

Proof that eigenvalues in left half plane  
implies stability:

$$\dot{x} = f(x) \quad f(\bar{x}) = 0$$

Step 1 set  $y = x - \bar{x}$

$$\dot{y} = f(y + \bar{x})$$

Write  $f(y + \bar{x}) = Df(\bar{x})y + g(y)$  (i.e. expanding in Taylor series)  
and  $g(y)$  is 'higher order'. This is interpreted as follows  
for our purpose: given  $\delta > 0$  there is an  $\varepsilon$ -ball in  $y$   
so that

$$|g(y)| \leq \delta |y| \quad (1)$$

Also set  $A = Df(\bar{x})$

Step 2 Assume that for all eigenvalues  $\lambda$  of  $A$  we  
have:

$$\operatorname{Re} \lambda < \alpha < 0$$

then there is a basis on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  so that

$$\langle Ay, y \rangle \leq \alpha \langle y, y \rangle \quad (2)$$

Note: (1)  $\langle y, y \rangle = y_1^2 + y_2^2 + \dots + y_n^2$  i.e. the "dot product"

(2) estimate (2) involves non-trivial linear algebra  
including the Jordan canonical form.

Step 3 Calculate

$$\frac{d}{dt} |y|^2 = \frac{d}{dt} \langle y, y \rangle = 2 \left\langle \frac{dy}{dt}, y \right\rangle$$

$$= 2 \left\{ \langle Ay, y \rangle + \langle g(y), y \rangle \right\}$$

using estimates (1) and (2)

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle y, y \rangle \leq 2 \left\{ 4 \langle y, y \rangle + 8 \langle y, y \rangle \right\}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} |y|^2 \leq 2(4+8) |y|^2 \quad (3)$$

Step 4 Let us recall the goal: to show that if  $4 < 0$  (i.e.  $\operatorname{Re} \lambda < 0$  for all eigenvalues of  $A$ ) then we can find a <sup>neighborhood</sup> ~~ball~~ around  $\tilde{x}$  (say  $|x - \tilde{x}| \leq \varepsilon$ ) so that if  $x_0$  is in this ~~ball~~ <sup>neighborhood</sup> then  $x(t) \rightarrow \tilde{x}$  as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$  and  $x(t)$  stays in the ~~ball~~ <sup>neighborhood</sup>.

new co-ords  $\rightarrow$

(note: changed ball  $\rightarrow$  nbhd = neighborhood as we will find a ball in the co-ordinates for which (2) holds and this is just a nbhd. in the original co-ordinates).

Since  $y = x - \tilde{x}$ , we can use (3) and need to show that (3)  $\Rightarrow$  if  $|y_0| < \varepsilon$  (for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ ) then

$$|y(t)| \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow +\infty$$

$$\wedge \quad |y(t)| < \varepsilon \quad \forall t \geq 0.$$

Set  $z = |y|^2$  (3) says

$$\frac{dz}{dt} \leq 2(\alpha + \delta)z$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{z} \frac{dz}{dt} \leq 2(\alpha + \delta) \quad (4)$$

and this holds for some  $\varepsilon > 0$   $0 < z < \varepsilon^2$ .

Integrating (4)  $\Rightarrow$

$$\int_0^t \frac{1}{z} \frac{dz}{dt} dt \leq \int_0^t 2(\alpha + \delta) dt$$

$$\ln \frac{z(t)}{z(0)} \leq 2(\alpha + \delta)t$$

$$\Rightarrow z(t) \leq z(0) e^{2(\alpha + \delta)t}$$

$$\Rightarrow |y(t)|^2 \leq |y_0|^2 e^{2(\alpha + \delta)t}$$

taking square roots of both sides  $\Rightarrow$

$$|y(t)| \leq |y_0| e^{(\alpha + \delta)t}$$

Since  $\alpha < 0$ , choose  $\varepsilon > 0$  so that  $\alpha + \delta < 0$  and we see that if  $|y_0| < \varepsilon$  then  $|y(t)| < \varepsilon$  and

$$|y(t)| \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } t \rightarrow +\infty$$

as desired.