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# ESTIMABILITY AND REGULABILITY OF LINEAR SYSTEMS

Yoram Baram\* and Thomas Kailath\*\*

## Abstract

A linear state-space system will be said to be estimable if in estimating its state from its output the posterior error covariance matrix is strictly smaller than the prior covariance matrix. It will be said to be regulable if the quadratic cost of state feedback control is strictly smaller than the cost when no feedback is used. These properties, which are shown to be dual, are different from the well known observability and controllability properties of linear systems. Necessary and sufficient conditions for estimability and regulability are derived for time variant and time invariant systems, in discrete and continuous time.

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## 1. Introduction

The benefit of using observation or feedback signals in state estimation or regulation of dynamical systems is normally manifested by the reduction of certain cost functions with respect to their values when no such signals are used. In this paper we introduce those properties of linear systems that yield mean-square error reduction in state estimation and quadratic cost reduction in state feedback control. These properties, which we call *estimability* and *regulability*, are different from the properties of observability and controllability, which were introduced by Kalman [1] and are widely recognized as key structural properties in linear estimation and control.

We shall say that a stochastic linear system is estimable if, in estimating its state from its output, the posterior error covariance matrix is strictly smaller than the prior state covariance matrix. This condition is equivalent to the condition that no direction in the state space at any time is orthogonal to all the past observations. It is also shown to be equivalent to the nonsingularity of a certain Gramian matrix. The notion of estimability is independent of that of observability in the sense that one does not imply the other. When a system is not estimable, the corresponding Kalman filter can be reduced to a lower-order estimator of the state process. A linear state-space system driven by white noise is shown to be a minimal order realization of its output process if and only if it is observable and estimable. These results apply to time-variant and time-invariant linear systems in discrete and continuous time. In the stationary case, the estimability condition leads directly to conditions derived by Baram and Shaked [2], [3], for minimality of the Kalman filter.

We shall say that a linear system is regulable if, for any nonzero initial condition, the quadratic cost in applying optimal control is strictly smaller than the cost when no control is applied. This means that when a system is not regulable, the feedback signal may be eliminated for some non-zero initial condition without increasing the cost. Necessary and sufficient conditions for regulability are obtained for time-variant and time-invariant systems in discrete and continuous time. As might be expected, regulability and estimability are shown to be dual properties.

## 2. Estimability

Consider the system

$$\begin{aligned} x_{k+1} &= F_k x_k + G_k w_k & x_k &\in \mathbb{R}^n \\ y_k &= H_k x_k + v_k & k &= 0, 1, 2, \dots \end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$

where  $E\{x_0\} = 0$ ,  $E\{x_0 x_0^*\} = \Pi_0$ ,  $\{w_k\}$  and  $\{v_k\}$  are zero-mean sequences with  $E\{x_0 w_k^*\} = 0$ ,  $E\{w_k v_j^*\} = 0$ ,  $E\{w_k w_j^*\} = Q_k \delta_{k,j}$ ,  $E\{v_k v_j^*\} = R_k \delta_{k,j}$ . Also,  $E\{\cdot\}$  denotes expectation,  $*$  denotes Hermitian transpose, and  $\delta_{k,j}$  denotes the Kronecker delta. Let  $\hat{x}_k$  denote the linear least-squares estimate of  $x_k$  given  $\{y_{k-1}, y_{k-2}, \dots\}$  and let

$$\Pi_k = E\{x_k x_k^*\} \quad \text{and} \quad P_k = E\{(x_k - \hat{x}_k)(x_k - \hat{x}_k)^*\} .$$

Definition 2.1. The system (2.1) is estimable if

$$P_k < \Pi_k \quad \text{for all } k \geq n .$$

i.e., if and only if for any  $g \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $g \neq 0$

$$g^* P_k g < g^* \Pi_k g \quad \text{for all } k \geq n \quad (2.2)$$

or, in words, the posterior mean-square error in estimating any linear combination of the state variables is strictly smaller than the prior mean-square error. As will be shown later, the requirement  $k \geq n$  is needed, since for  $k < n$  the condition will immediately fail for, say, a scalar  $\{y_k\}$  sequence.

The orthogonality property of the least-squares estimate implies that (2.2) will fail if and only if  $g^* x_k$  is orthogonal to (uncorrelated with) the sequence  $\{y_j, j \leq k\}$  for  $k \geq n$ . Conversely, (2.2) is equivalent to the condition

$$g^* E\{x_k y_j^*\} \neq 0 \quad \text{for some } j \leq k - 1 \quad \text{and all } k \geq n. \quad (2.3)$$

Estimability means, by (2.2), that in estimating any linear combination of the state variables, the posterior mean-square error is strictly smaller than the prior mean-square error. Equivalently, by (2.3), it means that no direction in the state space for  $k \geq n$  is orthogonal to all the past observations.

Noting that

$$x_k = \Phi_{k,j} x_j + \sum_{i=0}^{k-j} \Phi_{k,j+i} G_{j+i-1} W_{j+i-1}$$

where  $\Phi_{k,j} = F_{k-1} F_{k-2} \dots F_j$ ,  $\Phi_{k,k} = I$  denotes the system's state transition matrix, the estimability condition (2.3) can be written as

$$g^* \Phi_{k,j} N_j \neq 0 \quad k \geq n \quad (2.4)$$

for some  $j \leq k - 1$ , where

$$N_j = \Pi_j H_j$$

Condition (2.4) holds if and only if the matrix sequence  $\{\Phi_{k,j} N_j, j \leq k - 1\}$  has column rank  $n$  for all  $k \geq n$ , or, equivalently, the estimability Gramian

$$W_k = \sum_{j=k-1}^0 \Phi_{k,j} N_j N_j^* \Phi_{k,j}^*$$

has a full rank for all  $k \geq n$ . It can now be seen that we require  $k \geq n$  in the definition of estimability since for a scalar  $\{y_k\}$  sequence the matrix sequence  $\{\Phi_{k,j} N_j, j \leq k - 1\}$  cannot have column rank  $n$  for any  $k < n$  and the condition will immediately fail. We note that the triple  $\{H_k, \Phi_{k,j}, N_j, j \leq k - 1\}$  defines the covariance function of  $\{y_k\}$

$$R_y(k,j) = E\{y_k y_j^*\} = (R_k + H_k \Pi_k H_k^*) \delta_{k,j} + H_k \Phi_{k,j} N_j^* 1(k-j) + N_{k,j}^* \Phi_{k,j}^* 1(j-k)$$

where  $1(k - j) = 1$  for  $j < k$ , 0 otherwise, and  $\Pi_k$  satisfies the Lyapunov equation

$$\Pi_{k+1} = F_k \Pi_k F_k^* + G_k Q_k G_k^* \quad (2.5)$$

We have, then, the following result.

Theorem 2.1. The system (2.1) is estimable if and only if the following condition holds

$$\text{rank } W_k = n \text{ for all } k \geq n \quad (2.6)$$

We note that when the system is not estimable, the state estimate can be reduced, without loss of information, to a lower dimensional vector, which, in turn, results in the reduction of the Kalman filter to a lower dimensional linear estimator of the state.

#### Remarks

1. The concept of estimability, which means that no direction in the state space is orthogonal to all the past observations, is an extension to the stochastic case of the concept of observability, which, in the deterministic case, means that the state can be deduced from the past observations. We note that this notion of "stochastic observability" is different from the one defined by Chen [4] as convergence of the error covariance matrix in estimating the initial state from a finite number of observations, when the prior covariance matrix is  $\alpha I$  and  $\alpha$  tends to infinity. While Chen's definition reduces to that of observability when the system is deterministic, the



estimability notion is independent of that of observability, in the sense that, as can be readily verified by example, one does not imply the other.

2. Motivated by (2.3), let us examine the condition that no direction in the state space is orthogonal to all the past inputs (rather than outputs, as in (2.3)), i.e., that for any  $g \in R^n$ ,  $g \neq 0$

$$g^* E\{x_k w_j^*\} \neq 0 \text{ for some } j \leq k - 1 \text{ for all } k \geq n$$

which, noting that

$$x_k = \Phi_{k,0} x_0 + \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \Phi_{k,j+1} G_j w_j$$

becomes

$$g^* \Phi_{k,j+1} G_j Q_j \neq 0 \text{ for some } j \leq k - 1, \text{ for all } k \geq n \quad (2.7)$$

for any  $g \in R^n$ ,  $g \neq 0$ . But the latter condition holds if and only if the matrix sequence  $\{\Phi_{k,j+1} G_j Q_j, j \leq k - 1\}$  has full column rank, which is the condition for reachability of the pair  $(F_j, G_j Q_j)$ . This condition, which has been termed by Bryson [5] "disturbability," is identical to the deterministic reachability condition when the input noise covariance  $Q_j$  is nonsingular. This stands in contrast to the fact that estimability and observability are unrelated concepts. We also note that disturbability is not dual to estimability in the common system-theoretic sense. Such dual property will be presented in section 3.

### The Stationary Case

Some useful equivalent forms of Theorem 2.1 can be obtained in the special case where the parameters  $\{F, G, H, Q, R\}$  of the system (2.1) are time invariant. When the eigenvalues of  $F$  are strictly inside the unit circle, the matrix  $\Pi_k = E\{x_k x_k^*\}$  has a steady-state value  $\Pi$ , which is the unique nonnegative solution of the equation (see, e.g., [6, p. 70])

$$\Pi = F\Pi F^* + GQ G^* \quad (2.8)$$

if  $\Pi_0 = \Pi$ , then  $\Pi_k$  has a constant value  $\Pi$  for all  $k \geq 0$  and the processes  $x_k$  and  $y_k$  are stationary. The matrix  $N_k = \Pi_k H^*$  then has a constant value  $N = \Pi H^*$ . The stationary system is estimable if the condition

$$P_k < \Pi \quad \text{for all } k \geq n$$

is satisfied. The following result is a direct consequence of Theorem 2.1.

Corollary 2.1. The stationary system  $(F, G, H, Q, R, \Pi_0 = \Pi)$  is estimable if and only if the pair  $(F, FN)$  is reachable, i.e.,  
 $\text{rank}[FN : F^2N : \dots : F^n N] = n$

The Popov-Belevitch-Hautus test (see, e.g., [7], p. 135) can be used to obtain an equivalent characterization of estimability. Let us denote by  $f_i^*$  a left eigenvector of  $F$ , corresponding to an eigenvalue  $\lambda_i$ , then  $f_i^* A = \lambda_i f_i^*$ . Multiplying (2.8) on the right by  $f_i$ , we obtain

$$\Pi f_i = (I - \lambda_i F)^{-1} G Q G^* f_i$$

yielding

$$N^*f_i = H(I - \lambda_i F)^{-1}GQG^*f_i \quad (2.9)$$

By the PBH test, the pair  $(F, N)$  is reachable if and only if  $N^*f_i \neq 0$  for any  $f_i$  corresponding to each  $\lambda_i$ . Noting that  $\lambda_i \neq 0$ , we obtain, by (2.9) and Corollary 2.1, the following result, which relates the estimability property to the system's eigenstructure.

Corollary 2.2. The stationary system  $(F, G, H, Q, R, \Pi_0 = \Pi)$  is estimable if and only if for any left eigenvector  $f_i^*$  corresponding to each eigenvalue  $\lambda_i$  of  $F$ ,

$$H(\lambda_i^{-1}I - F)^{-1}GQG^*f_i \neq 0 \quad (2.10)$$

We note that condition (2.10) is the same as the condition presented by Baram and Shaked [2] for minimality of the stationary Kalman filter associated with the system, in the sense that there is no linear estimator of its state, having order smaller than  $n$ . The above derivation is simpler than the one in [2], which would also be hard to generalize to the time-varying case.

## Continuous-Time Systems

Now consider the system

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}(t) &= F(t)x(t) + G(t)w(t) & x(t) &\in \mathbb{R}^n \\ y(t) &= H(t)x(t) + v(t) & t &\geq 0\end{aligned}\tag{2.11}$$

where  $E\{x(0)\} = 0$ ,  $E\{x(0)x^*(0)\} = \Pi(0)$ ,  $\{w(t)\}$  and  $\{v(t)\}$  are zero-mean processes with  $E\{x(0)w^*(t)\} = 0$ ,  $E\{w(t)v^*(s)\} = 0$ ,  $E\{w(t)w^*(s)\} = Q(t)\delta(t - s)$  and  $E\{v(t)v^*(s)\} = R(t)\delta(t - s)$ . Let  $\hat{x}(t)$  denote the linear least-squares estimate of  $x(t)$  given  $\{y(s), s \leq t\}$  and let

$$\Pi(t) = E\{x(t)x^*(t)\} \quad \text{and} \quad P(t) = E\{[x(t) - \hat{x}(t)][x(t) - \hat{x}(t)]^*\}$$

The system (2.11) is said to be estimable if the condition

$$P(t) < \Pi(t) \quad t > 0$$

is satisfied.

Let us denote by  $\phi(t,s)$  the system's transition matrix and let

$$N(t) = \Pi(t)H^*(t)$$

Defining the continuous time estimability Gramian by

$$W(t) = \int_t^0 \phi(t,s)N(s)N^*(s)\phi^*(t,s)ds\tag{2.12}$$

and following the analysis of the discrete time case, we obtain the following result.

Theorem 2.2. The system (2.11) is estimable if and only if the following condition holds

$$\text{rank } W(t) = n \quad \text{for any } t > 0$$

In the time-invariant case, when the matrix  $F$  has all its eigenvalues strictly in the left half plane,  $\Pi(t)$  reaches a steady-state value, which is the unique nonnegative solution of the equation

$$F\Pi + \Pi F^* + GQ G^* = 0 \tag{2.13}$$

When  $\Pi(0) = \Pi$ , the matrix  $N(t)$  has a constant value  $N = \Pi H^*$  and the processes  $\{x(t)\}$  and  $\{y(t)\}$  are stationary. The stationary system is estimable if the condition

$$P(t) < \Pi \quad t > 0$$

holds. The following result is a direct consequence of Theorem 2.2.

Corollary 2.3. The stationary system  $(F, G, H, Q, R, \Pi(0) = \Pi)$  is estimable if and only if the pair  $(F, N)$  is controllable.

Let us denote by  $f_i^*$  a left eigenvector of  $F$  corresponding to an eigenvalue  $\lambda_i$ . Multiplying (2.13) on the right by  $f_i$ , we obtain

$$\Pi f_i = (-\lambda_i I - F)^{-1} G Q G^* f_i$$

yielding

$$N^* f_i = H^* (-\lambda_i I - F)^{-1} G Q G^* f_i \quad (2.14)$$

Since, by the PBH test, the pair  $(F, N)$  is controllable if and only if  $N^* f_i \neq 0$ , Corollary 2.3 and equation (2.14) yield the following result.

Corollary 2.4. The stationary system  $(F, G, H, Q, R, \Pi(0) = \Pi)$  is estimable if and only if for any left eigenvector  $f_i^*$  corresponding to each eigenvalue  $\lambda_i$  of  $F$ ,

$$H(-\lambda_i I - F)^{-1} G Q G^* f_i \neq 0 \quad (2.15)$$

As in the discrete-time case, this is also the condition for minimality of the continuous-time stationary Kalman filter [3]. The above derivation is simpler than the one in [3] and the condition is shown to be a restriction to the stationary case of the more general estimability property.

#### Minimal Realization of the Observation Process

System estimability implies, by definition, that the observations contain information on all the state variables. It might be expected, then, that the minimality of any realization of the observation process would be strongly linked to the estimability property. The fact that estimability depends on the sequence  $\{N_k\}$ , which defines the covariance function of the output process, is a further indication of such a linkage. We first note that if we

define the order of a state-space realization of a possibly nonstationary process as the dimension of its state process, then the order will be generally time-dependent. We shall say that a realization of such a process is minimal if its order is not greater than that of any other realization of the process at any time.

It is known (see, e.g., [8]) that the minimal order of any realization of a stationary process  $\{y_k\}$ , possessing a finite dimensional linear representation is the dimension of the Hilbert space  $Y_k$  generated by  $\{\hat{y}_{k+j}, j \geq 0\}$ , where  $\hat{y}_{k+j}$  denotes the least-squares estimate of  $y_{k+j}$  given  $\{y_{k-1}, y_{k-2}, \dots, y_0\}$ . To see that this is also true when  $\{y_k\}$  is nonstationary, let  $z_k$  denote a base of  $Y_k$ , i.e., a vector of minimal dimension from which any element of  $Y_k$  can be obtained by a linear transformation. Since  $z_{k+1} \in Y_{k+1} \subset Y_k \otimes v_k$ , where  $v_k = y_k - \hat{y}_k$  and  $\otimes$  denotes the cartesian product and since  $v_k \perp Y_k$ , there exist matrices  $A_k, B_k$ , and  $C_k$ , such that  $z_{k+1} = A_k z_k + B_k v_k$  and  $y_k = C_k z_k + v_k$ . By definition,  $\dim z_k = \dim Y_k$ . Suppose that there exists a realization of  $\{y_k\}$ , given by  $q_{k+1} = \alpha_k q_k + \beta_k r_k$ ,  $y_k = \gamma_k q_k + t_k$ , where  $\{r_k\}$  is a white noise process, uncorrelated with  $q_0$  and  $\{t_k\}$  is a white noise process, uncorrelated with  $\{r_k\}$ , such that  $\dim q_k < \dim Y_k$ . Then we have  $[\hat{y}_k, \hat{y}_{k+1}, \dots] = [\gamma_k, \gamma_{k+1} \theta_{k+1,k}, \dots] \hat{q}_k$  where  $\theta_{k+j,k}$  is the transition matrix corresponding to  $\alpha_k$  and  $\hat{q}_k$  is the least squares estimate of  $q_k$ , given  $\{y_{k-1}, y_{k-2}, \dots\}$ . But since the dimension of  $Y_k$  is equal to the covariance rank of  $[\hat{y}_k^T : \hat{y}_{k+1}^T : \dots]$ , we have  $\dim Y_k \leq \dim q_k < \dim Y_k$ , a contradiction. It follows that the minimal order of any realization of  $\{y_k\}$  at time  $k$  is equal to the dimension of  $Y_k$ .

Since, by (2.1), we have  $[\hat{y}_k, \hat{y}_{k+1}, \dots] = [H_k, H_{k+1}\phi_{k+1,k}, \dots]\hat{x}_k$  it follows that  $\dim Y_k = n$  if and only if (2.1) is observable and  $\text{rank } E\{\hat{x}_k \hat{x}_k^*\} = n$ . Since the latter, for  $k \geq n$ , is the condition for estimability we have the following result.

Theorem 2.3. The system (2.1) is a minimal order realization of the process  $\{y_k\}$  for  $k \geq n$  if and only if it is observable and estimable.

Restricting Theorem 2.3 to the stationary case and employing corollary 2.1, we obtain the following result.

Corollary 2.5. The system  $(F, G, H, Q, R, \Pi_0 = \Pi)$  is a minimal realization of a stationary output process  $\{y_k\}$  if and only if the triplet  $(H, F, N)$  is observable and reachable.

Theorem 2.3 and corollary 2.2 further imply that in the stationary case the system is a minimal realization of its output process if and only if the pair  $(H, F)$  is observable and condition (2.10) holds. This result, which was first presented in [9] is now extended by Theorem 2.3 to nonstationary processes. We also note that for the stationary case, the above analysis implies that an observable system of order  $n$  is estimable if and only if the denominator degree of its spectral density function is  $2n$ . These results can be extended to the continuous time case.



### 3. Regulability

Consider a system

$$x_{k+1} = F_k x_k + G_k u_k \quad (3.1)$$

where the input sequence  $\{u_k\}$  is to be selected so as to minimize the quadratic cost function

$$J[x_0, \{u_k\}, K] = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} x_{k+1}^* L_{k+1} x_{k+1} + u_k^* M_k u_k \quad (3.2)$$

where  $L_k$  is a nonnegative matrix and  $M_k$  is a positive definite matrix.

Definition 3.1. The system (3.1) is regulable if for any initial condition

$$x_0 \neq 0$$

$$\min_{\{u_k\}} J[x_0, \{u_k\}, K] < J[x_0, \{u_k = 0\}, K] \quad \text{for all } K \geq n \quad (3.3)$$

Regulability means that for any initial condition the optimal cost is strictly smaller than the cost when no input is used.

We next derive a Gramian rank test for regulability. Substituting

$$x_k = \phi_{k,0} x_0 + \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \phi_{k,j+1} G_j u_j$$

in (3.2), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
J[w_0, \{u_k\}, K] = & \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \left\{ x_0^{*\phi^*} {}_{k+1,0}L_{k+1} \phi_{k+1,0} x_0 \right. \\
& + 2x_0^{*\phi^*} {}_{k+1,0}L_{k+1} \sum_{j=0}^k \phi_{k+1,j+1} G_j u_j \\
& \left. + \left( \sum_{j=0}^k \phi_{k+1,j+1} G_j u_j \right)^* L_{k+1} \left( \sum_{j=0}^k \phi_{k+1,j+1} G_j u_j \right) + u_k^* M_k u_k \right\}
\end{aligned}$$

Let

$$A_{k,j} = L_{k+1}^{1/2} \phi_{k+1,j+1} G_j, \quad b_k = L_{k+1}^{1/2} \phi_{k+1,0} x_0$$

and

$$\bar{A} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{0,0} & & & & & \\ A_{1,0} & A_{1,1} & & & & 0 \\ A_{2,0} & A_{2,1} & A_{2,2} & & & \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & & \\ \vdots & & & & \ddots & \\ A_{K-1,0} & A_{K-1,1} & \dots & \dots & \dots & A_{K-1,K-1} \end{bmatrix} \quad \bar{b} = \begin{bmatrix} b_0 \\ b_1 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ b_{K-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\bar{M} = \begin{bmatrix} M_1 & & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & \\ 0 & & \ddots & \\ & & & M_{K-1} \end{bmatrix} \quad \bar{u} = \begin{bmatrix} u_0 \\ u_1 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ u_{K-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

then it can be readily verified that

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta J &\equiv J[x_0, \{u_k\}, K] - J[x_0, \{u_k = 0\}, K] \\ &= \bar{u}^*[\bar{A}^*\bar{A} + \bar{M}]\bar{u} + 2\bar{b}^*\bar{A}\bar{u}\end{aligned}\quad (3.3)$$

We would like to find a necessary and sufficient condition for regulability, i.e., a condition under which  $\min_{\{u_k\}} \Delta J < 0$ . Obviously, we have  $\min_{\{u_k\}} \Delta J \leq 0$  so, we would like to find a condition under which

$$\min_{\{u_k\}} \Delta J \neq 0 \quad (3.4)$$

Differentiating (3.3) and equating to zero, we obtain

$$\frac{\partial \Delta J}{\partial \bar{u}} = 2\bar{u}^*(\bar{A}^*\bar{A} + \bar{M}) + 2\bar{b}^*\bar{A} = 0$$

Since  $\bar{M}$  has full rank, so does  $(\bar{A}^*\bar{A} + \bar{M})$ . Hence, the optimal input is

$$\bar{u} = -(\bar{A}^*\bar{A} + \bar{M})^{-1}\bar{A}^*\bar{b}$$

yielding

$$\min_{\{u_k\}} \Delta J = -\bar{b}^*\bar{A}(\bar{A}^*\bar{A} + \bar{M})^{-1}\bar{A}^*\bar{b}$$

It follows that (3.4) holds if and only if  $\bar{b}$  is not in the null space of  $\bar{A}^*$ , i.e., if and only if

$$B^*AA^*B \neq 0$$

(3.5)

The regulability condition is then

$$\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \left( \sum_{j=k}^{K-1} A_{j,k}^* b_j \right)^* \left( \sum_{j=k}^{K-1} A_{j,k}^* b_j \right) \neq 0$$

or, for any  $x_0 \neq 0$

$$x_0^* \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \left( \sum_{j=k}^{K-1} \phi_{j+1,0}^* L_{j+1} \phi_{j+1,k+1} \right) G_k G_k^* \left( \sum_{j=k}^{K-1} \phi_{j+1,k+1}^* L_{j+1} \phi_{j+1,0} \right) x_0 \neq 0$$

Noting that  $\phi_{j+1,0} = \phi_{j+1,k+1} \phi_{k+1,0}$  the condition becomes

$$x_0^* \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \phi_{k+1,0}^* \left( \sum_{j=k}^{K-1} \phi_{j+1,k+1}^* L_{j+1} \phi_{j+1,k+1} \right) G_k G_k^* \times \left( \sum_{j=k}^{K-1} \phi_{j+1,k+1}^* L_{j+1} \phi_{j+1,k+1} \right) \phi_{k+1,0} x_0 \neq 0$$

for any  $x_0 \neq 0$ . The matrix

$$\psi_k = \sum_{j=k}^{K-1} \phi_{j+1,k+1}^* L_{j+1} \phi_{j+1,k+1}$$

can be seen to satisfy the (time-reversed) Lyapunov equation

$$\psi_k = F_{k+1}^* \psi_{k+1} F_{k+1} + L_k, \quad \psi_K = L_K \quad (3.6)$$

The regulability condition can now be written as

$$x_0^* W_K x_0 \neq 0 \text{ for any } x_0 \neq 0$$

where  $W_K$  is the regulability Gramian

$$W_K = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \phi_{k+1,0}^* S_k S_k^* \phi_{k+1,0}$$

with

$$S_k = \psi_k G_k$$

We have proved the following result.

Theorem 3.1. The system (3.1) is regulable if and only if

$$\text{rank } W_K = n \text{ for all } K \geq n \quad (3.7)$$

Suppose that the regulability condition is not satisfied. Then for some initial condition  $x_0 \neq 0$  the cost will not be reduced by applying any input signal  $\{u_k\}$ . This initial condition can be found by solving the equation

$$\left( \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \phi_{k+1,0}^* S_k S_k^* \phi_{k+1,0} \right) x_0 = 0$$

When the system is initialized at this initial condition, any state feedback control signal may be eliminated without increasing the cost. We note that the latter condition is analogous to the orthogonality condition  $g^* E\{x_k y_j^*\} = 0, j \leq k$  in the estimation problem.

## Time-Invariant Systems

Now consider the time invariant system

$$x_{k+1} = Fx_k + Gu_k, \quad k \geq 0 \quad (3.8)$$

where  $F$  is assumed to have all its eigenvalues strictly inside the unit circle and the input  $\{u_k\}$  is selected so as to minimize the cost function

$$J[x_0, \{u_k\}] = x_K^* \bar{L} x_K + \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} x_k^* L x_k + u_k^* M u_k$$

For  $K \rightarrow \infty$ , the matrix  $\psi_k$ , defined by (3.6), has a steady state value  $\psi_k = \psi$ ,  $k \geq 0$ , which is the unique non-negative solution of the equation

$$\psi = F^* \psi F + L \quad (3.9)$$

Taking  $\bar{L} = \psi$ , we also have  $\psi_k = \psi$ ,  $k \geq 0$ . This situation is the analog of stationarity of the stochastic system studied in section 2. Denoting  $S = \psi G$ , we obtain the following result as a direct consequence of Theorem 3.1.

Corollary 3.1. The system (3.8) with  $\bar{L} = \psi$  is regulable if and only if the pair  $(F^*, S)$  is reachable.

Let  $f_i$  denote an eigenvector of  $F$ , corresponding to an eigenvalue  $\lambda_i$ . Multiplying (3.9) on the right by  $f_i$  we obtain

$$\psi f_i = (I - \lambda_i F^*)^{-1} L f_i$$

yielding

$$S^*f_i = G^*(\lambda_i^{-1}I - F^*)Lf_i \quad (3.10)$$

By the Popov-Belevitch-Hautus test the pair  $(F^*, S)$  is reachable if and only if  $S^*f_i \neq 0$  for any  $f_i$  corresponding to each  $\lambda_i$ . Noting that  $\lambda_i \neq 0$ , we obtain the following result from corollary 3.1 and equation (3.10).

Corollary 3.2. The system (3.8) with  $\bar{L} = \psi$  is regulable if and only if for any eigenvector  $f_i$  corresponding to each eigenvalue  $\lambda_i$  of  $F$ ,

$$G^*(\lambda_i^{-1}I - F^*)Lf_i \neq 0 \quad (3.11)$$

It follows from (3.11) that a necessary condition for regulability is that  $Lf_i \neq 0$  for any  $f_i$  corresponding to each  $\lambda_i$ , which is equivalent to reachability of the pair  $(F^*, L^*)$ . Given that the latter condition is satisfied, a sufficient condition for regulability is that none of the zeroes of the system  $(G, F^*, L)$  is a reciprocal of any of its poles.

### Continuous-Time Systems

Consider that the system

$$\dot{x}(t) = F(t)x(t) + G(t)u(t), \quad t \geq 0 \quad (3.12)$$

where  $\{u(t)\}$  is selected so as to minimize the cost function

$$J[x(0), \{u(t)\}, T] = x^*(T)L(T)x(T) + \int_0^T [x^*(t)L(t)x(t) + u^*(t)M(t)u(t)]dt$$

where  $L(t)$  is a non-negative definite matrix and  $M(t)$  is a positive definite matrix. The system is said to be regulable if we have,, for any initial condition  $x(0)$ ,

$$\min_{\{u(t)\}} J[x(0), \{u(t)\}, T] < J[x(0), \{u(t) = 0\}, T] \text{ for any } t \geq 0$$

Let us define the continuous-time regulability Gramian

$$W(t) = \int_0^T \phi^*(t,0)S(t)S^*(t)\phi(t,0)dt$$

where

$$S(t) = \psi(t)G(t)$$

and  $\psi(t)$  satisfies the equation

$$-\dot{\psi}(t) = \psi(t)F(t) + F^*(t)\psi(t) + L(t) , \quad \psi(T) = L(T)$$

Then, by applying limiting arguments to the analysis of the discrete time case or by similar direct calculations (see also some relevant calculations in [10, App. B]), we obtain the following result.

Theorem 3.2. The system (3.12) is regulable if and only if

$$\text{rank } W(t) = n \text{ for any } t > 0$$



For the time invariant system

$$\dot{x}(t) = Fx(t) + Gu(t) , \quad t \geq 0 \quad (3.13)$$

where  $F$  is assumed to have all its eigenvalues strictly in the left half plane and

$$J[x(0), \{u(t)\}] = x^*(T)\bar{L}x(T) + \int_0^T [x^*(t)Lx(t) + u^*(t)Mu(t)]dt$$

where  $L$  is a non-negative definite matrix and  $M$  is a positive definite matrix, we define

$$S = \psi G$$

where  $\psi$  satisfies the equation

$$\psi F + F^* \psi + L = 0$$

and, following the analysis of the discrete-time case, we obtain the following result.

### Corollary 3.3

The system (3.13) with  $\bar{L} = \psi$  is regulable if and only if the pair  $(F^*, S)$  is controllable, or, equivalently, for any eigenvector  $f_i$  corresponding to each eigenvalue  $\lambda_i$  of  $F$ , the condition

$$G^*(-\lambda_i I - F^*)^{-1} L f_i \neq 0$$

is satisfied.

#### 4. Duality

It can be seen that the estimability condition (2.6) and the regulability condition (3.7), which involve the Lyapunov equations (2.5) and (3.6), respectively, are similar, modulo time reversal. Such similarity, which has also been shown to exist between the Riccati equations associated with the estimation and the regulation problems, has been termed "duality" in the literature [1]. We now show that the duality between the estimability and the regulability properties is consistent with the one between the Lyapunov and the Riccati equations corresponding to the estimation and the regulation problems and, employing this duality, obtain the regulability condition from the estimability condition.

Estimability in the discrete-time case was defined in section 2 by the condition

$$P_k < \Pi_k \quad (4.1)$$

where  $P_k$  is known to satisfy the Riccati equation

$$P_{k+1} = F_k P_k F_k^* + G_k Q_k G_k^* - F_k P_k H_k^* (H_k P_k H_k^* + R_k)^{-1} H_k P_k F_k^* \quad (4.2)$$

initialized at  $P_0 = \Pi_0$ , while  $\Pi_k$  is known to satisfy the Lyapunov equation

$$\Pi_{k+1} = F_k \Pi_k F_k^* + G_k Q_k G_k^* \quad (4.3)$$

In the discrete time regulation problem the minimal cost is known to be [11, p. 494]

$$\min_{\{u_k\}} J[x_0, \{u_k\}, K] = x_0^* \Gamma_0 x_0 \quad (4.4)$$

where  $\Gamma_0$  satisfies the (time-reversed) Riccati equation

$$\Gamma_k = F_{k+1}^* \Gamma_{k+1} F_{k+1} + L_{k+1} - F_{k+1}^* \Gamma_{k+1} G_{k+1} [M_{k+1} + G_{k+1}^* \Gamma_{k+1} G_{k+1}]^{-1} G_{k+1}^* \Gamma_{k+1} F_{k+1} \quad (4.5)$$

with the terminal condition  $\Gamma_K = L_K$ . The cost for zero input is obtained from (3.1) and (3.2) as

$$J[x_0, \{u_k = 0\}, K] = x_0^* \psi_0 x_0 \quad (4.6)$$

where  $\psi_0$  satisfies the (time-reversed) Lyapunov equation

$$\psi_k = F_{k+1}^* \psi_{k+1} F_{k+1} + L_{k+1} \quad (4.7)$$

with the terminal condition  $\psi_K = L_K$ . It follows from (4.4) and (4.6) that the regulability condition (3.3) is equivalent to the condition

$$\Gamma_0 < \psi_0 \quad (4.8)$$

It can be seen that the regulability condition (4.8) and equations (4.5) and (4.7) are dual, modulo time reversal, to the estimability condition (4.1)

and equations (4.2) and (4.3). It follows that the regulability condition, dual to the estimability condition

$$\text{rank} \sum_{k=K-1}^0 \Phi_{K,k} \Pi_k H_k H_k^* \Pi_k \Phi_{K,k}^* \quad \text{for all } K \geq n$$

is given by

$$\text{rank} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \theta_{0,k} \psi_k G_k G_k^* \psi_k \theta_{0,k} = n \quad \text{for all } K \geq n$$

where  $\psi_k$  is defined by (4.7) and  $\theta_{0,k}$  is the transition matrix of the (adjoint) system  $q_k = F_{k+1}^* q_{k+1}$ . Since  $\theta_{0,k} = F_1^* F_2^* \dots F_k^*$ , we have  $\theta_{0,k} = \Phi_{k+1,0}^*$ , yielding the regulability condition

$$\text{rank} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \Phi_{k+1,0}^* \psi_k G_k G_k^* \psi_k \Phi_{k+1,0} = n \quad \text{for all } K \geq n$$

which is the same as the condition obtained in section 3. The continuous-time case can be treated in a similar manner.

## 5. Conclusion

The estimability and the regulability properties of linear systems determine the ability to reduce the mean square error in state estimation and the quadratic cost in state feedback regulation strictly below their values when no observations or feedback are used. These properties, which are different from the well known observability and controllability properties, have been shown to be dual. Necessary and sufficient conditions for estimability and for regulability have been derived for time variant and for time invariant systems in continuous and discrete time.

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