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The output-stabilizable subspace
and linear optimal control

A.H.W. Geerts and M.L.J. Hautus

Eindhoven University of Technology
Department of Mathematics and Computing Science
P.O. Box 513
5600 MB Eindhoven
The Netherlands

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The Netherlands

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A.H.W. Geerts & M.L.J. Hautus

Abstract

Properties of a certain subspace are linked to well-known problems in system theory.

Keywords

Output stabilizability, linear-quadratic problem, singular controls, structure algorithm, dissipation inequality.

1. Introduction

Consider the following finite-dimensional linear time-invariant system Σ :

$$\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + Bu(t), x(0) = x_0, \quad (1.1a)$$

$$y(t) = Cx(t) + Du(t), \quad (1.1b)$$

where for all $t \geq 0$, $x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $u(t) \in \mathbb{R}^m$ and $y(t) \in \mathbb{R}^r$, and the input $u(\cdot)$ is required to be an element of

$$C_{sm}^m := \{u : [0, \infty) \mapsto \mathbb{R}^m \mid \exists_{\epsilon > 0} \exists_{v \in C^\infty((-\epsilon, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m)} \forall_{t \geq 0} : u(t) = v(t)\},$$

the class of *smooth* controls. Moreover, without loss of generality, we may assume that $[B' D']'$, $[C D]$ is injective and surjective, respectively.

For the case $D = 0$, we now recall Wonham's *Output Stabilization Problem* ([11, Section 4.4]):

(OSP): Given the system Σ with $D = 0$. Find a feedback map $F : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}^m$ such that with the input $u = Fx$, we have $y(t) \rightarrow 0$ for any initial value x_0 .

If this problem has a solution, then Σ (with $D = 0$) is called *output stabilizable*. A necessary and sufficient condition for the output stabilizability was provided by [11, Theorem 4.4]. A slightly different formulation of the condition was given in [5, Theorem 4.10], where it was shown that OSP has a solution if and only if $\mathbb{R}^n = S^-$, where the subspace S^- was defined in terms of (ξ, ω) -representations. More generally, this subspace also plays a role in the output-stabilization problem under disturbances, i.e., the problem of achieving BIBO stability in the presence of a disturbance input term Eq. Then, it turns out, the condition is: $\text{im}(E) \subset S^-$.

Next, let

$$J(x_0, u) := \int_0^{\infty} y'(x_0, u) y(x_0, u) dt , \quad (1.2)$$

with $y(x_0, u) = Cx(x_0, u) + Du$ (compare (1.1b)), and $x(x_0, u)$ denotes the solution of (1.1a) for given x_0 and $u \in C_{sm}^m$. We introduce the Linear-Quadratic optimal Control Problem:

(LQCP): for all x_0 , determine $J^-(x_0) := \inf\{J(x_0, u) \mid u \in C_{sm}^m\}$ and, if for all $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $J^-(x_0) < \infty$, then compute, if one exists, all *optimal* controls (i.e. all controls $u^* \in C_{sm}^m$ such that $J^-(x_0) = J(x_0, u^*)$).

We will call LQCP *solvable* if for all x_0 , $J^-(x_0) < \infty$ and if for every x_0 there exists an *optimal* input u^* (i.e. an input u^* such that $J^-(x_0) = J(x_0, u^*)$). In this paper we shall see that the subspace S^- is relevant for the issue of LQCP-solvability.

The above-mentioned problem is called *regular* if $\ker(D) = 0$ and *singular* if $\ker(D) \neq 0$. The regular case is well established and considered classical. Curiously, the problem of finding necessary and sufficient conditions for solvability of the problem has found little attention, even in the regular case. Usually, one is satisfied with the statement that the problem is solvable if (A, B) is stabilizable (see e.g. [10, Propositions 9-10]). Of course, this condition is not necessary (if $C = 0$, then $u \equiv 0$ is optimal for all x_0). Now recently ([1]), a necessary and sufficient condition of solvability was given for the regular case in terms of the stabilizability of a suitable defined quotient system.

If the problem is *singular*, then it is known that optimal inputs need not exist within the class C_{sm}^m ([7, Example 2.11]). With a reformulation in the style of [7] incorporating *distributions* as possible inputs, this extra difficulty can be dealt with and it is proven in [2] that the input class C_{imp}^m of *impulsive-smooth* distribution on \mathbb{R} with support on $[0, \infty)$ ([7, Definition 3.1]) is large enough to be representative for the system's behaviour under general distributions as inputs. A distribution $u \in C_{imp}^m$ can be written as a sum of a function $u_2 \in C_{sm}^m$ and an impulsive distribution u_1 with support in $\{0\}$. Obviously, we require $u \in C_{imp}^m$ to be such that for every x_0 the resulting output $y(x_0, u)$ has no impulsive component, and the (system dependent) space of these inputs is denoted U_{Σ} . In [2, Proposition 4.5] an explicit description for this input class is given by means of a dual version of Silverman's structure algorithm. With the help of this *generalized dual structure algorithm* ([2, Section 4]), the necessary and sufficient condition for solvability of LQCP given in [1] can be generalized to singular problems ([1, Remark 5]).

In the present paper, it will be shown that the latter condition is equivalent to the condition $S^- = \mathbb{R}^n$. In other words, output stabilizability is necessary and sufficient for solvability of LQCP. This intuitively rather obvious condition turns out to be relatively difficult to prove.

In the sequel we will need the following well-known concepts. Let $V = V(\Sigma) = \{x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \exists u \in \mathcal{C}_m^+ : y(x_0, u) \equiv 0\}$ (the *weakly unobservable* subspace), then ([7, Theorem 3.10]) V is the largest subspace L for which there exists a feedback F such that $(A + BF)L \subset L$, $(C + DF)L = 0$. Dually, $W = W(\Sigma)$ (the *strongly reachable* subspace) is the smallest subspace K for which there exists an "output injection" G such that $(A + GC)K \subset K$, $\text{im}(B + GD) \subset K$ ([7, Theorem 3.15]) and $W \subset \langle A \mid \text{im}(B) \rangle$ (the reachable subspace). It is easily established that $W = 0$ if and only if $\ker(D) = 0$.

Next, if $K \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ and $F(K) := \begin{bmatrix} C'C + A'K + KA & KB + C'D \\ B'K + D'C & D'D \end{bmatrix}$ (the dissipation matrix),

then K is said to satisfy the *dissipation inequality* if $K \in \Gamma := \{K \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \mid K = K', F(K) \geq 0\}$ ([9]). Note that $\Gamma \neq \emptyset$ ($0 \in \Gamma$). If $T(s) := D + C(sI - A)^{-1}B$ ($s \in \mathcal{C}$) (the *transfer function*), and $\rho := \text{normal rank}(T(s))$, then it is proven in [8] that

Lemma 1.1

If $K \in \Gamma$, then $\text{rank}(F(K)) \geq \rho$.

Set $\Gamma_{\min} := \{K \in \Gamma \mid \text{rank}(F(K)) = \rho\}$. This subset of Γ is of importance because of the next result from [2].

Proposition 1.2

If (A, B) is stabilizable, then there exists an element $K^- \in \Gamma_{\min} \cap \{K \in \Gamma \mid K \geq 0\}$ such that, for all x_0 , $J^-(x_0) = x_0' K^- x_0$.

If $\ker(D) = 0$ and

$$\Phi(K) := C'C + A'K + KA - (KB + C'D)(D'D)^{-1}(B'K + D'C), \quad (1.3)$$

then it is easily seen ([9]) that $\Gamma_{\min} = \{K \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \mid K = K', \Phi(K) = 0\}$, the set of solutions of the algebraic *Riccati* equation. Now a second major observation of this paper is, that $\Gamma_{\min} \cap \{K \in \Gamma \mid K \geq 0\} \neq \emptyset$ if and only if $S^- = \mathbb{R}^n$. Hence, in the regular case, there exists a positive semi-definite solution of the algebraic Riccati equation if and only if Σ is output stabilizable.

2. The dual structure algorithm and the output-stabilizable subspace

If $q_0 := \text{rank}(D)$, then there exists a regular transformation S_0 such that $DS_0 = [D_0, 0]$ with D_0 left invertible and we will take $S_0 = I_m$ if $q_0 = m$ (note that S_0 can be chosen such that

$S_0^{-1} = S_0'$). Set $BS_0 =: [\bar{B}_0, \tilde{B}_0]$, then substitution of $u = S_0[\bar{w}_0', \tilde{w}_0']'$ into (1.1) yields

$$\dot{x} = Ax + \bar{B}_0\bar{w}_0 + \tilde{B}_0\tilde{w}_0, x_0, y = Cx + D_0\bar{w}_0, \quad (2.1)$$

and \tilde{B}_0 is left invertible, $\text{im}(\tilde{B}_0) \subset W$. This input transformation corresponds to the first part of step 0 of the generalized dual structure algorithm ([2, Section 4]). Notice that \tilde{B}_0 is not appearing if $q_0 = m$. In fact, the dual algorithm is a void concept if $\ker(D) = 0$. If $\ker(D) \neq 0$, then this algorithm transforms the given system Σ into a system Σ_α (α an integer, not less than 1) of the form

$$\dot{x}_\alpha = Ax_\alpha + \bar{B}\bar{w}_\alpha + \hat{B}\hat{w}, x_0, \quad (2.2a)$$

$$y = Cx_\alpha + \underline{D}\bar{w}_\alpha, \quad (2.2b)$$

where $\bar{B} = [\bar{B}_0, \bar{B}_{\text{add}}]$, $\underline{D} = [D_0, D_{\text{add}}]$, \bar{B}_{add} is an $n \times (\rho - q_0)$ real matrix which is such that $\text{im}(\bar{B}_{\text{add}}) \subset A(W)$, D_{add} is a $r \times (\rho - q_0)$ real left invertible matrix, and $\text{rank}(\underline{D}) = \rho$, $C(W) \subset \text{im}(\underline{D})$ and $\text{im}(\hat{B}) \subset W$. Moreover, the control $u \in C_{\text{imp}}^m$ and the input $[\bar{w}_\alpha', \hat{w}']'$ are linked by $u = H(p)[\bar{w}_\alpha', \hat{w}']'$, where $H(s)$ is an invertible polynomial matrix, p stands for the derivative of Diracs δ distribution and $H(p)$ thus is the matrix-valued distribution obtained by substituting $s = p$ into $H(s)$. Finally, for all $t > 0$, we have that $(x(x_0, u)(t) - x_\alpha(x_0, [\bar{w}_\alpha', \hat{w}']')(t)) \in W$. Now, let us apply to (2.2) the preliminary state feedback law

$$\bar{w}_\alpha = -(\underline{D}'\underline{D})^{-1}\underline{D}'Cx_\alpha + \hat{w}_\alpha. \quad (2.3)$$

Then we get

$$\dot{x}_\alpha = \underline{A}x_\alpha + \bar{B}\hat{w}_\alpha + \hat{B}\hat{w}, x_0, y = \underline{C}x_\alpha + \underline{D}\hat{w}_\alpha \quad (2.4a)$$

$$\text{with } \underline{A} := A - \bar{B}(\underline{D}'\underline{D})^{-1}\underline{D}'C, \underline{C} := (I_r - \underline{D}(\underline{D}'\underline{D})^{-1}\underline{D}')C. \quad (2.4b)$$

From [2, Lemmas 4.2 - 4.4] and the above we then have the following.

Proposition 2.1

- $\underline{A}W \subset W$.
- $V(\Sigma_\alpha) = V(\Sigma) + W(\Sigma) = \langle \ker(\underline{C}) \mid \underline{A} \rangle$.
- $\langle A \mid \text{im}(\bar{B}, \hat{B}) \rangle + W = \langle A \mid \text{im}(B) \rangle$.

One consequence of Proposition 2.1 is, that y is *independent* of \hat{w} ; we may just as well take $\hat{w} = 0$. Now let us define (where $y(\infty)$ denotes $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(x_0, u)(t)$)

$$\mathbf{T}_1 := \{x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \exists_{u \in U_x} : y(\infty) = 0\} \quad (2.5a)$$

$$\text{and } T_2 := \{x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \exists_{u \in U_x} : J(x_0, u) < \infty\} , \quad (2.5b)$$

then we establish that $T_1 = \{x_0 \mid \exists_{\hat{w}_\alpha, \text{smooth}} : (\underline{C}x_\alpha + \underline{D}\hat{w}_\alpha)(\infty) = 0\}$ and $T_2 = \{x_0 \mid \exists_{\hat{w}_\alpha, \text{smooth}} : \int_0^\infty [\underline{C}x_\alpha + \underline{D}\hat{w}_\alpha]'[\underline{C}x_\alpha + \underline{D}\hat{w}_\alpha] dt < \infty\}$ with $x_\alpha(t) = \exp(At)x_0 + \int_0^t \exp(A(t-\tau))\underline{B}\hat{w}_\alpha(\tau) d\tau$ and hence $T_{1,2}$ are Σ_α -invariant ([5, Def. 2.2]).

Next, let

$$S^-(\Sigma) := X^-(A) + \langle A \mid \text{im}(B) \rangle + V(\Sigma) \quad (2.6)$$

(where $X^-(A)$ denotes the stable subspace of A). Then it is rather obvious that $S^-(\Sigma) \subset T_i (i=1, 2)$ and that (Proposition 2.1) $S^-(\Sigma_\alpha) = S^-(\Sigma) =: S^-$. Therefore ([5, Remark 2.26]) $T_{1,2}$ are *strongly* Σ_α -invariant and we thus have found that $V(\Sigma_\alpha) \subset S^- \subset T_i$ and $\underline{A}V(\Sigma_\alpha) \subset V(\Sigma_\alpha)$, $\underline{A}S^- \subset S^-$, $\underline{A}T_i \subset T_i (i=1, 2)$. Let X_2, X_3, X_4 be such that $V(\Sigma_\alpha) \oplus X_2 = S^-$, $S^- \oplus X_3 = T_1$, $T_1 \oplus X_4 = \mathbb{R}^n$. By choosing appropriate basis matrices for these subspaces, (2.4a) (with $\hat{w} = 0$) transforms into

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \\ \dot{x}_3 \\ \dot{x}_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & A_{14} \\ 0 & A_{22} & A_{23} & A_{24} \\ 0 & 0 & A_{33} & A_{34} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & A_{44} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} B_1 \\ B_2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \hat{w}_\alpha , \quad \begin{bmatrix} x_{01} \\ x_{02} \\ x_{03} \\ x_{04} \end{bmatrix} , \quad (2.7)$$

$$y = [0 \ C_2 \ C_3 \ C_4] \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} + \underline{D}\hat{w}_\alpha , \quad \left[[C_2 \ C_3 \ C_4], \begin{bmatrix} A_{22} & A_{23} & A_{24} \\ 0 & A_{33} & A_{34} \\ 0 & 0 & A_{44} \end{bmatrix} \right] \text{ is observable .}$$

Note that $\sigma(A_{33}) \cup \sigma(A_{44}) \subset \bar{\mathcal{C}}^+$ (since $X^-(A) \subset S^-(\Sigma_\alpha)$). Now take a point $x_0 \in T_1$, i.e. $x_{04} = 0$ in (2.7) (and thus $x_4 \equiv 0$). Since $\underline{D}'\underline{C} = 0$ and \underline{D} is left invertible, it follows that $(C_2x_2 + C_3x_3)(\infty) = 0$, $\hat{w}_\alpha(\infty) = 0$, and thus ([3, Chapter 3]) that $x_2(\infty) = 0$, $x_3(\infty) = 0$ (i.e., $x(x_0, u)(t)$ converges to $V + W(t \rightarrow \infty)$). Hence, necessarily, $x_{03} = 0$ and we establish that $T_1 = S^-$. In the same way we find that $T_2 = S^-$. If for every $F \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, we define the spaces

$$T_1^F := \{x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \text{if } u = Fx, \text{ then } y(x_0, u)(\infty) = 0\} , \quad (2.8a)$$

$$T_2^F := \{x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \text{if } u = Fx, \text{ then } \int_0^\infty y'(x_0, u)y(x_0, u)dt < \infty\} , \quad (2.8b)$$

we thus have arrived at our first main result.

Theorem 2.2

Consider the system Σ and the corresponding subspaces defined above. Then $T_i = S^-$ and $T_i^F \subset S^-$ for every $F \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$. In addition, there exists an $F \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ such that $T_i^F = S^-$ ($i = 1, 2$).

Proof. Let $F \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ be given. If we use the feedback $u = Fx$, then the resulting output y will tend to zero exponentially fast when either $x_0 \in T_1^F$ or $x_0 \in T_2^F$ and thus $T_1^F = T_2^F$. In addition, it is trivial that $T_1^F = T_2^F \subset T_i$ ($i = 1, 2$). The fact that there exists an F such that $T_1^F = S^-$ is known (compare [5]). The rest follows from the above.

Because of the relation $T_1^F = S^-$ for some F , we will refer to S^- as the **output-stabilizable** subspace.

3. The dual structure algorithm and optimal control

Let us reconsider the LQCP and assume that $S^- = \mathbb{R}^n$. According to Theorem 2.2, we can reformulate this as: For every x_0 there exists an input $u \in U_\Sigma$ such that $J(x_0, u) < \infty$. Clearly this is a *necessary* condition for the solvability of LQCP. Since $y = \underline{C}x_\alpha + \underline{D}\hat{w}_\alpha$ with \underline{D} left invertible, we are left with a *regular* LQCP by taking $\hat{w} = 0$ in (2.4a). Hence we may apply the second part of the proof of the main Theorem in [1] and state that the algebraic Riccati equation associated with (2.4a), $\tilde{\Phi}(K) = 0$ with

$$\tilde{\Phi}(K) := \underline{C}'\underline{C} + \underline{A}'K + K\underline{A} - K\underline{B}(\underline{D}'\underline{D})^{-1}\underline{B}'K, \quad (3.1)$$

has a solution $K^- \geq 0$ and that every other solution $K \geq 0$ of $\tilde{\Phi}(K) = 0$ satisfies $K \geq K^-$. The optimal cost for LQCP, $J^-(x_0)$, equals $x_0'K^-x_0$ for all x_0 , $\ker(K^-) = V + W$ and, in addition, for every x_0 an optimal control for LQCP exists (see for details [2, Theorem 4.5]) and thus the condition $S^- = \mathbb{R}^n$ is also *sufficient* for solvability of LQCP. Now in [2, Section 6] the next result is proven.

Proposition 3.1

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma &= \{K \in K', W \subset \ker(K), \tilde{\Phi}(K) \geq 0\}, \\ \Gamma_{\min} &= \{K \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \mid K = K', W \subset \ker(K), \tilde{\Phi}(K) = 0\}. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, we observe that $K^- \in \Gamma_{\min} \cap \{K \in \Gamma \mid K \geq 0\}$ and every other $K \in \Gamma_{\min} \cap \{K \in \Gamma \mid K \geq 0\}$ satisfies $K \geq K^-$ (compare Proposition 1.2). Note that $\tilde{\Phi}(K) = \Phi(K)$ if $\ker(D) = 0$. Therefore, in the regular case, K^- represents the smallest positive semi-definite solution of (1.3). On the other hand, if $\Gamma_{\min} \cap \{K \in \Gamma \mid K \geq 0\} \neq \emptyset$, then ([3, Chapter 3]) $S^- = \mathbb{R}^n$. Hence

Theorem 3.2

$S^- = \mathbb{R}^n$ if and only if $\Gamma_{\min} \cap \{K \in \Gamma \mid K \geq 0\} \neq \emptyset$. In addition, if the latter set is nonempty, then the smallest element of this set, K^- , represents the optimal cost for the LQCP.

Note that the characterization of K^- as given above is formulated directly in terms of the *original* system data (A, B, C, D) . Moreover, this representation of the optimal cost includes the singular as well as the regular case. Finally, we mention that a condition for output stabilizability can be given in the spirit of [4]. In fact, a more general formulation is

Proposition 3.3 ([3, Chapter 3])

Let T be a Σ -invariant subspace. Then $X^-(A) + \langle A \mid \text{im}(B) \rangle + T = \mathbb{R}^n$ if and only if $\forall_{\lambda \in \bar{C}^+} \forall_{\eta \in C^*} : [\eta(A - \lambda I_n, B) = 0 \text{ and } \eta T = 0] \Rightarrow \eta = 0$.

The condition for output stabilizability is obtained by taking $T = V$.

Remarks

1. While proving out main Theorem 2.2, we established that if $u \in U_\Sigma$ is such that $y(x_0, u)(\infty) = 0$ or $J(x_0, u) < \infty$, then $x(x_0, u)(t)$ converges to $V + W$ ($t \rightarrow \infty$), but *not* necessarily to V (for a counterexample, see [6]), unless (of course) $W = 0$, i.e. $\ker(D) = 0$.
2. Since $S^- \subset \tilde{T}_1 := \{x_0 \mid \exists_{u \in C_m^*} : y(\infty) = 0\} \subset T_1 = S^-$, we find that $\tilde{T}_1 = T_1$, and, analogously, that $\tilde{T}_2 := \{x_0 \mid \exists_{u \in C_m^*} : J(x_0, u) < \infty\} = T_2$. In fact, this can be seen directly as $T_i = W + \tilde{T}_i = \tilde{T}_i$ because $W \subset \langle A \mid \text{im}(B) \rangle \subset \tilde{T}_i$ ($i = 1, 2$).
3. If $\mathbb{R}^n := \mathbb{R}^n / (V+W)$, $\bar{A} : \bar{\mathbb{R}}^n \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{R}}^n$ denotes the induced map of A defined by $\bar{A}\bar{x} := (\bar{A}x)$ ($\bar{x} = x + (V+W)$) and $\bar{B} : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{R}}^n$ is defined by $\bar{B}u := (\bar{B}u)$, then it can be seen (e.g. compare [2, Lemma 5.6]) that the condition in Proposition 3.3 with $T = V$ is equivalent to: (\bar{A}, \bar{B}) is stabilizable. Hence, in accordance with [1, Remark 5], the latter condition is necessary and sufficient for the solvability of LQCP.

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