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# Growth rates for persistently excited linear systems

Yacine Chitour <sup>\*</sup>     Fritz Colonius <sup>†</sup>     Mario Sigalotti <sup>‡</sup>

## Abstract

We consider a family of linear control systems  $\dot{x} = Ax + \alpha Bu$  where  $\alpha$  belongs to a given class of persistently exciting signals. We seek maximal  $\alpha$ -uniform stabilisation and destabilisation by means of linear feedbacks  $u = Kx$ . We extend previous results obtained for bidimensional single-input linear control systems to the general case as follows: if the pair  $(A, B)$  verifies a certain Lie bracket generating condition, then the maximal rate of convergence of  $(A, B)$  is equal to the maximal rate of divergence of  $(-A, -B)$ . We also provide more precise results in the general single-input case, where the above result is obtained under the sole assumption of controllability of the pair  $(A, B)$ .

## 1 Introduction

In the present paper we address stabilization issues relative to linear systems subject to scalar persistently exciting signals (PE-signals). Such a linear time-dependent system is written as

$$\dot{x} = Ax + \alpha(t)Bu, \tag{1}$$

where  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $u \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , the matrices  $A, B$  have appropriate sizes and the function  $\alpha$  is a *scalar* PE-signal, i.e.,  $\alpha$  takes values in  $[0, 1]$  and there exist two positive constants  $\mu, T$  such that, for every  $t \geq 0$ ,

$$\int_t^{t+T} \alpha(s)ds \geq \mu. \tag{2}$$

Given two positive real numbers  $\mu \leq T$ , we use  $\mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$  to denote the class of all PE signals verifying (2).

In (1), the PE-signal  $\alpha$  can be seen as an input perturbation modelling the fact that the instants where the control  $u$  acts on the system are not exactly known. If  $\alpha$  only takes the values 0 and 1, then (1) actually switches between the uncontrolled system  $\dot{x} = Ax$  and the controlled one  $\dot{x} = Ax + Bu$ . In that context, the persistence of excitation condition (2) is designed to guarantee some action on the system. Persistent of excitation conditions have appeared both in the identification and in the control literatures [1, 2, 4, 5, 13, 14, 16].

Here, we are mainly concerned with the global asymptotic stabilization of system (1) with a constant linear feedback  $u = Kx$  *uniformly* with respect to all PE-signals  $\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$ . The dual problem consists in exponentially destabilizing system (1) by a constant linear feedback. In order to quantitatively measure these stabilization and destabilization features, we first define, for every  $K$ , the exponential rate of convergence for the family of time varying-systems  $\dot{x} = (A + \alpha BK)x$  and

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use  $\text{rc}(A, B, K)$  to denote it. Similarly, for every  $K$ , let  $\text{rd}(A, B, K)$  be the rate of divergence for the family of time varying-systems. (For the precise definitions of  $\text{rc}(A, B, K)$  and  $\text{rd}(A, B, K)$  in terms of Lyapunov exponents, see Section 2.2.) The sign convention on  $\text{rc}(A, B, K)$  (respectively,  $\text{rd}(A, B, K)$ ) is such that exponential stabilizability (respectively, destabilizability) of system (1) is equivalent to the existence of some feedback  $K$  with  $\text{rc}(A, B, K) > 0$  (respectively,  $\text{rd}(A, B, K) > 0$ ). If  $K$  is such that  $\text{rc}(A, B, K) > 0$  then we say that  $K$  is a  $(T, \mu)$ -stabilizer. Let  $\text{RC}(A, B)$  and  $\text{RD}(A, B)$  be defined as the supremum over  $K$  of  $\text{rc}(A, B, K)$  and  $\text{rd}(A, B, K)$  respectively.

Recall that if  $T = \mu$  then  $\alpha \equiv 1$  is the unique choice of PE-signal and in that case the above issues correspond to the classical stabilizability questions associated with time-invariant finite-dimensional linear control systems  $\dot{x} = Ax + Bu$ . In particular, it follows from the pole-shifting theorem that  $\text{RC}(A, B) = +\infty$  if and only if  $\text{RD}(A, B) = +\infty$ , and this happens if and only if the pair  $(A, B)$  is controllable.

The present paper belongs to a line of research initiated in [7] which consists in generalizing the pole-shifting theorem to linear control systems subject to persistence of excitation on the input (for a survey on recent results on persistence of excitation, see [8]). The pole-assignment part of that theorem seems difficult to transpose in the context of persistence of excitation. Therefore, we are more interested in a qualitative feature that we call *generalized pole-shifting property*, namely whether  $\text{RC}(A, B)$  and  $\text{RD}(A, B)$  are both infinite and to characterize such a property in terms of the data of the problem  $A, B, T, \mu$ .

When  $\mu < T$ , the generalized pole-shifting property is not guaranteed. More precisely, it has been proved in [9] that for bidimensional single-input controllable systems of the form (1), there exists  $\rho \in (0, 1)$  (independent of  $A, B$ ) such that if  $\mu/T < \rho$  then  $\text{RC}(A, B)$  is finite. As a consequence, one easily deduces that for  $\lambda$  large enough  $\text{rc}(A + \lambda\text{Id}, B, K)$  is negative for every  $K$ , hence there does not even exist a  $(T, \mu)$ -stabilizer in that situation. Let us mention that if one restricts  $\mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$  to the subclass  $\mathcal{D}(T, \mu, M)$  of its elements which are  $M$ -Lipschitz for a given  $M > 0$ , then one recovers that, for every  $0 < \mu < T$ , system (1) can be stabilized and destabilized with arbitrarily large exponential rates uniformly with respect to  $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}(T, \mu, M)$  (cf. [15]).

Our main goal in this paper is to relate the maximal rates of convergence and divergence associated with the pairs  $(A, B)$  and  $(-A, -B)$ . Recall that in the case  $T = \mu$ , one trivially has that  $\text{RD}(A, B) = \text{RC}(-A, -B)$ . On the other hand, it was proved in [9] that  $\text{RC}(A, B) = +\infty$  if and only if  $\text{RD}(A, B) = +\infty$  for bidimensional single-input controllable systems of the form (1). The main result we obtain in this paper is Theorem 5.1. It shows that the maximal rate of convergence for a persistently excited system coincides with the maximal rate of divergence for the time-reversed system, provided that a certain set  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$  of feedbacks (defined next) is dense in the set of  $d \times m$  real matrices. Here, we say that  $K$  belongs to  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$  if the projection on the real projective space  $\mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$  of the bilinear system  $\dot{x} = Ax + vBKx$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{R}$ , satisfies the Lie algebraic rank condition. In the single-input case, we can refine the result by showing that if  $(A, B)$  is controllable then  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$  is dense (and conversely if  $d \geq 3$ ).

Let us briefly describe the techniques used in the paper. In order to relate asymptotic properties of (1) and of the corresponding time-reversed system, one must take advantage of the linearity of the problem by analyzing the periodic trajectories of the projected control system on  $\mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$ . Thus, one is naturally led to consider the family of continuous linear flows on a vector bundle defined by the persistently excited systems associated with the feedbacks  $K$ . Such constructions have been used for bilinear control systems in Colonius and Kliemann [11] and for switched systems by Wirth in [18]. The crucial technical step consists of extending to the PE context the results of [11] asserting that if  $K \in \text{PLARC}(A, B)$  then periodic trajectories of the projected system corresponding to periodic PE-signals retain the asymptotic properties of the original system. Finally, since our rates of convergence/divergence are defined in terms of Lyapunov exponents, we rely on tools from dynamical systems theory such as Morse spectrum and control sets, which are used for proving

regularity properties for the functions  $(A, B, K) \mapsto \text{rc}(A, B, K)$  and  $(A, B, K) \mapsto \text{rd}(A, B, K)$ .

Let us mention the recent contribution to the theory of linear control systems with general time-varying coefficients given by Anderson, Ilchmann and Wirth [3], also based on Lyapunov exponents. Our contribution is independent of their results, since persistently excited systems present distinctive features.

Before providing the structure of the paper, let us open some perspectives for future work related to the issues discussed here. First of all, it would be interesting to obtain, in the multi-input case, easily checkable necessary and sufficient conditions in terms of  $(A, B)$  for the density of  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$ . Secondly, the understanding of the generalized pole-shifting property for  $d \geq 3$  and in the multi-input case is still a widely open problem.

The contents of this paper are as follows: Section 2 provides the notion of persistently excited system as well as growth rates of solutions. In particular, the maximal rates of convergence and divergence are defined. Furthermore, Lie algebraic conditions are recalled for bilinear control systems in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  and their projections onto projective space. Section 3 shows that the exponential growth rates can be determined by certain periodic trajectories of the projected systems. This is used in Section 4 to derive continuity properties of growth rates. In Section 5 the relation between maximal rates of convergence and divergence is explored and the main result is given and commented (Theorem 5.1). Finally, Section 6 gives a detailed analysis of the single-input case.

## 2 Problem formulation and preliminaries

In this section we introduce formally persistently excited linear systems and recall notion and facts concerning their stability properties. In particular, Lyapunov exponents and associated rates of convergence and divergence are recalled. Finally, accessibility properties of related control systems are discussed.

### 2.1 PE systems and $(T, \mu)$ -stabilizers

The following notion is fundamental for this paper.

**Definition 2.1** ( $(T, \mu)$ -signal) *Let  $\mu$  and  $T$  be positive constants with  $\mu \leq T$ . A  $(T, \mu)$ -signal is a measurable function  $\alpha : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, 1]$  satisfying*

$$\int_t^{t+T} \alpha(s) ds \geq \mu \text{ for all } t \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (3)$$

We use  $\mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$  to denote the set of all  $(T, \mu)$ -signals.

Given  $d, m \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $M_{d,m}(\mathbb{R})$  be the set of  $d \times m$  matrices with real entries and we use  $M_d(\mathbb{R})$  to denote  $M_{d,d}(\mathbb{R})$ . We write  $P_{d,m}$  for  $M_d(\mathbb{R}) \times M_{d,m}(\mathbb{R})$ .

**Definition 2.2** (PE system) *Given two positive constants  $\mu$  and  $T$  with  $\mu \leq T$  and a pair  $(A, B) \in P_{d,m}$ , we define the persistently excited system (PE system for short) associated with  $T, \mu, A$ , and  $B$  as the family of non-autonomous linear control systems*

$$\dot{x} = Ax + \alpha Bu, \quad \alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu). \quad (4)$$

Given a persistently excited system (4), we consider the following problem: Is it possible to stabilize (4) *uniformly* with respect to every  $(T, \mu)$ -signal  $\alpha$ , i.e., to find a matrix  $K \in M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})$  which makes the origin globally asymptotically stable for

$$\dot{x} = (A + \alpha(t)BK)x, \quad (5)$$

with  $K$  depending only on  $A, B, T$  and  $\mu$ ?

Note that (5) defines a linear continuous flow  $\Phi$  on the vector bundle  $\mathcal{G}(T, \mu) \times \mathbb{R}^d$ , since  $\mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$  is a shift-invariant (i.e.,  $\alpha(\cdot)$  is a  $(T, \mu)$ -signal if and only if the same is true for  $\alpha(t_0 + \cdot)$  for every  $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ ), convex and weak- $\star$  compact subset of  $L^\infty(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$  (see [11] for definitions).

Referring to  $x(\cdot; t_0, x_0, A, B, K, \alpha)$  as the solution of (5) passing through  $x_0$  at time  $t_0$ , we introduce the following definition.

**Definition 2.3** ( $(T, \mu)$ -stabilizer) *Let  $T \geq \mu > 0$ . The gain  $K \in M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})$  is said to be a  $(T, \mu)$ -stabilizer for (4) if (5) is globally exponentially stable, uniformly with respect to  $\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$ , i.e., there exist  $C, \gamma > 0$  such that every solution  $x(\cdot; t_0, x_0, A, B, K, \alpha)$  of (5) satisfies*

$$|x(t; t_0, x_0, A, B, K, \alpha)| \leq C e^{-(t-t_0)\gamma} |x_0| \text{ for every } t \geq t_0.$$

The definition above is clearly independent of the choice of the norm on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . In the following, we assume  $|\cdot|$  to be a fixed norm in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  and we denote by  $\|\cdot\|$  the induced matrix norm.

**Remark 2.4** Since  $\mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$  is shift-invariant and compact, Fenichel's uniformity lemma (see [11, Lemma 5.2.7]) allows one to restate equivalently the above definition in the following weaker form:  $K \in M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})$  is a  $(T, \mu)$ -stabilizer for (4) if, for every  $\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$ , every solution  $x(\cdot; t_0, x_0, A, B, K, \alpha)$  of (5) tends to zero as time goes to  $+\infty$ .

## 2.2 Convergence and divergence rates and a generalized pole-shifting property

Next we introduce a number of rates describing the stability properties of PE systems. Let  $(A, B) \in P_{d,m}$ ,  $K$  belong to  $M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})$  and  $T \geq \mu > 0$ . For  $\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$  and  $0 \neq x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$  let

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda^+(x_0, A, B, K, \alpha) &= \limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{t} \log |x(t; 0, x_0, A, B, K, \alpha)|, \\ \lambda^-(x_0, A, B, K, \alpha) &= \liminf_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{t} \log |x(t; 0, x_0, A, B, K, \alpha)|. \end{aligned}$$

Set

$$\Lambda^+(A, B, K, \alpha) = \sup_{x_0 \neq 0} \lambda^+(x_0, A, B, K, \alpha), \quad \Lambda^-(A, B, K, \alpha) = \inf_{x_0 \neq 0} \lambda^-(x_0, A, B, K, \alpha).$$

The *rate of convergence* and the *rate of divergence* associated with the family of systems  $\dot{x} = (A + \alpha BK)x$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$ , are defined as

$$\text{rc}(A, B, K) = \inf_{\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)} (-\Lambda^+(A, B, K, \alpha)) \text{ and } \text{rd}(A, B, K) = \inf_{\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)} \Lambda^-(A, B, K, \alpha), \quad (6)$$

respectively. In particular  $\text{rc}(A, B, K) > 0$  if and only if  $K$  is a  $(T, \mu)$ -stabilizer for (4). Notice that, differently from [9], we omit here from the arguments of  $\text{rc}$  and  $\text{rd}$  the quantities  $T, \mu$  (on which they actually depend), since we focus here on the dependence of these objects on  $A, B$ , and  $K$ .

Since each signal constantly equal to  $\bar{\alpha} \in [\mu/T, 1]$  is in  $\mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$ , one immediately gets the estimates

$$\text{rc}(A, B, K) \leq \min_{\bar{\alpha} \in [\mu/T, 1]} \min(-\Re(\sigma(A + \bar{\alpha}BK))), \quad (7)$$

and

$$\text{rd}(A, B, K) \leq \min_{\bar{\alpha} \in [\mu/T, 1]} \min(\Re(\sigma(A + \bar{\alpha}BK))), \quad (8)$$

where  $\sigma(M)$  denotes the spectrum of a matrix  $M$  and  $\Re(\zeta)$  the real part of a complex number  $\zeta$ .

A linear change of coordinates  $y = Px$ ,  $v = Vu$  does neither affect  $\Lambda^+(A, B, K, \alpha)$  nor  $\Lambda^-(A, B, K, \alpha)$ . Hence

$$\text{rc}(A, B, K) = \text{rc}(PAP^{-1}, PBV^{-1}, VKP^{-1}), \quad (9)$$

and

$$\text{rd}(A, B, K) = \text{rd}(PAP^{-1}, PBV^{-1}, VKP^{-1}), \quad (10)$$

for all invertible matrices  $P \in M_d(\mathbb{R})$  and  $V \in M_m(\mathbb{R})$ .

**Remark 2.5** Let  $P$  be a change of coordinates which brings the pair  $(A, B)$  into a controllability decomposition  $(A', B')$  of  $(A, B)$ , namely,

$$A' = \begin{pmatrix} A_1 & A_2 \\ 0 & A_3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad B' = \begin{pmatrix} B_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (11)$$

with  $(A_1, B_1)$  controllable. Then, by (9), (10), and a standard argument based on the variation of constant formula, one gets that, for every  $K = (K_1 \ K_2) \in M_{d,m}(\mathbb{R})$ ,

$$\text{rc}(A, B, K) = \min(\text{rc}(A_1, B_1, K_1), \min(-\Re(\sigma(A_3))))), \quad (12)$$

$$\text{rd}(A, B, K) = \min(\text{rd}(A_1, B_1, K_1), \min(\Re(\sigma(A_3)))). \quad (13)$$

Define the *maximal rate of convergence* associated with the PE system (4) as

$$\text{RC}(A, B) = \sup_{K \in M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})} \text{rc}(A, B, K), \quad (14)$$

and similarly, the *maximal rate of divergence* as

$$\text{RD}(A, B) = \sup_{K \in M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})} \text{rd}(A, B, K). \quad (15)$$

Because of (9) and (10), one has

$$\text{RC}(A, B) = \text{RC}(PAP^{-1}, PBV^{-1}), \quad \text{RD}(A, B) = \text{RD}(PAP^{-1}, PBV^{-1}), \quad (16)$$

for all invertible matrices  $P \in M_d(\mathbb{R})$  and  $V \in M_m(\mathbb{R})$ .

Thanks to Remark 2.5, one deduces for a controllability decomposition of the pair  $(A, B)$  as in (11) that

$$\text{RC}(A, B) = \min(\text{RC}(A_1, B_1), \min(-\Re(\sigma(A_3))))), \quad \text{RD}(A, B) = \min(\text{RD}(A_1, B_1), \min(\Re(\sigma(A_3)))). \quad (17)$$

Notice also that

$$\text{RC}(A + \lambda \text{Id}_d, B) = \text{RC}(A, B) - \lambda, \quad \text{RD}(A + \lambda \text{Id}_d, B) = \text{RD}(A, B) + \lambda. \quad (18)$$

**Remark 2.6** Let  $(A, B) \in P_{d,m}$  for some  $d, m \in \mathbb{N}$ . A necessary condition for one of the quantities  $\text{RC}(A, B)$  or  $\text{RD}(A, B)$  to be infinite is that the pair  $(A, B)$  is controllable. This immediately follows from (17).

**Remark 2.7** Let  $m = 1$  and suppose that for  $A$  there exists  $\bar{B}$  for which  $(A, \bar{B})$  is controllable. Then  $\text{RC}(A, B)$  and  $\text{RD}(A, B)$  do not depend on  $B$ , as long as  $(A, B)$  is controllable. This follows from (16) and the fact that the controllability form of a single-input controllable system only depends on the matrix  $A$ .

Given a controllable pair  $(A, B)$ , whether or not RC and RD are both infinite can be understood as whether or not a *generalized pole-shifting property* holds true for the PE system  $\dot{x} = Ax + \alpha Bu$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$ . One of the aims of the paper is to investigate up to which extent the unboundedness of RC and RD are equivalent properties. In the planar single-input case the two properties are equivalent, as recalled below ([9, Proposition 4.3]).

**Proposition 2.8** *Let  $d = 2$  and  $m = 1$  and consider a PE system of the form  $\dot{x} = Ax + \alpha Bu$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$ . Then  $\text{RC}(A, B) = +\infty$  if and only if  $\text{RD}(A, B) = +\infty$ .*

### 2.3 Projected dynamics on $\mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$

For a matrix  $A \in M_d(\mathbb{R})$ , we denote by  $\Pi A$  the vector field on the real projective space  $\mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$  obtained by canonical projection of the vector field  $x \mapsto Ax$  onto  $T\mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$ , i.e., for every  $q = \Pi x \in \mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$  with  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}$ ,

$$(\Pi A)(q) = d\Pi_x \left( Ax - \frac{\langle x, Ax \rangle}{|x|^2} x \right).$$

Given two matrices  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  in  $M_d(\mathbb{R})$  and a set of admissible controls  $\mathcal{U} \subset L^\infty(\mathbb{R}, [0, 1])$ , we define three control systems as follows:

$$\dot{x} = A_1 x + u A_2 x, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad u \in \mathcal{U}, \quad (19)$$

$$\dot{q} = (\Pi A_1)(q) + u (\Pi A_2)(q), \quad q \in \mathbb{RP}^{d-1}, \quad u \in \mathcal{U}, \quad (20)$$

$$\dot{M} = A_1 M + u A_2 M, \quad M \in M_d(\mathbb{R}), \quad u \in \mathcal{U}. \quad (21)$$

We say that  $\{A_1, A_2\}$  satisfies the *Lie algebra rank condition* if the Lie algebra  $\text{Lie}(A_1, A_2)$  generated by  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  is equal to  $M_d(\mathbb{R})$ . Similarly, we say that  $\{A_1, A_2\}$  satisfies the *projected Lie algebra rank condition* if  $\{\Pi A_1, \Pi A_2\}$  satisfies the Lie algebra rank condition on  $\mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$ , i.e.,  $\text{Lie}_q(\Pi A_1, \Pi A_2) = T_q \mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$  for every  $q \in \mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$ . This coincides with hypothesis (H) in [10].

Given a pair  $(A, B) \in P_{d,m}$ , let  $\text{LARC}(A, B)$  (respectively,  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$ ) be the set of  $K \in M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})$  such that  $\{A, BK\}$  satisfies the Lie algebra rank condition (respectively, the projected Lie algebra rank condition).

The proof of the following lemma is trivial.

**Lemma 2.9** *Let  $A_1, A_2 \in M_d(\mathbb{R})$ . Then  $\Pi[A_1, A_2] = [\Pi A_1, \Pi A_2]$ . As a consequence, the attainable set for (20) from every initial condition  $q_0 = \Pi x_0 \in \mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$ , is the projection on  $\mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$  of the attainable set of (19) from  $x_0$  and the evaluation at  $q_0$  of the attainable set for (21) from the identity. Moreover, for every  $(A, B) \in P_{d,m}$  and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ ,*

$$\text{LARC}(A + \lambda \text{Id}, B) \subset \text{PLARC}(A + \lambda \text{Id}, B) = \text{PLARC}(A, B). \quad (22)$$

Notice that the inclusion in (22) is strict in general: take for instance  $A, K \in \text{so}(d)$ , so that  $\text{Lie}(A, K) = \text{so}(d)$ . Then clearly,  $K$  belongs to  $\text{PLARC}(A, \text{Id})$  and not to  $\text{LARC}(A, \text{Id})$ .

**Remark 2.10** For  $K \in M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})$ , define the *system group*  $G_K$  as the orbit through the identity for system (21). It is well known that  $G_K$  is a Lie subgroup of  $M_d(\mathbb{R})$  with Lie algebra given by  $\text{Lie}(A, BK)$ . By the orbit theorem applied to the analytic system (20),  $K$  is in  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$  if and only if the induced action of  $G_K$  on  $\mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$  is transitive. (For details, see [12].)

In particular, if  $K$  is in  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$  then the Lie algebra  $\text{Lie}(A, BK)$  is irreducible, i.e., there does not exist a proper subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  which is invariant for all the elements of  $\text{Lie}(A, BK)$ .

### 3 Growth rates and periodicity

We start this section by a controllability property for the induced system on projective space, which is useful for the subsequent discussion on growth rates.

Let us consider, for a moment, the system

$$\dot{x} = (A + v(t)BK)x, \quad (23)$$

where  $K \in M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})$  is a given feedback matrix and the role previously played by the  $(T, \mu)$ -signal  $\alpha$  is now taken by  $v$ , seen as a control parameter, with values in a closed subinterval  $I$  of  $[0, 1]$  with nonempty interior (the *control range*). We assume that  $v$  to belong to  $L^\infty(\mathbb{R}, I)$ , without persistent excitation assumptions on it.

As noticed in Section 2, the homogeneous bilinear control system (23) in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  induces a control system in the projective space  $\mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$ , given by

$$\dot{q} = (\Pi A)(q) + v(t)(\Pi BK)(q). \quad (24)_I$$

Denote by  $t \mapsto q(t; q_0, v)$  the trajectory of (24)<sub>I</sub> with initial condition  $q(0) = q_0 \in \mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$  corresponding to the control  $v \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}, I)$ .

The following controllability property motivates the role of the assumption that the feedback matrix  $K$  is in  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$ , which will appear repeatedly in the following sections.

**Theorem 3.1** *Consider the projected system (24)<sub>I</sub>, where  $I \subset [0, 1]$  is a closed interval with nonempty interior and  $K \in \text{PLARC}(A, B)$ . Then there exists a unique compact subset  $C$  of  $\mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$  with nonempty interior having the following properties:*

(i) *For all  $q_0 \in C$ ,  $t \geq 0$ , and  $v \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}, I)$  one has  $q(t; q_0, v) \in C$ .*

(ii) *For every  $q_- \in \text{int}C$  there exists a time  $\hat{\tau} > 0$  such that for all  $q_0 \in \mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$  there is  $v_0 \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}, I)$  with*

$$q(\tau; q_0, v) = q_- \text{ for some } \tau \in [0, \hat{\tau}].$$

*Proof.* The control range  $I$  is compact and convex and the Lie algebra rank condition holds, since  $K \in \text{PLARC}(A, B)$ . Hence the projected control system in  $\mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$  satisfies the assumptions of [11, Theorem 7.3.3]. It follows that the control system (24)<sub>I</sub> has a unique invariant control set  $C$ , which is compact, has nonempty interior, and is contained in the closure of every attainable set of (24)<sub>I</sub>. Recall that an invariant control set is characterized by condition (i) together with the property that every element of  $C$  is approximately controllable from every other element of  $C$  (cf. [11, Definition 3.1.3]). The proof is completed by noticing that [11, Lemma 3.2.21] implies assertion (ii) stating exact controllability to points in the interior of  $C$ . ■

We turn to growth rates for PE systems. Given  $\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$  and  $0 \neq x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , we say that  $(\alpha, x_0)$  is  $\#$ -admissible for  $A, B, K$  if there exists  $\tau > 0$  such that  $\alpha$  is  $\tau$ -periodic as well as the trajectory  $\Pi x(\cdot; x_0, A, B, K, \alpha)$  in  $\mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$  corresponding to  $\alpha$  and starting at  $q_0 = \Pi x_0 \in \mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$ . Corresponding rates of convergence and divergence are defined by replacing in the definitions of  $\text{rc}, \text{RC}, \text{rd}, \text{RD}$  the class of trajectories  $x(\cdot; 0, x_0, A, B, K, \alpha)$  corresponding to  $(T, \mu)$ -signals by the subclass corresponding to pairs  $(\alpha, x_0)$  that are  $\#$ -admissible for  $A, B, K$ . More precisely, let

$$\text{rc}_\#(A, B, K) := \inf -\lambda^+(x_0, A, B, K, \alpha) \text{ and } \text{rd}_\#(A, B, K) := \inf \lambda^-(x_0, A, B, K, \alpha),$$

where in both cases the infimum is taken over all  $(\alpha, x_0)$  which are  $\#$ -admissible for  $A, B, K$ . If the considered  $A, B, K$  are clear from the context, we omit these arguments here and in other expressions. Furthermore, let

$$\text{RC}_\#(A, B) := \sup_{K \in M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})} \text{rc}_\#(A, B, K) \text{ and } \text{RD}_\#(A, B) := \sup_{K \in M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})} \text{rd}_\#(A, B, K).$$

**Lemma 3.2** Let  $I := [\mu/T, 1]$  and  $K$  in  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$ . Consider the set  $C$  from Theorem 3.1 for the projected system (24)<sub>I</sub>. Fix a point  $\Pi x_- \in \text{int}C$ , and let  $x_0 := e^{(T-\mu)(A+BK)}x_-$ . Then for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists  $\bar{\tau} > 0$  such that for every  $t > \bar{\tau}$  and every  $\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$  there exists  $\alpha_{\#} \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$  with  $(\alpha_{\#}, x_0)$   $\#$ -admissible for  $A, B, K$  satisfying

$$\left| \lambda^+(x_0, A, B, K, \alpha_{\#}) - \frac{1}{t} \log |x(t; 0, x_0, A, B, K, \alpha)| \right| < \varepsilon. \quad (25)$$

*Proof.* First note that  $\Pi x_0 \in C$ , since  $\Pi x_-$  is in the invariant control set  $C$  and the control  $u \equiv 1$  has values in  $I = [\mu/T, 1]$ .

For every  $\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$  and  $t > 0$  consider the signal  $\alpha_{\#}^t$  obtained through the following procedure: Let  $\alpha_{\#}^t(s) = \alpha(s)$  for  $s \in [0, t]$  and  $\alpha_{\#}^t(s) = 1$  for  $s \in (t, t + T - \mu]$ . By Theorem 3.1 there exist a time  $\hat{\tau}$  independent of  $\alpha(\cdot)$  and  $t$  and a control  $v^t : [0, \tau^{(t)}] \rightarrow [\mu/T, 1]$  with  $\tau^{(t)} \leq \hat{\tau}$  such that  $\Pi x(\tau^{(t)}; 0, y^t, v^t) = \Pi x_-$ , where  $y^t := x(t + T - \mu; 0, x_0, \alpha_{\#}^t)$ . The definition of  $\alpha_{\#}^t$  is then concluded by taking

$$\alpha_{\#}^t(s) = \begin{cases} v^t(s - (T - \mu)) & \text{for } s \in (t + T - \mu, t + T - \mu + \tau^{(t)}) \\ 1 & \text{for } s \in (t + T - \mu + \tau^{(t)}, t + 2(T - \mu) + \tau^{(t)}) \end{cases}$$

and extending  $\alpha_{\#}^t$  periodically on  $\mathbb{R}$  with period

$$T^{(t)} := t + 2(T - \mu) + \tau^{(t)}.$$

Then  $\Pi x(T^{(t)}; x_0, A, B, K, \alpha_{\#}^t) = \Pi x_0$ , hence periodicity in projective space holds. By construction,  $\alpha_{\#}^t \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$  and  $(\alpha_{\#}^t, x_0)$  is  $\#$ -admissible for  $A, B, K$ . Periodicity in projective space and homogeneity of the evolution imply

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda^+(x_0, \alpha_{\#}^t) &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{kT^{(t)}} \log |x(kT^{(t)}; 0, x_0, \alpha_{\#}^t)| \\ &= \frac{1}{T^{(t)}} \log |x(T^{(t)}; 0, x_0, \alpha_{\#}^t)|. \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

Notice now that for every  $t > 0$

$$x(T^{(t)}; 0, x_0, \alpha_{\#}^t) = R^{(t)}x(t; 0, x_0, \alpha_{\#}^t),$$

where  $R^{(t)}$  denotes the principal fundamental solution on the interval  $[t, T^{(t)}]$  corresponding to  $\alpha_{\#}^t$ , evaluated at time  $T^{(t)}$ .

Since  $T^{(t)} - t \leq 2(T - \mu) + \hat{\tau}$ , Gronwall's lemma immediately yields the existence of  $C_0 > 1$  independent of  $t$  and  $\alpha(\cdot)$  such that  $\|R^{(t)}\|, \|(R^{(t)})^{-1}\| \leq C_0$  for all  $t > 0$ .

Then  $\alpha_{\#}^t(s) = \alpha(s)$  for  $s \in [0, t]$  implies

$$\left| \log |x(T^{(t)}; 0, x_0, \alpha_{\#}^t)| - \log |x(t; 0, x_0, \alpha)| \right| < \log C_0.$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \frac{1}{T^{(t)}} \log |x(T^{(t)}; 0, x_0, \alpha_{\#}^t)| - \frac{1}{t} \log |x(t; 0, x_0, \alpha)| \right| \\ & \leq \frac{1}{T^{(t)}} \left| \log |x(T^{(t)}; 0, x_0, \alpha_{\#}^t)| - \log |x(t; 0, x_0, \alpha_{\#}^t)| \right| + \left| \frac{1}{T^{(t)}} - \frac{1}{t} \right| \left| \log |x(t; 0, x_0, \alpha_{\#}^t)| \right| \\ & < \frac{1}{T^{(t)}} \left[ \log C_0 + (2(T - \mu) + \hat{\tau}) \frac{1}{t} \left| \log |x(t; 0, x_0, \alpha_{\#}^t)| \right| \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $A + \alpha BK$  is uniformly bounded for  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ , Gronwall's lemma again shows that

$$\frac{1}{t} \left| \log |x(t; 0, x_0, \alpha_{\#}^t)| \right| < C_1$$

for a constant  $C_1 > 0$ , uniformly with respect to  $t \geq 1$  and  $\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$ . It follows that for  $t \geq 1$

$$\left| \frac{1}{T^{(t)}} \log |x(T^{(t)}; 0, x_0, \alpha_{\#}^t)| - \frac{1}{t} \log |x(t; 0, x_0, \alpha_{\#}^t)| \right| < \frac{1}{t} (\log C_0 + (2T + \hat{\tau})C_1).$$

Assertion (25) then follows from (26) by taking  $t \geq \bar{\tau} := 1 + \varepsilon^{-1} (\log C_0 + (2T + \hat{\tau})C_1)$ .  $\blacksquare$

The periodic approximation provided by Lemma 3.1 gives the following approximation result for the rate of convergence.

**Proposition 3.3** *Let  $(A, B)$  be in  $P_{d,m}$ . For every  $K \in \text{PLARC}(A, B)$ , we have  $\text{rc}(A, B, K) = \text{rc}_{\#}(A, B, K)$ .*

*Proof.* For every  $K$  the inequality

$$\text{rc}(A, B, K) \leq \text{rc}_{\#}(A, B, K) \tag{27}$$

is trivially satisfied. In order to prove the converse inequality, we fix  $K \in \text{PLARC}(A, B)$ , a constant  $m \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\text{rc}(A, B, K) < m$ , and we show that  $\text{rc}_{\#}(A, B, K) < m$ . By definition, there exist a  $(T, \mu)$ -signal  $\alpha_0$  and a vector  $x_0$  such that

$$\lambda^+(x_0, A, B, K, \alpha_0) = \limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{t} \log |x(t; 0, x_0, A, B, K, \alpha_0)| > -m. \tag{28}$$

For a given function  $\alpha_0$  the maximal Lyapunov exponent  $\Lambda^+(A, B, K, \alpha_0)$  is attained on every basis of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  (see [6, Chapter 2]). Since, moreover,  $\text{int}C$  is nonvoid, the set

$$\left\{ e^{(T-\mu)(A+BK)}x \mid \Pi x \in \text{int}C \right\}$$

contains a basis of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . This implies that in (28) the point  $x_0$  can be chosen in this set. Now we can apply Lemma 3.2 with  $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2}(\lambda^+(x_0, A, B, K, \alpha_0) + m)$ ,  $\alpha = \alpha_0$ , and  $t$  large enough such that

$$\frac{1}{t} \log |x(t; 0, x_0, \alpha_0)| > -m + \varepsilon.$$

Thus there is  $\alpha_{\#}^t$  such that  $(x_0, \alpha_{\#}^t)$  is  $\#$ -admissible with

$$\lambda^+(x_0, A, B, K, \alpha_{\#}^t) > -m.$$

It follows that  $\text{rc}_{\#}(A, B, K) < m$ .  $\blacksquare$

Next we analyze the relations between convergence and divergence rates using time reversal in PE systems. The time reversed system corresponding to a non-autonomous control system of the type  $\dot{x} = Ax + \alpha(t)Bu$  is  $\dot{x} = -Ax - \alpha(-t)Bu$ . This justifies the notation  $\alpha_-(t) = \alpha(-t)$  for every signal  $\alpha$ . Moreover, it is clear that the two systems have the same accessibility properties and, in particular, that  $\text{PLARC}(A, B) = \text{PLARC}(-A, -B)$ .

The rates of convergence and divergence for  $\#$ -admissible pairs satisfy the following property under time reversal.

**Proposition 3.4** *Let  $(A, B)$  be in  $P_{d,m}$  and  $K \in M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})$ . Then  $\text{rd}_{\#}(-A, -B, K) = \text{rc}_{\#}(A, B, K)$ .*

*Proof.* Note that  $(\alpha, x_0)$  is  $\#$ -admissible for  $A, B, K$  if and only if  $(\alpha_-, x_0)$  is  $\#$ -admissible for  $-A, -B, K$  and  $-\lambda^+(x_0, A, B, K, \alpha) = \lambda^-(x_0, -A, -B, K, \alpha_-)$ .

Then, by taking the infimum with respect to all  $\#$ -admissible pairs  $(\alpha, x_0)$  for  $A, B, K$  one concludes

$$\begin{aligned} \text{rc}_{\#}(A, B, K) &= \inf\{-\lambda^+(x_0, A, B, K, \alpha) \mid (\alpha, x_0) \# \text{-admissible for } A, B, K\} \\ &= \inf\{\lambda^-(x_0, -A, -B, K, \alpha_-) \mid (\alpha, x_0) \# \text{-admissible for } -A, -B, K\} \\ &= \text{rd}_{\#}(-A, -B, K). \end{aligned}$$

■

Next we provide a property dealing with the rate of divergence and  $\#$ -admissible pairs. The proof is an adaptation of [10, §3.4].

**Proposition 3.5** *Let  $(A, B)$  be in  $P_{d,m}$  and  $K \in \text{PLARC}(A, B)$ . Then  $\text{rd}_{\#}(A, B, K) = \text{rd}(A, B, K)$ .*

*Proof.* The inequality  $\text{rd}(A, B, K) \leq \text{rd}_{\#}(A, B, K)$  holds trivially. In order to show the converse define for  $t > 0$

$$S^t(A, B, K) = \{R(t, \alpha, A, B, K) \mid \alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu), \alpha \text{ } t\text{-periodic}\},$$

where  $R(\cdot, \alpha, A, B, K)$  denotes the solution of the Cauchy problem

$$\dot{R} = (A + \alpha BK)R, \quad R(0) = \text{Id}. \quad (29)$$

Thus  $S^t(A, B, K)$  consists of fundamental solutions for  $\dot{x} = A + \alpha BK$  evaluated at time  $t$ . Note that not every function  $\alpha$  satisfying the persistent excitation condition (3) on  $[0, t]$  may be extended to a  $(T, \mu)$ -signal in  $\mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$ . Set

$$\delta(A, B, K) = \limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{t} \sup_{g \in S^t(A, B, K)} \log \|g\|, \quad \delta^*(A, B, K) = \liminf_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{t} \inf_{g \in S^t(A, B, K)} \log m(g),$$

where  $m(\cdot)$  is the *conorm* corresponding to the vector norm  $|\cdot|$ , defined by

$$m(g) = \min\{|gx| \mid |x| = 1\}.$$

Let us prove that  $S^t(-A, -B, K) = \{g^{-1} \mid g \in S^t(A, B, K)\} = (S^t(A, B, K))^{-1}$  for every  $t > 0$ . This follows by time reversal: Set  $V(s) = R(s, \alpha, -A, -B, K)$  for  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ , with  $\alpha$   $t$ -periodic and in  $\mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$ . Then,  $V(0) = \text{Id}$  and

$$\dot{V} = (-A - \alpha BK)V.$$

Fix  $s \geq 0$  and let  $G_s(t) = V(t)V(s)^{-1}$ . Then, for  $t \in [0, s]$ ,  $G_s(s-t) = R(t, \alpha_s, A, B, K)$ , where  $\alpha_s(\tau) := \alpha(s-\tau)$ ,  $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$ . Therefore, for every  $s \geq 0$ ,  $V(s)^{-1} = R(s, \alpha_s, A, B, K)$ . Hence,  $V(t) = R(t, \alpha_-, A, B, K)^{-1}$ , since  $\alpha_t = \alpha_-$  by  $t$ -periodicity. Hence

$$\delta(-A, -B, K) = \limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{t} \sup \log \|g\|, \quad \delta^*(-A, -B, K) = \liminf_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{t} \inf \log m(g),$$

where the supremum and the infimum are taken over all  $g \in S^t(-A, -B, K) = (S^t(A, B, K))^{-1}$ . Using as in [10, Lemma 3.1] the relation  $\|g\| = m(g^{-1})^{-1}$ , we have

$$\inf_{g \in S^t(A, B, K)} \log m(g) = - \sup_{g \in (S^t(A, B, K))^{-1}} \log \|g\|.$$

Dividing by  $t$  and taking the  $\liminf$  as  $t$  goes to  $+\infty$  one finds

$$\delta^*(A, B, K) = -\delta(-A, -B, K). \quad (30)$$

Recall that by Proposition 3.4

$$\text{rd}_{\#}(A, B, K) = \text{rc}_{\#}(-A, -B, K). \quad (31)$$

Let us next prove that

$$\delta^*(A, B, K) \leq \text{rd}(A, B, K). \quad (32)$$

For  $t > 0$  define

$$Q^t(A, B, K) = \{R(t, \alpha, A, B, K) \mid \alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)\},$$

and set

$$\delta^*(t) := \inf_{g \in S^t(A, B, K)} \log m(g), \quad \delta_1^*(t) := \inf_{g \in Q^t(A, B, K)} \log m(g).$$

We next prove that

$$\delta^*(A, B, K) = \liminf_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \delta^*(t)/t = \liminf_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \delta_1^*(t)/t. \quad (33)$$

The first equality is clear by definition, and we trivially have  $\delta^*(t) \geq \delta_1^*(t)$  for every  $t > 0$ , since  $S^t(A, B, L) \subset Q^t(A, B, L)$ . Let us now show that there exist  $C, \bar{t} > 0$  such that  $\delta^*(t) - \delta_1^*(t) \leq C$  for every  $t \geq \bar{t}$ .

Abbreviate  $R(t, \alpha) := R(t, \alpha, A, B, K)$  and pick any  $g := R(t, \alpha) \in Q^t(A, B, K)$  corresponding to  $\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$  and  $t \geq T$ . We modify  $\alpha$  in order to get a periodic  $(T, \mu)$ -signal  $\tilde{\alpha} \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$  as follows:

$$\tilde{\alpha}(s) = \begin{cases} \alpha(s) & \text{for } s \in [0, t - T] \\ 1 & \text{for } s \in (t - T, t) \end{cases}$$

and extend  $\tilde{\alpha}$   $t$ -periodically to  $\mathbb{R}$ . Notice that  $\tilde{g} := R(t, \tilde{\alpha}) \in S^t(A, B, K)$  and

$$g = R(T, \alpha(\cdot + t - T))R(t - T, \alpha), \quad \tilde{g} = e^{T(A+BL)}R(t - T, \alpha).$$

We conclude

$$\|g^{-1}\| = \|R(t - T, \alpha)^{-1}R(T, \alpha(\cdot + t - T))^{-1}\| \leq \|e^{T(A+BL)}\| \|\tilde{g}^{-1}\| \|R(T, \alpha(\cdot + t - T))^{-1}\|.$$

Since  $\|R(T, \alpha(\cdot + t - T))^{-1}\|$  is bounded, uniformly with respect to  $\alpha$  and  $t \geq T$ , there is a constant  $C > 0$  such that  $\|g^{-1}\| \leq C_0 \|\tilde{g}^{-1}\|$ . Then clearly

$$\log m(g) = -\log \|g^{-1}\| \geq -\log \|\tilde{g}^{-1}\| - C = \log m(\tilde{g}) - C \geq \delta_1^*(t) - C.$$

Taking the infimum over  $g \in Q^t(A, B, L)$  one gets equality (33).

If  $K \in \text{PLARC}(A, B)$  we conclude the proof of the proposition by showing that

$$\text{rc}_{\#}(-A, -B, K) \leq -\delta(-A, -B, K).$$

Combining it with (30), (31), (32) this will prove, as desired,

$$\text{rd}_{\#}(A, B, K) = \text{rc}_{\#}(-A, -B, K) \leq -\delta(-A, -B, K) = \delta^*(A, B, K) \leq \text{rd}(A, B, K). \quad (34)$$

Then equalities hold here. We emphasize that the assumption that  $K \in \text{PLARC}(A, B)$  is only used at this stage of the argument.

For the sake of notational simplicity, let us prove the equivalent inequality  $\text{rc}_{\#}(A, B, K) \leq -\delta(A, B, K)$  (recall that  $\text{PLARC}(A, B) = \text{PLARC}(-A, -B)$ ). Since  $\text{int}C$  is nonempty, there is a basis of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , say  $e_1, \dots, e_d$  with  $\Pi e_1, \dots, \Pi e_d \in \text{int}C$ . Then, clearly, for every  $t > 0$  and every  $g \in S^t(A, B, K)$ ,

$$\frac{1}{t} \log \|g\| \leq \frac{1}{t} \log \left( \max_{i=1, \dots, d} |ge_i| \right) + \frac{1}{t} \log d.$$

Then, for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exist  $i \in \{1, \dots, d\}$ ,  $t > 0$  arbitrarily large, and  $\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$  such that  $\alpha$  is  $t$ -periodic and

$$\frac{1}{t} \log |x(t; 0, e_i, A, B, K, \alpha)| > \delta(A, B, K) - \varepsilon.$$

Applying Lemma 3.2 with  $x_0 = e_i$  and  $\alpha, t, \varepsilon$  as above, we obtain that there exists  $\alpha_{\#}$  such that  $(\alpha_{\#}, e_i)$  is  $\#$ -admissible for  $A, B, K$  and

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{s} \log |x(s; 0, e_i, A, B, K, \alpha_{\#})| > \delta(A, B, K) - 2\varepsilon.$$

We deduce that  $\text{rc}_{\#}(A, B, K) \leq -\delta(A, B, K)$ , as required. ■

**Corollary 3.6** *If  $K$  belongs to  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$  then*

$$\text{rc}(A, B, K) = \text{rd}(-A, -B, K) = -\delta(A, B, K).$$

*Proof.* Since  $K \in \text{PLARC}(A, B)$ ,

$$\text{rc}(A, B, K) = \text{rc}_{\#}(A, B, K) = \text{rd}_{\#}(-A, -B, K) = \text{rd}(-A, -B, K), \quad (35)$$

where the first equality follows from Proposition 3.3, the second equality from Proposition 3.4, and the last equality from Proposition 3.5 applied to the pair  $(-A, -B)$ . Since equalities hold in (34), we also have

$$\text{rd}(-A, -B, K) = -\delta(A, B, K). \quad \blacksquare$$

**Remark 3.7** Using the second equality in Corollary 3.6 and the definition of  $\delta$ , one can also show that  $\text{rc}(A, B, K)$  is equal to the supremal Bohl exponent

$$\sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)} \limsup_{s, t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{t-s} \log \|R(t, s, \alpha, A, B, K)\|,$$

where  $R(t, s, \alpha, A, B, K)$  is the solution of the differential equation in (29) with initial condition  $R(s) = \text{Id}$ . This is analogous to [11, Theorem 7.2.20].

## 4 Continuity properties of the growth rates

We investigate in this section the continuity properties of the convergence and divergence rates, i.e. of the maps  $(A, B, K) \mapsto \text{rc}(A, B, K)$  and  $(A, B, K) \mapsto \text{rd}(A, B, K)$  defined in (6). This issue can be restated as the study of the continuity properties of the maximal and minimal Lyapunov exponents of system (4) with respect to  $(A, B, K)$ .

Denote by  $\theta$  the flow

$$\theta_t : \alpha \mapsto \alpha(t + \cdot), \quad t \in \mathbb{R},$$

defined on  $\mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$ . Clearly, the periodic points of the shift are the periodic  $(T, \mu)$ -signals.

**Lemma 4.1** *The periodic  $(T, \mu)$ -signals are dense in  $\mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$ . We construct a sequence of periodic  $(T, \mu)$ -signals  $\alpha_k$  weak- $\star$  converging to  $\alpha$ . Define

$$\alpha_k(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } [-T + \mu - k, -k), \\ \alpha(t) & \text{for } t \in [-k, k], \\ 1 & \text{for } t \in (k, k + T - \mu], \end{cases}$$

and extend on  $\mathbb{R}$  by  $2(k + T - \mu)$ -periodicity. Then  $\alpha_k$  belongs to  $\mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$ . Take  $y \in L^1(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$  and let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . There exists  $k_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for all  $k \geq k_\varepsilon$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R} \setminus [-k, k]} |y(t)| dt < \varepsilon.$$

Then, for  $k > k_\varepsilon$ ,

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{R}} y(t) \alpha_k(t) dt - \int_{\mathbb{R}} y(t) \alpha(t) dt \right| \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}} |y(t)| |\alpha_k(t) - \alpha(t)| dt \leq \int_{\mathbb{R} \setminus [-k, k]} |y(t)| dt < \varepsilon.$$

■

Since  $\mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$  is compact connected metrizable for the weak- $\star$  topology, the above lemma yields that the flow  $\theta$  in the base  $\mathcal{G}(T, \mu)$  is chain transitive and the flows  $\Phi = \Phi(A, B, K)$  on  $\mathcal{G}(T, \mu) \times \mathbb{R}^d$  depend continuously on  $(A, B, K)$ . Thus the flow  $\Phi$  satisfies the assumptions in [11, Corollary 5.3.11] and upper semicontinuity of the supremal spectral growth rates follows. More precisely, for a sequence  $(A^n, B^n, K^n) \rightarrow (A, B, K)$  with Lyapunov exponents denoted by  $\lambda^n$  one has

$$\sup\{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} \mid \text{there are Lyapunov exponents } \lambda^n \text{ with } \lambda^n \rightarrow \lambda\} \leq \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu), x_0 \neq 0} \lambda^+(x_0, A, B, K, \alpha).$$

(Here, in addition to [11, Corollary 5.3.11], it is used that the supremum of the Morse spectrum coincides with the supremum over all Lyapunov exponents, [11, Theorem 5.1.6].) In the same way, one obtains that

$$\inf\{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} \mid \text{there are Lyapunov exponents } \lambda^n \text{ with } \lambda^n \rightarrow \lambda\} \geq \inf_{\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu), x_0 \neq 0} \lambda^-(x_0, A^0, B^0, K^0, \alpha).$$

An immediate consequence is that

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu), x_0 \neq 1} \lambda^+(x_0, A^n, B^n, K^n, \alpha) \leq \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu), x_0 \neq 0} \lambda^+(x_0, A^0, B^0, K^0, \alpha).$$

In other words, the maximal Lyapunov exponent is upper semicontinuous or, equivalently, the rate of convergence  $\text{rc}(A, B, K)$  is lower semicontinuous with respect to  $(A, B, K)$ . Analogously,

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \inf_{\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu), x_0 \neq 1} \lambda^-(x_0, A^n, B^n, K^n, \alpha) \geq \inf_{\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu), x_0 \neq 1} \lambda^-(x_0, A^0, B^0, K^0, \alpha),$$

Hence the minimal Lyapunov exponent is lower semicontinuous or, equivalently, the rate of divergence  $\text{rd}(A, B, K)$  is lower semicontinuous with respect to  $(A, B, K)$ .

**Theorem 4.2** (i) *The functions  $\text{rc}, \text{rd} : P_{d,m} \times M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, (A, B, K) \mapsto \text{rc}(A, B, K)$  are lower semicontinuous. (ii) The restrictions of  $\text{rc}$  and  $\text{rd}$  to the set of all  $(A, B, K)$  with  $K \in \text{PLARC}(A, B)$  are also upper semicontinuous, and hence continuous there.*

*Proof.* Assertion (i) has been established above. We show upper semicontinuity of  $\text{rc}(A, B, K)$ , i.e., lower semicontinuity of the maximal Lyapunov exponent on  $\{(A, B, K) \mid K \in \text{PLARC}(A, B)\}$ .

Consider a sequence  $(A^n, B^n, K^n) \rightarrow (A^0, B^0, K^0)$ . We have to show that

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{rc}(A^n, B^n, K^n) \leq \text{rc}(A^0, B^0, K^0), \quad (36)$$

that is

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu), x_0 \neq 0} \lambda^+(x_0, A^n, B^n, K^n, \alpha) \geq \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu), x_0 \neq 0} \lambda^+(x_0, A^0, B^0, K^0, \alpha).$$

Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Since  $\text{rc}(A^0, B^0, K^0) = \text{rc}_{\#}(A^0, B^0, K^0)$ , there exists a  $\#$ -admissible pair  $(\alpha_\varepsilon, x_{0,\varepsilon})$  such that

$$\left| \text{rc}(A^0, B^0, K^0) - \frac{1}{\tau_\varepsilon} \log |\mu_\varepsilon| \right| < \varepsilon,$$

where  $\tau_\varepsilon$  is the period of the trajectory on  $\mathbb{RP}^{d-1}$  associated with  $\alpha_\varepsilon$  and starting from  $\Pi x_{0,\varepsilon}$  and  $\mu_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}$  satisfies  $R_\varepsilon(\tau_\varepsilon)x_{0,\varepsilon} = \mu_\varepsilon x_{0,\varepsilon}$ , with  $R_\varepsilon(\cdot)$  the fundamental matrix

$$\dot{R}_\varepsilon(t) = (A^0 + \alpha_\varepsilon(t)B^0K^0)R_\varepsilon(t), \quad R_\varepsilon(0) = \text{Id}_d.$$

Furthermore, recall that eigenvalues depend continuously on the matrix (this follows, e.g., from [17, Lemma A.4.1]). For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $R^n$  be the fundamental matrix

$$\dot{R}^n(t) = (A^n + \alpha_\varepsilon(t)B^nK^n)R^n(t), \quad R^n(0) = \text{Id}_d.$$

Then there exists a sequence  $(\mu_\varepsilon^n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  in  $\mathbb{C}$  converging to  $\mu_\varepsilon$  as  $n$  tends to infinity such that  $\mu_\varepsilon^n$  is an eigenvalue of  $R^n(\tau_\varepsilon)$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . One therefore has for  $n$  large enough that

$$\left| \frac{1}{\tau_\varepsilon} \log |\mu_\varepsilon| - \frac{1}{\tau_\varepsilon} \log |\mu_\varepsilon^n| \right| < \varepsilon.$$

Furthermore, there is  $x_\varepsilon^n \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$  in the generalized real eigenspace associated with  $(\mu_\varepsilon^n, \overline{\mu_\varepsilon^n})$  such that

$$|R^n(k\tau_\varepsilon)x_\varepsilon^n| = |\mu_\varepsilon^n|^k, \quad \text{for every } k \in \mathbb{N}.$$

This implies

$$\sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(T, \mu), x_0 \neq 0} \lambda^+(x_0, A^n, B^n, K^n, \alpha) \geq \lambda^+(x_\varepsilon^n, A^n, B^n, K^n, \alpha_\varepsilon) = \frac{1}{\tau_\varepsilon} \log |\mu_\varepsilon^n|,$$

and hence for  $n$  large enough

$$\text{rc}(A^n, B^n, K^n) \leq \frac{1}{\tau_\varepsilon} \log |\mu_\varepsilon^n| \leq \frac{1}{\tau_\varepsilon} \log |\mu_\varepsilon| + \varepsilon \leq \text{rc}(A^0, B^0, K^0) + 2\varepsilon.$$

Since  $\varepsilon$  is arbitrary, assertion (36) follows.

Finally, upper semicontinuity of  $\text{rd}(A, B, K)$  is a consequence of Corollary 3.6. ■

## 5 Properties of maximal growth rates

Thanks to the results of the previous sections, we are ready to state the main result of the paper, equality between maximal growth rates for PE systems.

**Theorem 5.1** *Let  $(A, B) \in P_{d,m}$  and assume that  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$  is dense in  $M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})$ , i.e., the set of matrices  $K$  such that  $(A, BK)$  satisfies the Lie algebra rank condition in projective space is dense. Then for persistently excited systems of the form (4) the maximal rate of convergence defined in (14) and the maximal rate of divergence defined in (15) satisfy*

$$\text{RC}(A, B) = \text{RD}(-A, -B).$$

*Proof.* By definition of  $\text{RC}(A, B)$ , for every  $\xi < \text{RC}(A, B)$  there exists  $K_\xi \in M_{d,m}(\mathbb{R})$  such that  $\text{rc}(A, B, K_\xi) > \xi$ . By density of  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$  in  $M_{d,m}(\mathbb{R})$ , there exists a sequence  $(K_\xi^n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  in  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$  converging to  $K_\xi$ . Theorem 4.2(i) shows lower semicontinuity of  $\text{rc}(A, B, \cdot)$  on  $M_{d,m}(\mathbb{R})$  and hence  $\text{rc}(A, B, K_\xi^n) > \xi$  for  $n$  large enough. Hence

$$\text{RC}(A, B) = \sup_{K \in \text{PLARC}(A, B)} \text{rc}(A, B, K) = \sup_{K \in \text{PLARC}(A, B)} \text{rc}_\#(A, B, K),$$

where the last equality follows from Proposition 3.3. Proposition 3.4 then implies that  $\text{RC}(A, B) = \sup_{K \in \text{PLARC}(A, B)} \text{rd}_\#(-A, -B, K)$

Now by the lower semicontinuity of  $\text{rd}(A, B, \cdot)$  on  $M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})$  we obtain as claimed

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{K \in \text{PLARC}(A, B)} \text{rd}_\#(-A, -B, K) &= \sup_{K \in \text{PLARC}(A, B)} \text{rd}(-A, -B, K) \\ &= \sup_{K \in M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})} \text{rd}(-A, -B, K) = \text{RD}(-A, -B). \end{aligned}$$

■

The following proposition provides sufficient conditions for  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$  to be dense in  $M_{d,m}(\mathbb{R})$ .

**Proposition 5.2** *Let  $(A, B) \in P_{d,m}$ . If  $\text{LARC}(A, B)$  is nonempty then  $\text{LARC}(A, B)$  and hence  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$  are dense in  $M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})$ .*

*Proof.* Assume that  $\text{LARC}(A, B)$  is nonempty. Then there exists  $K_0 \in M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})$  such that  $\text{Lie}(A, BK_0) = M_d(\mathbb{R})$ . Let us select a basis of  $M_d(\mathbb{R})$  made of iterated Lie brackets of  $A$  and  $BK_0$ , denoted by  $Q_1(K_0), \dots, Q_{d^2}(K_0)$ .

For every  $K \in M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})$  and  $j = 1, \dots, d^2$ , denote by  $Q_j(K)$  the iterated Lie bracket of  $A$  and  $BK$  obtained by replacing  $K_0$  by  $K$  in the Lie bracket expression of  $Q_j(K_0)$ .

Consider each  $Q_j(K)$  as a row vector of  $\mathbb{R}^{d^2}$  and define  $f(K) = \det(Q_1(K), \dots, Q_{d^2}(K))$ . Since  $f$  is an analytic function of the entries of  $K$  and  $f(K_0) \neq 0$ , we deduce that  $f$  cannot vanish on any nonempty open subset of  $M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})$ .

This proves the density of  $\text{LARC}(A, B)$ . Then density of  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$  follows from Lemma 2.9.

■

We therefore deduce the following by-product of Theorem 5.1 and Proposition 5.2.

**Corollary 5.3** *Let  $(A, B) \in P_{d,m}$  and assume that  $\text{LARC}(A, B)$  is nonempty in  $M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})$ . Then  $\text{RC}(A, B) = \text{RD}(-A, -B)$ .*

In the context of control theory, it seems reasonable to address the issue of a possible relationship between non-emptiness of  $\text{LARC}(A, B)$  (or  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$ ) and controllability of the pair  $(A, B)$ .

More precisely, is it true that if  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$  is nonempty then  $(A, B)$  is controllable? The next proposition shows that the answer is yes, except in trivial situations.

**Proposition 5.4** *Let  $(A, B) \in P_{d,m}$  be a non-controllable pair such that  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$  is nonempty. Then  $B = 0$  and either  $d = 1$  and  $A \neq 0$  or  $d = 2$  and the eigenvalues of  $A$  are non-real.*

*Proof.* Consider a controllability decomposition of the pair  $(A, B)$  of the form

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} A_1 & A_2 \\ 0 & A_3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} B_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $(A_1, B_1) \in P_{r,m}$  is controllable with controllability index  $r < d$  and  $A_3 \in M_{d-r}(\mathbb{R})$ .

Let  $K \in \text{PLARC}(A, B)$ . It is clear that every matrix  $C$  in the Lie algebra  $\text{Lie}(A, BK)$  is of the form

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} C_1 & C_2 \\ 0 & C_3 \end{pmatrix},$$

with  $C_1 \in M_r(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $C_3 \in M_{d-r}(\mathbb{R})$ .

If  $r > 0$  then the Lie algebra  $\text{Lie}(A, BK)$  is reducible, contradicting  $K \in \text{PLARC}(A, B)$ , as noticed in Remark 2.10. This proves that  $r = 0$ , hence  $B = 0$ .

Then the tangent space to any orbit of  $\dot{q} = (\Pi A)q$ ,  $q \in \mathbb{R}\mathbb{P}^{d-1}$ , is of dimension at most one, implying that  $d \leq 2$ . If  $d = 1$  then  $A$  must be nonzero, while if  $d = 2$  then  $A$  does not have an invariant space of dimension one, hence the result.  $\blacksquare$

As a consequence of Proposition 5.4 we will assume in the next section that the considered systems are controllable.

We conjecture that the result in Proposition 5.2 can be sharpened to:  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$  is dense if it is nonempty. Then it would suffice in Theorem 5.1 to require that  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$  is nonempty. The conjecture is true when  $(A, B)$  is non-controllable (Proposition 5.4) and in the single-input case (see Theorem 6.1 in the next section). The following further result in the direction of the conjecture derives from a standard compactness argument.

**Lemma 5.5** *Let  $(A, B) \in P_{d,m}$ . Then  $\text{PLARC}(A, B)$  is open in  $M_{m,d}(\mathbb{R})$ .*

## 6 The single-input case

In this section we assume  $m = 1$  and we use  $b$  to denote the  $d \times 1$  matrix  $B$ . Let, moreover,  $(e_1, \dots, e_d)$  be the canonical basis of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

### 6.1 Conditions for $K$ to belong to $\text{PLARC}(A, b)$

Given a controllable pair  $(A, b) \in P_{d,1}$ , let  $v(A, b)$  and  $P(A, b)$  be, respectively, the unique row vector in  $M_{1,d}(\mathbb{R})$  and the unique invertible matrix so that  $(J_d + e_d v(A, b), e_d)$  is the controllability form of  $(A - \text{Tr}(A)\text{Id}, b)$  (cf. [17]) and  $P(A, b)$  is the corresponding change of coordinates, i.e.,

$$P(A, b)^{-1}(J_d + e_d v(A, b))P(A, b) = A - \text{Tr}(A)\text{Id}, \quad P(A, b)^{-1}e_d = b.$$

Note that  $v(A, b)e_d = 0$  by construction.

We now provide the main result of the section, which ensures that  $\text{PLARC}(A, b)$  is dense if the pair  $(A, b)$  is controllable.

**Theorem 6.1** *Let  $(A, b) \in P_{d,1}$  be a controllable pair. There exists  $c > 0$  such that, for every  $K \in M_{1,d}(\mathbb{R})$  for which the eigenvalues of  $A + bK$  have either all real part smaller than  $-c$  or all real part larger than  $c$ , it follows that  $K \in \text{LARC}(A - \text{Tr}(A)\text{Id}, b)$ . In particular,  $\text{PLARC}(A, b)$  is dense in  $M_{1,d}(\mathbb{R})$ .*

**Remark 6.2** Theorem 6.1 does not generalize to the multi-input case under the sole condition that  $(A, B)$  is controllable. Think for instance of the system  $(A, B) = (0_d, \text{Id}_d)$ . Then clearly  $\text{RC}(A, B) = +\infty$  and  $\text{PLARC}(A, B) = \emptyset$ .

The proof of Theorem 6.1 is based on the following two technical results.

**Proposition 6.3** *Let  $(A, b) \in P_{d,1}$  be a controllable pair and  $v(A, b)$  and  $P(A, b)$  be defined as above. Fix  $K \in M_{1,d}(\mathbb{R})$ . For  $j \geq 0$ , set  $K_j = K(J_d + e_d v(A, b))^j$ , and  $r_j = K(J_d + e_d v(A, b))^j e_d$ . Then  $KP(A, b) \in \text{LARC}(A - \text{Tr}(A)\text{Id}, b)$  if  $r_j \neq 0$  for every  $j = 0, \dots, d-1$  and  $K_0, \dots, K_{d-1}$  are linearly independent. In particular,  $\text{LARC}(J_d, e_d)$  contains all line vectors with coefficients in  $\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ .*

*Proof.* In this proof we abbreviate  $v := v(A, b)$  and  $P := (A, b)$ . Since

$$\text{LARC}(J_d + e_d v, e_d) = \text{LARC}(P(A - \text{Tr}(A)\text{Id})P^{-1}, Pb) = \text{LARC}(A - \text{Tr}(A)\text{Id}, b)P^{-1} \quad (37)$$

we can assume without loss of generality that  $(A, b)$  is in controllable form and that  $\text{Tr}(A) = 0$ , i.e.,  $A = J_d + e_d v$ ,  $b = e_d$ ,  $v e_d = 0$ .

For  $j \geq 0$ , define

$$f_{d-j} = (J_d + e_d v)^j e_d.$$

We next prove that the rank-1 matrices  $f_j K_l$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, d$ ,  $l = 0, \dots, d-1$ , belong to

$$\mathcal{L} := \text{Lie}(J_d + e_d v, e_d K).$$

Notice that for  $j, l \geq 0$

$$K_l f_{d-j} = r_{l+j}.$$

Straightforward computations yield for  $j \leq d$  and  $l \geq 0$

$$\begin{aligned} [J_d + e_d v, f_j K_l] &= f_j K_{l+1} - f_{j-1} K_l, \\ [f_j K_l, [J_d + e_d v, f_j K_l]] &= -2r_{d+l+1-j} f_j K_l - r_{d+l-j} (f_{j-1} K_l + f_j K_{l+1}). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, if  $f_j K_l$  is in  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $r_{d+l-j}$  is different from zero, then  $f_j K_{l+1}$  and  $f_{j-1} K_l$  also belong to  $\mathcal{L}$ .

By a trivial induction one deduces that  $f_j K_l \in \mathcal{L}$  for  $j \leq d$ ,  $l \geq 0$  and  $1 \leq j-l \leq d$ , since  $e_d K = f_d K_0 \in \mathcal{L}$  and  $r_0, \dots, r_{d-1}$  are not zero.

We prove by induction on  $m = l - j$  that the following property holds true:

$(\mathcal{P}_m)$  For every  $j \leq d$  and  $l \geq 0$  such that  $j - l \geq m$  we have  $f_j K_l \in \mathcal{L}$ .

We proved  $\mathcal{P}_m$  for  $m$  up to  $-1$ . Assume that  $\mathcal{P}_m$  holds true for  $m \geq -1$ . Notice that for  $j \leq d-1$  and  $l \leq d-2$  one has

$$[f_j K_l, f_{j+1} K_{l+1}] = r_{d-1-(j-l)} f_j K_{l+1} - r_{d+1-(j-l)} f_{j+1} K_l$$

and  $r_{d-1-(j-l)} \neq 0$ . If  $l - j = m$  then  $f_{j+1} K_l \in \mathcal{L}$  and we conclude that also  $f_j K_{l+1}$  is in  $\mathcal{L}$ , i.e.,  $\mathcal{P}_{m+1}$  holds true.

We have proved, as claimed, that  $f_j K_l \in \mathcal{L}$  for  $j = 1, \dots, d$  and  $l = 0, \dots, d-1$ . Since  $f_1, \dots, f_d$  and  $K_0, \dots, K_{d-1}$  are linearly independent, respectively by construction and by hypothesis, then it follows that  $\mathcal{L} = M_d(\mathbb{R})$ , concluding the proof of the proposition.  $\blacksquare$

**Proposition 6.4** *If all the real parts of the eigenvalues of  $J_d + e_d K$  are nonzero and have the same sign, then  $|k_{d-m}| \geq c_0 |k_{d-m+1}| (d-m)/(m+1)$  for every  $m = 0, \dots, d-1$ , with  $k_{d+1} := 1$  and  $c_0 := \min_{\lambda \in \sigma(J_d + e_d K)} |\Re(\lambda)|$ .*

*Proof.* Denote by  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d$  the eigenvalues of  $J_d + e_d K$ . Notice that  $|k_d| = |\lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_d| = |\Re(\lambda_1)| + \dots + |\Re(\lambda_d)| \geq d c_0$ .

For  $m = 1, \dots, d$ ,

$$|k_{d-m+1}| = \left| \sum_{j_1 < \dots < j_m} \lambda_{j_1} \cdots \lambda_{j_m} \right| = \sum_{j_1 < \dots < j_m} |\Re(\lambda_{j_1} \cdots \lambda_{j_m})|.$$

Since

$$\sum_{j_1 < \dots < j_m} \left( \lambda_{j_1} \cdots \lambda_{j_m} \sum_{j \neq j_1, \dots, j_m} \lambda_j \right) = (m+1) \sum_{j_1 < \dots < j_{m+1}} \lambda_{j_1} \cdots \lambda_{j_{m+1}},$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} (m+1)|k_{d-m}| &= \left| \sum_{j_1 < \dots < j_m} \left( \lambda_{j_1} \cdots \lambda_{j_m} \sum_{j \neq j_1, \dots, j_m} \lambda_j \right) \right| \\ &\geq \sum_{j_1 < \dots < j_m} \sum_{j \neq j_1, \dots, j_m} |\Re(\lambda_{j_1} \cdots \lambda_{j_m})| |\Re(\lambda_j)| \\ &\geq \sum_{j_1 < \dots < j_m} (n-m) |\Re(\lambda_{j_1} \cdots \lambda_{j_m})| c_0 = (d-m)c_0 |k_{d-m+1}|. \end{aligned}$$

This concludes the proof. ■

We can now prove Theorem 6.1.

*Proof of Theorem 6.1.* According to (37), one must prove the assertion for  $(A, b) = (J_d + e_d v, e_d)$  with  $v e_d = 0$ .

Let then  $K \in M_{1,d}(\mathbb{R})$  be such that the eigenvalues of  $J_d + e_d(v + K)$  have either all real part smaller than  $-c$  or all real part larger than  $c$  for some  $c > 0$  to be chosen later. Applying Proposition 6.4 one gets that for every  $m = 1, \dots, d-1$ ,

$$|k_{d-m} + v_{d-m}| \geq c |k_{d-m+1} + v_{d-m+1}| (d-m)/(m+1),$$

and  $|k_d| \geq cd$ , where  $v = (v_1, \dots, v_{d-1}, 0)$ . By taking  $c$  large enough with respect to  $|v|$  we have

$$|k_{d-m}| \geq \frac{c}{2d} |k_{d-m+1}|, \quad m = 1, \dots, d-1. \quad (38)$$

In particular,  $k_m \neq 0$  for  $m = 1, \dots, d$ . According to Proposition 6.3 the proof is completed if we show that  $r_m = K(J_d + e_d v)^m e_d \neq 0$ ,  $m = 0, \dots, d-1$ , and  $K_0, \dots, K_{d-1}$  are linearly independent.

By definition of  $r_m$  a trivial induction yields

$$r_m = k_{d-m} + \sum_{j < d-m} \alpha_j^m k_j$$

for some constants  $\alpha_j^m$  independent of  $K$ . Fix  $m \in \{0, \dots, d-m\}$ . If all the corresponding  $\alpha_j^m$  are equal to zero then we are done, otherwise let  $\bar{j}$  be the smallest index  $j$  so that  $\alpha_{\bar{j}}^m \neq 0$ . Then

$$r_m = \alpha_{\bar{j}}^m k_{\bar{j}} (1 + \xi)$$

with  $|\xi| = O(1/c)$  according to (38). The conclusion follows from  $c$  large enough.

Similarly, one has that  $K = k_1(e_1^T + \Xi)$  with  $|\Xi| = O(1/c)$ . One immediately deduces that the for  $m = 0, \dots, d-1$ ,  $K_m = k_1(e_{m+1}^T + O(1/c))$ . Hence,  $K_0, \dots, K_{d-1}$  are linearly independent for  $c$  large enough.

The last part of the statement follows from Lemma 2.9 and Proposition 5.2. ■

## 6.2 Maximal growth rates in the single-input case

All controllable single-input systems have the same controllability form. Hence  $\text{RC}(A, b) = \text{RC}(A, b')$  for  $(A, b)$  and  $(A, b')$  controllable (see Remark 2.5). In particular we can define  $\text{RC}(A)$  as the value  $\text{RC}(A, b)$  corresponding to the case where  $(A, b)$  is controllable, and similarly for  $\text{RC}_{\#}(A)$ ,  $\text{RD}_{\#}(A)$ ,  $\text{RD}(A)$ .

**Theorem 6.5** *Let  $A$  be such that there exists  $b$  with  $(A, b)$  controllable. Then*

$$\text{RC}(A) = \text{RD}(-A), \quad (39)$$

*and in particular  $\text{RC}(A) = +\infty$  if and only if  $\text{RD}(-A) = +\infty$ . Moreover, there exists  $c > 0$  depending on  $A$  but not on  $T, \mu$  such that if  $\text{RC}(A) > c$  or  $\text{RD}(A) > c$  then  $\text{RC}(A) = \text{RC}_{\#}(A) = \text{RD}_{\#}(-A) = \text{RD}(-A)$ .*

*Proof.* According to Theorem 6.1,  $\text{PLARC}(A, b)$  is dense. Theorem 5.1 then implies (39).

Let now  $c > 0$  be as in the statement of Theorem 6.1. Assume that  $\text{RC}(A) > c$  (the case  $\text{RD}(A) > c$  being entirely similar). Hence the set  $\Xi_c = \{K \in M_{1,d}(\mathbb{R}) \mid \text{rc}(A, b, K) > c\}$  is nonempty. By taking  $\bar{\alpha} = 1$  in (7), condition  $\text{rc}(A, b, K) > c$  implies that the eigenvalues of  $A + bK$  have real part smaller than  $-c$ . Hence, Theorem 6.1 implies that  $\Xi_c \subset \text{PLARC}(A, b)$ . By equation (35) one deduces that  $\text{RC}(A), \text{RC}_{\#}(A), \text{RD}_{\#}(-A), \text{RD}(-A)$  are all equal. ■

Combining the above result with equation (18) one gets the following corollary.

**Corollary 6.6** *Let  $A$  be such that there exists  $b$  with  $(A, b)$  controllable and  $-A + \frac{2}{d}\text{Tr}(A)\text{Id}_d$  is similar to  $A$ . Then*

$$\text{RC}(A) = \text{RD}(A) - \frac{2}{d}\text{Tr}(A),$$

*and in particular  $\text{RC}(A) = +\infty$  if and only if  $\text{RD}(A) = +\infty$ .*

**Remark 6.7** When restricted to the case  $d = 2$ , Corollary 6.6 implies (and actually improves) Proposition 2.8, established in [9], because every traceless  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $A$  is similar to its opposite  $-A$ .

**Remark 6.8** Notice that a matrix  $A$  is similar to its opposite if and only if  $\text{Tr}(A^k) = 0$  for every odd integer  $k$ . In particular, every skew symmetric matrix  $A$  for which  $(A, b)$  is controllable for some  $b$  verifies the hypotheses of Corollary 6.6 and we conclude that  $\text{RC}(A) = \text{RD}(A)$  for such matrices. The same is true for  $J_d$ , and even more, as stated below.

**Proposition 6.9** *Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be equal to the diagonal matrix  $\text{diag}(1, -1, \dots, (-1)^{d+1})$ . For every  $K \in M_{1,d}(\mathbb{R})$  set  $K_- = (-1)^d K \mathcal{T}$ . Then  $\text{rc}(J_d, e_d, K) = \text{rd}(J_d, e_d, K_-)$  for every  $K \in M_{1,d}(\mathbb{R})$  with components in  $\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ .*

*Proof.* Notice that

$$\mathcal{T}^{-1} = \mathcal{T}, \quad J_d = -\mathcal{T}J_d\mathcal{T}, \quad \mathcal{T}e_d = (-1)^{d+1}e_d.$$

According to (9), with  $P = \mathcal{T}$ , one gets

$$\text{rc}(J_d, e_d, K) = \text{rc}(\mathcal{T}J_d\mathcal{T}^{-1}, \mathcal{T}e_d, K\mathcal{T}^{-1}) = \text{rc}(-J_d, (-1)^{d+1}e_d, (-1)^d K_-).$$

Proposition 6.3 guarantees that  $K_- \in \text{PLARC}(J_d, e_d)$  and then Corollary 3.6 implies that

$$\text{rc}(-J_d, (-1)^{d+1}e_d, (-1)^d K_-) = \text{rd}(J_d, (-1)^d e_d, (-1)^d K_-).$$

Since  $\text{rd}(A, b, L) = \text{rd}(A, \xi b, \xi^{-1}L)$  for every controllable pair  $(A, b)$  and every  $\xi \neq 0$ , we conclude. ■

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