

- Useful operating points in a system may be unstable, and we wish to apply controls to stabilize it.



example: keep pendulum upright

when using discrete control, the system will never exactly be at equilibrium

## Stability in Scalar Case:

Given a discrete time system  $x_{k+1} = \lambda x_k + b u_k$ :

The system is stable if the state remains bounded for any initial configuration and any bounded input sequence

↳ if input is finite, output is also finite

• true if  $|\lambda| < 1$

The system is unstable if  $|x_k| \rightarrow \infty$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$  for some input sequence

• true if  $|\lambda| > 1$

If  $|\lambda| < 1$ :

$$|x_k| = \left| \lambda^k x_0 + \sum_{t=0}^{k-1} \lambda^{k-1-t} b u_t \right|$$

$$\leq |\lambda^k x_0| + \left| \sum_{t=0}^{k-1} \lambda^{k-1-t} b u_t \right|$$

$$\leq |\lambda^k x_0| + |b| \sum_{t=0}^{k-1} |\lambda^{k-1-t}| |u_t|$$

$$\leq |\lambda^k x_0| + |b| M \sum_{t=0}^{k-1} |\lambda^{k-1-t}|$$

$$\leq |x_0| + |b| M \sum_{t=0}^{k-1} |\lambda|^t$$

$$\leq |x_0| + |b| M \frac{1}{1-|\lambda|}$$

⇒ If  $|\lambda| < 1$

⇒ remains bounded ⇒ stable

If  $|\lambda| = 1$ : Marginally Stable

↳ no inputs = stable since  $|x_k| = |\lambda^k x_0| = |x_0|$

↳ some inputs = possibly unstable

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 ↳ same inputs = possibly unstable

• stability properties are unchanged if a constant is added.

## Stability in Vector Case

Consider  $x[k+1] = Ax[k] + Bu[k]$ .

$$x[k] = A^k x[0] + \sum_{t=0}^{k-1} A^{k-1-t} Bu[t]$$

• If  $A$  diagonalizable:

$A = V^{-1} \Lambda V$ . Transform to  $V$  basis:

$$z[k+1] = \Lambda z[k] + V^{-1} Bu[k]$$

↑ collection of eigenvalues, so equivalent to:

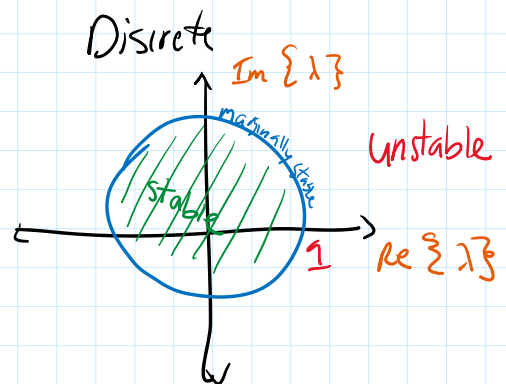
$$z_i[k+1] = \lambda_i z_i[k] + V^{-1} b_i u[k] \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq n \text{ (\# of eigenvalues).}$$

For whole system:

$|\lambda_i| > 1$  for any  $i$ , unstable

$|\lambda_i| < 1$  for all  $i$ , stable

$|\lambda_i| \leq 1$  for all  $i$ , marginally stable



## Non-diagonalizable Stability

\* stability criteria the same as diagonalizable case (all eigenvalues  $< 1$  = stable).

Proof:

• all square matrices  $A$  can be upper triangularized such that

$$TAT^{-1} = U = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & * \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Let  $z[k] = T x[k], x[k] = T^{-1} z[k]$ .

$$z[k+1] = A z[k] + B_{new} u[k]$$

Due to upper triangular structure, the  $n^{\text{th}}$  dimension is always scaled by  $\lambda_n$ . If  $|\lambda_n| < 1$  ← banded

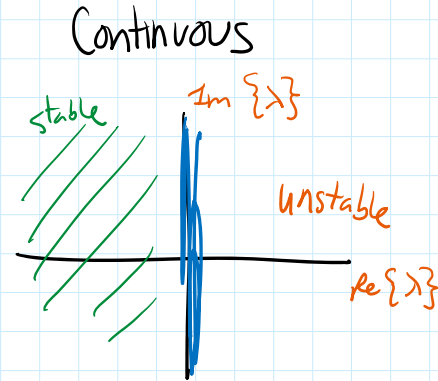
base  $\rightarrow z_{n-1}[k+1] = \lambda_{n-1} z_{n-1}[k] + (\underbrace{z_n[k] + b_{n-1} u[k]}_{\hat{u}_{n-1}[k] = \text{banded}})$

recursive  $\rightarrow$  So if  $|\lambda_{n-1}| < 1$ , this 2-equation system is banded.

### Continuous time stability

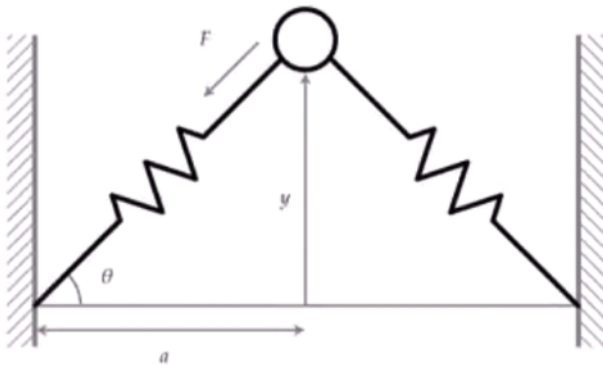
$$|x(t)| = \left| e^{\int_0^t \lambda ds} x(0) + \int_0^t e^{\lambda(t-s)} b u(s) ds \right|$$

- $\text{Re}\{\lambda\} < 0 \Rightarrow$  stable
- $\text{Re}\{\lambda\} > 0 \Rightarrow$  unstable
- $\text{Re}\{\lambda\} = 0 \Rightarrow$  marginally stable



## 2 Stability in continuous time system

Remember the spring-mass system introduced in Discussion 8A:



We assumed that each spring is linear with spring constant  $k$  and resting length  $X_0$ . m: mass  
 The differential equation modeling this system was  $\frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} = -\frac{2k}{m} (y - X_0 \frac{y}{\sqrt{y^2 + a^2}})$ . We built a state space model that describes how the displacement  $y$  of the mass from the spring base evolves. The state variables were  $x_1 = y$  and  $x_2 = \dot{y}$ . Then we linearized the model around the equilibrium point  $(x_1, x_2) = (0, 0)$ , assuming  $X_0 < a$ . The linearized model is presented below.

$$\dot{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -\frac{2k}{m} \left(1 - \frac{X_0}{a}\right) & 0 \end{bmatrix} x.$$

Compute the eigenvalues of your linearized model. Is this equilibrium stable?

$$(-\lambda)^2 + \frac{2k}{m} \left(1 - \frac{x_0}{a}\right) = 0$$

$$\lambda = \pm \sqrt{\frac{2k}{m} \left(\frac{x_0}{a} - 1\right)}$$

Assuming  $x_0 < a$ ,  $\frac{x_0}{a} - 1 < 0$  so  $\lambda$  is imaginary.

$\text{Re}\{\lambda\} = 0$  so the system is marginally stable

### 3 Stability in discrete time system

Determine which values of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  will make the following discrete-time state space models stable. Assume,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are real numbers and  $b \neq 0$ .

a)

$$x[t+1] = \alpha x[t] + bu(t)$$

$$|\alpha| < 1$$

\* The discrete-time system

$$\Sigma_a: x[t+1] = Ax[t] + Bu[t]$$

is stable

$\Leftrightarrow |\lambda_i| < 1$  for all eigenvalues  $\lambda_i$  of  $A$

b)

rotation matrix

$$\vec{x}[t+1] = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & -\beta \\ \beta & \alpha \end{bmatrix} \vec{x}[t] + b\vec{u}(t)$$

$$(\lambda - \alpha)^2 + \beta^2 = 0$$

$$\lambda = \alpha \pm j\beta$$

$$|\lambda| = \sqrt{\alpha^2 + \beta^2}$$

$$\sqrt{\alpha^2 + \beta^2} < 1 \text{ or } \alpha^2 + \beta^2 < 1$$

c)

$$\vec{x}[t+1] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \alpha \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x}[t] + b\vec{u}(t)$$

$\lambda = 1$  since  $A$  is upper triangular so  $x = 1$

so this system is always unstable

→ for a motivating example (pendulum), view lecture 7/28.

## Transients and Eigenvectors

$$\text{Let } X_{k+1} = AX_k + Bu_k.$$

Let  $A = V\Lambda V^{-1}$  where  $\Lambda$  are eigenvalues of  $A$ .

Let  $z_k = V^{-1}X_k$ . Then  $X_k = Vz_k$ .

$$\text{Change of basis: } z_{k+1} = V^{-1}X_{k+1} = V^{-1}(AX_k + Bu_k)$$

$$z_{k+1} = \Lambda z_k + V^{-1}Bu_k.$$

Consider one row of  $z$  such that

$$z_i[k+1] = \lambda_i z_i[k] + b_i u[k].$$

$$\text{Then } z_i[k] = \lambda_i^k z_i[0] + \sum_{t=0}^{k-1} \lambda_i^{k-1-t} b_i u[t].$$

In polar form,  $\lambda_i = |\lambda_i| e^{j\omega}$  so

$$\lambda_i^t = |\lambda_i|^t \left( \underbrace{\cos(\omega t)}_{\text{Re}} + j \underbrace{\sin(\omega t)}_{\text{Im}} \right).$$

Since  $X[k] = Vz[k]$  (lin. combo of  $z[k]$ ), we can plot Re and Im to find the transient (how system evolves over time).  
 ↳ natural response (no input)

Continuous Time:

$$\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + Bu(t)$$

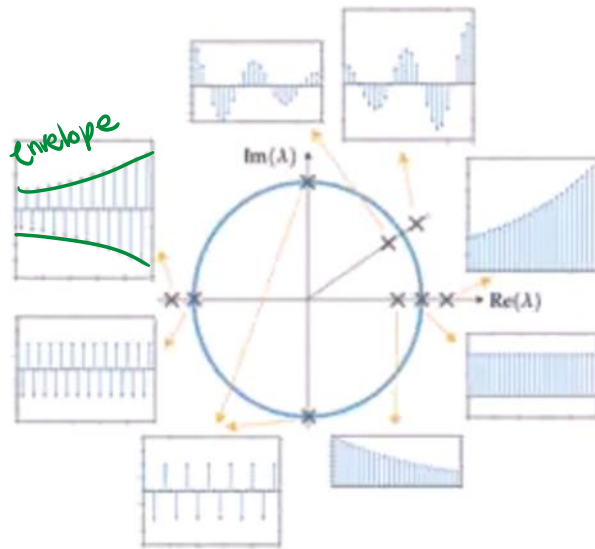
$$z(t) = V^{-1}x(t)$$

$$\dot{z}(t) = \Lambda z(t) + V^{-1}Bu(t) \text{ so}$$

$$z_i(t) = e^{\lambda_i t} z_i(0) + \text{control stuff.}$$

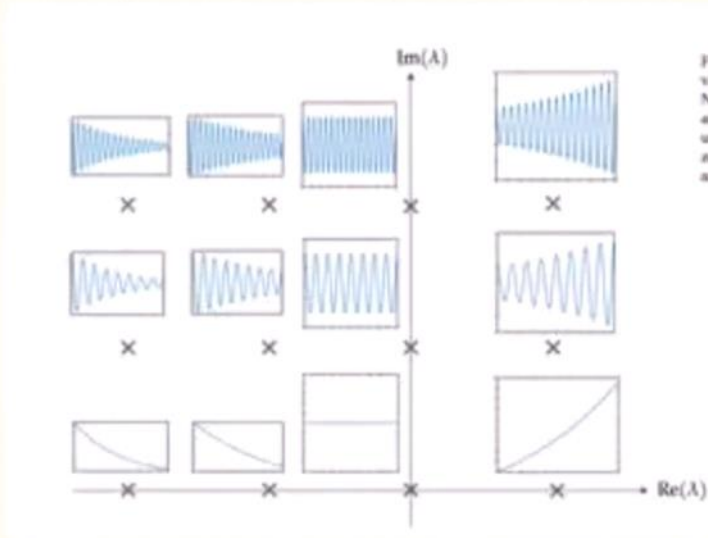
$$\text{Polar: } z_i(t) = z_i(0) e^{\alpha t} \cos(\omega t) + j z_i(0) e^{\alpha t} \sin(\omega t)$$

# Discrete-time

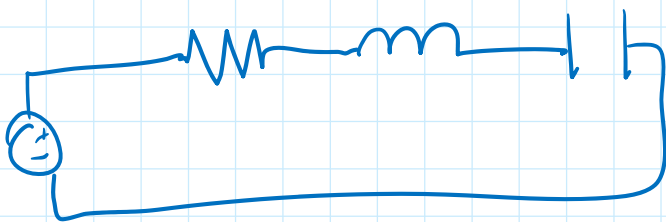


Use eigenvalues to predict behavior

# Continuous-time



Example: RLC Circuit



$$x(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} x(t) + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} u(t)$$

$$\dot{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{L} \\ -\frac{1}{L} & \frac{R}{L} \end{bmatrix} x(t) + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{1}{L} \end{bmatrix} u(t)$$

find eigenvalues

$$\lambda^2 + \frac{R}{L}\lambda + \frac{1}{LC} = 0$$

$$\lambda = \frac{-R}{2L} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{R}{2L}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{LC}}$$

$$= \alpha \pm \sqrt{\alpha^2 - \omega_0^2} \quad \text{where } \alpha = \frac{R}{2L}, \omega_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$$

If  $\alpha > \omega_0$ , e-values are real and negative.

If  $\alpha < \omega_0$ ,  $\lambda = -\alpha \pm j\sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \alpha^2}$  ← decaying oscillation

## Feedback

• We want to reach a target  $x$  (e.g. 0) from any config in

$$x_{k+1} = Ax_k + Bu_k$$

• Define **Control Policy** (a function of state  $x$ ):

$$u_k = -Kx_k, \quad K \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$$

such that the system is stable.

$$\rightarrow x_{k+1} = (A - BK)x_k$$

Choose eigenvalues of  $(A - BK) < 1$  and have desired transient behavior.

## 2 Eigenvalues Placement in Discrete Time

Consider the following linear discrete time system

$$\vec{x}[t+1] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x}[t] + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} u[t] + \vec{w}[t] \quad (1)$$

a) Is this system controllable?

$$C = [B \quad Ab] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & [0 \ 1] \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ 0 & [2 \ -1] \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Controllable

b) Is the linear discrete time system stable?

$$(\lambda)(-1-\lambda) - 2 = 0$$

$$\lambda^2 - \lambda - 2 = 0$$

$$(\lambda-2)(\lambda+1) = 0$$

$$\lambda = 2, -1$$

c) Derive a state space representation of the resulting closed loop system using state feedback of the form  $u[t] = [k_1 \ k_2] \vec{x}[t]$

$$\begin{aligned} x[t+1] &= Ax[t] + Bu[t] \\ &= Ax[t] + BKx[t] \\ &= (A+BK)x[t] \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} [k_1 \ k_2] \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} k_1 & 1+k_2 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

d) Find the appropriate state feedback constants,  $k_1, k_2$  in order the state space representation of the resulting closed loop system to place the eigenvalues at  $\lambda_1 = -\frac{1}{2}, \lambda_2 = \frac{1}{2}$

$$(k_1 - \lambda)(-1 - \lambda) - 2(1 + k_2) = 0$$

$$\lambda^2 + \lambda - k_1\lambda - k_1 - 2 - 2k_2 = 0$$

$$\lambda = \frac{k_1 - 1 \pm \sqrt{(k_1 - 1)^2 + 4(2 + 2k_2)}}{2}$$

$$\text{If } \lambda = \pm \frac{1}{2}, \quad k_1 - 1 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \sqrt{(k_1 - 1)^2 + 4(2 + 2k_2)} = 1$$

$$k_1 = 1, \quad \sqrt{4(2 + 2k_2)} = 1$$

$$4(2 + 2k_2) = 1$$

$$2 + 2k_2 = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$1 + k_2 = \frac{1}{8}$$

$$\begin{aligned}2 + 2k_2 &= \frac{1}{4} \\ 1 + k_2 &= \frac{1}{8} \\ k_2 &= -\frac{7}{8}\end{aligned}$$