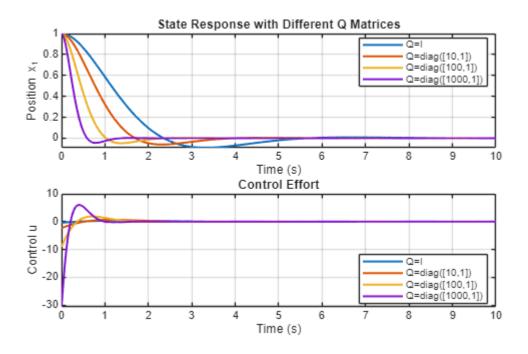
```
fprintf('A =\n'); disp(A_lqr);
A =
           1.0000
  -1.0000
          -0.5000
fprintf('B =\n'); disp(B_lqr);
B =
    0
    1
% Design parameters
Q_lqr = diag([10, 1]); % Penalize position more than velocity
R_1qr = 1;
                        % Input cost
fprintf('Cost matrices:\n');
Cost matrices:
fprintf('Q (state cost) =\n'); disp(Q_lqr);
Q (state cost) =
   10
    0
         1
fprintf('R (input cost) = %.1f\n\n', R_lqr);
R (input cost) = 1.0
% Solve LOR
[K_lqr, S, poles_lqr] = lqr(A_lqr, B_lqr, Q_lqr, R_lqr);
fprintf('LQR Results:\n');
LOR Results:
fprintf('Optimal gain K = [%.4f %.4f]\n', K_lqr);
Optimal gain K = [2.3166 1.9255]
fprintf('Solution to Riccati equation S:\n'); disp(S);
Solution to Riccati equation S:
   7.5446
            2.3166
   2.3166
            1.9255
fprintf('Closed-loop poles: ');
Closed-loop poles:
fprintf('%.4f', poles_lqr);
-1.2128 -1.2128
```

```
% Verify S satisfies CARE: A'S + SA - SBR^(-1)B'S + Q = 0
CARE_residual = A_lqr'*S + S*A_lqr - S*B_lqr*(R_lqr\B_lqr')*S + Q_lqr;
fprintf('CARE residual norm: %.2e\n\n', norm(CARE_residual));
```

CARE residual norm: 4.00e-15

Compare responses with different Q matrices

```
Q_{values} = {eye(2), diag([10,1]), diag([100,1]), diag([1000,1])};
Q labels = {'Q=I', 'Q=diag([10,1])', 'Q=diag([100,1])', 'Q=diag([1000,1])'};
figure('Name', 'LQR - Effect of Q Matrix');
x0 = [1; 0];
for i = 1:length(Q values)
    [K_temp, ~, ~] = lqr(A_lqr, B_lqr, Q_values{i}, R_lqr);
    A cl temp = A lqr - B lqr*K temp;
    sys_cl_temp = ss(A_cl_temp, zeros(2,1), C_lqr, 0);
    [y, t, x] = initial(sys_cl_temp, x0, 10);
    subplot(2,1,1);
    plot(t, x(:,1), 'LineWidth', 1.5, 'DisplayName', Q_labels{i});
    hold on;
    % Compute control effort
    u = -K temp * x';
    subplot(2,1,2);
    plot(t, u, 'LineWidth', 1.5, 'DisplayName', Q_labels{i});
    hold on;
end
subplot(2,1,1);
grid on;
xlabel('Time (s)');
ylabel('Position x 1');
title('State Response with Different Q Matrices');
legend('Location', 'best');
subplot(2,1,2);
grid on;
xlabel('Time (s)');
ylabel('Control u');
title('Control Effort');
legend('Location', 'best');
```



```
fprintf('Observation: Larger Q₁ → faster response but higher control effort\n\n');
```

Observation: Larger $Q_1 \rightarrow$ faster response but higher control effort

Section 4.9: Solving Riccati Equation Directly

Using care() and dare() for CARE and DARE

```
A_ricc = [0 1; -2 -3];
B_ricc = [0; 1];
Q_ricc = eye(2);
R_ricc = 1;

fprintf('Continuous-time Algebraic Riccati Equation (CARE):\n');
```

Continuous-time Algebraic Riccati Equation (CARE):

```
fprintf('A^TP + PA - PBR^(-1)B^TP + Q = 0\n');
```

```
A^TP + PA - PBR^(-1)B^TP + Q = 0
```

```
% Solve using care
[P_care, ~, K_care] = care(A_ricc, B_ricc, Q_ricc, R_ricc);
fprintf('Solution P (using care):\n');
```

Solution P (using care):

```
disp(P_care);
```

```
1.2361
          0.2361
   0.2361
            0.2361
fprintf('Optimal gain K = R^{(-1)}B^{TP}:\n');
Optimal gain K = R^{(-1)}B^{TP}:
disp(K_care);
   0.2361
            0.2361
% Compare with lqr
[K_lqr_comp, P_lqr_comp] = lqr(A_ricc, B_ricc, Q_ricc, R_ricc);
fprintf('Comparison with lqr():\n');
Comparison with lqr():
disp('P using CARE:'); disp(P care);
P using CARE:
   1.2361
           0.2361
   0.2361
            0.2361
disp('P using LQR:'); disp(P_lqr_comp);
P using LQR:
   1.2361
            0.2361
   0.2361
            0.2361
fprintf('Difference in P: %.2e\n', norm(P_care - P_lqr_comp));
Difference in P: 2.24e-16
disp('K using CARE:'); disp(K_care);
K using CARE:
            0.2361
   0.2361
disp('K using LQR:'); disp(K_lqr_comp);
K using LQR:
   0.2361
            0.2361
fprintf('Difference in K: %.2e\n\n', norm(K_care - K_lqr_comp));
Difference in K: 1.76e-16
```

Discrete-time Riccati equation

There is a function for Discrete-time Riccati equation (DARE) which you can use by utilizing:

```
[P_dare, ~, K_dare] = dare(A_d, B_d, Q_ricc, R_ricc);
```

Section 4.10: Summary and Key Takeaways

Key Concepts Covered:

- 1. Stability analysis: eigenvalues, Lyapunov, BIBO
- 2. Lyapunov equations: lyap, dlyap
- 3. Matrix definiteness: Cholesky decomposition
- 4. State feedback: pole placement with place, acker
- 5. Optimal control: LQR design with lqr, dlqr
- 6. Riccati equations: care, dare
- 7. Digital control: discretization and discrete LQR

MATLAB Functions Mastered:

eig, lyap, dlyap, chol, place, acker, lqr, dlqr, care, dare, c2d, d2c, pole

Design Trade-offs:

- Q matrix: penalizes state deviation (larger = faster response)
- R matrix: penalizes control effort (larger = less aggressive)
- Pole placement: direct control over dynamics
- LQR: optimal balance between performance and effort