

Lecture 1

# Time-variant Systems and Quasi-separable systems: an overview

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# Overview

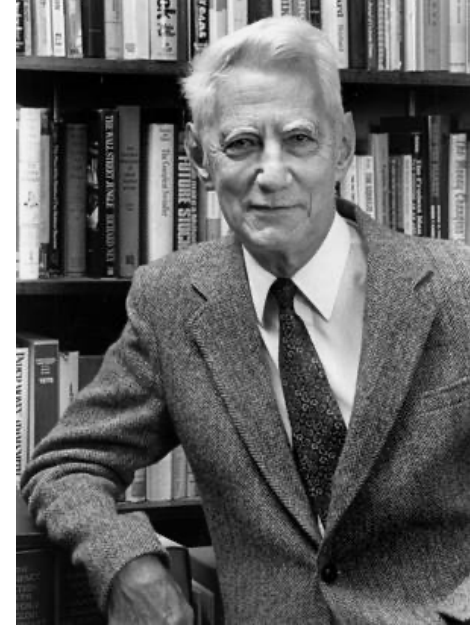
- Dynamical System Theory as a discipline
- The basic notions
- System identification and realization
- The main system operations
- What is it all good for?
- The connection between systems and matrices
- Numerics
- Envoy

# What is a discipline?

- a consistent body of theory and practice
- characterized by some key notions
- having a specific methodology and main results
- created by some "patriarchs"

# Examples

- Signal Processing [Fourier, Wiener]
- Control [Bode, Nyquist]
- Information Theory [Shannon]
- Electromagnetism [Maxwell, Herz]
- Solid State Physics [Schottky, Shockley]
- Electronics [Noyce, Kilby]
- Computer Science [von Neumann]



*etc...*

# Dynamical System Theory: a definition?

The theory that describes the evolution of a system as time progresses

Key notion #1: the STATE of the system: "what the system remembers from its past"

Key notion #2: the EVOLUTION of the state (i.e. the dynamics)

Key notion #3: the BEHAVIOR of the system (i.e. how the system looks from the outside)



# A bit of history

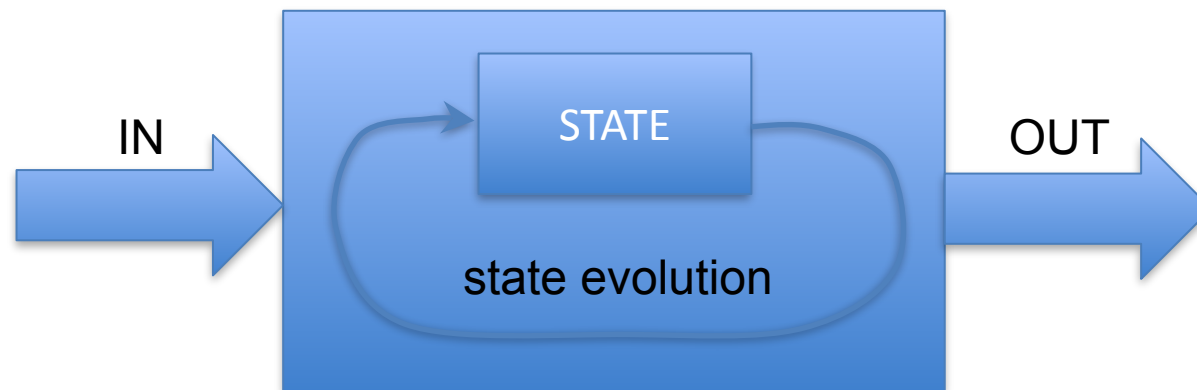


- the roots are definitely in Mechanics: Newton recognized that the state of a mechanical system consists of *positions and velocities*
- a new impetus came when Kalman recognized that to control a system, one needs knowledge of its state: *the state had to be estimated*
- this led to dynamical system theory as a new discipline in applied mathematics

# The approach here

*We shall approach the topic from an input-output point of view – there exists a "purer" approach, in which an input-output map is not assumed (Willems: behavioral system theory).*

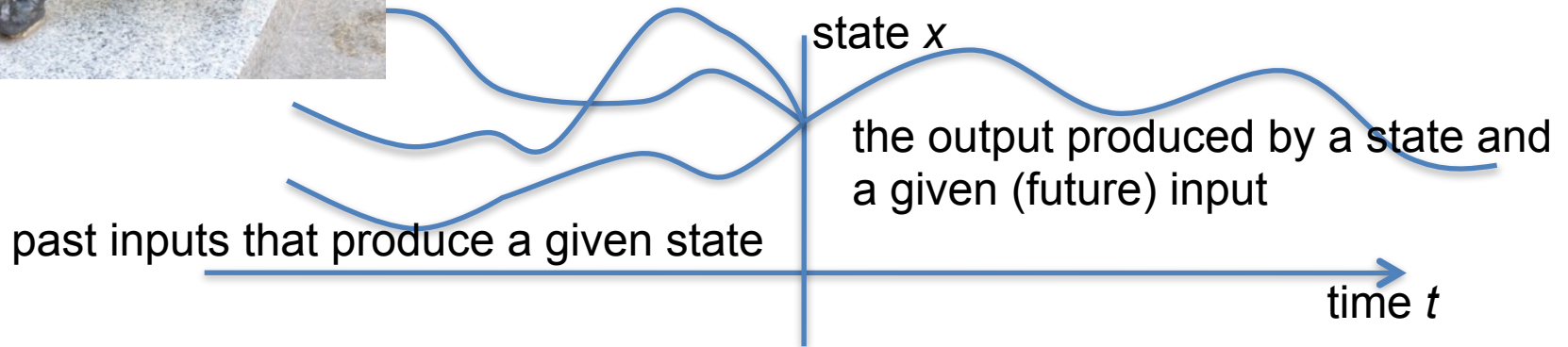
Static view:



*Behavior: the resulting map from inputs to outputs*



# The dynamic view



In equation: continuous time: 
$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), u(t), t) \\ y(t) = g(x(t), u(t), t) \end{cases}$$

discrete time: 
$$\begin{cases} x(k+1) = f_k(x(k), u(k)) \\ y(k) = g_k(x(k), u(k)) \end{cases}$$

*practical consideration: there is no harm to replace continuous time by discrete time – it makes the discussions much easier!*

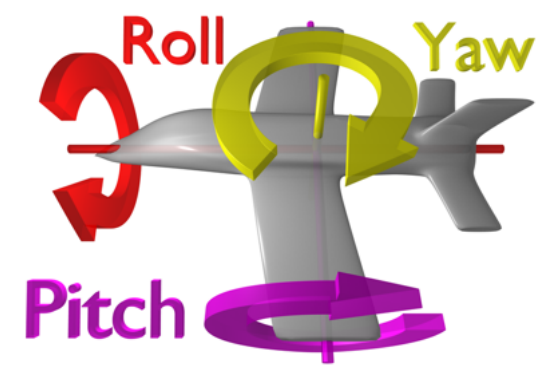




# Basic notions

- the STATE: a time dependent vector
- the EVOLUTION of the state: a difference equation
- REACHABILITY: how a state can be reached by past inputs (important for control)
- OBSERVABILITY: how one can estimate the state of a system by observing it (important for estimation)
- MINIMALITY: no superfluous states!

# the state?

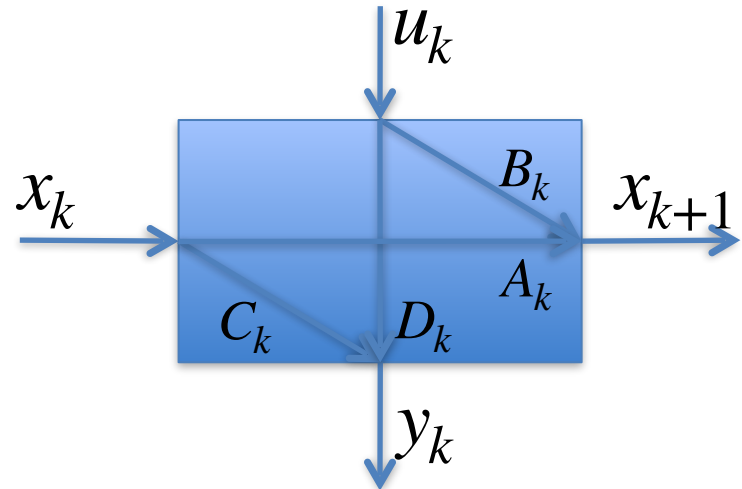


- Mechanical system: *position and velocity*
- Computer: *relevant memory (data storage, switches)*
- Automaton: *control states, routing states*
- Airplane: *position, velocity, roll, yaw and pitch, angles and velocities*
- Process plant: *pressure, temperature, concentrations*

# the analysis is easier for linear systems...

$$\begin{cases} x_{k+1} = A_k x_k + B_k u_k \\ y_k = C_k x_k + D_k u_k \end{cases} \quad (\text{"causal" system})$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_{k+1} \\ y_k \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_k & B_k \\ C_k & D_k \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_k \\ u_k \end{bmatrix}$$

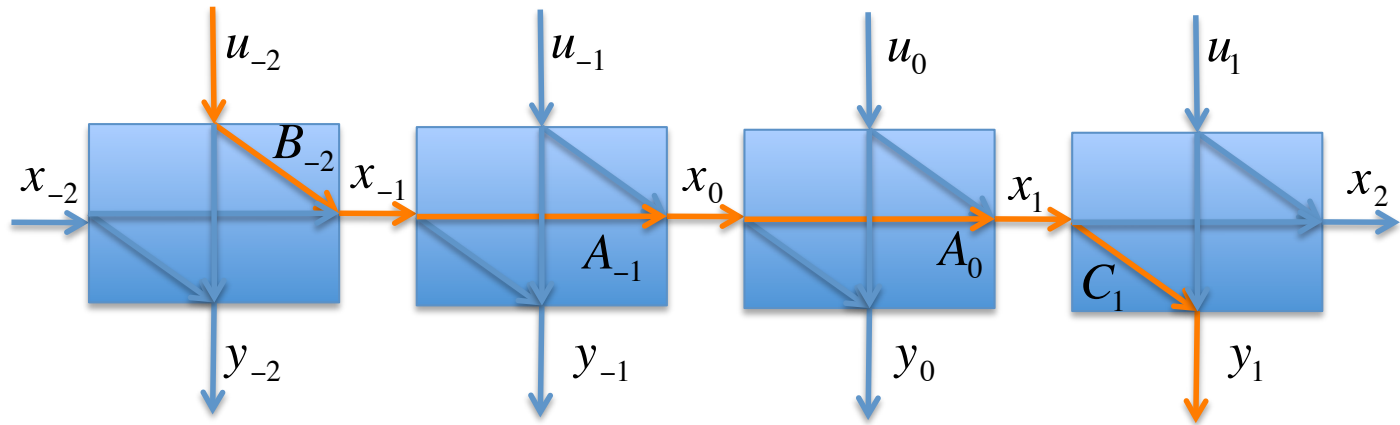


REACHABILITY: can any state (at each time point) be reached by some past inputs?

OBSERVABILITY: is every state characterized by the resulting response?

*let's develop the algebra...*

# the input-output operator (causal)

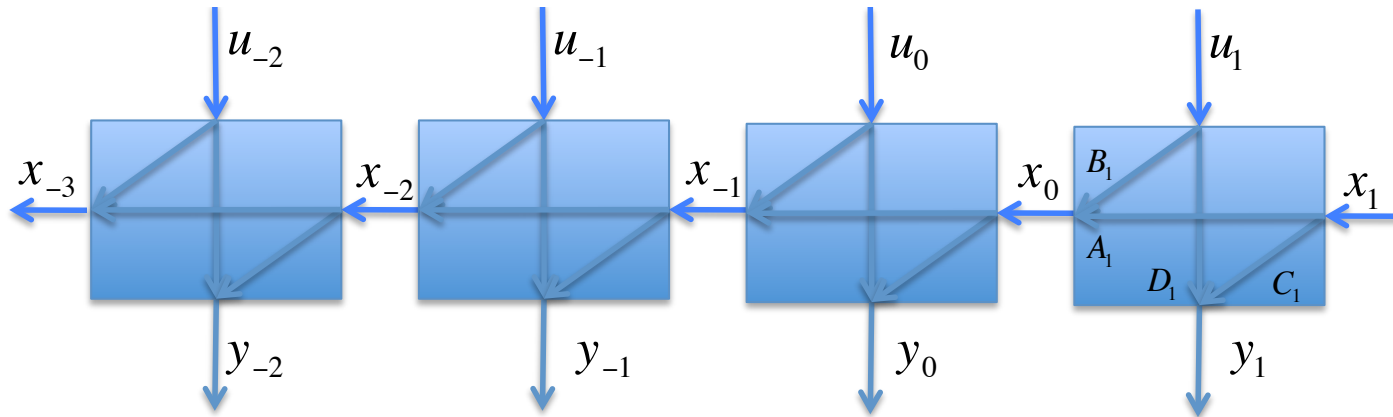


$$y = Tu$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ y_{-2} \\ y_{-1} \\ y_0 \\ y_1 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cdot & & & & & & \\ & \cdot & & & & & \\ & & \cdot & & & & \\ & & & \cdot & & & \\ & & & & \mathbf{0} & & \\ & & & & & \mathbf{D}_0 & \\ & & & & & & \cdot \\ & & & & & & & \cdot \\ & & & & & & & & \cdot \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ u_{-2} \\ u_{-1} \\ u_0 \\ u_1 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

$\leftarrow C_1 A_0 A_{-1} B_{-2}$   
 $\uparrow$   
 $-2$

# input-output anti-causal



$$T = \begin{bmatrix} \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ & D_{-1} & C_{-1}B_0 & C_{-1}A_0B_1 & \ddots \\ & & \boxed{D_0} & C_0B_1 & \ddots \\ & \mathbf{0} & & D_1 & \ddots \\ & & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$



# Representations

Linear Time-Invariant:

$$\begin{cases} U(z) = \cdots + u_{-1}z^{-1} + u_0 + u_1z + \cdots \\ Y(z) = \cdots + y_{-1}z^{-1} + y_0 + y_1z + \cdots \\ T(z) = D + C(I - zA)^{-1}zB \end{cases}$$

Time-variant: define *block diagonal operators*

instantaneous:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \ddots & & & & \\ & A_{-1} & & & \\ & & A_0 & & \\ & & & A_1 & \\ & & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix}, B = \begin{bmatrix} \ddots & & & & \\ & B_{-1} & & & \\ & & B_0 & & \\ & & & B_1 & \\ & & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix} \text{ etc...}$$

shifts, causal:

$$Z = \begin{bmatrix} \ddots & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & \\ & & 0 & & \\ & & I & 0 & \\ & & & I & 0 \\ & & & & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

anti-causal:

$$Z' = \begin{bmatrix} \ddots & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & \\ & & \ddots & & \\ & & & 0 & I \\ & & & I & 0 \\ & & & & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

Resulting transfer operators:

$$T = D + C(I - ZA)^{-1}ZB \quad T = D + C(I - Z'A)^{-1}Z'B$$

# Stability?

The state evolves as:

$$(I - ZA)^{-1} = I + ZA + ZAZA + \dots$$

Define diagonal shifts:

$$A^{\langle +1 \rangle} = ZAZ' \quad \begin{array}{c} \swarrow \\ \downarrow \\ \searrow \end{array} \quad (\text{forward})$$

$$A^{\langle -1 \rangle} = Z'AZ \quad \begin{array}{c} \swarrow \\ \uparrow \\ \searrow \end{array} \quad (\text{backward})$$

$$(I - ZA)^{-1} = I + ZA + Z^2 A^{\langle -1 \rangle} A + Z^3 A^{\langle -2 \rangle} A^{\langle -1 \rangle} A + \dots$$

continuous product should decrease exponentially  
(called "u.e.s." = uniform exponentially stable)

example of unstable:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & \\ -2 & 1 & & & \\ & -2 & 1 & & \\ & & -2 & 1 & \\ & & & -2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & \\ 2 & 1 & & & \\ 4 & 2 & 1 & & \\ 8 & 4 & 2 & 1 & \\ 16 & 8 & 4 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# reconciling matrices and systems

Linear time-invariant systems have doubly infinite Toeplitz input-output operators:

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & T_0 & T_{-1} & T_{-2} & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & T_1 & T_0 & T_{-1} & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & T_2 & T_1 & T_0 & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$$



# zero dimensions: a necessary extension of matrix theory

One row, no column:  $[\ ]$

One column, no row:  $[ - ]$

No row, no column:  $[ \cdot ]$

Multiplication rules:  $[\ ] [ - ] = [ 0 ]$ ;  $[ - ] [ \ ] = [ \cdot ]$  (dimensions must match)

Unit of zero dimension:  $[ \cdot ]$

(why? because  $[ \cdot ] [ \cdot ] = [ \cdot ]$ !)

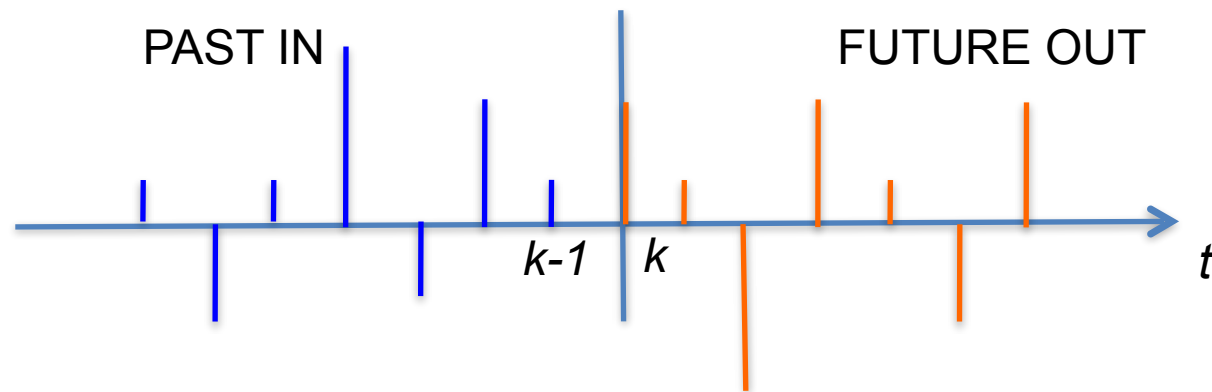
Note: extends to more columns and row,  
often abbreviated, as in  $[ - - - ] \sim [ - ]$ !

embedding:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cdot & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \cdot \\ \dots & \bullet & - & \bullet & \dots \\ \dots & | & T & | & \dots \\ \dots & \bullet & - & \bullet & \dots \\ \cdot & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$$

# Past-present-future: the Hankel operator

the causal case:  $H_k$  maps past inputs up to  $k-1$  to future outputs from  $k$  on:



(present is part of future!)

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \left[ \begin{array}{cc}
 \text{past in} & \vdots \\
 \dots & C_k A_{k-1} B_{k-2} \quad C_k B_{k-1} \\
 \dots & C_{k+1} A_k A_{k-1} B_{k-2} \quad C_{k+1} A_k B_{k-1} \\
 \dots & C_{k+2} A_{k+1} A_k A_{k-1} B_{k-2} \quad C_{k+2} A_{k+1} A_k B_{k-1} \\
 \vdots & \vdots \\
 \vdots & \vdots
 \end{array} \right] D_k
 \end{array}$$

future out

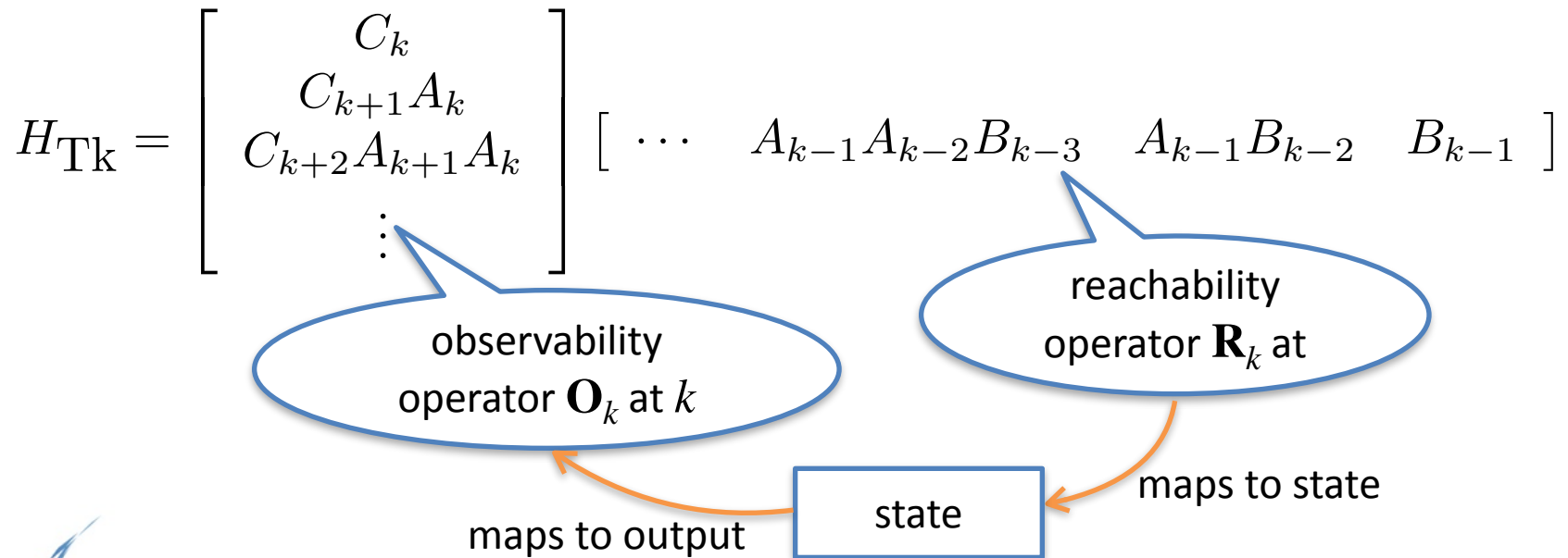
$$H_k = \begin{bmatrix} T_{k,k-1} & T_{k,k-2} & \dots \\ T_{k+1,k-1} & T_{k+1,k-2} & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

# System identification: factoring the Hankel operator

Given  $T$ , what is a minimal realization  $\{A, B, C, D\}$ ?

The answer: it is given by a minimal factorization of **each** Hankel operator  $H_{Tk}$ :

(generalized Kronecker theorem)



minimal factorization  $\equiv$  choosing complementary bases

# Identification (2) and normal forms

Remark:  $\mathbf{O}_k = \begin{bmatrix} C_k \\ \mathbf{O}_{k+1} A_k \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{R}_k = \begin{bmatrix} A_{k-1} \mathbf{R}_{k-1} & B_{k-1} \end{bmatrix}$

hence:  $C_k = [\mathbf{O}_k]_k$ ,  $B_k = [\mathbf{R}_{k+1}]_k$ ,  $A_k = \mathbf{O}_{k+1}^+ [\mathbf{O}_k]_{k+1:\infty}$

Input normal form: choose an orthonormal basis for all  $\mathbf{R}_k$

then  $\begin{bmatrix} A_k & B_k \end{bmatrix}$  is co-isometric:  $A_k A_k' + B_k B_k' = I$

Output normal form: choose an orthonormal basis for all  $\mathbf{O}_k$

then  $\begin{bmatrix} A_k \\ C_k \end{bmatrix}$  will be isometric:  $A_k' A_k + C_k' C_k = I$

Change of basis (causal case):

$$x_k = R_k \hat{x}_k \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} A_k & B_k \\ C_k & D_k \end{bmatrix} \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} R_{k+1}^{-1} A_k R_k & R_{k+1}^{-1} B_k \\ C_k R_k & D_k \end{bmatrix}$$

# Normalized from any minimal?

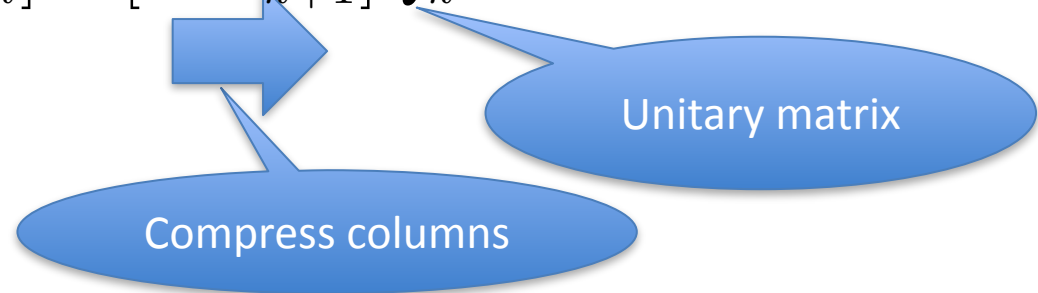
Solve a recursive Lyapunov-Stein equation:  
e.g. to obtain the Output Normal Form

$$R_{k+1}R'_{k+1} = A_k R_k R'_k A'_k + B_k B'_k$$

(forward recursion)

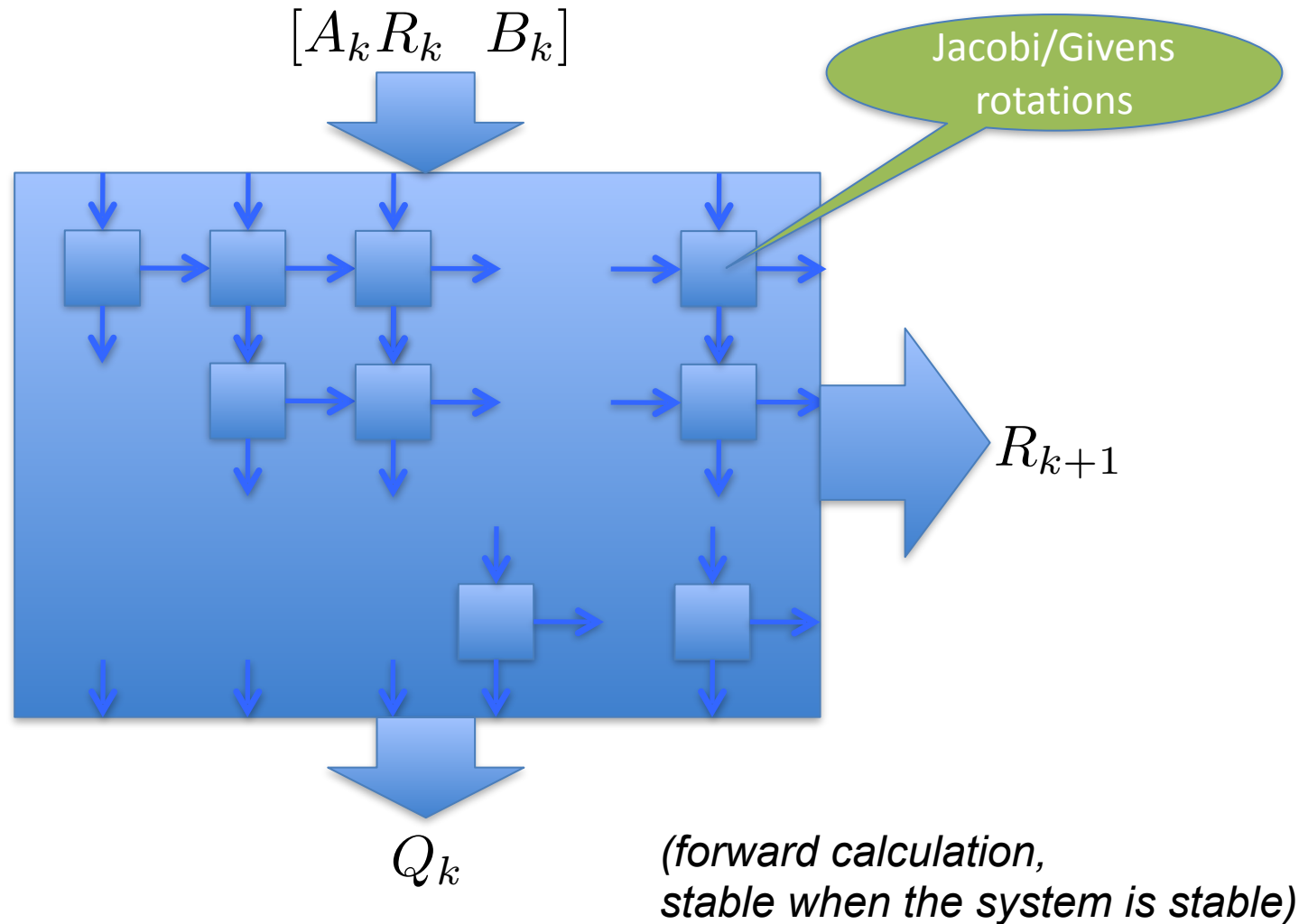
Best method: R-Q factorization (square root algorithm):

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_k R_k & B_k \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & R_{k+1} \end{bmatrix} Q_k$$



example: 
$$\begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{2} & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -2 & 2\sqrt{2} \\ 0 & 0 & \sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/2 & -1/2 \\ -1/\sqrt{2} & 1/2 & -1/2 \\ 0 & 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

# Use a parallel processor: (Gentleman-Kung array)



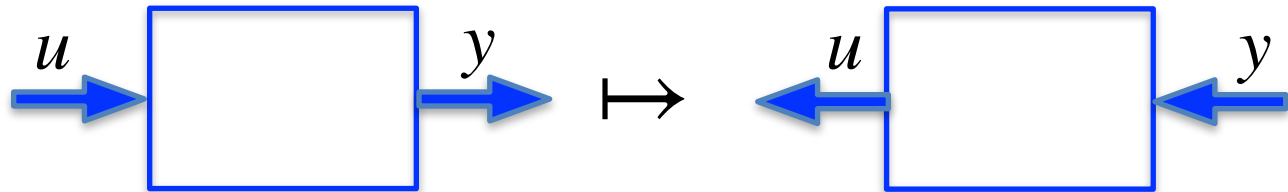
# What are the main system operations?

- System inversion!
  - signal/system estimation (Kalman filter e.g.)
  - stable system control
- System approximation!
  - system simulation
  - model order reduction
- System's eigenmodi!
  - *(needs system inversion)*

# the main issue is...

how to invert a system in a stable way

*very much related to the inversion of systems of equations: we'll discover some new methods based on reachability and observability!*



$$C_c(I - ZA_c)^{-1}ZB_c + D + C_a(I - Z'A_a)^{-1}Z'B_a \quad \mapsto \quad \text{inverse? or Moore-Penrose inverse?}$$

with additional properties:

- low quasi-separable complexity
- numerically stable operations (orthogonal transformations)



# warm up examples

half infinite systems:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ -1/2 & 1 & & \\ & -1/2 & 1 & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = ,$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ -2 & 1 & & \\ & -2 & 1 & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = ?$$

# examples (cnt'd)

easy to check:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \boxed{1} & & & \\ -1/2 & 1 & & \\ & -1/2 & 1 & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \boxed{1} & & & \\ 1/2 & 1 & & \\ 1/4 & 1/2 & 1 & \\ \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

but

$$\begin{bmatrix} \boxed{1} & & & \\ -2 & 1 & & \\ & -2 & 1 & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \stackrel{?}{=} \stackrel{?}{=} \begin{bmatrix} \boxed{1} & & & \\ 2 & 1 & & \\ 4 & 2 & 1 & \\ \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

unstable!

# but remark...

$$\begin{bmatrix} \ddots & & & & \\ \ddots & 1 & & & \\ & -2 & \boxed{1} & & \\ & & -2 & 1 & \\ & & & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ & 0 & -1/2 & -1/4 & \ddots \\ & & \boxed{0} & -1/2 & \ddots \\ & & & 0 & \ddots \\ & & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

*(Toeplitz case...)*

so what?

# example (cnt'd)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 & 1 \\ & -2 & 1 \\ & & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

is not invertible! Co-kernel:  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1/2 & 1/4 & \dots \end{bmatrix}$

It does have a left inverse:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1/2 & -1/4 & \dots \\ & 0 & -1/2 & \ddots \\ & & 0 & \ddots \\ & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

*what is its right Moore-Penrose inverse?*



# the solution?

To solve these problems, we need a new type of factorization:

## outer-inner factorization

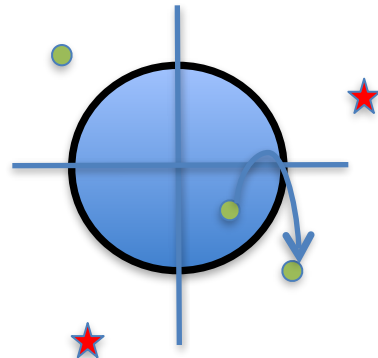
Causal case:

$$T = RU$$

Causally left  
invertible

Causally co-  
isometric

Toeplitz case: move zeros to outside the unit disc!



$$T^\dagger = U' R^\dagger$$

anti-causal

causal

# how to compute $U$ and $R$ from $T$ ?

the "square-root algorithm" again... let  $T \sim_c \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix}$

then  $U \sim_c \begin{bmatrix} A_U & B_U \\ C_U & D_U \end{bmatrix}$  and  $R \sim_c \begin{bmatrix} A & B_o \\ C & D_o \end{bmatrix}$  can be computed by a

(forward) recursive R-Q factorization:  $\begin{bmatrix} AY & C \\ BY & D \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & Y^{<-1>} & B_o \\ 0 & 0 & D_o \end{bmatrix} Q$

in which  $Y$  is a recursive intermediate diagonal with left inverse,

$Q$  decomposes as

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} C_n & D_n \\ A_U & B_U \\ C_U & D_U \end{bmatrix}$$

$D_o$  also has a left inverse, and the causal kernel of  $T$  is given by

$$D_n + C_n (I - ZA_U)^{-1} ZB_U$$

# remarks on the sq. roots algorithm

- numerically stable (*only orthogonal transformations*)
- the intermediate  $Y$  is actually  $Y = \mathbf{R}_A \mathbf{R}'_U$  (*i.e. the cross-correlation between the reachabilities of  $A$  and  $U$* ).
- the algorithm goes forward, needs starting data (*empty for finite matrices*)
- the outer factor may not be minimal.

# Which problems does this solve?

- the Kalman filter
- spectral factorization, the Wiener filter
- LU-factorization
- optimal control
- Moore-Penrose inversion of matrices
- the computation of kernels and ranges
- low complexity system inversion

*to be covered in the next lectures...*



# Numerical issues

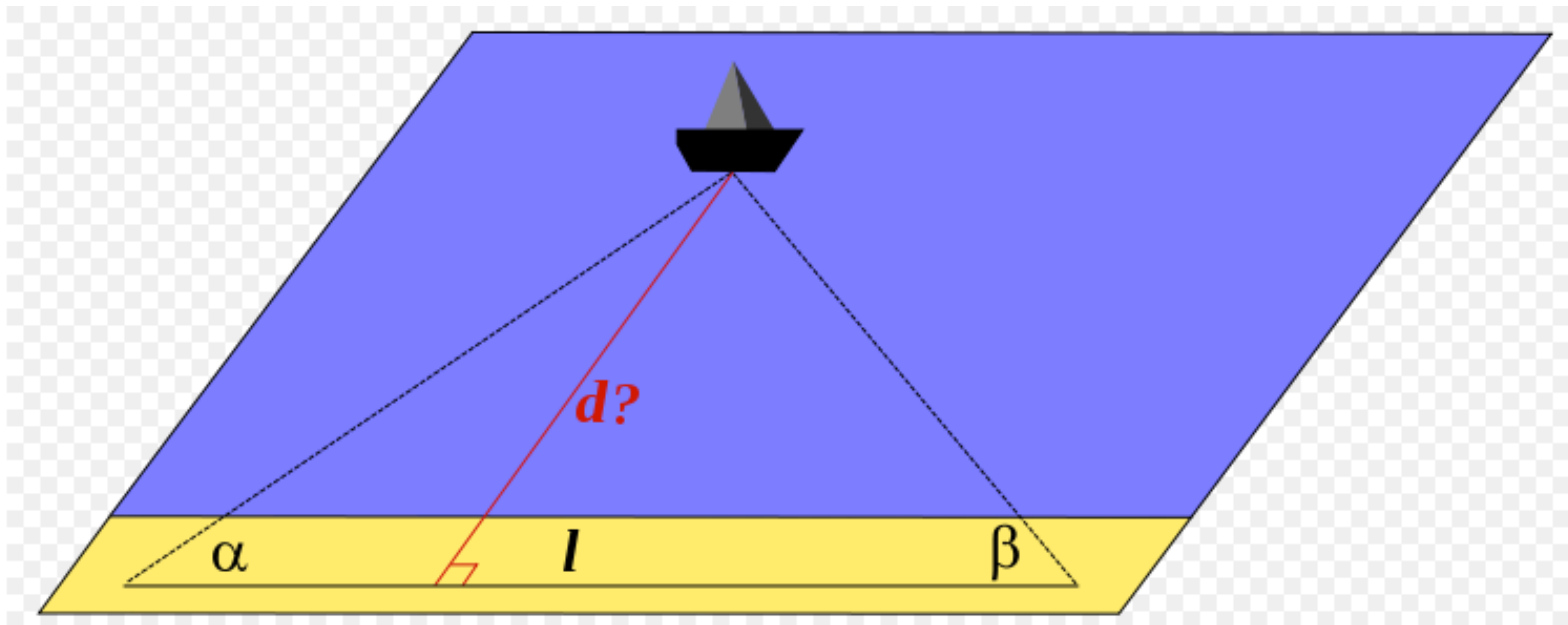
- numerical conditioning of a problem: *a system is badly conditioned, when small perturbations in the input data causes large perturbations in the output (assuming infinite precision).*
- forward stability of an algorithm: *an algorithm is forward stable when numerical errors in the computation cause only small errors in the result.*
- backward stability of an algorithm: *an algorithm is backward stable, when numerical errors in the computation can be corrected by small variations in the input data (and exact mapping to the result).*

many physical problems are inherently ill-conditioned – that is the essence of scientific discovery! – **a backward stable algorithm** will allow good results *when sufficient numerical accuracy is used.*

The square-root algorithm is backward stable!

Traditionally, the problems detailed so far are solved via a Riccati equation: this is intrinsically numerically unstable.

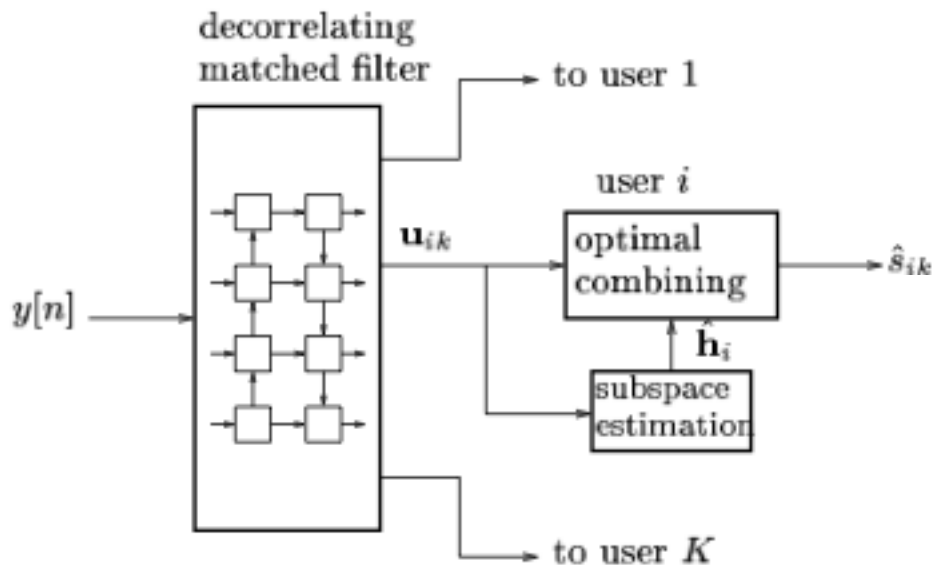
The simplest possible example of ill-conditioning?



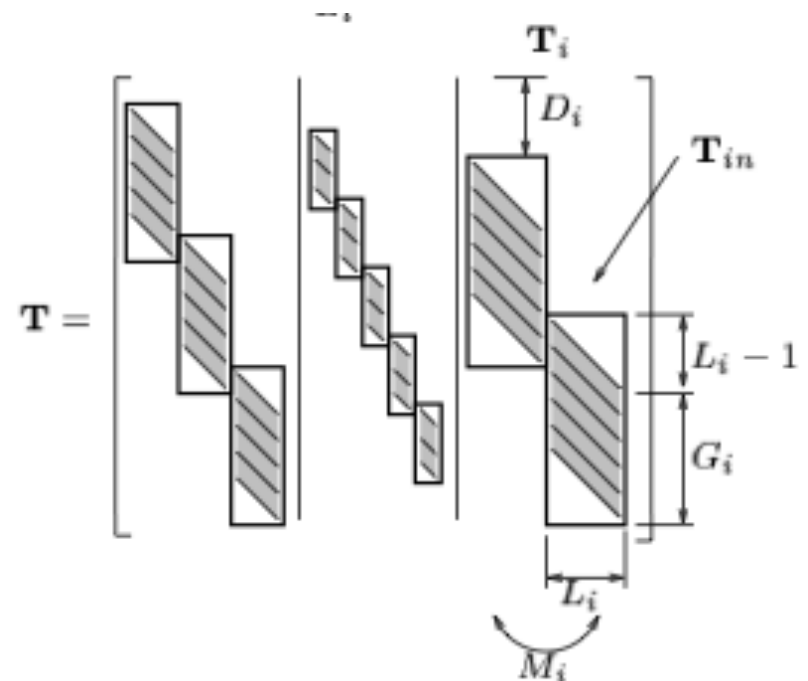
$$d = \frac{l \sin \alpha \sin \beta}{\sin(\alpha + \beta)} \approx \frac{l}{0}$$

# A concrete telecom example of a typical quasi-separable case

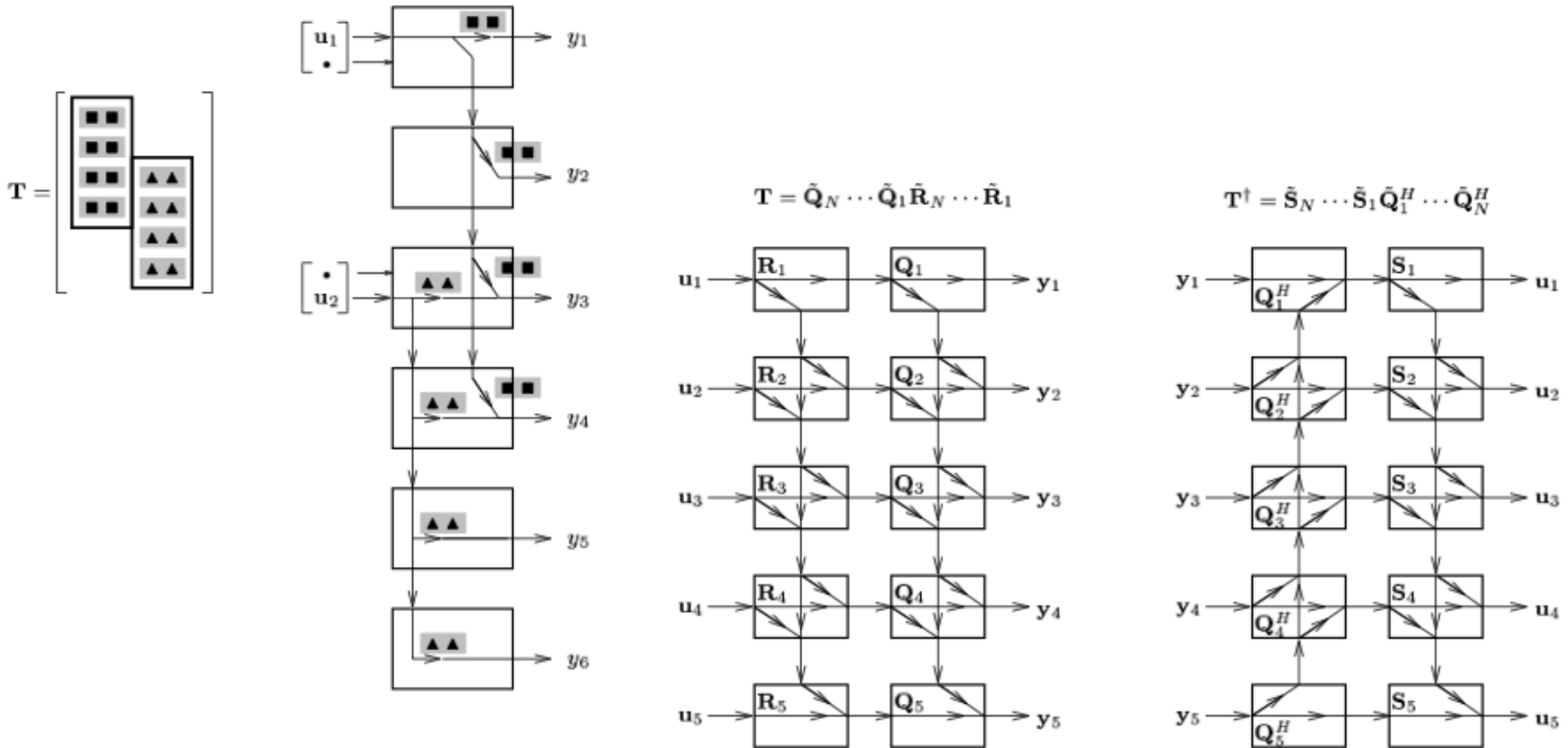
The blind decorrelating Rake receiver for long-word WCDMA (Tong, vdVeen, PD)



code structure  $T_s$ , with  $s$  the signal:



# structure of the code matrix and efficient least-squares inversion



*much better than the traditional matched filter, both in accuracy and in complexity!*

# Envoy

**it's a two way street:  
matrices for systems  
system theory for matrices**

