

# The Root Locus Method

## Control Engineering (Reguleringsteknik)

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SDU Robotics  
The Maersk Mc-Kinney Moller Institute  
University of Southern Denmark

# Agenda



## Introduction

- Curriculum

- Motivation

## Problem Formulation

- Specification of Performance

- Transfer Functions

## Root Locus



Matematiske og **grafiske metoder til syntese af lineære tidsinvariante systemer**:<sup>1</sup>

- ▶ diskret og kontinuert tilstandsbeskrivelse
- ▶ **analyse i tid og frekvens**
- ▶ **stabilitet, reguleringshastighed, følsomhed** og fejl
- ▶ digitale PI, PID, LEAD og LAG regulatorer (serieregulatorer)
- ▶ tilstandsregulering, pole-placement og tilstands-estimering (observer)
- ▶ optimal regulering (least squares) og optimal tilstands-estimation (Kalman-filter)

### Færdigheder:

Efter gennemførelse af kurset kan den succesfulde studerende:

- ▶ **kunne analysere, dimensionere** og implementere såvel **kontinuert** som tidsdiskret **regulering af lineære tidsinvariante** og stokastiske **systemer**

### Kompetencer:

Efter gennemførelse af kurset kan den succesfulde studerende:

- ▶ **anvende** og implementere **klassiske** og moderne **reguleringsteknikker** for at kunne styre og regulere en robot **hurtig og præcist**

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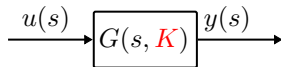
<sup>1</sup> Based on [https://fagbesk.sam.sdu.dk/?fag\\_id=39673](https://fagbesk.sam.sdu.dk/?fag_id=39673)

# Introduction

Motivation (Tuning of Controller)



Consider a system with an unknown parameter  $K$



The **root locus method** is used for describing how the poles of  $G(s)$  move around in the  $s$ -plane, when the parameter  $K$  changes.

# Introduction

## Motivation (Tuning of Controller)



The Ziegler-Nichols tuning method presented in the previous lecture is useful, when a model of the plant is not available. If a transfer function  $G(s)$  of the plant is available, then other methods can be used to design the control (find the controller gains).

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The ***root locus method*** can be used for describing how the closed-loop poles move in the  $s$ -plane, when a controller gain is changed.

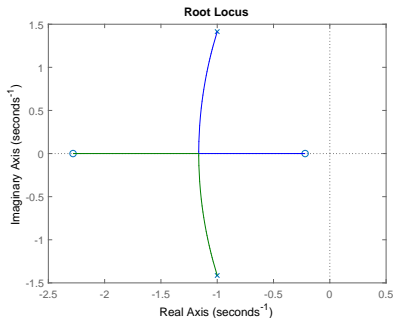
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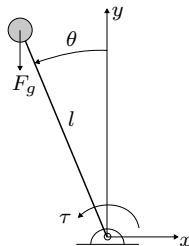
## Motivation (Choice of Controller Structure)



A linearized model of the inverted pendulum is given by the transfer function

$$G(s) = \frac{1}{s^2 - s - 1}$$

that has poles in  $\frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}$ .





# Introduction

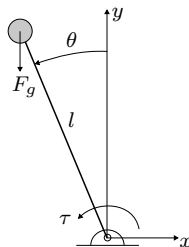
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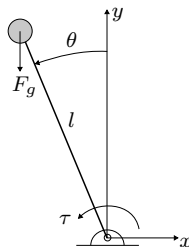
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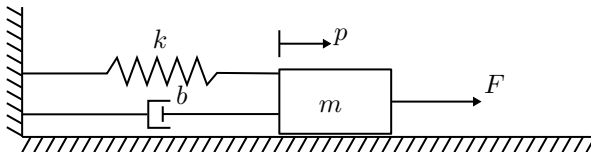
We will see that a P controller or PI controller cannot stabilize the system, since an extra zero (D-term) is needed.

# Introduction

Motivation (Sensitivity to Parameter Variations)



Consider the mass-spring-damper system



with transfer function

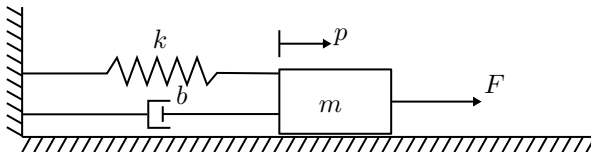
$$G(s) = \frac{1/m}{s^2 + b/ms + k/m}$$

# Introduction

Motivation (Sensitivity to Parameter Variations)



Consider the mass-spring-damper system



with transfer function

$$G(s) = \frac{1/m}{s^2 + b/ms + k/m}$$

What happens to the poles of the system when the stiffness of the spring changes? (the can happen due to temperature changes or production inaccuracies)

Our systems should be robust towards such changes.

# Problem Formulation



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Motivation

**Problem Formulation**

Specification of Performance

Transfer Functions

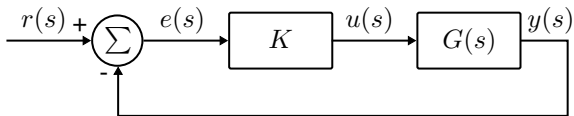
Root Locus

# Problem Formulation

Aim



Consider the closed-loop system shown below

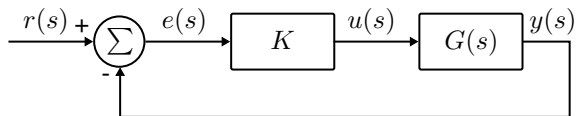


# Problem Formulation

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Consider the closed-loop system shown below



The transfer function of the system is

$$\frac{KG(s)}{1 + KG(s)}$$

characteristic equation

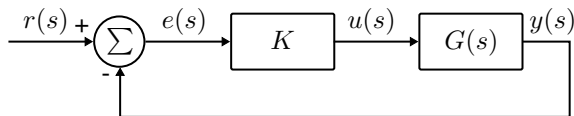
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# Problem Formulation

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characteristic equation

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**Problem:** How does  $K$  affect the location of the roots of the *characteristic equation*, when it is changed from 0 to  $\infty$ ?

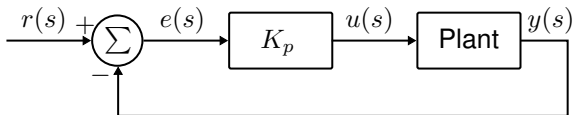


# Problem Formulation

## Examples (1)



Consider a proportional controller with gain  $K_p$  that controls a plant with transfer function  $G(s) = \frac{1}{\tau s + 1}$ .

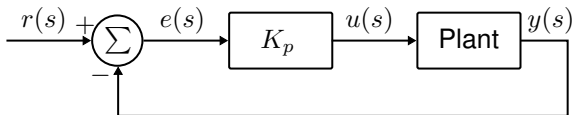


# Problem Formulation

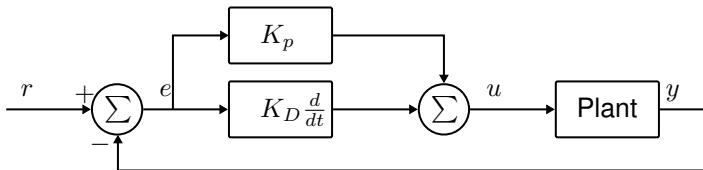
## Examples (1)



Consider a proportional controller with gain  $K_p$  that controls a plant with transfer function  $G(s) = \frac{1}{\tau s + 1}$ .



Consider a PD-controller with gains  $K_p$  and  $K_d$  that controls a plant with transfer function  $G(s) = \frac{1}{\tau s + 1}$ .

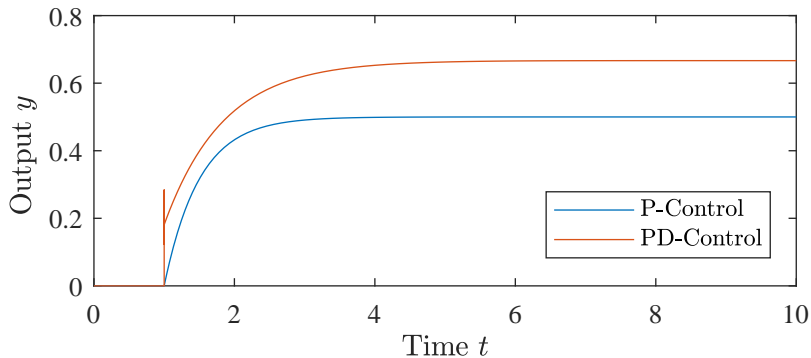


# Problem Formulation

## Examples (2)



Recall that the closed-loop poles do not completely describe the behavior of a system.



Both the P-control and the PD-control has a closed-loop pole at  $s = -2$ .

# Specification of Performance



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Specification of Performance

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## Root Locus

# Second-Order Systems

## Underdamped Second-Order System



The damping ratio  $\zeta$  of an underdamped second-order system is smaller than one; thus, it has a complex pole pair with poles at

$$-\underbrace{\zeta\omega_n}_{\sigma} \pm j \underbrace{\omega_n \sqrt{1 - \zeta^2}}_{\omega_d}.$$

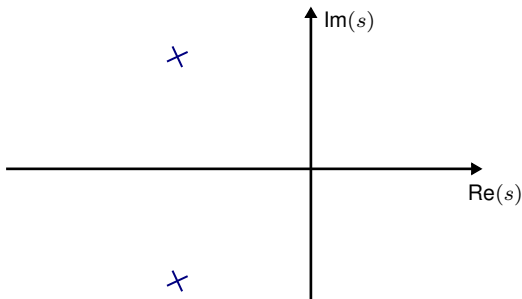
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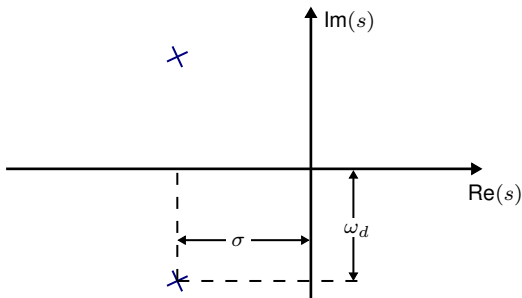
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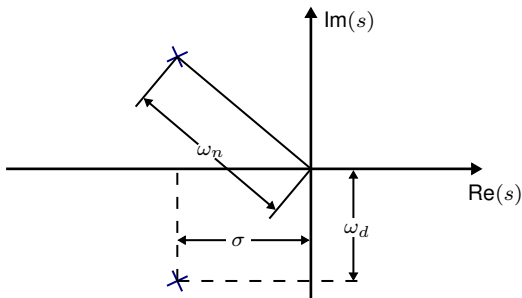
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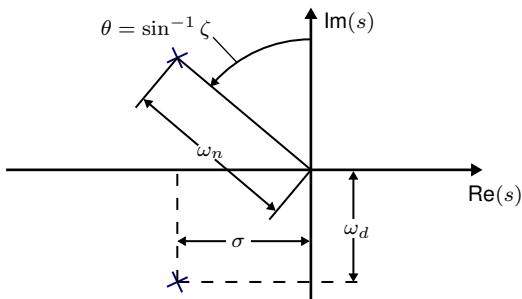
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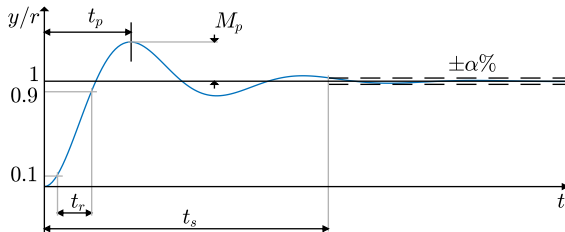
# Performance Specification

## Time-Domain Specification



We consider four different performance measures of dynamical systems

1. The **rise time**  $t_r$ .
2. The **settling time**  $t_s$ .
3. The **peak time**  $t_p$ .
4. The **overshoot**  $M_p$ .

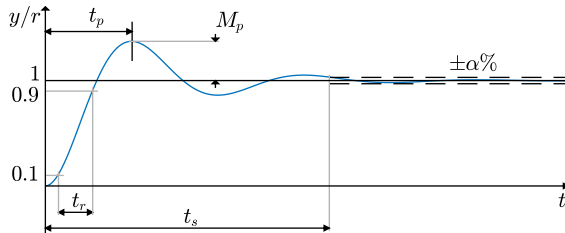


# Performance Specification

## Rise Time



The rise time of a dynamical system is the time it takes to come from 0.1 times the setpoint value to reach 0.9 times the setpoint value.

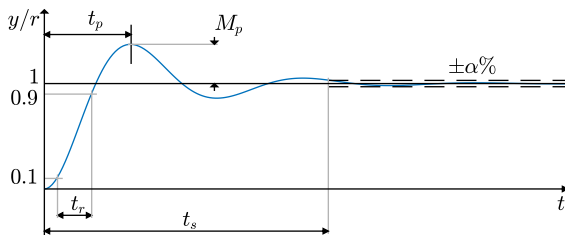


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For a second-order system the rise time can be approximated as

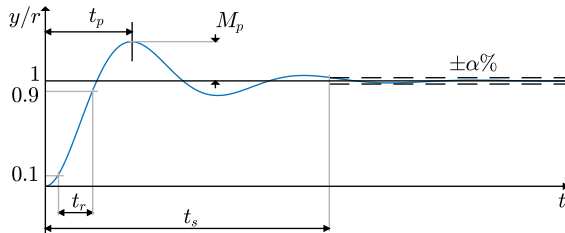
$$t_r = \frac{1.8}{\omega_n}$$

# Performance Specification

## Settling Time



The  $\alpha\%$ -settling time is the time it takes for the step response to reach  $\pm\alpha\%$  of the setpoint value without leaving it again.

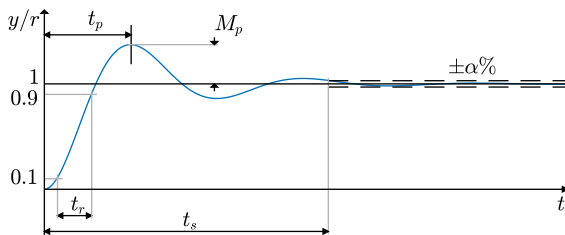


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For a second-order system the settling time can be approximated as

$$t_s = \frac{-\log(\alpha/100)}{\omega_n \zeta}$$

# Performance Specification

Peak Time



The peak time  $t_p$  can be found from the step response of the system

$$y(t) = 1 - e^{-\sigma t} \left( \cos(\omega_d t) + \frac{\sigma}{\omega_d} \sin(\omega_d t) \right)$$

At the maximum of  $y(t)$ , we have  $\dot{y}(t) = 0$

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$$\dot{y}(t) = e^{-\sigma t} \left( \omega_d \sin(\omega_d t) + \frac{\sigma^2}{\omega_d} \sin(\omega_d t) \right)$$

Thus,  $\dot{y}(t) = 0$  for  $\sin(\omega_d t)$ , i.e.,

$$t_p = \frac{\pi}{\omega_d}.$$

# Performance Specification

## Overshoot



The overshoot is computed from the step response at the peak time

$$\begin{aligned}y(t_p) &= 1 - e^{-\sigma\pi/\omega_d} \left( \cos(\pi) + \frac{\sigma}{\omega_d} \sin(\pi) \right) \\&= 1 + M_p\end{aligned}$$

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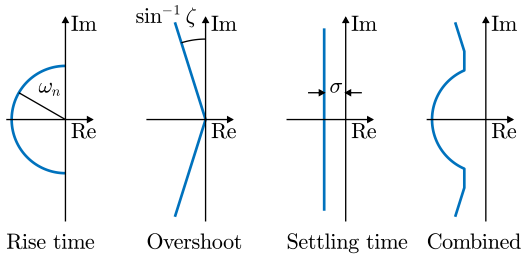
This gives an expression for the overshoot

$$M_p = e^{-\pi\zeta/\sqrt{1-\zeta^2}}$$

for  $0 \leq \zeta \leq 1$ .

# Performance Specification

## Frequency and Time Specifications



To obtain a rise time shorter than  $t_r$

$$\omega_n \geq \frac{1.8}{t_r}$$

To obtain an overshoot that is smaller than  $M_p$

$$\zeta \geq \sqrt{\frac{\left(\frac{\log(M_p)}{-\pi}\right)^2}{1 + \left(\frac{\log(M_p)}{-\pi}\right)^2}}$$

To obtain a settling time shorter than  $t_s$

$$\sigma \geq \frac{4.6}{t_s}$$

# Transfer Functions



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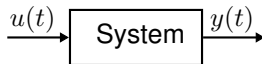
## Root Locus

# Transfer Functions

## Introduction



Consider a system with input  $u(t)$  and output  $y(t)$

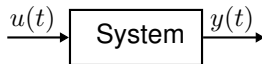


# Transfer Functions

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A transfer function

$$H(s) = \frac{Q(s)}{P(s)}$$

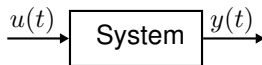
describes the input-output relation of the system in frequency domain

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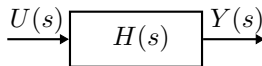
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describes the input-output relation of the system in frequency domain, i.e.

$$H(s) = \frac{Y(s)}{U(s)}$$

where  $U(s)$  is the Laplace transform of the input  $u(t)$  and  $Y(s)$  is the Laplace transform of the output  $y(t)$ .





# Transfer Functions

## Terminology



Consider the transfer function

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$z \in \mathbb{C}$  is a **zero** of  $H(s)$  if

$$Q(z) = 0$$

# Transfer Functions

## Terminology



Consider the transfer function

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$z \in \mathbb{C}$  is a **zero** of  $H(s)$  if

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$p \in \mathbb{C}$  is a **pole** of  $H(s)$  if

$$P(p) = 0$$

# Transfer Functions

## Stability



A transfer function

$$H(s) = \frac{Q(s)}{P(s)}$$

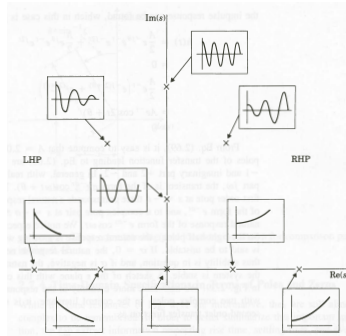
is **stable** if all its poles  $p_1, \dots, p_k \in \mathbb{C}$  are located in the left half of the  $s$ -plane, i.e., if

$$\operatorname{Re}(p_i) \leq 0 \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, k.$$

Otherwise, the transfer function is **unstable**.

# Transfer Functions

## The $s$ -Plane



The waveform at a given point in the  $s$ -plane is given by  $e^{st}$  which means that

1. The oscillation frequency increases when  $|\text{Im}(s)|$  increases.
2. The decay rate increases when  $\text{Re}(s)$  decreases.

# Root Locus



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**Root Locus**



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The following notation is exploited in the following. Let

$$G(s) = \frac{Q(s)}{P(s)}$$

where  $m$  ( $n$ ) is the degree of  $Q$  ( $P$ ).



# Root Locus

## Example



Consider a mass-spring-damper system (with uncertain stiffness  $k$ ) controlled by a P-controller with gain  $K_p = 1$  and system parameters  $m = 1$  kg,  $b = 1$  N/(rad/s). This closed-loop system has characteristic equation

$$1 + \frac{1}{s^2 + s + k}$$

How can this system be put on the standard form

$$1 + kG(s) = 0?$$

# Root Locus

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1. Group all  $k$ -terms

$$(s^2 + s + 1) + k = 0$$

# Root Locus

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$$1 + \frac{1}{s^2 + s + k}$$

1. Group all  $k$ -terms

$$(s^2 + s + 1) + k = 0$$

2. Divide by non- $k$  terms

$$1 + k \frac{1}{s^2 + s + 1} = 0$$

# Root Locus

## Rule 1



Consider the characteristic equation

$$1 + KG(s) = 1 + K \frac{Q(s)}{P(s)} = 0$$

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**Lemma.** A univariate polynomial of degree  $d$  has  $d$  roots in  $\mathbb{C}$ .

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**Lemma.** A univariate polynomial of degree  $d$  has  $d$  roots in  $\mathbb{C}$ .

**RULE 1:** There are  $N$  lines (loci) where  $N = \max(m, n)$ .



# Root Locus

## Rule 2



Similar to previously, the characteristic equation is rewritten as

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Let  $K \rightarrow \infty$ , then we observe that the roots of the characteristic equation are the **zeros** of the open-loop system

**RULE 2:** As  $K$  increases from 0 to  $\infty$ , the roots move from the poles of  $G(s)$  to the zeros of  $G(s)$ .

# Root Locus

## Rule 3



The equation

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$$P(x) = \sum_{\alpha=0}^d a_{\alpha} x^{\alpha}$$

where  $a_{\alpha} \in \mathbb{R}$ , and  $x \in \mathbb{C}$ . If  $a + jb$  is a root of  $P$  with  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  then its complex conjugate  $a - jb$  is also a root of  $P$ .

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**RULE 3:** When roots are complex they occur in conjugate pairs.

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## Rule 4



We study the rewritten characteristic equation on the form

$$\frac{Q(s)}{P(s)} = -\frac{1}{K}$$

and see that the phase of  $\frac{Q(s)}{P(s)}$  should be  $180^\circ$  to satisfy the equation.



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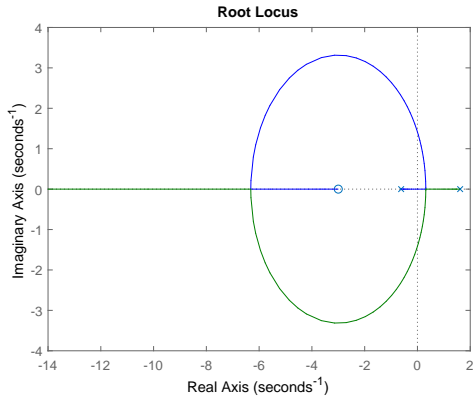
The phase of  $(s - z_m)$  when  $s, z_m \in \mathbb{R}$  is

$$\angle(s - z_m) = \begin{cases} 180^\circ & \text{If } s < z_m \\ 0^\circ & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**RULE 4:** The portion of the real axis to the left of an odd number of open loop poles and zeros are part of the loci.

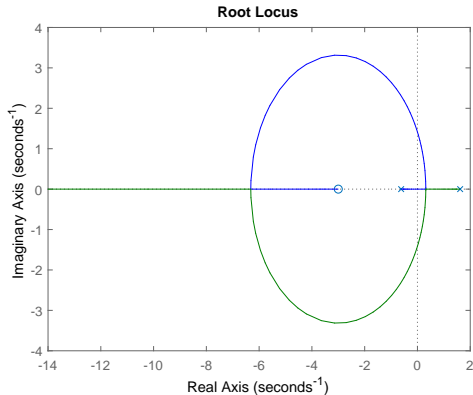
# Root Locus

## Rule 5



# Root Locus

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**RULE 5:** Lines leave and enter the real axis at  $90^\circ$ .

# Root Locus

## Rule 6



For very large values of  $s$  the equation

$$1 + K \frac{s^m + b_1 s^{m-1} + \dots + b_m}{s^n + a_1 s^{n-1} + \dots + a_n}$$

can be approximated by

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and finally

$$\phi_l = \frac{180^\circ + 360^\circ(l - 1)}{n - m} \quad \text{for } l = 1, \dots, n - m$$



# Root Locus

## Rule 6



Let  $m < n - 1$  then

$$-\sum r_i = -\sum p_i$$

where  $r_i$  is the closed-loop poles and  $p_i$  is the open-loop poles.

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Thus,

$$\alpha = \frac{\sum p_i - \sum z_i}{n - m}$$

# Root Locus

## Summary



Consider the following characteristic equation  $1 + K \frac{Q(s)}{P(s)} = 0$ , where  $G(s) = Q(s)/P(s)$ ,  $m$  ( $n$ ) is the degree of  $Q$  ( $P$ ).

The following is a subset of the rules used for drawing a root locus

1. There are  $N$  lines (loci) where  $N = \max(n, m)$ .
2. As  $K$  increases from 0 to  $\infty$ , the roots move from the poles of  $G(s)$  to the zeros of  $G(s)$ .
3. When roots are complex they occur in conjugate pairs.
4. The portion of the real axis to the left of an odd number of open loop poles and zeros are part of the loci.
5. Lines leave and enter the real axis at  $90^\circ$ .



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The following is a subset of the rules used for drawing a root locus

6. Lines go to infinity along asymptotes.

The angles of the asymptotes are

$$\phi_l = \frac{180^\circ + 360^\circ(l-1)}{n-m} \quad \text{for } l = 1, \dots, n-m$$

The centroid of the asymptotes is

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n p_i - \sum_{j=1}^m z_j}{n-m}$$

# Root Locus

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7. The angle(s) of departure of a branch of the locus from a pole of multiplicity  $q$  is given by

$$\phi_{l,\text{dep}} = \frac{\sum \psi_i - \sum_{i \neq l} \phi_i - 180^\circ - 360^\circ(l - 1)}{q}$$

where  $\sum \psi_i$  is the sum of the angles to all the zeros and  $\sum_{i \neq l} \phi_i$  is the sum of the angles to all but the  $l$ th pole.

8. At no time will the same root cross over its own path.
9. If there are not enough poles or zeros to make a pair then the extra lines go to or come from infinity.

# Root Locus

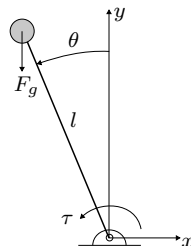
Example



Recall the linearized model of an inverted pendulum given by the transfer function

$$G(s) = \frac{1}{s^2 - s - 1}$$

that has poles in  $\frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}$ .



Determine a controller that can stabilize the system.