

Controllability & Observability

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Outline

- Controllability.
- Observability.
- Stabilizability.
- Detectability.
- Identical tests for CT and DT systems.

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Controllability

Definition 8.4

- An LTI system is controllable if for any initial state $x(k_0)$ there exists a control sequence $u(k)$, $k_0 = 1, 2, \dots, k_f - 1$, such that an arbitrary final state $x(k_f)$ can be reached in finite time.

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Uncontrollable State

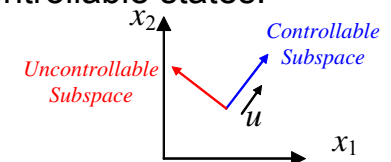
- x_{uc} is uncontrollable if it is orthogonal to the zero state response for all k and **all inputs** $u(k)$.

$$x_{uc}^T x_{zs}(k) = \sum_{i=k_0}^k x_{uc}^T A_d^{k-i-1} B_d u(i) = 0, \forall k, \forall u(k)$$

- Inputs can only drive the system in directions **orthogonal** to the uncontrollable states.

- Sum is identically zero

$$\begin{aligned} x_{uc}^T A_d^k B_d &= \mathbf{0}^T, \forall k \\ x_{uc}^T &= w_i^T \\ &= \text{left eigenvector} \end{aligned}$$



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Left Eigenvector

- Eigenvectors on the left side of A
 $\mathbf{w}_i^T A = \lambda_i \mathbf{w}_i^T, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$
- Transpose: can use MATLAB **eig**
 $A^T \mathbf{w}_i = \lambda_i \mathbf{w}_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$
- Uncontrollable state $\mathbf{x}_{uc}^T = \mathbf{w}_i^T$
 $\mathbf{x}_{uc}^T A_d^k B_d = \mathbf{w}_i^T A_d^k B_d = \lambda_i^k \mathbf{w}_i^T B_d = \mathbf{0}^T, \forall k$
 - Controllable: no uncontrollable states

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Theorem 8.4: Controllability

- An LTI system is controllable if and only if the products
 $\mathbf{w}_i^T B_d \neq \mathbf{0}^T, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$
 $\mathbf{w}_i^T = i^{th}$ left eigenvector, $B_d =$ input matrix.
 $\mathbf{w}_i^T B_d = \mathbf{0}^T: i^{th}$ mode is uncontrollable

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Proof: Necessity

- Zero-input response

$$\mathbf{x}_{ZI}(k) = \sum_{i=1}^n Z_i \lambda_i^k \mathbf{x}(k_0)$$
- Can only decay to zero asymptotically, not in finite time.
- Each mode must be influenced by the input to go to zero in finite time.
- We need $Z_i B_d \neq [0], i = 1, 2, \dots, n$

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Proof: Necessity (Cont.)

- $$\mathbf{x}_{zs}(k) = \sum_{i=k_0}^{k-1} A_d^{k-i-1} B_d \mathbf{u}(i), \quad A_d^k = \sum_{i=1}^n Z_i B_d \lambda_i^k$$
- $$Z_i B_d = \mathbf{v}_i \mathbf{w}_i^T B_d \neq [0], i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$
- only if
- $$\mathbf{w}_i^T B_d \neq \mathbf{0}^T, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$
- If $\mathbf{w}_j^T B_d = \mathbf{0}^T$, the the j^{th} mode is uncontrollable.

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Cayley-Hamilton Theorem

- Every matrix satisfies its own characteristic equation.

$$\det[\lambda I_n - A] = \lambda^n + a_{n-1}\lambda^{n-1} + \dots + a_1\lambda + a_0 = 0$$

$$A^n + a_{n-1}A^{n-1} + \dots + a_1A + a_0I_n = [\mathbf{0}]$$

$$A^n = -[a_{n-1}A^{n-1} + \dots + a_1A + a_0I_n]$$

- By induction, all higher powers $A^j, j \geq n$ can be written in terms of I_n, A, \dots, A^{n-1}
- $\forall k, A^k$ can be expressed in terms of I_n, A, \dots, A^{n-1}

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Proof: Sufficiency

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}(k) - \mathbf{x}_{ZI}(k) = \sum_{i=k_0}^{k-1} A_d^{k-i-1} B_d \mathbf{u}(i)$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \sum_{j=1}^n Z_j \lambda_j^{k-i-1} B_d \mathbf{u}(i)$$

$$\mathbf{x} = \left[\sum_{j=1}^n Z_j B_d \lambda_j^{n-1} \mid \dots \mid \sum_{j=1}^n Z_j B_d \right] \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}(0) \\ \mathbf{u}(1) \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}(n-1) \end{bmatrix} = L \mathbf{u}$$

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Proof: Sufficiency (Cont.)

- $L = \left[\sum_{j=1}^n Z_j B_d \lambda_j^{n-1} \mid \dots \mid \sum_{j=1}^n Z_j B_d \right]$ is full rank given that B_d is full rank and $Z_j B_d$ are nonzero.
- $Z_j B_d$ are all rank 1 and are linearly independent provided if $\mathbf{w}_i^T B_d \neq \mathbf{0}^T, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$
- Can solve the following equation for the input sequence that drives the system to a specified final state, but nonuniquely

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}(k) - \mathbf{x}_{ZI}(k) = L \mathbf{u}$$

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Controllability Rank Condition

Theorem 8.5: A LTI system is completely controllable if and only if the $n \times m \cdot n$ controllability matrix has rank n .

$$\mathcal{C} = [B_d \mid A_d B_d \mid \dots \mid A_d^{n-2} B_d \mid A_d^{n-1} B_d]$$

- If not full rank, there is a vector $\mathbf{x}_{uc} = \mathbf{w}_i^T$ such that $\mathbf{w}_i^T \mathcal{C} = \mathbf{0}^T$
- Rank deficit = number of uncontrollable modes

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Proof

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}(k) - \mathbf{x}_{ZI}(k) = \sum_{i=k_0}^{k-1} A_d^{k-i-1} B_d \mathbf{u}(i)$$

- Use the Cayley-Hamilton Theorem to write

$$\mathbf{x} = [B_d | A_d B_d | \dots | A_d^{n-1} B_d | A_d^n B_d] \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}(n-1) \\ \mathbf{u}(n-2) \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}(0) \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{C} \mathbf{u}$$

Solution for \mathbf{u} exists if and only if $\text{rank}(\mathbf{C}) = n$

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Example

Determine the controllability of the system

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1(k+1) \\ x_2(k+1) \\ x_3(k+1) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -0.4 & -0.5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1(k) \\ x_2(k) \\ x_3(k) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} u(k)$$

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Solution

- The controllability matrix of the system is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{C} &= [B_d | A_d B_d | A_d^2 B_d] \\ &= \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc|cc} 1 & 0 & -2 & -2 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & -0.5 & -0.9 \\ 1 & 1 & -0.5 & -0.9 & -0.15 & 0.05 \end{array} \right] \\ \text{rank}(\mathbf{C}) &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

- Controllability matrix has rank 3: controllable.
- First 3 columns of matrix linearly independent: sufficient to conclude controllability.
- In general, compute more columns until n linearly independent columns are obtained.

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Theorem 8.6: Controllability of Systems in Normal Form

A system in normal form is controllable **if and only if** its input matrix has no zero rows. Furthermore, if the input matrix has a zero row then the corresponding mode in uncontrollable.

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1(k+1) \\ \vdots \\ x_n(k+1) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1(k) \\ \vdots \\ x_n(k) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_1^T \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{b}_n^T \end{bmatrix} u(k)$$

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Proof:Necessity

- The diagonal form is equivalent to:

$$x_i(k+1) = \lambda_i x_i(k) + \mathbf{b}_i^T \mathbf{u}(k), i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

Necessity:

- If $\mathbf{b}_i^T = \mathbf{0}^T$, then the system can only converge to zero asymptotically.
- For controllability we must have convergence in finite time.
- If $\mathbf{b}_i^T = \mathbf{0}^T$, the i^{th} mode is not controllable.

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Proof: Sufficiency

$$x_i(k+1) = \lambda_i x_i(k) + \mathbf{b}_i^T \mathbf{u}(k), i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

$$x_i(n) = \lambda_i^n x_i(0) + \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \lambda_i^{n-j-1} \mathbf{b}_i^T \mathbf{u}(j)$$

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}(n) - \Lambda^n \mathbf{x}(0) = L \mathbf{u}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1^{n-1} \mathbf{b}_1^T & \lambda_1^{n-2} \mathbf{b}_1^T & \dots & \lambda_1 \mathbf{b}_1^T \\ \lambda_2^{n-1} \mathbf{b}_2^T & \lambda_2^{n-2} \mathbf{b}_2^T & \dots & \lambda_2 \mathbf{b}_2^T \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \lambda_n^{n-1} \mathbf{b}_n^T & \lambda_n^{n-2} \mathbf{b}_n^T & \dots & \lambda_n \mathbf{b}_n^T \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}(0) \\ \mathbf{u}(1) \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}(n-1) \end{bmatrix}$$

- If B_d has no zero rows the matrix L is full rank
- We can find a control \mathbf{u} to go to any \mathbf{x}

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MATLAB

- Controllability matrix: same for CT and DT
- ```
>> A=[[0;0],eye(2);-6,-11,-6]; B=[1;-1;1];
>> C=ctrb(A,B)
>> rank(C)
ans =
 1 (2 uncontrollable modes)
```
- For diagonal form use ss2ss
  - For the eigenvectors use eig with A' (rows)

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## Transfer Function (not reduced)

```
>> g=zpk(ss(A,B,C,0))
```

Zero/pole/gain from input to output...

12 (s+3) (s+2)

#1: -----

(s+3) (s+2) (s+1)

(s+3) (s+2)

#2: -----

(s+3) (s+2) (s+1)

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## Cancel Poles and Zeros

>> minreal(g)

Transfer function from input to  
output...

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#1: -----

$s + 1$

1

#2: -----

$s + 1$

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## Stabilizability

A system is stabilizable if all its uncontrollable modes decay to zero asymptotically.

- **Stabilizable:** all unstable modes are controllable.
- Stability and controllability: **independent properties**.
- Physical systems are often stabilizable but not controllable: not a problem if the uncontrollable dynamics decay to zero sufficiently fast.

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## Observability

A system is said to be observable if any initial state  $x(k_0)$  can be estimated from the control sequence

$$u(k), k = k_0, k_0 + 1, \dots, k_f - 1,$$

and the measurements

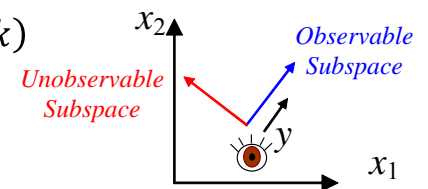
$$y(k), k = k_0, k_0 + 1, \dots, k_f$$

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## Unobservable States

$$y_{ZI}(k) = Cx(k) = CA_d^k x_{uo} = \mathbf{0}, \forall k$$

$$y_{ZI}(k) = Cx(k) = \begin{bmatrix} c_1^T \\ \vdots \\ c_l^T \end{bmatrix} x(k)$$



$$c_i^T x(k) = \mathbf{0}, i = 1, 2, \dots, l \text{ (orthogonal)}$$

- Unobservable state  $x_{uo} \neq \mathbf{0}$
- All vectors  $\alpha x_{uo}$  are **indistinguishable**.

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## Right Eigenvector

$$\begin{aligned} A_d \mathbf{v}_i &= \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i \\ \mathbf{x}_{uo} &= \mathbf{v}_i, CA_d^k \mathbf{x}_{uo} = CA_d^k \mathbf{v}_i = C \lambda_i^k \mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{0}, \forall k \\ C \mathbf{v}_i &= \mathbf{0} \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{x}_{uo} = \mathbf{v}_i \end{aligned}$$

- Unobservable state  $\mathbf{x}_{uo}$  eigenvector
- $\forall k$  the response remains zero (along  $\mathbf{x}_{uo}$ )
- Observable system has no unobservable states

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## Observability Condition

- Theorem 8.7:* A system is observable if and only if  $C \mathbf{v}_i$  is nonzero for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , where  $\mathbf{v}_i$  is the  $i^{th}$  eigenvector of the state matrix. Furthermore, if the product  $C \mathbf{v}_i$  is zero then the  $i^{th}$  mode is unobservable.
- Recall that the  $i^{th}$  column of the output matrix of the diagonal form is given by  $C \mathbf{v}_i, i = 1, \dots, n$

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## Observability Rank Test

*Theorem 8.5:* A LTI system is completely observable iff the  $l.n \times n$  observability matrix has rank  $n$ .

$$\mathcal{O} = \begin{bmatrix} C \\ CA_d \\ \vdots \\ CA_d^{n-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

- If not full rank, there is a vector  $\mathbf{x}_{uo} = \mathbf{v}_i$  such that  $\mathcal{O} \mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{0}$
- Rank deficit = number of unobservable modes

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## *Theorem 8.9: Observability of Systems in Normal Form*

A system in normal form is observable if and only if its output matrix has no zero columns. Furthermore, if the output matrix has a zero row column the corresponding mode is unobservable.

Recall: For normal form each state variable associated with a different mode.

$$\mathbf{y}(k) = [\mathbf{c}_{z1} \quad \dots \quad \mathbf{c}_{zn}] \mathbf{x}(k)$$

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## Proof of Necessity

- Assume observable with rank deficient matrix gives a contradiction. For rank deficient  $\mathcal{O}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} C \\ CA \\ \vdots \\ CA^{n-1} \end{bmatrix} x_{uo} = \mathbf{0} \Leftrightarrow CA^i x_{uo} = \mathbf{0}, i = 0, \dots, n-1, x_{uo} \neq \mathbf{0}$$

$$\Rightarrow y_{ZI}(k) = Cx(k) = CA^k x_{uo} = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \alpha_i(t) CA^i x_{uo} = \mathbf{0}, \forall t$$

- $x_{uo}$  unobservable state and system cannot be observable: contradicts observability assumption.
- Rank deficit = number of eigenvectors s.t.  $y_{ZI}(k) = \mathbf{0}$

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## Proof of Sufficiency

- Assume full rank observability matrix then

$$CA^i x(0) = \mathbf{0}, i = 0, 1, \dots, n-1 \Rightarrow x(0) = \mathbf{0}$$

$$CA^k x(0) = C \left[ \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \alpha_i(t) A^i \right] x(0)$$

$$= [\alpha_0(t)I_n \quad \dots \quad \alpha_{n-1}(t)I_n] \begin{bmatrix} C \\ \vdots \\ CA^{n-1} \end{bmatrix} x(0)$$

$$\Rightarrow x(0) = \mathbf{0}$$

- No unobservable states hence observable.

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## Example 8.10

Determine the observability of the system using two different tests.

If the system is not completely observable, determine the unobservable modes.

$$A_d = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, C = [0 \quad 0 \quad 1]$$

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## Solution

- State matrix in companion form.
- Characteristic equation and modal matrix

$$\lambda^3 - 4\lambda^2 + 3\lambda = \lambda(\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 3) = 0$$

$$V = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$CV = [0 \quad 0 \quad 1] \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 9 \end{bmatrix} = [0 \quad 1 \quad 9]$$

$Cv_1 = \mathbf{0}$ : output-decoupling zero at zero, i.e. one unobservable mode. The unobservable mode is stable (inside the unit circle): detectable system

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## Rank Test

$$\mathcal{O} = \begin{bmatrix} C \\ CA_d \\ CA_d^2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -3 & 4 \\ 0 & -12 & -13 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Rank = 2
- Rank deficit = 3 - 2 = 1
- One unobservable mode.

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## MATLAB Commands

**% Calculate observability matrix**

**>>o = obsv(A, C)**

**» rank(o) % Find the rank of the matrix.**

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## Example: Eigenvector Test

- Check the controllability and observability of the CT system

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & -4 & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -5 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -11 \end{bmatrix}, B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 10 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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## Example Continued: Controllability

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & -4 & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -5 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -11 \end{bmatrix}, W = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1.25 & -0.25 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & -1.1429 \\ 0 & 0 & 4.3084 & -1.4361 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1.0841 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad WB = \begin{bmatrix} 0.75 \\ -0.1429 \\ 1.4361 \\ 1.0841 \end{bmatrix}$$

*controllable*

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## Example Continued: Observability

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & -4 & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -5 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -11 \end{bmatrix}, V = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -0.2901 & -0.1537 \\ 0 & 1 & -0.9284 & -0.1757 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.2321 & 0.3075 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.9225 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 10 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad CV = \begin{bmatrix} 10 & 0 & -2.4371 & -0.9225 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.9225 \end{bmatrix}$$

$e^{-4t}$  unobservable

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## Example: Rank Test

$$\mathcal{C} = \begin{bmatrix} B & AB & A^2B & A^3B \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & -9 & 169 \\ 1 & -4 & 8 & 96 \\ 0 & -2 & 32 & -402 \\ 1 & -11 & 121 & -1331 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\text{rank}[\mathcal{C}] = 4$

controllable

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## Detectability

- A system is detectable if all its unobservable modes decay to zero asymptotically.
- Detectable: all unstable modes are observable.
- Observability and stability: independent properties.
- Physical systems are typically detectable but not observable: not a problem if the unobservable modes decay to zero sufficiently fast.

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## Example: Normal Form

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1(k+1) \\ x_2(k+1) \\ x_3(k+1) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1(k) \\ x_2(k) \\ x_3(k) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}(k)$$

$$y(k) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1(k) \\ x_2(k) \\ x_3(k) \end{bmatrix}$$

- Zero rows in  $B_d$ , zero column in  $C$
- $3^k$  uncontrollable,  $(-2)^k$  unobservable.
- $|3| > 1$  not stabilizable.
- $|-2| > 1$  not detectable.

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## Example: Diagonal Form

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_1(t) \\ \dot{x}_2(t) \\ \dot{x}_3(t) \\ \dot{x}_4(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -11 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1(t) \\ x_2(t) \\ x_3(t) \\ x_4(t) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} r(t)$$

$$y(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1(t) \\ x_2(t) \\ x_3(t) \\ x_4(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

$e^{-5t}$  uncontrollable,  $e^{-11t}$  unobservable

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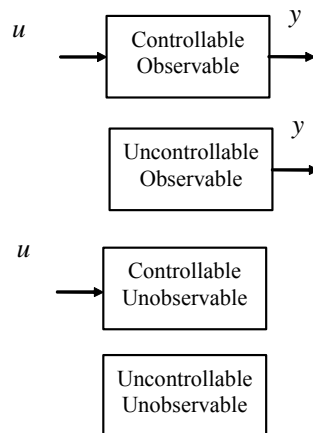
## Important Relations

- Internally stable systems are stabilizable and detectable: no unstable modes.
- Observable systems are detectable: no unobservable modes.
- Controllable systems are stabilizable: no uncontrollable modes.
- For minimal realizations, BIBO stability and internal stability are equivalent.

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## Kalman Decomposition

- Any system can be decomposed into four subsystems as shown in the figure:



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