

# Lyapunov Theory, Lyapunov equations

## Control Theory, Lecture 8

by Sergei Savin

Spring 2021

- Lyapunov method: stability criteria
- Lyapunov method: examples
- Linear case
- Discrete case
- Lyapunov equations
- Read more

# LYAPUNOV METHOD: STABILITY CRITERIA

## Asymptotic stability criteria

Autonomous dynamic system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})$  is asymptotically stable, if there exists a scalar function  $V = V(\mathbf{x}) > 0$ , whose time derivative is negative  $\dot{V}(\mathbf{x}) < 0$ , except  $V(\mathbf{0}) = 0$ ,  $\dot{V}(\mathbf{0}) = 0$ .

## Marginal stability criteria

$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})$  is stable in the sense of Lyapunov,  $\exists V = V(\mathbf{x}) > 0$ ,  $\dot{V}(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0$ .

## Definition

Function  $V = V(\mathbf{x}) > 0$  in this case is called *Lyapunov function*.

This is not the only type of stability as you remember, you are invited to study criteria for other stability types on your own.

# LYAPUNOV METHOD: EXAMPLES

## Example 1

Take dynamical system  $\dot{x} = -x$ .

We propose a *Lyapunov function candidate*  $V(x) = x^2 \geq 0$ .  
Let's find its derivative:

$$\dot{V}(x) = \frac{\partial V}{\partial x}(-x) = 2x(-x) = -x^2 \leq 0 \quad (1)$$

This satisfies the Lyapunov criteria, so the system is stable. It is in fact asymptotically stable, because  $\dot{V}(x) \neq 0$  if  $x \neq 0$ .

# LYAPUNOV METHOD: EXAMPLES

## Example 2

Consider oscillator  $\ddot{q} = f(q, \dot{q}) = -\dot{q}$ .

We propose a *Lyapunov function candidate*

$V(q, \dot{q}) = T(q, \dot{q}) = \frac{1}{2}\dot{q}^2 \geq 0$ , where  $T(q, \dot{q})$  is kinetic energy of the system. Let's find its derivative:

$$\dot{V}(q, \dot{q}) = \frac{\partial V}{\partial q} \dot{q} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial \dot{q}} f(q, \dot{q}) = \dot{q}(-\dot{q}) = -\dot{q}^2 \leq 0 \quad (2)$$

This satisfies the Lyapunov criteria, so the system is stable.

But it is not proven to be asymptotically stable, because

$\dot{V}(q, \dot{q}) = 0$  for any  $q$  as long as  $\dot{q} = 0$ .

# LYAPUNOV METHOD: EXAMPLES

## Example 3

Consider pendulum  $\ddot{q} = f(q, \dot{q}) = -\dot{q} - \sin(q)$ .

We propose a *Lyapunov function candidate*

$V(q, \dot{q}) = E(q, \dot{q}) = \frac{1}{2}\dot{q}^2 + 1 - \cos(q) \geq 0$ , where  $E(q, \dot{q})$  is total energy of the system. Let's find its derivative:

$$\dot{V}(q, \dot{q}) = \frac{\partial V}{\partial q}\dot{q} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial \dot{q}}f(q, \dot{q}) = \dot{q}\sin(q) + \dot{q}(-\dot{q} - \sin(q)) = -\dot{q}^2 \leq 0 \quad (3)$$

This satisfies the Lyapunov criteria, so the system is stable. It is not proven to be asymptotically stable, because  $\dot{V}(q, \dot{q}) = 0$  for any  $q$ , as long as  $\dot{q} = 0$ .

# LINEAR CASE

## Part 1

As you saw, Lyapunov method allows you to deal with nonlinear systems, as well as linear ones. But for linear ones there are additional properties we can use.

### Observation 1

For a linear system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$  we can always pick Lyapunov function candidate in the form  $V = \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{S} \mathbf{x} \geq 0$ , where  $\mathbf{S}$  is a positive semidefinite matrix.

Next slides will show where this leads us.

# LINEAR CASE

## Part 2

Given  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$  and  $V = \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{S}\mathbf{x} \geq 0$ , let's find its derivative:

$$\dot{V}(\mathbf{x}) = \dot{\mathbf{x}}^\top \mathbf{S}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{S}\dot{\mathbf{x}} \quad (4)$$

$$\dot{V}(\mathbf{x}) = (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x})^\top \mathbf{S}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{S}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^\top (\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{S}\mathbf{A})\mathbf{x} \quad (5)$$

Notice that  $\dot{V}(x)$  should be negative for all  $\mathbf{x}$  for the system to be stable, meaning that  $\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{S}\mathbf{A}$  should be negative semidefinite. A more strict form of this requirement is *Lyapunov equation*:

$$\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{S}\mathbf{A} = -\mathbf{Q} \quad (6)$$

where  $\mathbf{Q}$  is a positive-definite matrix.



# DISCRETE CASE

## Part 1

### Marginal stability criteria, discrete case

Given  $\mathbf{x}_{i+1} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_i)$ , if  $V(\mathbf{x}_i) > 0$ , and  $V(\mathbf{x}_{i+1}) - V(\mathbf{x}_i) \leq 0$ , the system is stable.

Same as before, for linear systems we will be choosing *positive semidefinite quadratic forms* as Lyapunov function candidates.

# DISCRETE CASE

## Part 2

Consider dynamics  $\mathbf{x}_{i+1} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_i$  and  $V = \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{S}\mathbf{x}_i \geq 0$ , let's find  $V(\mathbf{x}_{i+1}) - V(\mathbf{x}_i)$ :

$$V(\mathbf{x}_{i+1}) - V(\mathbf{x}_i) = (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_i)^\top \mathbf{S}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{S}\mathbf{x}_i \quad (7)$$

$$V(\mathbf{x}_{i+1}) - V(\mathbf{x}_i) = \mathbf{x}_i^\top (\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{S}\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{S})\mathbf{x}_i \quad (8)$$

Notice that  $V(\mathbf{x}_{i+1}) - V(\mathbf{x}_i)$  should be negative for all  $\mathbf{x}_i$  for the system to be stable, meaning that  $\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{S}\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{S}$  should be negative semidefinite. A more strict form of this requirement is *Discrete Lyapunov equation*:

$$\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{S}\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{S} = -\mathbf{Q} \quad (9)$$

where  $\mathbf{Q}$  is a positive-definite matrix.

In practice, you can easily use Lyapunov equations for stability verification. Python and MATLAB have built-in functionality to solve it:

- `scipy: linalg.solve_continuous_lyapunov(A, Q)`

- `MATLAB: lyap(A,Q)`

- 3.9 Liapunov's direct method
- Università degli studi di Padova Dipartimento di Ingegneria dell'Informazione, Nicoletta Bof, Ruggero Carli, Luca Schenato, Technical Report, Lyapunov Theory for Discrete Time Systems

# THANK YOU!

Lecture slides are available via Moodle.

You can help improve these slides at:

[github.com/SergeiSa/Control-Theory-Slides-Spring-2021](https://github.com/SergeiSa/Control-Theory-Slides-Spring-2021)

Check Moodle for additional links, videos, textbook suggestions.