
Observers and Disturbance Rejection

NDSU ECE 463/663

Lecture #21

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Please visit [Bison Academy](#) for corresponding
lecture notes, homework sets, and solutions

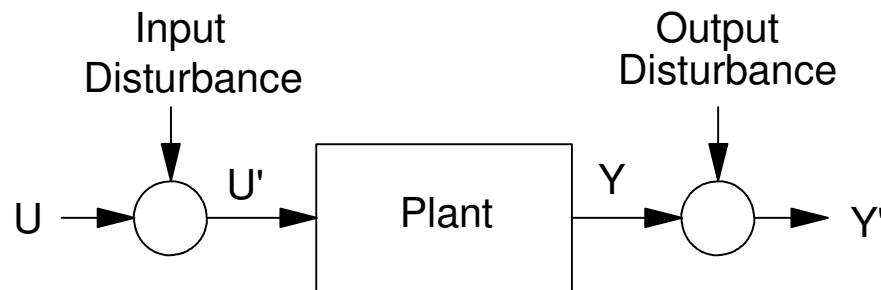
Observers and Disturbances

Suppose a plant has a disturbance

- At the input or
- At the output (sensor).

How do you estimate the states in the presence of such disturbances?

- If you ignore the disturbances, this will throw off the state estimates.
- Bad estimates can adversely affect the feedback control system.



Example: Full-Order observer for a plant with an input disturbance:

Plant

$$sX = AX + B(U + d)$$

$$Y = CX$$

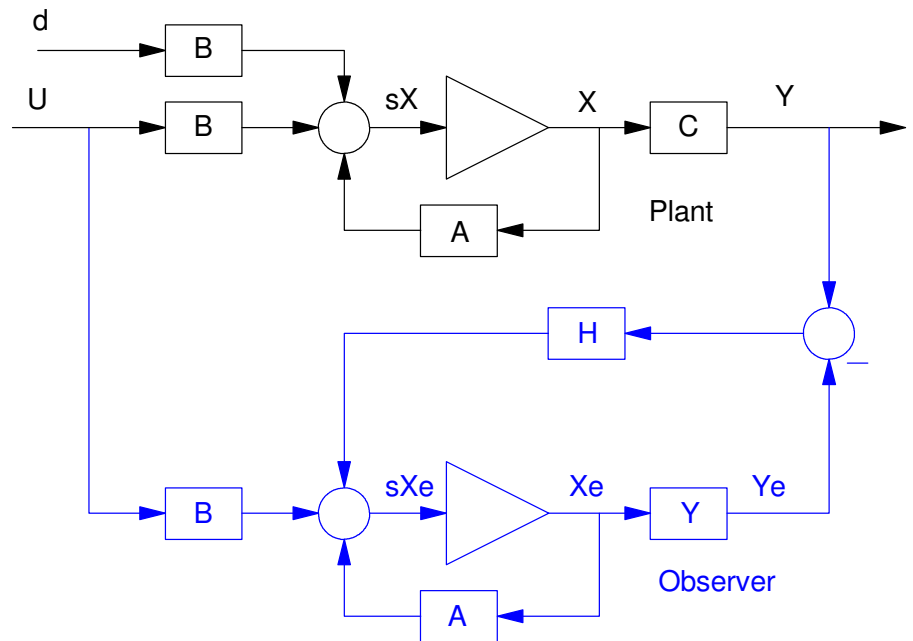
Observer

$$sX_e = AX_e + BU + H(Y - Y_e)$$

$$Y_e = CX_e$$

The error in the state estimate is:

$$E = X - X_e$$



Taking the derivative:

$$sE = sX - sX_e$$

Substituting:

$$sE = (AX + B(U + d)) - (AX_e + BU + H(Y - Y_e))$$

With some algebra:

$$sE = A(X - X_e) + Bd - HC(X - X_e)$$

$$sE = (A - HC)E + Bd$$

Assuming a step input, meaning all the states are constant ($sE = 0$), then

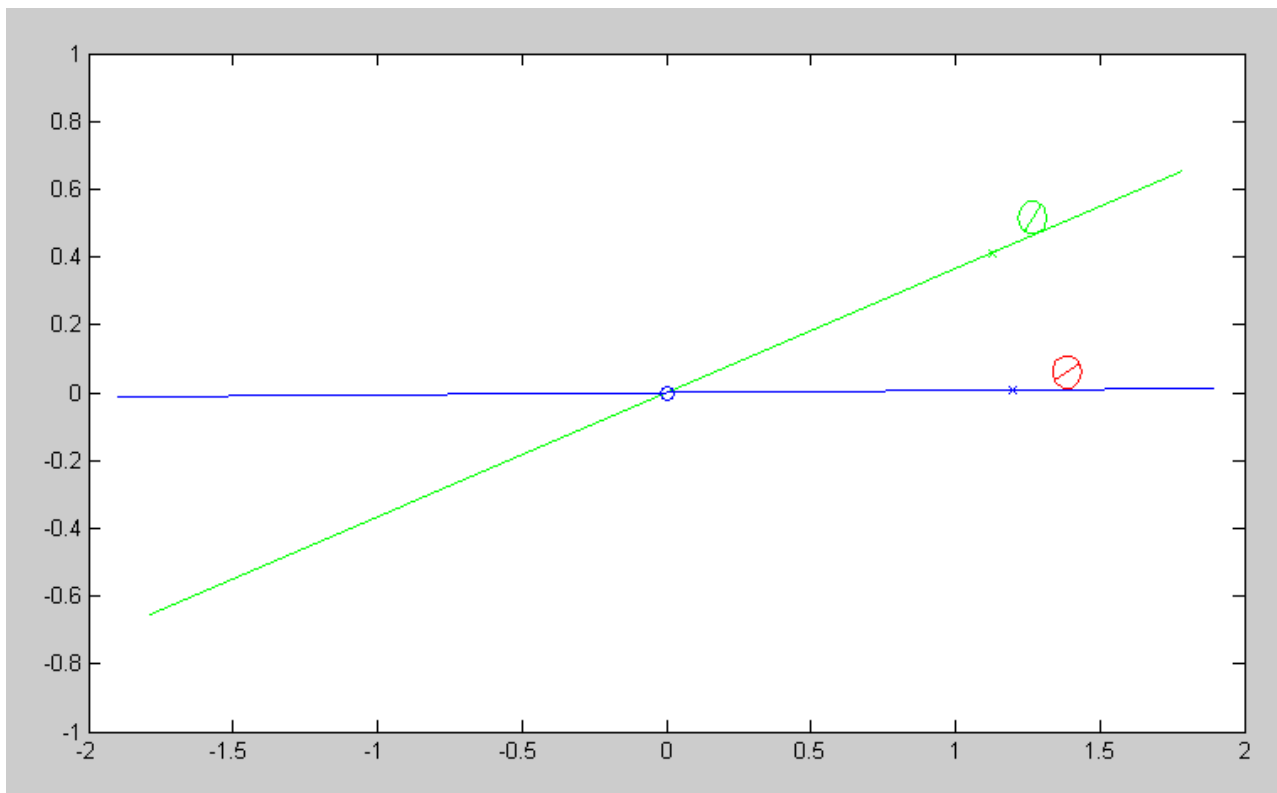
$$E = -(A - HC)^{-1} Bd$$

The disturbance will create an error in the state estimates.

Bad estimates can result in a badly performing feedback system.

Example: Ball and Beam System

- $m = 1.1\text{kg}$ (vs. 1.0kg nominal)
- Green: Observer (where the controller *thinks* the beam is
- Blue: Where the beam *really* is



This is also a problem if you have an output disturbance:

$$sX = AX + BU$$

$$Y = CX + d$$

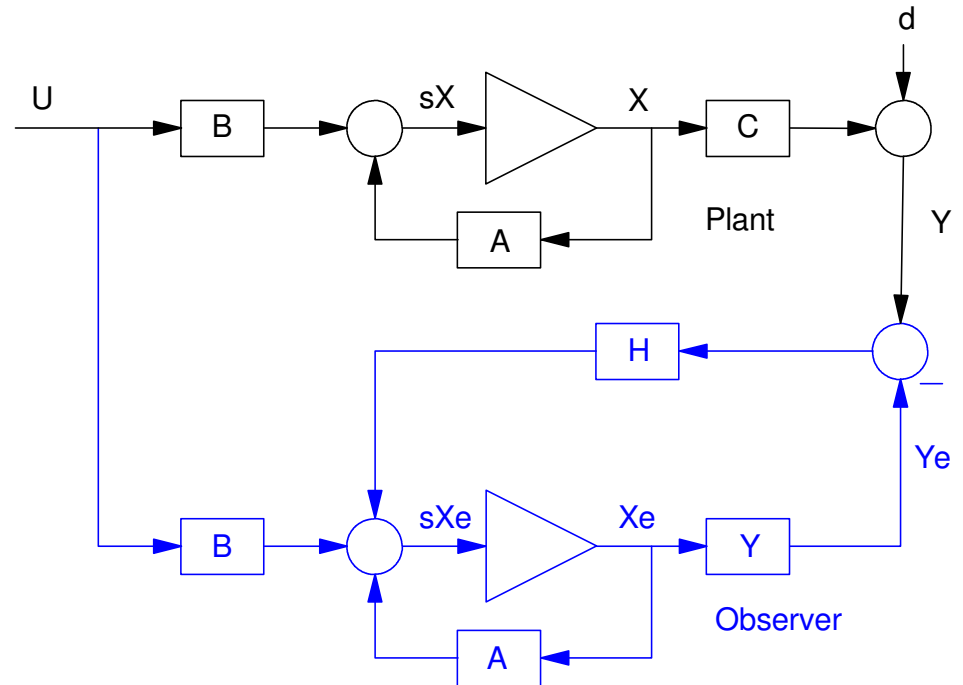
If the observer ignores this disturbance:

$$sX_e = AX_e + BU + H(Y - Y_e)$$

$$Y_e = CX_e$$

The error is

$$E = X - X_e$$



Taking the derivative:

$$sE = sX - sX_e$$

Substituting:

$$sE = (AX + BU) - (AX_e + BU + H(Y - Y_e))$$

Rewriting this:

$$sE = (AX + BU) - (AX_e + BU + H(CX + d - CX_e))$$

$$sE = (A - HC)E - Hd$$

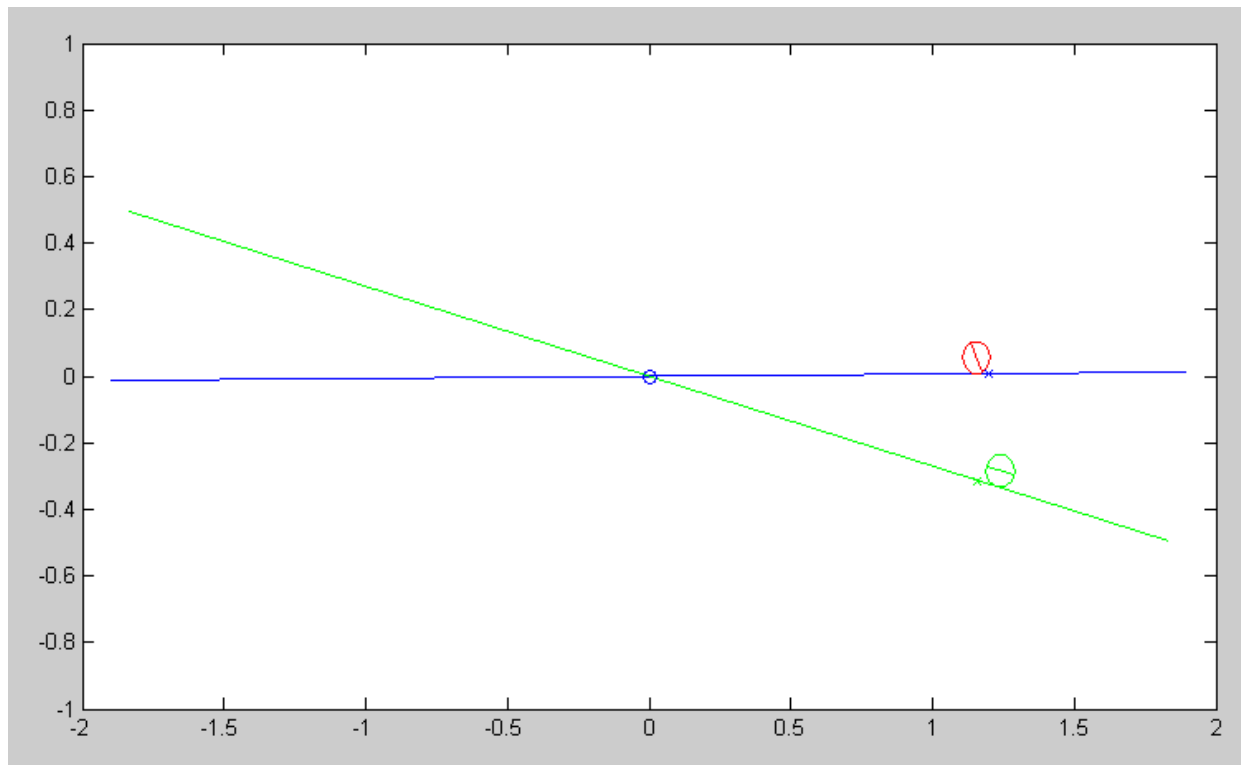
Again, the disturbance affects the error in the state estimates.

- Bad estimates can result in poorly behaving systems.

If a system has a disturbance, it needs to be taken into account with the observer.

Example: Ball and Beam System

- $m = 1.0\text{kg}$ (nominal)
- $Y = x + 0.1$ *DC offset*
- Blue = Actual State (X)
- Green = State Estimate (X_e)



Case 1: Input Disturbances

Add a dummy state (X_d)

- Initial conditions determine its value
- A_d determines the spectra (constant, sinusoid...)

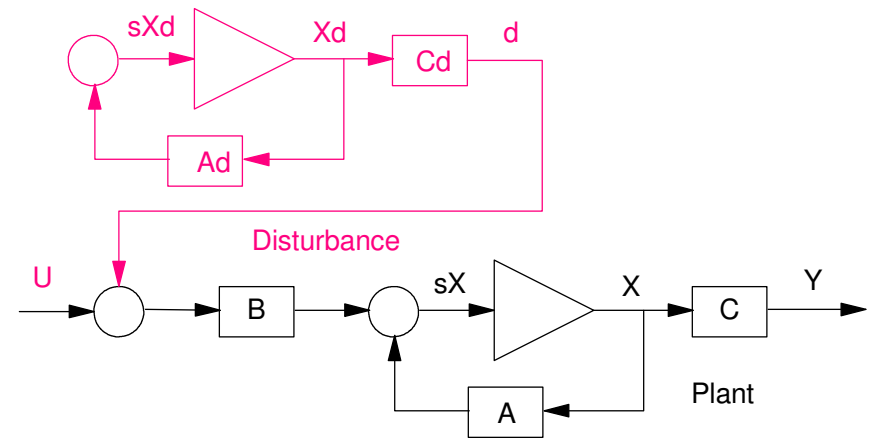
In state-space, the augmented system is

$$s \begin{bmatrix} X \\ X_d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A & BC_d \\ 0 & A_d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ X_d \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} B \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} U$$

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} C & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ X_d \end{bmatrix}$$

Design a full-order observer for the augmented system

- Plant & Disturbance



Example: 4th-Order heat equation with a constant offset at the input.

First, create the augmented system:

$$A5 = [A, B; 0 \cdot C, 0]$$

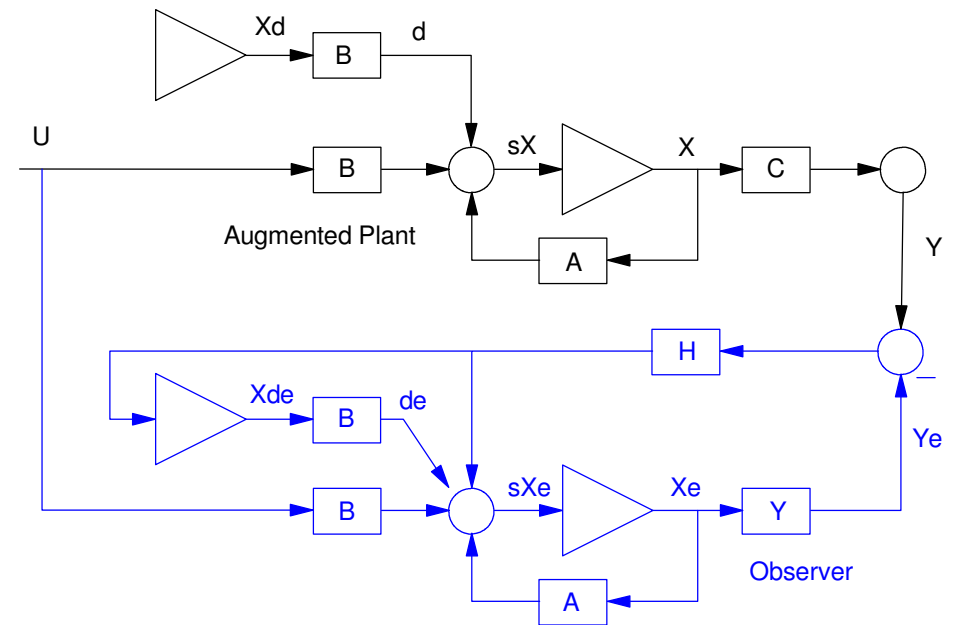
$$\begin{array}{cccc|c} -2. & 1. & 0. & 0. & : & 1. \\ 1. & -2. & 1. & 0. & : & 0. \\ 0. & 1. & -2. & 1. & : & 0. \\ 0. & 0. & 1. & -1. & : & 0. \\ \hline 0. & 0. & 0. & 0. & : & 0. \end{array}$$

$$B5 = [B; 0]$$

$$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \hline 0 \end{array}$$

$$C5 = [C, 0]$$

$$\begin{array}{cccc|c} 0. & 0. & 0. & 1. & : & 0. \end{array}$$



Second, design a full-order observer for the augmented system

- Use Bass-Gura

```
>> H5 = pp1(A5', C5', [-3,-3,-3,-3,-3])'
```

```
147.0000  
72.0000  
27.0000  
8.0000  
243.0000
```

```
>> eig(A5-H5*C5)
```

```
-3.0047  
-3.0014 + 0.0044i  
-3.0014 - 0.0044i  
-2.9962 + 0.0027i  
-2.9962 - 0.0027i
```

To simulate for a step input, add a state for U:

$$\begin{bmatrix} sX_5 \\ sX_{5e} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_5 & 0 \\ H_5 C_5 & A_5 - H_5 C_5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_5 \\ X_{5e} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} B \\ B \end{bmatrix} U$$

Simulate this in Matlab using initial conditions on the disturbance ($d = 2$) and the input ($U = 1$). Note that this is now an 10th-order system

- 4 states for the plant
- 1 for the disturbance
- 5 for the observer (plant plus disturbance)

```
>> A10 = [ A5, zeros(5,5) ;
           H5*C5, A5-H5*C5 ]
```

		X	y	d		est (X)		ye	ext (d)		
-2	1	0	0	:	1 :	0	0	0	:	0	
1	-2	1	0	:	0 ;	0	0	0	:	0	
0	1	-2	1	:	0 ;	0	0	0	:	0	
0	0	1	-1	:	0 ;	0	0	0	:	0	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
0	0	0	0	:	0 :	0	0	0	:	0	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
0	0	0	147	:	0 :	-2	1	0	-147	:	1
0	0	0	72	:	0 :	1	-2	1	-72	:	0
0	0	0	27	:	0 :	0	1	-2	-26	:	0
0	0	0	8	:	0 :	0	0	1	-9	:	0
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
0	0	0	243	:	0 :	0	0	0	-243	:	0

The initial conditions are:

```
X0 = [0;0;0;0;2; 0;0;0;0;0 ]
```

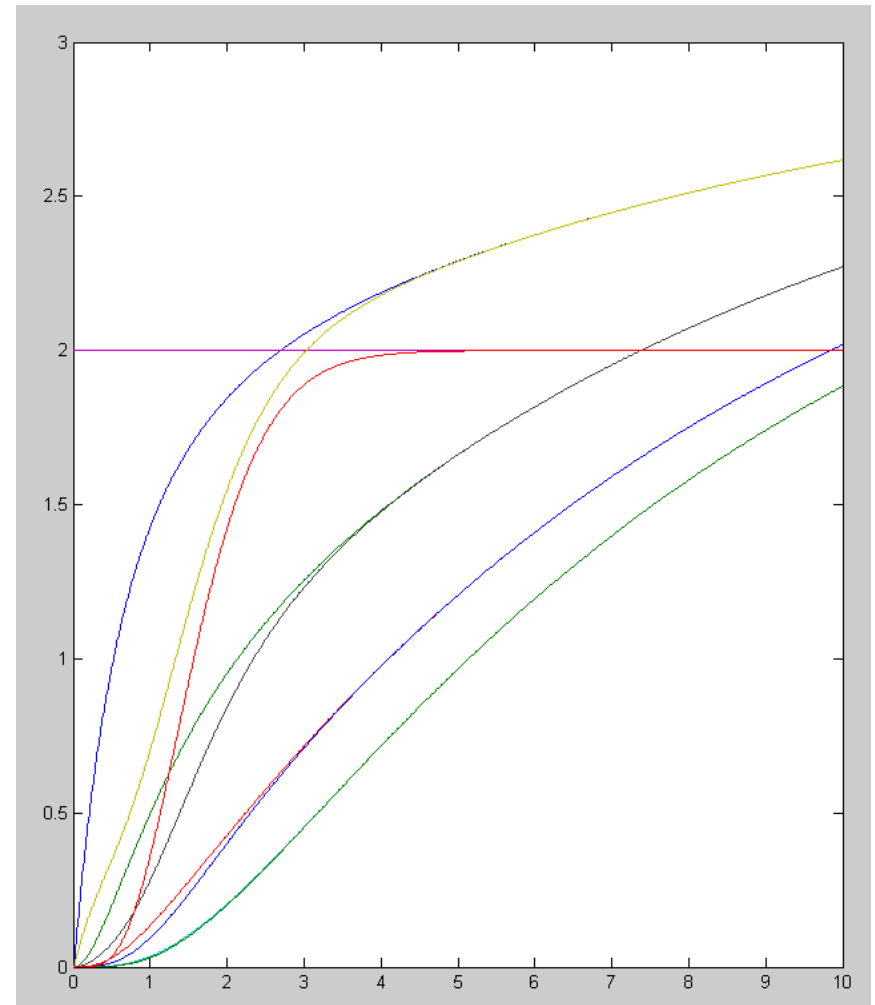
```
0
0   X(0) = 0
0
0
```

```
- - -
2   d = 2
- - -
```

```
0
0   Xe(0) = 0
0
0
```

```
- - -
0   estimate of d = 0
```

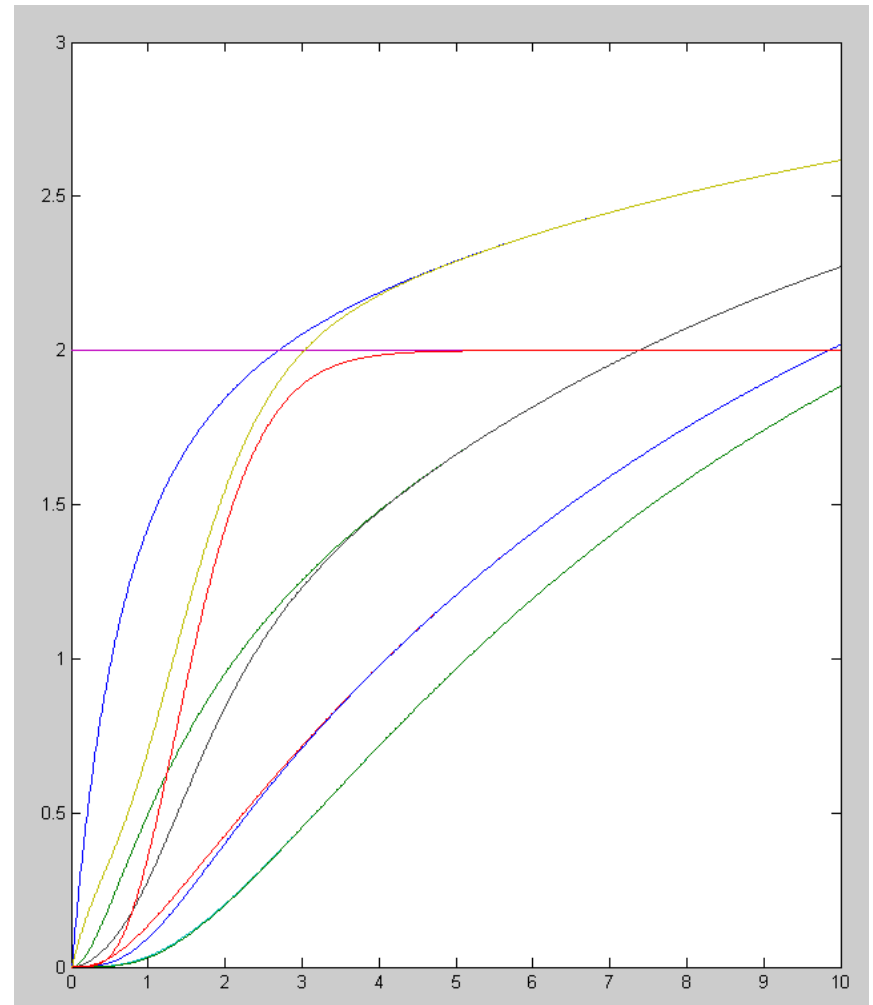
```
B10 = [B ; 0 ; B ; 0];
C10 = eye(10,10);
D10 = zeros(10,1);
U = 0*t + 1;
y = step3(A10,B10,C10,D10,t,X0,U);
plot(t,y);
```



Note that

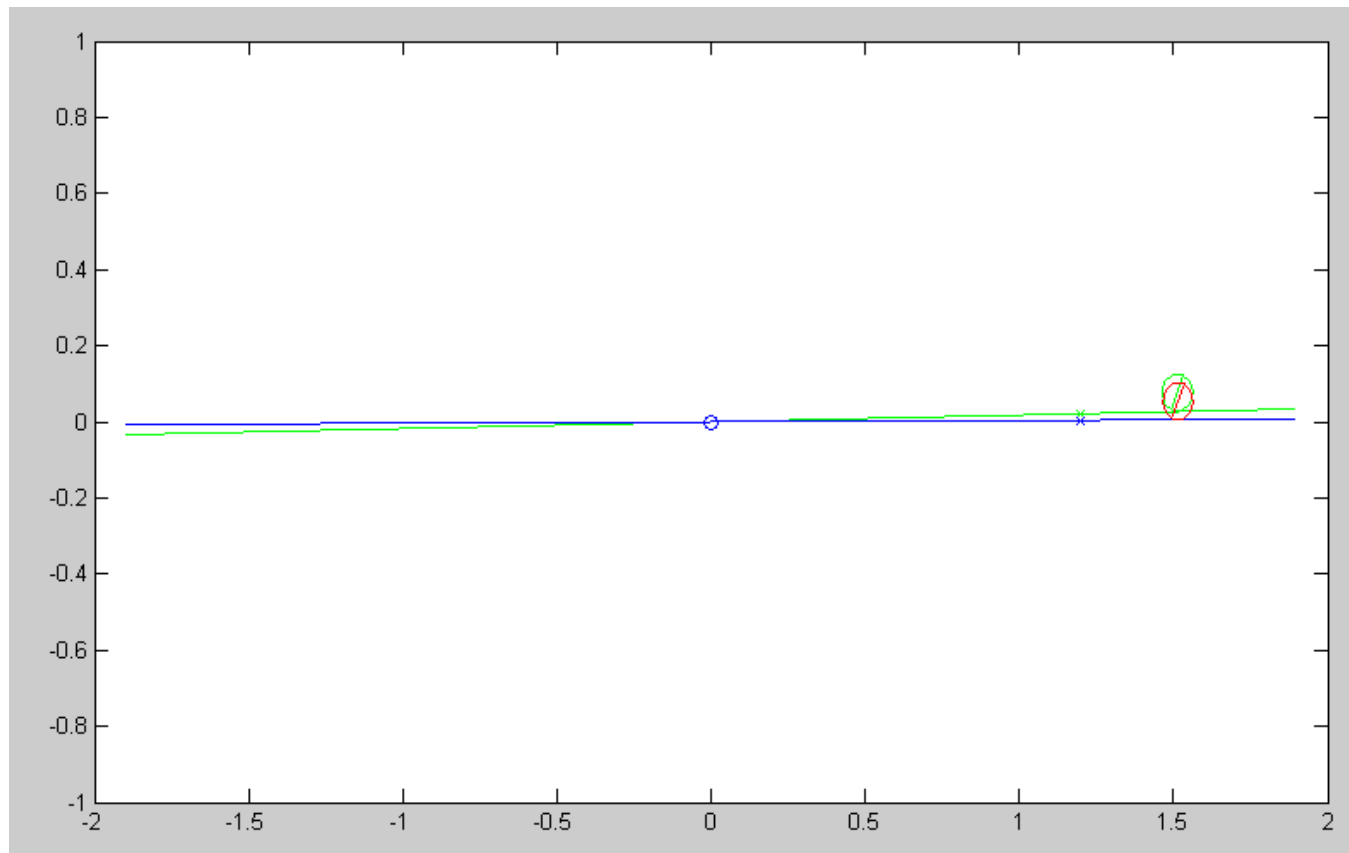
- The disturbance estimates converges in about 4 seconds. This is expected since the observer poles were placed at $\{-3, -3, -3, -3\}$
- The disturbance is a constant, 2 (pink line)
- The estimate of the disturbance converges to 2 in about 4 seconds (red line)

All state estimates converge to the actual states in spite of the constant output disturbance.



Ball & Beam Systems

- $m = 1.1\text{kg}$
- Model as a constant input disturbance (torque)
- Observer eventually determines the constant offset (extra mass)



Nonliner Simulation

- Cheat: Use the actual states for the first 5 seconds
- Then switch over to the observer states

```
X = [0.8;0;0;0];
Xe = [X; 0];
dt = 0.01;
t = 0;
A = [0,0,1,0;0,0,0,1;0,-7,0,0;-8.167,0,0,0];
B = [0;0;0;0.8333];
C = [1,0,0,0];
A5 = [A,B;0*C,0];
B5 = [B; 0];
C5 = [C,0];
H = pp1(A5', C5', [-3, -3.2, -3.4, -3.6, -3.8])';
Kx = [-13.9152 42.0017 -8.5718 12.0005];
Kr = -4.1145;
y = [];

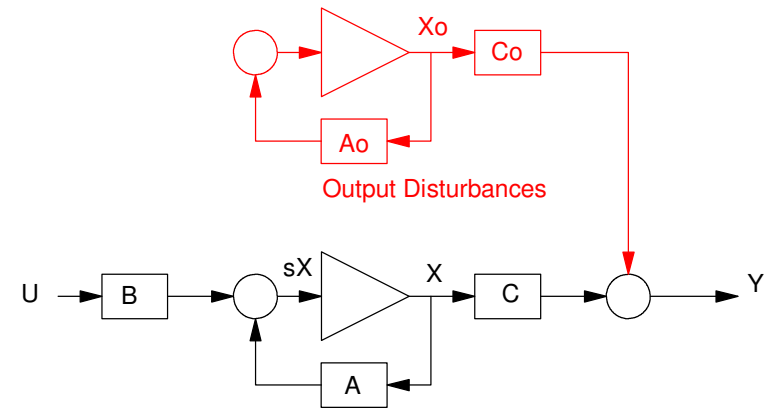
while(t < 10)
    Ref = 1.0 + 0.2*sign(sin(t));
    if(t<5)
        U = Kr*Ref - Kx*X;
    else
        U = Kr*Ref - Kx*Xe(1:4);
    end
    dX = BeamDynamics(X, U);
    dXe = A5*Xe + B5*U + H*(X(1) - Xe(1));
    X = X + dX * dt;
    Xe = Xe + dXe*dt;
    y = [y ; X(1), Xe(1), Ref];
    t = t + dt;
    BeamDisplay20(X, Xe, Ref);
```

Case 2: Output Disturbance

Next, consider the case where the output (sensor) has a disturbance:

In state-space

$$s \begin{bmatrix} X \\ X_o \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & A_o \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ X_o \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} B \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} U$$
$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} C & C_o \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ X_o \end{bmatrix}$$



Design a full-order observer the augmented system

Example: Heat equation with

$$Y = x_5 + 2$$

Creating the augmented system

$$A5 = [A, B \cdot 0; 0 \cdot C, 0]$$

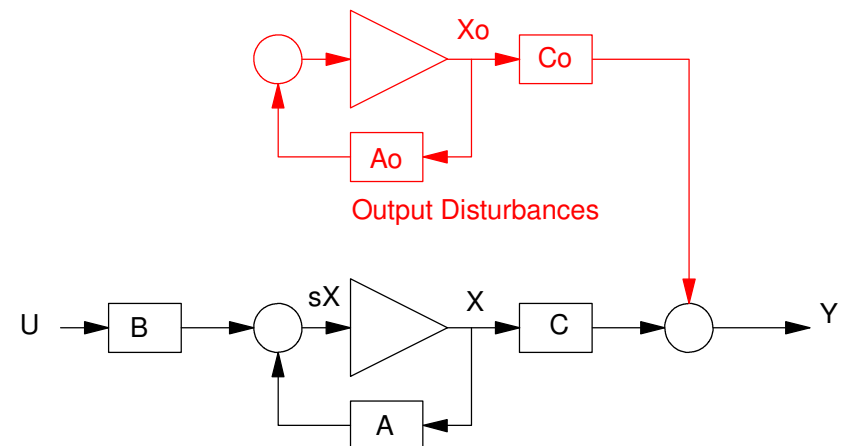
$$\begin{array}{cccc|c} -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & : & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 & : & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & : & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & : & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & : & 0 \end{array}$$

$$B5 = [B \ ; \ 0];$$

$$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \hline 0 \end{array}$$

$$C5 = [0, 0, 0, 1, 1]$$

$$\begin{array}{cccc|c} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & : & 1 \end{array}$$



Using Bass-Gura, you can then place the poles at will

```
>> H5 = pp1(A5', C5', [-3, -3, -3, -3, -3])'
```

```
H5 =
```

```
-96.0000  
-171.0000  
-216.0000  
-235.0000  
243.0000
```

```
>> eig(A5-H5*C5)
```

```
ans =
```

```
-2.9863  
-2.9958 + 0.0130i  
-2.9958 - 0.0130i  
-3.0111 + 0.0080i  
-3.0111 - 0.0080i
```

```
>> A10 = [A5, zeros(5,5);      H5*C5, A5-H5*C5]
```

		X	y	d				ext (X)			ext (d)	
-2	1	0	0	:	0	:	0	0	0	0	:	0
1	-2	1	0	:	0	:	0	0	0	0	:	0
0	1	-2	1	:	0	:	0	0	0	0	:	0
0	0	1	-1	:	0	:	0	0	0	0	:	0
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0	0	0	0	:	0	:	0	0	0	0	:	0
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0	0	0	-96	:	-96	:	-2	1	0	96	:	96
0	0	0	-171	:	-171	:	1	-2	1	171	:	171
0	0	0	-216	:	-216	:	0	1	-2	217	:	216
0	0	0	-235	:	-235	:	0	0	1	234	:	235
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0	0	0	243	:	243	:	0	0	0	-243	:	-243

```
>> X0 = [0;0;0;0;2; 0;0;0;0;0]
```

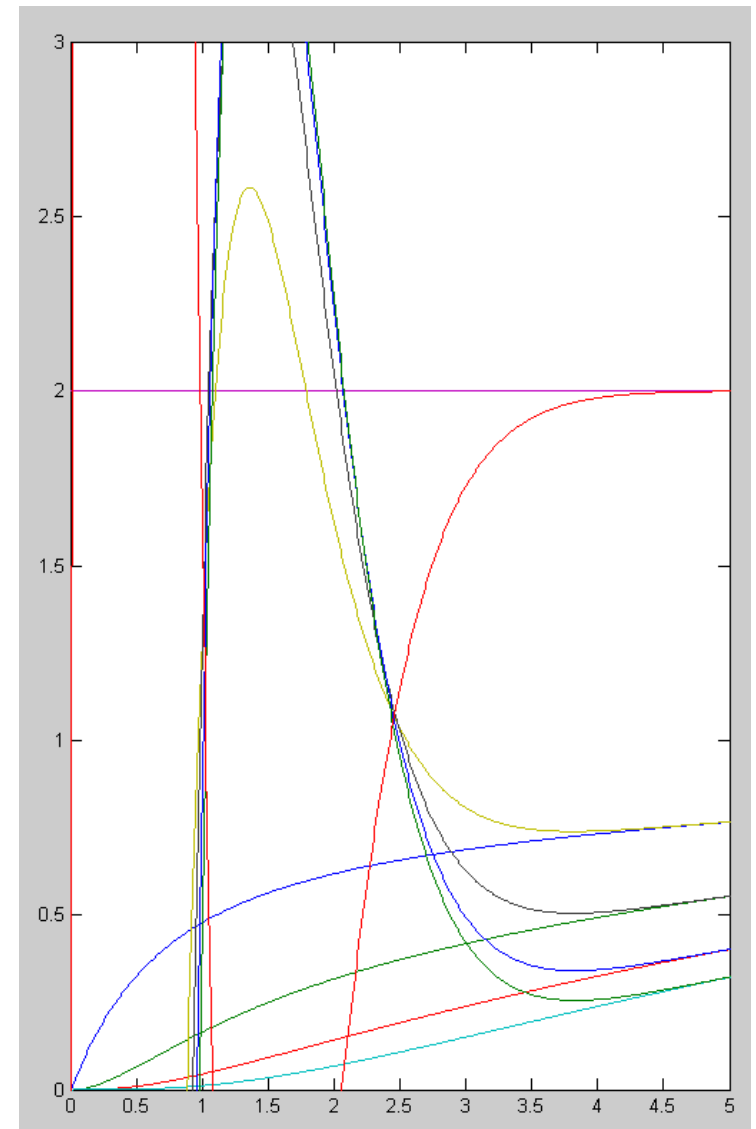
```
0
0       $X(0)$ 
0
0
```

```
- - -
2       $d = 2$ 
- - -
```

```
0
0       $X_e(0)$ 
0
0
```

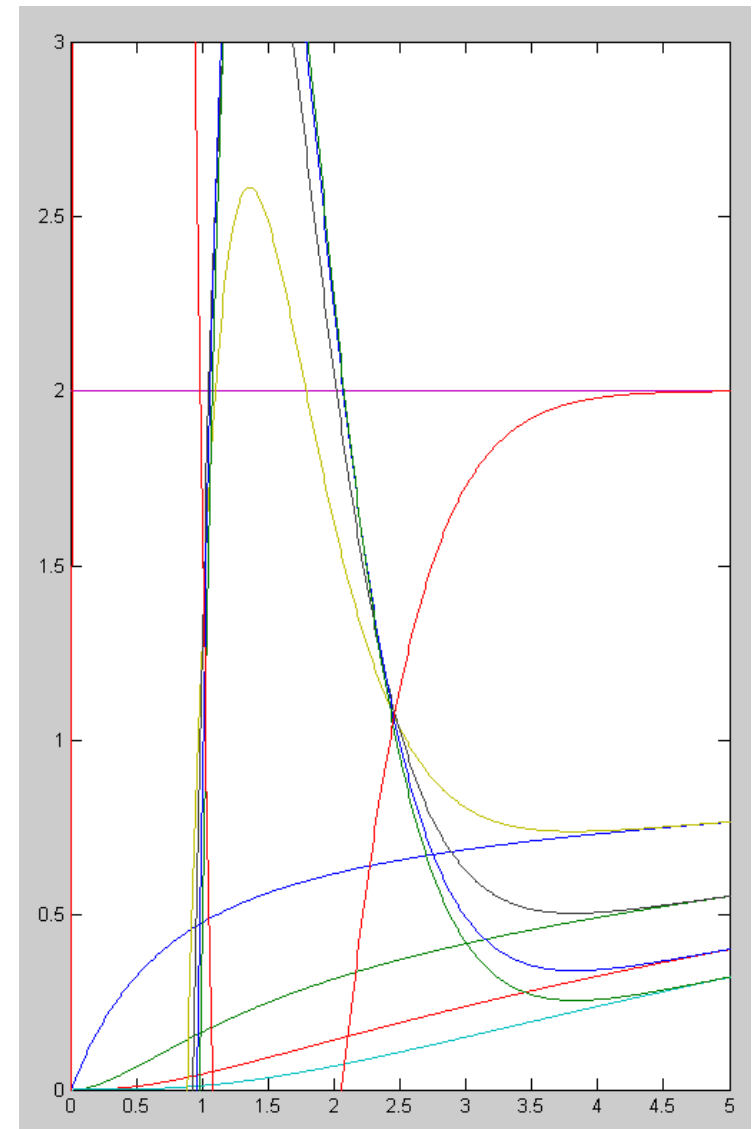
```
- - -
0      estimate of  $d$ 
```

```
>> B10 = [B5 ; B5];
>> C10 = eye(10,10);
>> D10 = zeros(10,1);
>> U = 0*t + 1;
>> y = step3(A10,B10,C10,D10,t,X0,U);
>> plot(t,y);
```



Note that

- The disturbance estimates converges in about 4.3 seconds. This is expected since the observer poles were placed at $\{-3, -3, -3, -3, -3\}$
- The disturbance is a constant, 2 (pink line)
- The estimate of the disturbance converges to 2 (red line) in about 4.3 seconds
- All states converge in spite of the constant output disturbance.



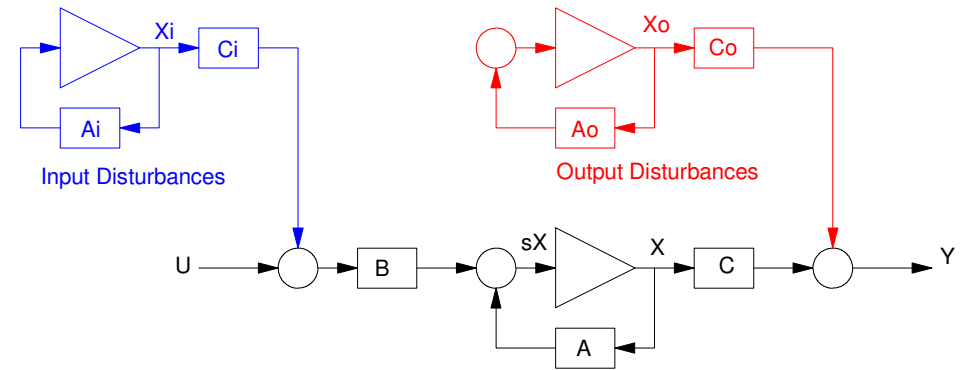
Case 3: Input and Output Disturbances

Finally, consider the case where the system has both input and output disturbances:

In state-space:

$$s \begin{bmatrix} X \\ X_i \\ X_o \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A & BC_i & 0 \\ 0 & A_i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A_o \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ X_i \\ X_o \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} B \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} U$$

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} C & 0 & C_o \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ X_i \\ X_o \end{bmatrix}$$



Note that there is a problem here.

- Use the PBH test
- The system is observable *only* if the spectra of A_i and A_o are disjoint
- You *cannot* determine a constant disturbance at both the input and output

$$\rho\left(\begin{bmatrix} C \\ A - \lambda I \end{bmatrix}\right) = N$$

$$\rho\left(\begin{bmatrix} A - \lambda I & BC_i & 0 \\ 0 & A_i - \lambda I & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A_o - \lambda I \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \\ C & 0 & C_o \end{bmatrix}\right) = N$$

Summary

If you have input disturbances,

- Add states to model the disturbance
- Design a full-order observer for the augmented system

If you have output disturbances,

- Add states to model the disturbance
- Design a full-order observer for the augmented system

If you have both input and output disturbances

- You're out of luck - The system isn't observable
 - You have to guess how much is input and how much is output
-