

**Dynamical Systems and Control**  
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**Lecture - 56**  
**Controllability of Discrete Systems**

Hello viewers. Welcome to this lecture on the controllability of discrete time varying systems.

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**Controllability of Non autonomous system:**

The discrete system

$$x(k+1) = A(k)x(k) + B(k)u(k) \quad (1)$$

is said to be controllable if for any integer  $k_0$  and arbitrary vectors  $x_0$  and  $x_1$  in  $R^n$  there exists an integer  $N$  and a control sequence  $u(k); K = k_0, k_0 + 1, \dots, k_0 + N - 1$  such that the solution  $x(k)$  satisfies  $x(k_0) = x_0$  and  $x(k_0 + N) = x_1$ . Here  $k_0$  and  $k_0 + N$  are initial and final time instances:  $x_0$  and  $x_1$  are the initial and final conditions.

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So let us consider the time varying system  $x$  of  $k+1=A$  of  $k$   $x$  of  $k+B$  of  $k$   $u$  of  $k$  as given in equation 1. So the system is said to be controllable if for any initial integer  $k_0$  and arbitrary vectors  $x_0$  and  $x_1$  in  $R^n$  the state space there exists an integer  $N$  that is final instant and a control sequence  $u$  of  $k_0$ ,  $u$  of  $k_0+1$ , etc  $u$  of  $k_0+n-1$  such that the solution of 1 satisfies  $x$  of  $k_0$  is the initial condition given  $x_0$  and  $x$  of  $k_0+N$  is  $x_1$  the final condition.

So if this is the case then we say that the system is controllable in the time instances  $k_0, k_0+1$  up to  $k_0+n$ .

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The solution of the system (1) with initial condition  $x(k_0) = x_0$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 x(k) &= \phi(k, k_0)x_0 + \sum_{i=k_0}^{k-1} \phi(k, i+1)B(i)u(i) \quad (2) \\
 &= \phi(k, k_0) \left[ x_0 + \sum_{i=k_0}^{k-1} \phi(k_0, i+1)B(i)u(i) \right] \\
 \Rightarrow \phi(k_0, k)x(k) - x_0 &= \sum_{i=k_0}^{k-1} \phi(k_0, i+1)B(i)u(i)
 \end{aligned}$$

*Handwritten notes:*  
 $A(k)$  exists for  $k > M$   
 $\phi(k, M) = A(k-1)A(k-2)\dots A(M)$   
 $\phi(M, k) = A^{-1}(M)A^{-1}(M+1)\dots A^{-1}(k)$

So now we will see that this controllability of the time invariant or time variant system were analogous to the continuous systems. So in the previous lecture, we have seen the Kalman condition for the controllability. So similarly in this lecture, we will see analogous result using the controllability Gramian matrix. So before that let us write the solution of the equation 1 in the following way.

$x(k)$  is  $\phi(k, k_0)x_0 + \sum_{i=k_0}^{k-1} \phi(k, i+1)B(i)u(i)$ . So we recall that the definition of the state transition matrix is  $\phi(k, M)$  where  $k$  is strictly  $> M$  if we have then this is  $= A(k-1)A(k-2)\dots A(M)$ . So this is the definition of the state transition matrix and  $\phi(M, k)$  it means the inverse of this one that is  $A^{-1}(M)A^{-1}(M+1)\dots A^{-1}(k)$ .

So using this state transition matrix and their properties, we write the solution of the system 1 as given in the equation 2 and then it can be using the property  $\phi(k, i+1)$  can be written as  $\phi(k, k_0)\phi(k_0, i+1)$ . So we can write equation 2 in the form of the next equation as given here. Now because  $\phi$  is invertible, we are assuming that all these matrices  $A(k)$  are invertible, this inverse always exists for all  $k$ .

So with this assumption we can take the inverse of the matrix  $\phi(k, k_0)$  which is  $\phi(k_0, k)$ . So taking  $\phi(k, k_0)$  to the left hand side we get  $\phi(k_0, k)x(k)$  and taking this  $x_0$  also to the left side we get  $-\phi(k_0, k)x_0 = \sum_{i=k_0}^{k-1} \phi(k_0, i+1)B(i)u(i)$ .

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Let  $k = k_N = k_0 + N$  be the final instant. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(k_0, k_N)x(k_N) - x_0 &= \sum_{i=k_0}^{k_N-1} \phi(k_0, i+1)B(i)u(i) \\ \Rightarrow x(k_N) &= x_0 + \sum_{i=k_0}^{k_N-1} \phi(k_0, i+1)B(i)u(i) \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

### Controllability Grammian Matrix

Define the controllability Grammian matrix as

$$W = \sum_{i=k_0}^{k_N-1} \phi(k_0, i+1)B(i)B'(i)\phi'(k_0, i+1) \quad (4)$$

$$W = \int_{t_0}^T \phi(t_0, s)B(s)B'(s)\phi'(t_0, s) ds$$

So now we get the equation 3 by substituting the final time instant that is when  $k$  is  $k_0+N$  which is denoted by  $k$  suffix  $N$  we get from the place of  $k$  the equation 2 we put  $k$  is  $k$  suffix  $N$  here in this expression, we get this  $\phi$  of  $k_0$ ,  $k$  suffix  $N$  \*  $x$  of  $k$  suffix  $N$  -  $x_0$  is given by the right hand side in 3. So now we define the controllability Gramian matrix. So if you recall for the continuous case, we say  $W$  is  $=$   $t_0$  to the initial time to final time of  $\phi$   $t_0$ ,  $s$   $B$  of  $s$   $B$  dashed of  $s$   $\phi$  dashed  $t_0$ ,  $s$   $ds$ .

So this says the definition of the controllability Gramian matrix in the continuous case where dash denotes the transpose. So the same similar definition replacing integral to summation and using the time instances like this, so  $W$  is defined as summation  $i$  is  $=$   $k_0$  and  $k$   $N-1$  of  $\phi$  of  $k_0$ ,  $i+1$   $B$  of  $i$   $B$  transpose  $i$   $\phi$  transpose  $k_0$ ,  $i+1$ . So this is the controllability Gramian matrix.

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### Theorem

The system (1) is controllable iff  $W$  is nonsingular.

**Proof:** Proof is similar to that of the continuous system. If  $W$  is a nonsingular we can find a control sequence  $u(i)$  as

$$u(i) = B'(i)\phi'(k_0, i+1)W^{-1}[\phi(k_0, k_1)x_1 - x_0] \quad (5)$$

Substituting (5) in (2) we can easily see that  $x(k_N) = x_1$ .

$\therefore$  Equation (5) gives a control sequence which steers the system (1) from  $x(k_0) = x_0$  to  $x(k_N) = x_1$ .

$$\dot{x} = A(t)x(t) + B(t)u(t) \quad u(t) = B'(t)\phi'(t_0, t)W^{-1}[\phi(t_0, \tau)x_1 - x_0]$$

$$x(t_0) = x_0, \quad x(\tau) = x_1$$

So the theorem analogous to the continuous case is, the system 1 is controllable if and only if the controllability Gramian matrix  $W$  is nonsingular. So the proof is similar again to the continuous case. Earlier, we defined the case, in the continuous case we define  $u$  of  $t$  to be  $=B$  dashed of  $t$   $\phi$  dashed  $t_0$ ,  $t$  \* the Gramian matrix for continuous case, its inverse \*  $\phi$  of  $t_0$  and final time \*  $x_1 - x_0$  the initial condition of the system.

So this is the one such control for the continuous case which steers the system is  $\dot{x} = A$  of  $t$   $x$  of  $t + B$  of  $t$   $u$  of  $t$ . For this, we define the control if you substitute this  $x$  of  $t_0$  is  $x_0$  and  $x$  of  $t$  is  $x_1$ . So  $u$  of  $t$  steers the system from  $x_0$  to  $x_1$ . So similar to this for the discrete system, we define the control given in the equation 5 which will steer the system from the initial condition  $x_0$  to final condition  $x_1$ .

So this proof is direct because if you substitute this control in the equation 5 sorry in the equation 3  $u$  of  $i$  we substitute as given in equation 5 here. So if you see this, so if you substitute this will be equal to summation  $i$  is  $=k_0$   $k_N-1$   $\phi$   $k_0, i+1$   $B$  of  $i$ . Now in the place of  $u$  of  $i$ , we substitute the definition  $B$  dashed of  $i$   $\phi$  dashed of  $k_0, i+1$  \*  $W$  inverse \*  $\phi$  of  $k_0, k_N$  \*  $x_1 - x_0$  \* this expression okay.

So if you substitute this it can be easily seen that the bracket from here to this position, this indicates or by the definition of  $W$ , we can say that this is  $W$  and then  $W$  inverse becomes identity and the remaining portion is  $\phi$  of  $k_0, k_N$   $x_1 - x_0$  which is same as the left hand side. So this implies that  $x$  at  $k_N$  in that place you have  $x_1$ , so the final condition is given by  $x$  suffix 1.

So it means that the control given in equation 5 it steers the system from initial condition  $x_0$  to final condition  $x_1$ . So that is the proof for the sufficient condition. Sufficient condition means it is the theorem is if  $W$  is nonsingular then the system is controllable. If  $W$  is nonsingular, we can use  $W$  inverse in this expression. So by substituting this control, we get the controllability of the system.

Similarly, the converse part, if the system is controllable then  $W$  has to be nonsingular. So the proof is again similar to the continuous case exactly same wherever the integral is there, they are replaced by summation, so that can be easily verified. So it is necessary and sufficient that the controllability Gramian matrix is nonsingular for the controllability.

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**Example**

Consider

$$\begin{aligned} x_1(k+1) &= -x_1(k) + kx_2(k) \\ x_2(k+1) &= 2x_2(k) + u(k) \end{aligned}$$

Let  $x_1(0) = 4$  and  $x_2(0) = 3$ .  
 $\therefore$  Here  $k_0 = 0$  and

$$x_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, A(k) = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & k \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, B(k) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Let final time be  $k_N = 2$  and final condition

$$x(k_N) = \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} = x_1$$

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So now we consider this following example,  $x_1$  of  $k+1$  is  $-x_1+k$  times  $x_2$  of  $k$  and  $x_2$  of  $k+1$  is  $2x_2+u$  of  $k$ ,  $u$  of  $k$  is the control here. So in this case, the matrix  $A$  is time varying which is given by  $-1$   $k$  and  $0$   $2$  and the matrix  $B$  is given by  $0$  and  $1$ , the control is  $u$  of  $k$ . Initial condition at time  $t=0$  is  $4$  and  $3$ , this vector  $4$   $3$  is there, initial time is  $k_0$  is  $=0$ . Now if you see final if you take final time to be  $k$  suffix  $N$  which is  $=2$ , then we will try and the final condition is given by  $-3, 4$  for example.

So we want to steer the system from the initial condition  $4, 3$  to  $-3$  and  $4$ . So we want a control which will steer the system from this to this. There may be several controls which will perform this solution but we can find one such control here. So this is the  $x_1$  axis and  $x_2$

axis but we note that it may not be a continuous solution, it will be a discrete solution and it will find the solution in 2 steps.

Because at  $k_0=0$  the point is here, at  $k_N=2$  it should be at the end position, so in between you have only one point. So we need one point as the solution that is  $x$  at 1, this is  $x$  at 0 is the vector 4 3 and  $x$  at 2 is the vector -3 4 and we need this thing and we also want to find the control  $u$  of 0 and  $u$  of 1, so that this control steers the system to this final position.

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Here the controllability Gramian matrix is  $W = \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \phi(0, i+1) B B' \phi(0, i+1)$ .

**For  $i=0$ :**

$$\phi(0, 1) = A^{-1}(0) = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix}$$


$$\phi(0, 1) B B' \phi(0, 1) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/4 \end{bmatrix}$$

**For  $i=2$ :**

$$\phi(0, 2) = A^{-1}(0) A^{-1}(1) = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1/2 \\ 0 & 1/4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\phi(0, 2) B B' \phi(0, 2) = \begin{bmatrix} 1/4 & -1/8 \\ -1/8 & 1/16 \end{bmatrix}$$

*Handwritten notes on the slide:*  
 $\phi(k, M) = A^{-(k-M)}$   
 $\phi(M, k) = A^{-1(k-M)}$



So if you directly apply the formula, the controllability Gramian is summation  $i$  ranges from 0 to  $k-N-1$  so that is 2-1, it starts from 0 and end with 1  $\phi$  of  $k_0, i+1$   $B B'$   $\phi$  of  $0, i+1$  that is  $k_0$  is 0. Now we can calculate by recalling  $\phi$  of  $k, M$  it means  $A$  of  $k-1$  up to  $A$  of  $M$ . So when we take and similarly  $\phi$  of  $M, k$  we have seen that it is  $A$  inverse of  $M$ , etc up to  $A$  inverse of  $k-1$ .

So this is  $\phi$  of 0, 1 means it is  $A$  inverse of 0 and  $A$  of 0 is given here,  $A$  of 0 is -1 0 0 2, so we can find the inverse of that and  $A$  of 1 is -1 1 0 2. So substituting those values similarly  $\phi$  of 0, 2 is  $A$  inverse 0,  $A$  inverse 1 that gives this one and so for calculating  $W$  we need the summation of these two expressions  $\phi$  of 0, 1 and  $B B'$   $\phi$  of 0, 1 +  $\phi$  of 0, 2  $B B'$   $\phi$  of 0, 2.

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$$\therefore W = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/4 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1/4 & -1/8 \\ -1/8 & 1/16 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/4 & -1/8 \\ -1/8 & 5/16 \end{bmatrix}$$

which is nonsingular.

$\therefore$  The system is controllable.

The control sequence  $u(0), u(1)$  is given by

$$u(i) = B^t \phi'(0, i+1) W^{-1} [\phi(k_0, k_1) x_1 - x_0]$$

$$u(0) = B^t \phi'(0, 1) W^{-1} \left[ \phi(0, 2) \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \right]$$

$$u(1) = B^t \phi'(0, 2) W^{-1} \left[ \phi(0, 2) \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \right]$$

So summing these two we get the controllability Gramian matrix given by this expression and can be easily verified that it is nonsingular. So according to the theorem, the system is controllable. So the control variable which we want to find is given by this expression. We have seen the formula in 5 is one control which will steer the system from initial  $x_0$  to the final condition  $x_1$ .

So applying this formula, we get the variables  $u$  of 0 is given by this expression and  $u$  of 1 is given by this. So it will steer the system from initial condition  $4 \ 3$  to final condition  $-3 \ 4$ . So this illustrates the method of finding a particular control for steering the system. So with this, I conclude this lecture. Thank you.