# Signals and Systems

Lecture 9: Frequency Response

Instructor: Prof. Yunlong Cai Zhejiang University

03/20/2025
Partly adapted from the materials provided on the MIT OpenCourseWare

#### Review

Last time, we saw how a linear, time-invariant (LTI) system can be characterized by its unit-sample/impulse response.

$$\mathrm{DT:}\ y[n] = (x*h)[n] = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x[k]h[n-k]$$

CT: 
$$y(t) = (x * h)(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(\tau)h(t - \tau)d\tau$$

Characterizing a system by its unit-sample/impulse response is especially insightful for some systems.

#### Frequency Response

Today we will investigate a different way to characterize a system: the **frequency response**.

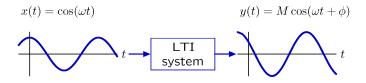
Many systems are naturally described by their responses to sinusoids.

Example: audio systems

#### Frequency Response Preview

If the input to a linear, time-invariant system is an eternal sinusoid, then the output is also an eternal sinusoid:

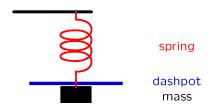
- same frequency
- possibly different amplitude, and
- possibly different phase angle.



The **frequency response** is a plot of the magnitude M and angle  $\phi$  as a function of frequency  $\omega$ .

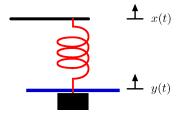
## Example

Mass, spring, and dashpot system.



#### Demonstration

Measure the frequency response of a mass, spring, dashpot system.



#### Frequency Response

Calculate the frequency response.

#### Methods

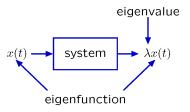
- solve differential equation
  - ightarrow find particular solution for  $x(t) = \cos \omega_0 t$
- find impulse response of system
  - $\rightarrow$  convolve with  $x(t) = \cos \omega_0 t$

#### New method

• use eigenfunctions and eigenvalues

## Eigenfunctions

If the output signal is a scalar multiple of the input signal, we refer to the signal as an eigenfunction and the multiplier as the eigenvalue.



#### Check Yourself: Eigenfunctions

Consider the system described by

$$\dot{y}(t) + 2y(t) = x(t).$$

Determine if each of the following functions is an eigenfunction of this system. If it is, find its eigenvalue.

- 1.  $e^{-t}$  for all time
- 2.  $e^t$  for all time
- 3.  $e^{jt}$  for all time
- 4. cos(t) for all time
- 5. u(t) for all time

## Check Yourself: Eigenfunctions

$$\dot{y}(t) + 2y(t) = x(t)$$

1. 
$$e^{-t}$$
:  $-\lambda e^{-t} + 2\lambda e^{-t} = e^{-t} \to \lambda = 1$ 

2. 
$$e^t$$
:  $\lambda e^t + 2\lambda e^t = e^t \rightarrow \lambda = \frac{1}{3}$ 

3. 
$$e^{jt}$$
:  $j\lambda e^{jt} + 2\lambda e^{jt} = e^{jt} \rightarrow \lambda = \frac{1}{j+2}$ 

- 4.  $\cos t$ :  $-\lambda \sin t + 2\lambda \cos t = \cos t \rightarrow$  not possible!
- 5.  $u(t): \quad \lambda \delta(t) + 2\lambda u(t) = u(t) \rightarrow \quad \text{not possible!}$

#### Check Yourself: Eigenfunctions

Consider the system described by

$$\dot{y}(t) + 2y(t) = x(t).$$

Determine if each of the following functions is an eigenfunction of this system. If it is, find its eigenvalue.

- 1.  $e^{-t}$  for all time  $\sqrt{\lambda} = 1$
- 2.  $e^t$  for all time  $\sqrt{\lambda} = \frac{1}{3}$
- 3.  $e^{jt}$  for all time  $\sqrt{\lambda} = \frac{1}{j+2}$
- 4.  $\cos(t)$  for all time  $\times$
- 5. u(t) for all time X

### Complex Exponentials

Complex exponentials are eigenfunctions of LTI systems.

If  $x(t) = e^{st}$  and h(t) is the impulse response then

$$y(t) = (h*x)(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(\tau)e^{s(t-\tau)}d\tau = e^{st}\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(\tau)e^{-s\tau}d\tau = H(s)\,e^{st}$$



#### Complex Exponentials

Complex exponentials are eigenfunctions of LTI systems.

If  $x(t) = e^{st}$  and h(t) is the impulse response then

$$y(t) = (h*x)(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(\tau)e^{s(t-\tau)}d\tau = e^{st}\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(\tau)e^{-s\tau}d\tau = H(s)\,e^{st}$$



Eternal sinusoids are sums of complex exponentials.

$$\cos \omega_0 t = \frac{1}{2} \left( e^{j\omega_0 t} + e^{-j\omega_0 t} \right)$$

### Complex Exponentials

Complex exponentials are eigenfunctions of LTI systems.

If  $x(t) = e^{st}$  and h(t) is the impulse response then

$$y(t) = (h*x)(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(\tau)e^{s(t-\tau)}d\tau = e^{st}\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(\tau)e^{-s\tau}d\tau = H(s)\,e^{st}$$



Eternal sinusoids are sums of complex exponentials.

$$\cos \omega_0 t = \frac{1}{2} \left( e^{j\omega_0 t} + e^{-j\omega_0 t} \right)$$

Furthermore, the eigenvalue associated with  $e^{st}$  is H(s)!

#### **Rational System Functions**

Eigenvalues are particularly easy to evaluate for systems represented by linear differential equations with constant coefficients.

Then the system function is a ratio of polynomials in s.

#### Example:

$$\ddot{y}(t) + 3\dot{y}(t) + 4y(t) = 2\ddot{x}(t) + 7\dot{x}(t) + 8x(t)$$

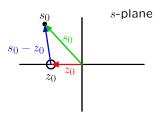
Then

$$H(s) = \frac{2s^2 + 7s + 8}{s^2 + 3s + 4} \equiv \frac{N(s)}{D(s)}$$

The value of H(s) at a point  $s=s_0$  can be determined graphically using vectorial analysis.

Factor the numerator and denominator of the system function to make poles and zeros explicit.

$$H(s_0) = K \frac{(s_0 - z_0)(s_0 - z_1)(s_0 - z_2) \cdots}{(s_0 - p_0)(s_0 - p_1)(s_0 - p_2) \cdots}$$

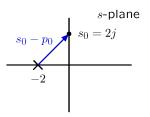


Each factor in the numerator/denominator corresponds to a vector from a zero/pole (here  $z_0$ ) to  $s_0$ , the point of interest in the s-plane.

Example: Find the response of the system described by

$$H(s) = \frac{1}{s+2}$$

to the input  $x(t) = e^{2jt}$  (for all time).



The denominator of  $H(s)|_{s=2j}$  is 2j+2, a vector with length  $2\sqrt{2}$  and angle  $\pi/4$ . Therefore, the response of the system is

$$y(t) = H(2j)e^{2jt} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}e^{-\frac{j\pi}{4}}e^{2jt}$$
.

The value of H(s) at a point  $s=s_0$  can be determined by combining the contributions of the vectors associated with each of the poles and zeros.

$$H(s_0) = K \frac{(s_0 - z_0)(s_0 - z_1)(s_0 - z_2) \cdots}{(s_0 - p_0)(s_0 - p_1)(s_0 - p_2) \cdots}$$

The magnitude is determined by the product of the magnitudes.

$$|H(s_0)| = |K| \frac{|(s_0 - z_0)||(s_0 - z_1)||(s_0 - z_2)| \cdots}{|(s_0 - p_0)||(s_0 - p_1)||(s_0 - p_2)| \cdots}$$

The angle is determined by the sum of the angles.

$$\angle H(s_0) = \angle K + \angle (s_0 - z_0) + \angle (s_0 - z_1) + \dots - \angle (s_0 - p_0) - \angle (s_0 - p_1) - \dots$$

## Frequency Response

Response to eternal sinusoids.

Let 
$$x(t)=\cos\omega_0 t$$
 (for all time). Then 
$$x(t)=\frac{1}{2}\left(e^{j\omega_0 t}+e^{-j\omega_0 t}\right)$$

and the response to a sum is the sum of the responses.

$$y(t) = \frac{1}{2} \left( H(j\omega_0) e^{j\omega_0 t} + H(-j\omega_0) e^{-j\omega_0 t} \right)$$

### Conjugate Symmetry

The complex conjugate of  $H(j\omega)$  is  $H(-j\omega)$ .

The system function is the Laplace transform of the impulse response:

$$H(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(t)e^{-st}dt$$

where h(t) is a real-valued function of t for physical systems.

$$\begin{split} H(j\omega) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(t) e^{-j\omega t} dt \\ H(-j\omega) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(t) e^{j\omega t} dt \equiv \left(H(j\omega)\right)^* \end{split}$$

## Frequency Response

Response to eternal sinusoids.

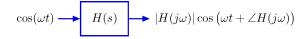
Let 
$$x(t)=\cos\omega_0 t$$
 (for all time), which can be written as 
$$x(t)=\frac{1}{2}\left(e^{j\omega_0 t}+e^{-j\omega_0 t}\right)$$

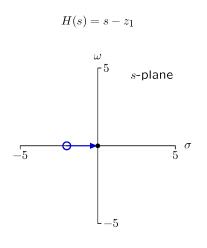
The response to a sum is the sum of the responses,

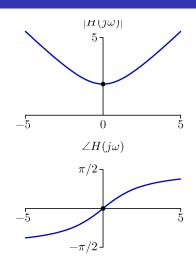
$$\begin{split} y(t) &= \frac{1}{2} \left( H(j\omega_0) e^{j\omega_0 t} + H(-j\omega_0) e^{-j\omega_0 t} \right) \\ &= \operatorname{Re} \left\{ H(j\omega_0) e^{j\omega_0 t} \right\} \\ &= \operatorname{Re} \left\{ |H(j\omega_0)| e^{j\angle H(j\omega_0)} e^{j\omega_0 t} \right\} \\ &= |H(j\omega_0)| \operatorname{Re} \left\{ e^{j\omega_0 t + j\angle H(j\omega_0)} \right\} \\ y(t) &= |H(j\omega_0)| \cos \left( \omega_0 t + \angle \left( H(j\omega_0) \right) \right). \end{split}$$

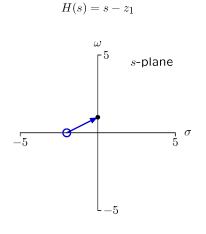
#### Frequency Response

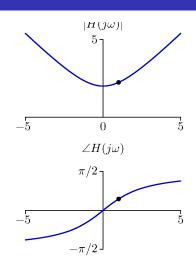
The magnitude and phase of the response of a system to an eternal cosine signal is the magnitude and phase of the system function evaluated at  $s=j\omega$ .

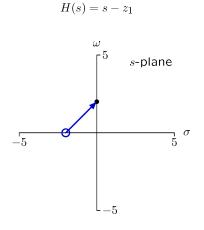


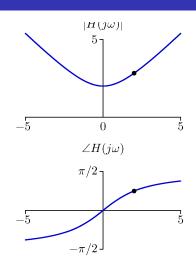


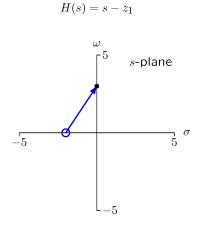


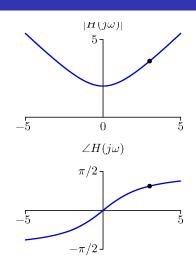


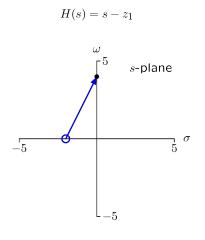


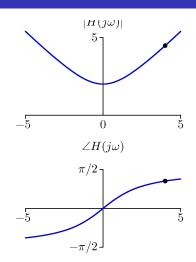


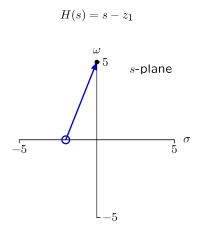


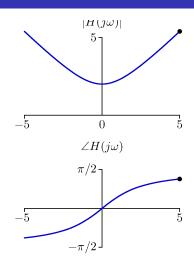


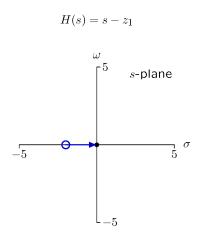


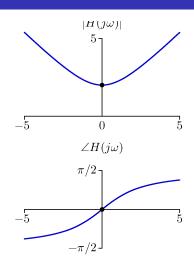


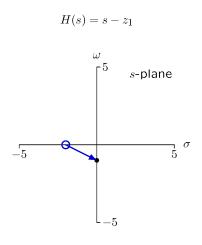


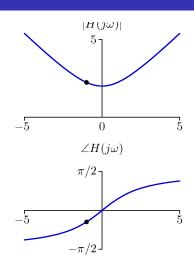


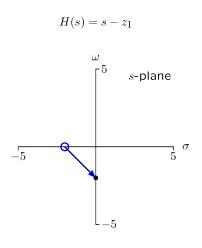


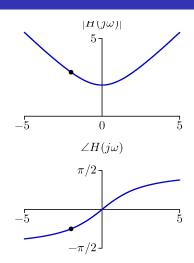


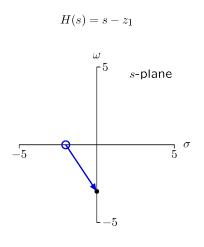


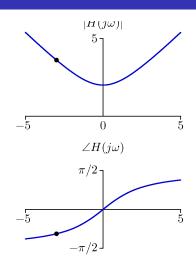


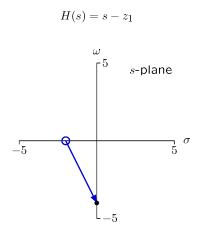


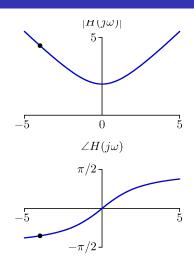


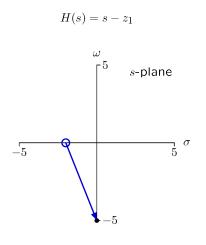


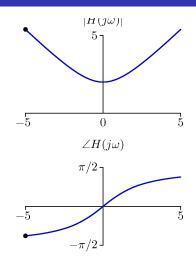


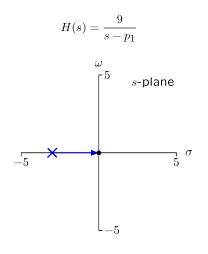


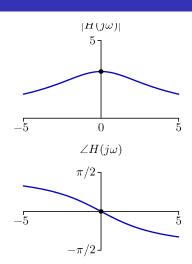


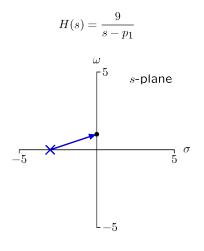


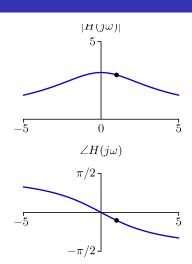


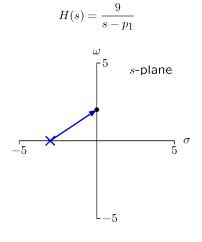


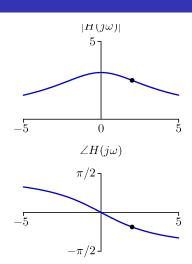


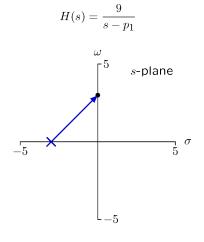


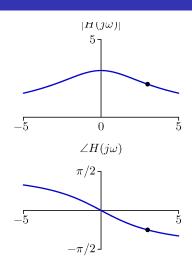


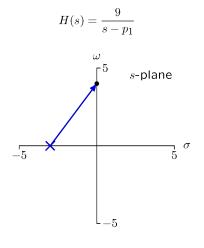


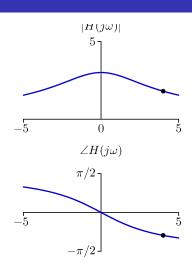


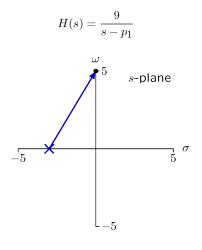


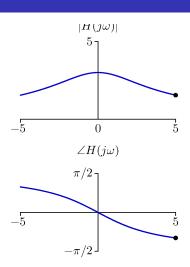


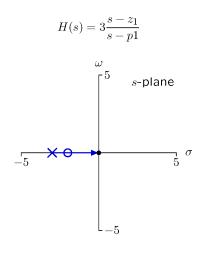


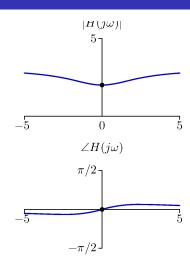


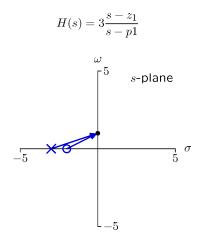


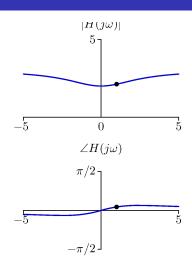


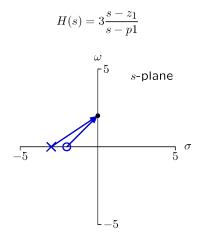


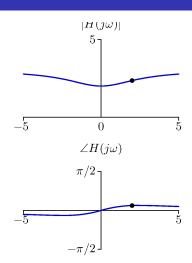


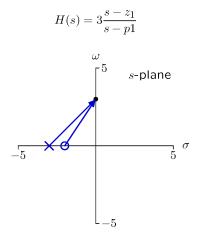


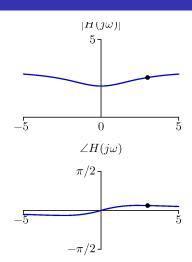


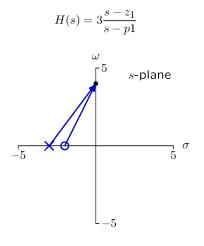


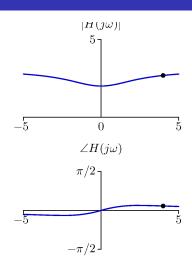


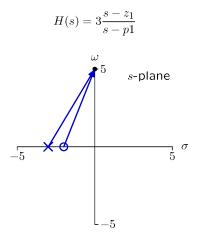


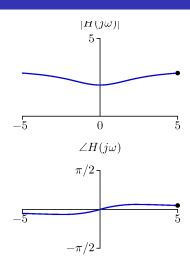




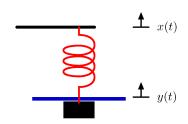




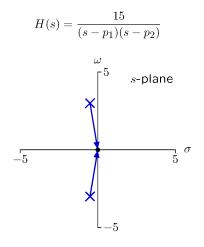


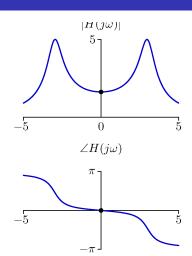


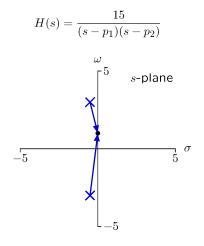
## Example: Mass, Spring, and Dashpot

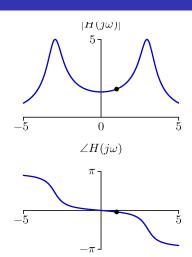


$$F = Ma = M\ddot{y}(t) = K(x(t) - y(t)) - B\dot{y}(t)$$
 
$$M\ddot{y}(t) + B\dot{y}(t) + Ky(t) = Kx(t)$$
 
$$(s^2M + sB + K) \ Y(s) = KX(s)$$
 
$$H(s) = \frac{K}{s^2M + sB + K}$$





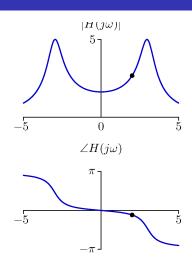




$$H(s) = \frac{15}{(s - p_1)(s - p_2)}$$

$$\omega$$
5 s-plane
$$\sqrt{5}$$

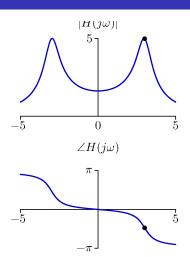
$$\sqrt{5}$$

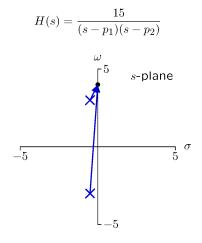


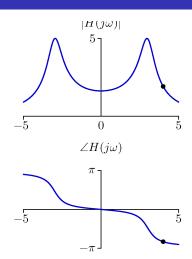
$$H(s) = \frac{15}{(s - p_1)(s - p_2)}$$

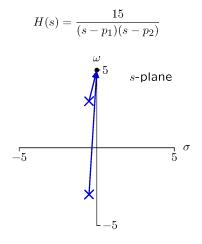
$$\omega$$
5 s-plane
$$\star$$

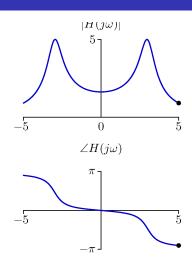
$$-5$$



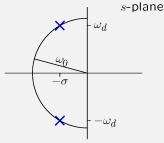








Consider the system represented by the following poles.



Find the frequency  $\omega$  at which the magnitude of the response y(t) is greatest if  $x(t) = \cos \omega t$ .

1. 
$$\omega = \omega_d$$

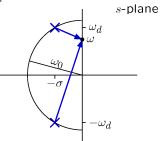
3. 
$$0 < \omega < \omega_d$$

2. 
$$\omega_d < \omega < \omega_0$$

4. none of the above

### Check Yourself: Frequency Response

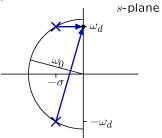
Analyze with vectors.



The product of the lengths is  $\left(\sqrt{(\omega+\omega_d)^2+\sigma^2}\right)\left(\sqrt{(\omega-\omega_d)^2+\sigma^2}\right)$ .

### Check Yourself: Frequency Response

Analyze with vectors.

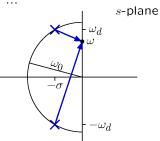


The product of the lengths is 
$$\left(\sqrt{(\omega+\omega_d)^2+\sigma^2}\right)\left(\sqrt{(\omega-\omega_d)^2+\sigma^2}\right)$$
.

Decreasing  $\omega$  from  $\omega_d$  to  $\omega_d - \epsilon$  decreases the product since length of bottom vector decreases as  $\epsilon$  while length of top vector increases only  $\epsilon^2$ .

### Check Yourself: Frequency Response

More mathematically ...



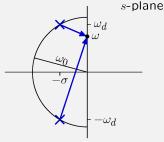
The product of the lengths is 
$$\left(\sqrt{(\omega+\omega_d)^2+\sigma^2}\right)\left(\sqrt{(\omega-\omega_d)^2+\sigma^2}\right)$$
.

Maximum occurs where derivative of squared lengths is zero.

$$\frac{d}{d\omega}\left((\omega + \omega_d)^2 + \sigma^2\right)\left((\omega - \omega_d)^2 + \sigma^2\right) = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \quad \omega^2 = \omega_d^2 - \sigma^2 = \omega_0^2 - 2\sigma^2 \ .$$

Consider the system represented by the following poles.



Find the frequency  $\omega$  at which the magnitude of the response y(t) is greatest if  $x(t) = \cos \omega t$ .

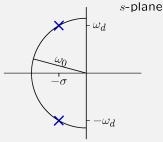
1. 
$$\omega = \omega_d$$

3. 
$$0 < \omega < \omega_d$$

2. 
$$\omega_d < \omega < \omega_0$$

4. none of the above

Consider the system represented by the following poles.



Find the frequency  $\omega$  at which the phase of the response y(t) is  $-\pi/2$  if  $x(t) = \cos \omega t$ .

0. 
$$0 < \omega < \omega_d$$

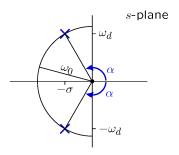
1. 
$$\omega = \omega_d$$

1. 
$$\omega = \omega_d$$
 2.  $\omega_d < \omega < \omega_0$ 

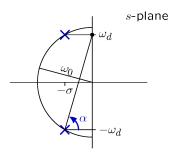
3. 
$$\omega = \omega_0$$

4. 
$$\omega > \omega_0$$

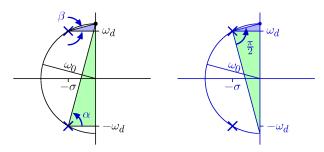
The phase is 0 when  $\omega = 0$ .



The phase is less than  $\pi/2$  when  $\omega = \omega_d$ .



The phase at  $\omega=\omega_0$  is  $-\pi/2$ .



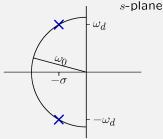
Check result by evaluating the system function.

Substitute 
$$s = j\omega_0 = j\sqrt{\frac{K}{M}}$$
 into

$$H(s) = \frac{K}{s^2M + sB + K} = \frac{K}{-\frac{K}{M}M + j\omega_0 B + K} = \frac{K}{j\omega_0 B}$$

The phase is  $-\frac{\pi}{2}$ .

Consider the system represented by the following poles.



Find the frequency  $\omega$  at which the phase of the response y(t) is  $-\pi/2$  if  $x(t) = \cos \omega t$ . 3

0. 
$$0 < \omega < \omega_d$$

1. 
$$\omega = \omega_d$$

1. 
$$\omega = \omega_d$$
 2.  $\omega_d < \omega < \omega_0$ 

3. 
$$\omega = \omega_0$$

4. 
$$\omega > \omega_0$$

#### Frequency Response: Summary

LTI systems can be characterized by responses to eternal sinusoids.

Many systems are naturally described by their frequency response.

- audio systems
- mass, spring, dashpot system

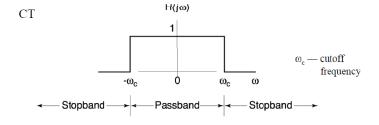
Frequency response is easy to calculate from the system function.

Frequency response lives on the  $j\omega$  axis of the Laplace transform.

## Filtering

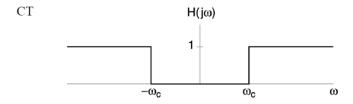
#### Idealized Filters

#### Lowpass filter



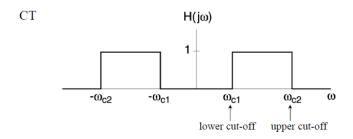
# Filtering

#### Highpass



# Filtering

#### **Bandpass**



# Assignments

- Reading Assignment: Chap. 9.4, 10.4, 3.8-3.11, 6.0-6.2, 6.5
- Project 1