

**On the Design of Stable, High Performance Sigma Delta  
Modulators**

by

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# Abstract

The sigma delta architecture of analog-to-digital (A/D) converters is especially applicable to digitizing most bio-signals. High order single-bit sigma delta modulators provide high resolution and linearity with low circuit complexity but require careful design to avoid unstable states. Many existing methods of designing these systems have few degrees of freedom, rely extensively on simulations, and do not provide guarantees about stability. The problem of designing sigma delta modulators with high performance and a clear indicator of the performance versus stability is addressed in this dissertation. This is done by developing a model of the sigma delta modulator that more accurately represents the system including robustness against the nonlinearities due to the quantizer element. After introducing many stability criteria from literature, those most suited to design are identified and the model adjusted to allow these criteria to be applied. High performance is maintained by using the generalized Kalman-Yakubovič-Popov (GKYP) lemma to maximize noise rejection in the signal band using a semidefinite programming (SDP) framework that also permits the use of  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_2$ , and  $\ell_1$  norm-based stability constraints on the system. Several designs using this framework are presented and their relative merits discussed. Examples include an aggressive noise shaping design to compete with existing methods on the basis of performance and designs with guaranteed stability for a range of input signals. The performance-stability trade-off for the different stability constraints using this work is examined and motivated by simulation results.

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# Lay Summary

The goal of this work was a method to better design analog-to-digital converters with special interest to recording weak bio-signals, such as those from electroencephalography and electrocardiography.

The sigma delta architecture of analog-to-digital converters is known for having high resolution for signals of this class while requiring fewer expensive analog circuit components. However, as its performance is increased, it tends to become unstable, a point at which the digitized signal no longer accurately represents the original.

To this end, a theory and set of software tools were developed that use mathematical optimization and control systems techniques to design sigma delta circuits with varying degrees of performance and stability. It is even possible to generate a design that is guaranteed to be stable. The method is generalizable to any kind of signal, medical or otherwise. These developments were used to analyze and synthesize designs and will hopefully inspire future high-resolution analog-to-digital converters.

# Preface

The work presented herein is an original independent production of the author. A manuscript has been submitted that contains a condensed version of much of the material in Chapter 2 and Chapter 4 as well as portions of Chapter 3 and the continuous-time design from Section 5.6.

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# List of Symbols

$G(\lambda)$  Augmented system.

$K$  Variable quantizer gain (linearized model).

$K(A)$  Describing function of a quantizer.

$M$  LFT constant gain matrix.

$P_Q$  In-band quantization noise power.

$S(\lambda)$  Sensitivity function.

$T(\lambda)$  Complementary sensitivity function.

$\Delta_Q$  Quantization step size.

$\ell_1$  1-norm ( $\|\cdot\|_1$ ), maximum peak-to-peak gain.

$\lambda$  Placeholder for the continuous-time Laplace variable  $s$  or discrete-time  $z$ -transformation variable  $z$ .

$\mathcal{H}_2$  2-norm ( $\|\cdot\|_2$ ), RMS gain of a system.

$\mathcal{H}_\infty$  infinity norm ( $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ ), maximum energy gain of a system or peak gain over frequency.

$\mu_u$  mean (DC component) of quantizer input signal  $u$ .

$\mu_y$  mean (DC component) of quantizer output signal  $y$ .

$\sigma_d^2$  variance of quantization noise signal  $d$ .

## LIST OF SYMBOLS

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$\sigma_y^2$  variance of quantizer output signal  $y$ .

$\star\text{-NORM}$  an upper bound on the  $\ell_1$  norm (see [3]).

$d$  Quantization noise source (linearized model).

$e$  Feedback error signal.

$n$  Filter order.

$r$  Analog reference input signal.

$u$  Quantizer input signal.

$w$  Disturbance input signal.

$y$  Digital bitstream output signal.

$z$  Disturbance output signal.

# Glossary

**A/D** analog-to-digital.

**AAF** antialiasing filter.

**BIBO** bounded-input bounded-output.

**BMI** bilinear matrix inequality.

**BP** band pass.

**CCF** controllable canonical form.

**CLANS** closed-loop analysis of noise shaper.

**CT** continuous-time.

**D/A** digital-to-analog.

**DRF** digital reconstruction filter.

**DSP** digital signal processing.

**DT** discrete-time.

**ECG** electrocardiography.

**EEG** electroencephalography.

**FIR** finite impulse response.



## *GLOSSARY*

---

**FPGA** field programmable gate array.

**FS** full-scale.

**GKYP** generalized Kalman-Yakubovič-Popov.

**HDL** hardware description language.

**HP** high pass.

**IIR** infinite impulse response.

**LF** loop filter.

**LFT** linear fractional transformation.

**LMI** linear matrix inequality.

**LP** low pass.

**MSIA** maximum stable input amplitude.

**NTF** noise transfer function, equivalent to the sensitivity function.

**OSR** oversampling ratio.

**PDF** probability density function.

**PPG** photoplethysmography.

**S/H** sample-and-hold.

**SDP** semidefinite programming.

**SISO** single-input single-output.

**SMC** sliding mode control.

**SQNR** signal-to-quantization-noise ratio.

**STF** signal transfer function, equivalent to the complementary sensitivity function.

# Acknowledgments

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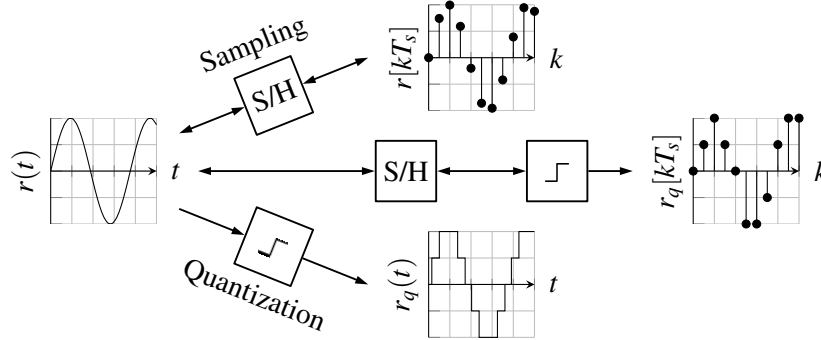
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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

The conversion of signals between analog and digital domains is an often encountered problem in signal processing. For an analog signal to be represented digitally, it must undergo the processes of sampling and quantization (Figure 1.1). The former is the conversion from continuous-time (CT) to discrete-time (DT) and can be done without loss of information by the Nyquist-Shannon sampling theorem, given a sufficiently high sample rate. The latter is the mapping from an infinite set of possible values to a fixed number of quantization levels that is required for digital representation with finite memory. Unlike sampling, the process of quantization is non-injective and thus irreversible. The design of signal conversion circuits that minimize the error introduced by quantization is a major problem in mixed signal electronics.

Sigma delta modulation is a widely used method for analog-to-digital (A/D) and digital-to-analog (D/A) conversion of signals that provides high resolution through the techniques of oversampling and noise shaping. Oversampling trades throughput for resolution. Because of this, the sigma delta modulator generally lies between integrating converters, which are specialized for near-DC signals, and high-speed architectures, such as successive approximation and flash. The sigma delta quantization scheme is especially applicable to signals with low to moderate frequency content. Signals with these properties include most bio-signals such as those recorded electrically (e.g., electroencephalography (EEG), electrocardiography (ECG)) or through other means using transducers (e.g., photoplethysmography



**Figure 1.1:** A continuous-time, continuous-value signal  $r(t)$  is sampled to produce a discrete-time, continuous-value signal  $r[kT_s]$ .  $r(t)$  independently undergoes quantization to yield a continuous-time, discrete-value signal  $r_q(t)$ . When both processes are applied in sequence, a discrete-time, discrete-value signal  $r_q[kT_s]$  is the result.

(PPG)), as well as audio signals.

## 1.1 Oversampling and Noise Shaping

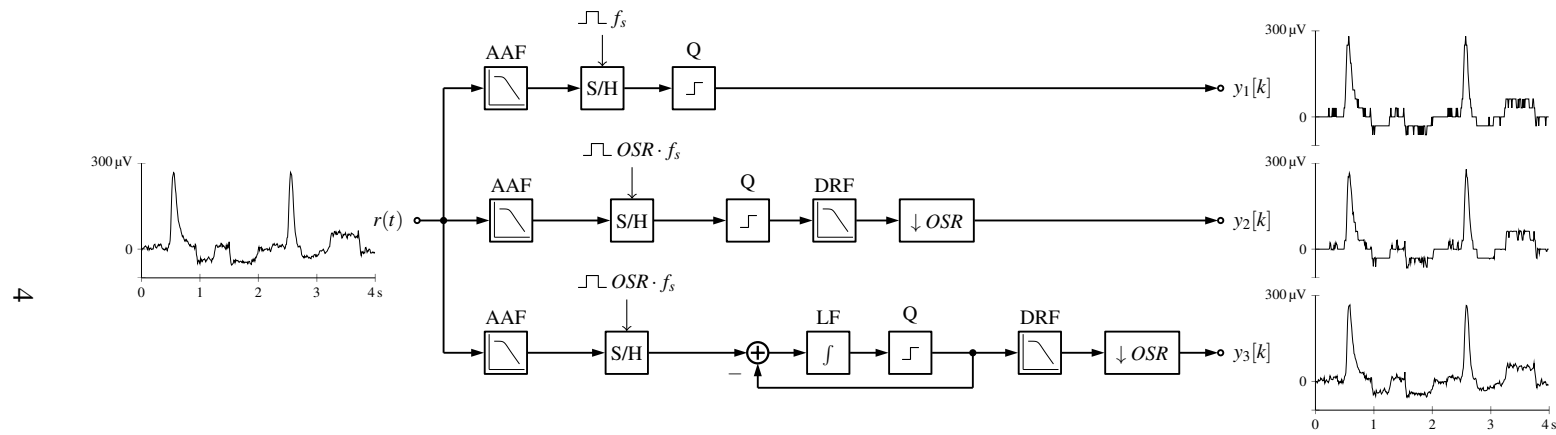
Oversampling is simply the process where the analog signal is sampled at a rate higher than what the sampling theorem would dictate for perfect reconstruction, expressed as an oversampling ratio (OSR) relative to the Nyquist frequency. It may seem that this does not have a direct benefit *per se*, but it allows a less demanding analog antialiasing filter (AAF) to be used, saving circuit area. It also permits the quantization error to be spread across a larger bandwidth to increase resolution. Assuming quantization error can be modelled by white noise, oversampling reduces the in-band quantization noise power  $P_Q$  by a factor inversely proportional to OSR [4] as seen in Equation 1.1, where  $\Delta_Q$  is the difference between quantization levels. These two advantages — reducing analog circuit complexity and increasing resolution — are common goals in sigma delta modulator design as the sigma delta architecture is known to perform well under non-ideal conditions [5].

$$P_Q = \frac{\Delta_Q^2}{12 \cdot \text{OSR}} \quad (1.1)$$

It may appear that oversampling alone quickly becomes impractical because

one must approach very high sampling frequencies to increase the signal-to-quantization-noise ratio (SQNR) substantially. However, this assumes that the quantization noise is evenly distributed across the spectrum. Noise shaping is the use of a filter operating on the oversampled signal to push quantization noise out of the signal band where it can be removed by the digital reconstruction filter (DRF). This behaviour is implemented by wrapping the filter and quantizer in a feedback loop. With the same white noise assumption, the trade-off between in-band shaped quantization noise and OSR is improved. For ideal loop filters, as filter order  $n$  is increased, the in-band noise is reduced by  $6n$  dB/decade as shown in Equation 1.2 [4]. The effect of oversampling and noise shaping is demonstrated in Figure 1.2.

$$P_Q = \frac{\Delta^2 \pi^{2n}}{12(2n+1) \cdot OSR^{2n+1}} \quad (1.2)$$

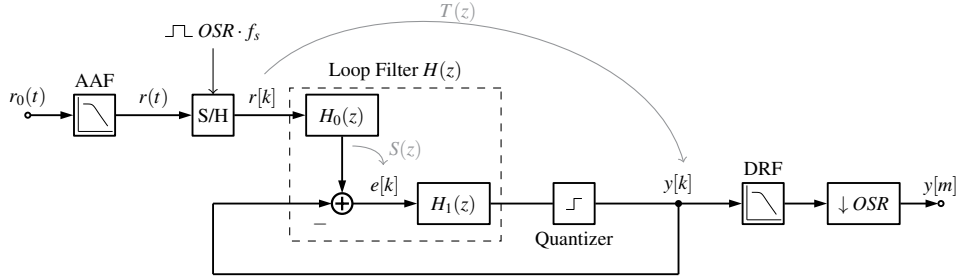


**Figure 1.2:** A comparison between naïve quantization (top), 10 times oversampled quantization (middle), and first order sigma delta modulation (bottom). The graphs on the right show the increasing quality of an EEG signal [1] sampled to a final rate of 100 Hz and quantized by  $Q$  with 5 bits by each scheme.

## 1.2 Basic Structure

The basic block diagram of a sigma delta modulator and nomenclature that will be used henceforth is now introduced. For brevity, the scope of this thesis is limited to sigma delta A/D converters but the concepts are easily transferrable to the D/A case. Modulators can be one of two main classes, DT or CT, referring to the nature of the loop filter (LF). The two types differ in the location of the sample-and-hold (S/H) block. CT modulators allow higher sampling rates and lower power consumption than DT types, but are more susceptible to power supply variations, clock jitter, and component nonidealities. In addition, the stability of a CT sigma delta modulator is more difficult to analyze.

### 1.2.1 Discrete-Time Modulator



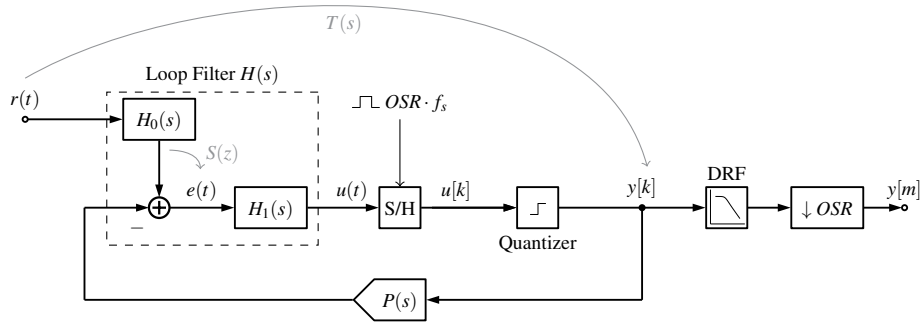
**Figure 1.3:** The basic block diagram of a DT sigma delta A/D converter.

Consider the DT modulator block diagram shown in Figure 1.3. The analog front-end includes the AAF and S/H block. This subsystem conditions the input signal  $r_0(t)$  and samples it outside the loop to produce DT signal  $r[k]$ . In the modulator loop, the 2-input, 1-output LF operates on  $r[k]$  and the feedback signal, producing intermediate signal  $u[k]$  with shaped noise. Then,  $u[k]$  undergoes quantization producing discrete-value output  $y[k]$ . The quantizer output is fed back to the LF and also passed along. The final subsystem filters the signal from the shaped noise in the digital domain with a downsampling DRF to yield the final digital output  $y[m]$ .

From a control systems perspective, there are a couple of transfer functions

that will be used to analyze and synthesize loop filters. The sensitivity function  $S(\lambda)$ , where  $\lambda = z$ , is known as the noise transfer function (NTF) of the modulator because it shows how the quantization error is filtered in the linearized model. The NTF is conceptualized as a transfer function from an additive disturbance entering at the quantizer to the output  $y$ . The complementary sensitivity function  $T(\lambda)$  is known as the signal transfer function (STF) of the modulator and shows how the signal is transformed by the modulator loop. It is conceptualized as shown in Figure 1.3 from input  $r$  to output  $y$ .

### 1.2.2 Continuous-Time Modulator



**Figure 1.4:** The basic block diagram of a CT sigma delta A/D converter.

For the CT class of modulators, consider the structure of Figure 1.4. It is similar to the DT case except the LF operates directly on analog input  $r(t)$  in the CT domain and sampling is done inside the loop. The AAF is no longer necessary in most cases because the LF precedes the sampling block. It generally has high gain for in-band signals and implicitly attenuates components of the signal that would result in aliasing. Finally, signal  $y[k]$  must undergo D/A conversion during feedback, modelled with the pulse transfer function  $P(s)$ .

The NTF and STF of a CT sigma delta modulator are more difficult to define because they are transfer functions involving both CT and DT signals. The DT equivalence principle states that there is a DT modulator model that exactly describes the CT design at the sampling instants, because the modulator is overall



a sampled data system [6, Sec. 3.2]. Thus, DT transfer functions can be derived for this purpose. However, these equivalent transfer functions may be difficult to manipulate due to their dependence on  $P(s)$ . For the purposes of this analysis, the sampling block is omitted during design, causing  $S(\lambda)$  and  $T(\lambda)$  to be simplified as CT ( $\lambda = s$ ) transfer functions mapping  $t(t) \rightarrow e(t)$  and  $r(t) \rightarrow y(t)$ , respectively.

### 1.3 Loop Filter

Together, quantization and noise shaping permit a coarser quantizer element to be used. A common design pattern is to use a high order ( $n > 2$ ) LF paired with a single-bit quantizer, which is advantageous from a circuit design perspective because a quantizer with just two levels is inherently linear. In addition, low order sigma delta loops often suffer from spurious tones [7, Sec. 2.6.1]. Unfortunately, as LF order is increased, the tendency of the loop to become unstable does as well. While first and second order designs are provably stable for DC inputs [8], high order filters require careful design to avoid instability. Ensuring stability while maintaining performance is a difficult task due to the presence of the highly nonlinear quantizer. The nonlinearity makes analysis complicated, a stable linear model does not imply a stable modulator while an unstable LF can even result in a stable overall modulator, known as the chaotic type [2].

The design of the noise shaping loop filter is the focus of this thesis. Modelling the loop filter as a 2-input 1-output system as shown in Section 1.2 allows the NTF to be determined by  $H_1(\lambda)$  alone while the STF can be modified independently with filter  $H_0(\lambda)$ , without loss of generality:

$$S(\lambda) = \frac{1}{1 + H_1(\lambda)} \quad (1.3)$$

$$T(\lambda) = \frac{H_0(\lambda)H_1(\lambda)}{1 + H_1(\lambda)}. \quad (1.4)$$

A desirable NTF is one that results in a stable linear model, rejects noise in the signal band as much as possible, and has low gain in the out-of-band region to promote stability. The STF is less important as  $H_0(\lambda)$  can be interpreted as a pre-filter to modify the STF and obtain unity gain in the signal band.

For a first order modulator, a pure integrator can be used as the loop filter  $H_0(\lambda)$ . For higher orders, it is common to choose a prototype NTF from a family of filters. For example, the popular Delta Sigma Toolbox for MATLAB [7, Appx. B] uses a Chebyshev type II filter for this purpose. The poles of the NTF greatly affect the stability of the loop, so the traditional design procedure involves extensive simulation under varying input conditions to ensure instability is unlikely during normal operation. Once unstable, the filter states must be reset in order to restore correct operation. Various schemes have been used to detect the onset of instability [9] and avoid it with gain scaling [10], internal linear feedback [11], and automatic resetting schemes [12].

## 1.4 Related Works

Optimization techniques have been used to design NTFs with more degrees of freedom than those made with a single filter prototype. A simple example is that from [7, Sec. 4.3], where the zeros of the prototype NTF are optimized by approximating the integral of the NTF in the pass-band, then minimizing it analytically by equating its derivative to zero. The procedure results in an optimal spreading of zeros across the signal bandwidth to reduce in-band quantization noise for the given NTF poles. One of the first optimization-based approaches to NTF design was the closed-loop analysis of noise shaper (CLANS) methodology that minimizes  $P_Q$  under the white quantization noise assumption [13]. This is done using nonlinear programming to find stable NTF pole locations that minimize the accumulation of quantization error subject to some stability and realizability constraints.

Using the principles from  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  control and its associated linear matrix inequality (LMI) methods, one can define the quantizer as a very simple feedthrough plant and introduce weighting filters on the feedback error signal  $e$ , loop filter output  $u$ , and quantizer output  $y$  to design the loop filter as a controller for various performance and stability constraints [14]. However, the system is bound to the order of the augmented plant and relies on the designer to choose the weights. Choosing weighting filters that are ideal is almost as difficult a task as just choosing the prototype NTF directly. Despite this, if a known AAF or DRF is specified in advance, it may be used as a sort of weighting filter and a case-optimal LF can be designed

around it [15]. Applications for this method could be optimizing the STF of an audio D/A converter to a psychoacoustic model or making use of existing filters in the signal path.

More recently, the generalized Kalman-Yakubovič-Popov (GKYP) lemma has been applied to sigma delta modulator design. The lemma provides a link between a finite frequency domain inequality, such as specifications on the NTF gain, and a linear matrix inequality condition, which can be solved using efficient interior point methods. Using this lemma, the techniques of  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  control can be applied to a transfer function but restricted to a specific frequency band. This eliminates the need for weighting filters that specify a select band of interest. Unfortunately, the problem becomes non-convex and hard to solve if both poles and zeros are to be optimized simultaneously as is the case with an infinite impulse response (IIR) filter. As a workaround, the NTF poles may be fixed to a prototype design and just the zeros optimized [16], similar to what was described at the start of this Section. Alternatively, a finite impulse response (FIR) NTF form may be assumed [17, 18] then possibly converted to IIR form using approximate methods such as least-squares or Yule-Walker [19]. Aside from the large delay introduced, the FIR form is not the optimal choice according to [20]. Iterative methods have also shown promise in providing a workaround to the non-convexity associated with direct IIR design. A survey of some optimization methods for sigma delta modulator design is presented in [21] while Table 1.1 summarizes the major contributions of each and the differences between them.

## 1.5 Objectives

The objective of this thesis was to develop a systematic method of designing sigma delta A/D converters for the recording of bio-signals. Many bio-signals are low-pass signals with reasonably low Nyquist frequencies. The designs presented in this Thesis are not usable only for only this class of signal but a specific bio-signal is used for the examples in Chapter 5. The goal of this method was to:

1. Model the nonlinear system accurately in a way that allows analysis of existing designs.

**Table 1.1:** A comparison of some recent work on sigma delta modulator design as a control optimization problem.

Reference	Optimized norms	NTF Type	Performance goal	Stability criteria (see Chapter 3)
Oberoi (2004) [14]	$\mathcal{H}_\infty, \mathcal{H}_2, \ell_1$	IIR	Weighting filters	Uses heuristic bounds on $\mathcal{H}_\infty, \mathcal{H}_2$ norms
Osqui & Megretski (2007) [16]	$\mathcal{H}_\infty$	IIR <sup>1</sup>	GKYP lemma	Not reported
Nagahara & Yamamoto (2012) [17]	$\mathcal{H}_\infty$	FIR	GKYP lemma	$\ell_1$ criterion mentioned, but Lee criterion used in design
Li, Yu, & Gao (2014) [22]	$\mathcal{H}_\infty$	IIR	GKYP lemma	Lee criterion
Tariq & Ohno (2016) [18]	$\mathcal{H}_\infty, \mathcal{H}_2, \ell_1$	FIR	Weighting filters	$\ell_1$ criterion mentioned but Lee criterion used in design

<sup>1</sup> Only the zeros of the IIR filter are optimized.

2. Reduce dependence on post-design simulation by supporting as many stability criteria as possible to have *a priori* indicators of stability.
3. Provide a way to design guaranteed stable sigma delta modulators in a way that minimizes conservatism.

## 1.6 Contributions

The contributions in this Thesis are related to both the theory of sigma delta loop filter design and the application of this theory to produce usable designs with acceptable performance.

1. (Application) Development of an algorithm that unites  $\mathcal{H}_\infty, \mathcal{H}_2$ , and  $\ell_1$  stability criteria with the GKYP performance goal supporting both IIR and FIR NTFs. As seen in Table 1.1, the existing approaches that allowed all three of these stability criteria either required weighting filters for performance goals or only supported FIR NTFs.

2. (Theory) Extending the LMI system used in [22] to be compatible with constraints placed on the STF, quantizer input signal, and robustness of the closed-loop system against quantizer gain.
3. (Application) Applying a more rigorous iterative procedure used to solve the quadratic matrix inequalities than that used in [22] allowing guaranteed termination.
4. (Theory) Modelling the quantizer gain as an uncertainty and using the additional constraint from (2) to enforce stability for a range of quantizer gains.
5. (Application) Presenting a proof-of-concept using this work to directly design a sigma delta modulator with a CT loop filter.

## 1.7 Organization of this Thesis

Having established some background on the workings and nomenclature of a sigma delta modulator, Chapter 2 expands on this to show modifications to the general sigma delta model based on control theory that will permit it to be used in an optimization framework. In Chapter 3, various stability criteria are introduced, ranging from heuristics to sufficient conditions. Their relative rigour and impact on performance is discussed. Following the discussion of the role of optimization in loop filter design, Chapter 4 bridges the Modelling and Stability chapters by introducing a semidefinite programming (SDP) framework that supports the aforementioned criteria. The total design process is discussed in Chapter 5, with emphasis on simulation results as well as an empirical study of the tradeoff between performance and stability when using this approach. Finally, Chapter 6 concludes the thesis with some discussion about the merits and shortcomings of this method of sigma delta modulator design and possible directions for future work.

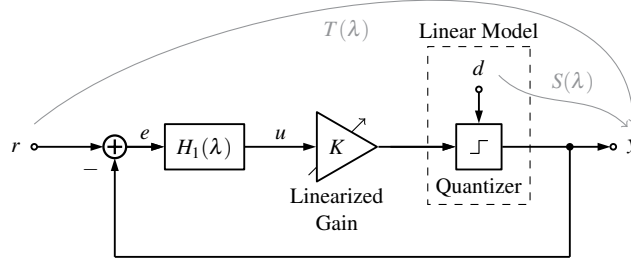
## Chapter 2

# Modelling the Sigma Delta Modulator

In order to apply an optimization framework to the design of the LF, the system from Figures 1.3 and 1.4 must be placed in a form that allows tractable application of the desired performance and stability targets. This includes omission of blocks that have minimal or no effect on the loop as well as linearization of the quantizer. The AAF (when present) can be considered as a pre-filter operating on the input signal. The filter  $H_0(\lambda)$  that serves as an additional degree of freedom for the STF can be set to unity for the purposes of the model. These two filters are not required in stability analysis, because the NTF depends only on  $H_1(\lambda)$  as seen in Equation 1.4. After noise rejection performance has been optimized,  $H_0(\lambda)$  can be tuned as necessary to ensure that the combined gain of the AAF and LF is close to unity in the signal band. In a similar way, the digital signal processing (DSP) in the output path serves only to filter out the signal and decimate to the original sampling frequency which may be dealt with separately without impacting loop stability.

### 2.1 Linearization of the Quantizer Element

The nonlinear nature of the quantizer must be captured by the model as a way to enforce stability. As mentioned before, a common linearization approach is to replace the quantizer with an additive noise source  $d$ . Furthermore, the linear model

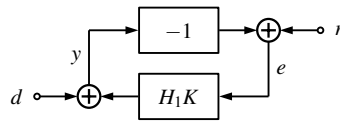


**Figure 2.1:** The linearized sigma delta loop block diagram with omission of extraneous filters and the quantizer replaced by a variable gain and additive quantization noise signal.

can incorporate a variable gain  $K$ . The inclusion of  $K$  has uses in linearization, stability, and performance that will be expanded upon in Chapter 3. After these simplifications, the block diagram in Figure 2.1 is obtained, which is applicable to DT or CT designs. In the DT case, the loop is operating entirely in the oversampled domain and the S/H block is not shown. In the CT case, the S/H block in the loop is neglected so that  $S(\lambda)$  and  $T(\lambda)$  are CT transfer functions<sup>1</sup>.

## 2.2 Well-Posedness and Internal Stability

The meaningful application of feedback to reduce an uncertainty (in this case, error introduced by the nonlinear quantizer) requires that the system be well-posed in order for a solution to exist. Figure 2.1 can undergo block diagram manipulation bringing it into the standard feedback form shown in Figure 2.2 with signals  $r$ ,  $e$ ,  $d$ , and  $y$ .



**Figure 2.2:** The linearized model converted into standard feedback form.

<sup>1</sup>Note that regarding Figure 2.1 and Figures 1.3/1.4, the NTF  $S(\lambda)$  is the same transfer function whether interpreted from  $d \rightarrow y$  or  $r \rightarrow e$ .

With some abuse of notation, the equations describing this loop are:

$$\begin{bmatrix} r \\ d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -H_1 K & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e \\ y \end{bmatrix}. \quad (2.1)$$

A feedback system is considered well-posed if the inverse of the transfer matrix in Equation 2.1 exists and each of its elements are proper. Equation 2.3 shows that this is the case if both  $S(\lambda)$  and  $T(\lambda)$  are proper transfer functions.

$$\begin{bmatrix} e \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -H_1 K & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{1+H_1 K} & \frac{-1}{1+H_1 K} \\ \frac{H_1 K}{1+H_1 K} & \frac{1}{1+H_1 K} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} r \\ d \end{bmatrix} \quad (2.2)$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} S & -S \\ T & S \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} r \\ d \end{bmatrix}. \quad (2.3)$$

The principle of internal stability is stricter than bounded-input bounded-output (BIBO) stability because it guarantees that the internal states of the system remain bounded. The system in Equation 2.3 is internally stable if each element of the transfer matrix belongs to the set  $\mathcal{RH}_\infty$ , i.e., the set of stable real rational proper transfer functions.

### 2.2.1 Constraints on the Noise Transfer Function

A sufficient condition for  $S(\lambda)$  and  $T(\lambda)$  to be proper is that transfer function  $H_1(\lambda)$  is a strictly proper real rational transfer function. Internal stability of the system follows if  $S(\lambda)$  and  $T(\lambda)$  are stable. This leads to the following constraints on the NTF:

1.  $S(\lambda)$  is stable, and ,
2. The following equivalent conditions hold:
  - (a)  $S(\infty) = 1$ ,
  - (b) If  $S(\lambda)$  is placed in state-space form, the feedthrough matrix  $D = 1$ , and,
  - (c) The first element of the impulse response of  $S(\lambda)$  is one.



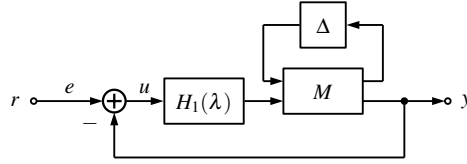
Most prior work in the area performs optimization directly on the NTF of the system. This is effective because it is a relatively accurate model of the noise shaping performance. In addition, constraint 2 enforces causality on the feedback loop ensuring the system is physically realizable.

### 2.3 Modelling Uncertain Quantizer Gain

Having established conditions to ensure the closed-loop system is realizable and internally stable, there remains a nonlinear gain block  $K$ .  $K$  can be understood as a time-varying gain dependent on the quantizer input. For example, a 1-bit quantizer ( $\Delta_Q = 2$ ) with output  $\{-1, 1\}$  would have instantaneous gain  $K(t) = \frac{1}{u(t)}$ . As the value of  $u$  at each sample time is not known in advance,  $K$  may be modelled as a multiplicative uncertainty. The upper linear fractional transformation (LFT) allows  $K$  to be separated into a constant gain matrix  $M_{2 \times 2}$  and a normalized,  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  norm-bounded uncertain block  $\Delta$  by Expression 2.4.

$$K \leftrightarrow \mathcal{F}_U\{M, \Delta\} \quad \|\Delta\|_\infty \leq 1 \quad (2.4)$$

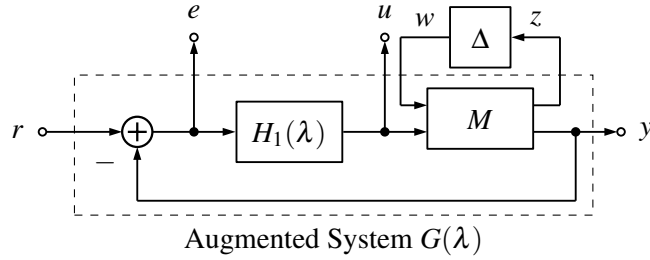
The model from Figure 2.2 is shown in Figure 2.3 with the quantizer and variable gain replaced by this LFT interconnection. In Chapter 4, it is of interest to ensure the robustness of the system to  $\Delta$ , which may be achieved using this model.



**Figure 2.3:** The linearized block diagram with the quantizer replaced by a multiplicative uncertainty extracted via LFT.

**Table 2.1:** Input and output channels of interest for the augmented system.

Output Input	$z$	$e$	$u$	$y$
$w$	Quantizer gain robust- ness channel	Not used	Not used	Not used
$r$	Not used	NTF perfor- mance chan- nel	Constraint on quantizer input signal	STF con- straints for CT design


**Figure 2.4:** The augmented plant is derived by setting  $H_0(\lambda) = 1$ , taking the LFT of the uncertain gain, extracting the signals of interest, and writing the closed-loop equations.

## 2.4 Derivation of Augmented System

### 2.4.1 Extraction of Performance and Stability Channels

Finally, the model is abstracted into an augmented form where all desired input and output channels are present and all unnecessary ones hidden. Let the LFT  $\Delta \rightarrow M$  input and  $M \rightarrow \Delta$  output be  $w$  and  $z$ , respectively. These channels are required to be accessed in addition to  $r$ ,  $e$ ,  $u$ , and  $y$  for the purposes listed in Table 2.1. The augmented system  $G(\lambda)$  is encapsulated as the dashed block in Figure 2.4.

### 2.4.2 Derivation of State-Space Model

Now that the desired input and output signals are captured by the model, it is a simple exercise to write the system in state-space form. To begin, let filter  $H_1(\lambda)$

be the transfer function of order  $n$  in variable  $\lambda = z$  in the DT case (or  $\lambda = s$  in the CT case). The numerator and denominator coefficients are shown in Equation 2.5 which has the equivalent state-space representation of Equation 2.6.

$$H_1(\lambda) = \frac{U(\lambda)}{E(\lambda)} = \frac{b_{n-1}\lambda^{n-1} + b_{n-2}\lambda^{n-2} + \dots + b_1\lambda + b_0}{\lambda^n + a_{n-1}\lambda^{n-1} + a_{n-2}\lambda^{n-2} + \dots + a_1\lambda + a_0} \quad (2.5)$$

$$= C_H(\lambda I - A_H)^{-1} B_H \quad (2.6)$$

Naturally,  $H_1(\lambda)$  is a strictly proper transfer function and state-space feedthrough matrix  $D_H = 0$  due to the constraints proposed in Section 2.2. The constant gain matrix  $M$  may be split into its constituent parts:

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (2.7)$$

With some algebra, the augmented system  $G(\lambda)$  from Figure 2.4 may be written in state-space form with notation from Equations 2.6 and 2.7 by introducing  $n \times 1$  state vector  $x$ . The notation  $G_{qp}(\lambda)$  is used to indicate the single-input single-output (SISO) transfer function of  $G(\lambda)$  from some input channel  $p$  to some output channel  $q$ . The closed-loop state-space matrix blocks are denoted with cursive symbols as shown in Equation 2.9.

$$G : \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ z \\ e \\ u \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \left[ \begin{array}{c|cc} A_H - m_{22}B_H C_H & -m_{21}B_H & B_H \\ \hline m_{12}C_H & m_{11} & 0 \\ -m_{22}C_H & -m_{21} & 1 \\ C_H & 0 & 0 \\ m_{22}C_H & m_{21} & 0 \end{array} \right] \begin{bmatrix} x \\ w \\ r \end{bmatrix} \quad (2.8)$$

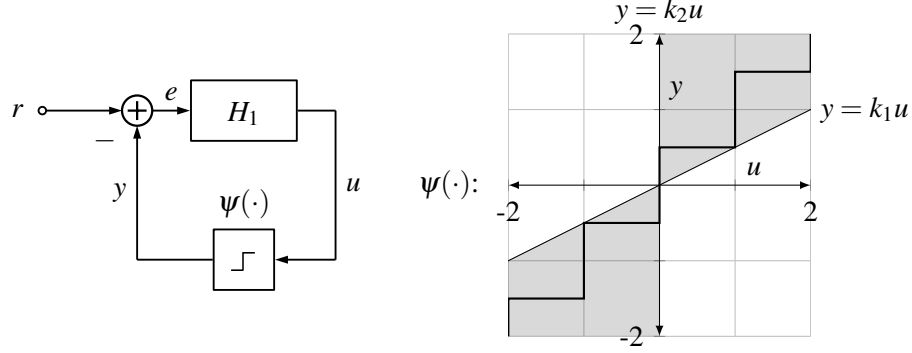
$$= \left[ \begin{array}{c|cc} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_w & \mathcal{B}_r \\ \hline \mathcal{C}_z & \mathcal{D}_{zw} & \mathcal{D}_{zr} \\ \mathcal{C}_e & \mathcal{D}_{ew} & \mathcal{D}_{er} \\ \mathcal{C}_u & \mathcal{D}_{uw} & \mathcal{D}_{ur} \\ \mathcal{C}_y & \mathcal{D}_{yw} & \mathcal{D}_{yr} \end{array} \right] \begin{bmatrix} x \\ w \\ r \end{bmatrix} \quad (2.9)$$

With the channels of interest exposed and the system in a state-space form, one can express design goals as constraints on these channels. In Chapter 3, various stability measures and performance goals are discussed from which those that are ideal from an optimization perspective are selected. In Chapter 4, the framework is introduced to allow these goals to be applied to the augmented system in a way that allows the optimization problem to be efficiently solved.

## **Chapter 3**

# **Stability Criteria and Performance Goals**

Due to the nonlinear effects of the quantizer, the stability of the sigma delta feedback loop is difficult to prove. An excellent exploration into the mechanisms of instability may be found in [2]. There are no known necessary conditions for stability of sigma delta modulators but there are several heuristic and sufficient conditions with various degrees of conservatism. In Section 3.1.1, some theory from relay feedback control is introduced to establish formal methods for ensuring stability. There are some shortcomings of these methods when applied to practical sigma delta modulator design, therefore Sections 3.1.2 to 3.1.5 describe some stability criteria that may be less robust but allow a greater performance-stability tradeoff. For completeness, additional stability methods of interest that are not compatible with this optimization framework are presented in Section 3.2. Finally, the performance goal is discussed in Section 3.3.



**Figure 3.1:** A Lur'e system (left) with the example nonlinear transfer curve of an infinite quantizer ( $\Delta = 1$ ) shown with a shaded sector bounded region (right).

### 3.1 Stability Criteria Used by this Optimization Framework

#### 3.1.1 Ideas from Nonlinear Control

An early theoretical treatment of nonlinear control is the circle criterion, which provides a graphical frequency domain method for evaluating the stability of a CT Lur'e system. A Lur'e system is a simplified negative feedback loop consisting of a linear plant with a nonlinear element  $\psi(\cdot)$  in the feedback path such as the one shown in Figure 3.1. The transfer curve of the nonlinear element may be time-varying and even non-monotonic but is bounded by a sector condition, a set of two lines passing through the origin with slopes  $k_1, k_2$  that bound the curve.

**Theorem 3.1.1** (Circle criterion [23, Sec. 7.1.1]). *Given the CT Lur'e feedback system in Figure 3.1 where the denominator of  $H_1(s)$  is Hurwitz and  $\psi(t, \cdot)$  is a memoryless function sector bounded by  $[k_1, k_2]$ , the closed-loop system is globally asymptotically stable if one of the following cases is true:*

1. Case  $\psi \in [k_1, \infty)$  : The inequality in Equation 3.1 is satisfied.

$$\Re \left\{ \frac{H_1(s)}{1 + k_1 H_1(s)} \right\} > 0 \quad (3.1)$$

2. Case  $\psi \in [k_1, k_2]$ ,  $k_2 - k_1 > 0$  : The inequality in Equation 3.2 satisfied.

$$\Re \left\{ \frac{1 + k_2 H_1(s)}{1 + k_1 H_1(s)} \right\} > 0 \quad (3.2)$$

The graphical interpretation for the circle criterion<sup>1</sup> is that the Nyquist plot of  $H_1(s)$  does not enter the disk passing through the points  $-\frac{1}{k_1} + j0$  and  $-\frac{1}{k_2} + j0$  if  $0 < k_1 < k_2$ . When  $0 = k_1 < k_2$ , the Nyquist plot must lie to the right of the vertical line  $\Re\{s\} = -\frac{1}{k_2}$ . If a single-bit quantizer is used as is the scope of this thesis, the sector bounds include the entire first and third quadrants. Case 1 from Theorem 3.1.1 follows and the Nyquist plot of  $H_1(s)$  must lie entirely in the right half-plane. The optimization framework presented in Chapter 4 may be used with the circle criterion although with a single-bit quantizer, the method is too restrictive for practical use.

The Popov criterion in Theorem 3.1.2 is a slightly less conservative approach that restricts the problem to time-invariant nonlinearities.

**Theorem 3.1.2** (Popov criterion [23, Sec. 7.1.2]). *Given the CT Lur'e feedback system in Figure 3.1 where the denominator of  $H_1(s)$  is Hurwitz and  $\psi(\cdot)$  is a time-invariant memoryless function sector bounded by  $[0, k_2]$ , the closed-loop system is globally asymptotically stable if there exists a scalar  $\gamma \geq 0$  such that the following inequality is satisfied:*

$$\frac{1}{k_2} + \Re\{H_1(j\omega)\} - \gamma\omega \Im\{H_1(j\omega)\} > 0 \quad \forall \omega \in [0, \infty). \quad (3.3)$$

The graphical interpretation for this criterion is that the Popov plot of  $\omega \Im\{H_1(j\omega)\}$  versus  $\Re\{H_1(j\omega)\}$  remains to the right of a line passing through point  $-\frac{1}{k_2} + j0$  with slope  $\frac{1}{\gamma}$ .

The DT version is the Tsytkin criterion, which has cases valid for time-varying and time-invariant nonlinearities. The analog to the circle criterion is shown in Theorem 3.1.3 and the analog to the Popov criterion is shown in Theorem 3.1.4.

---

<sup>1</sup>The circle criterion has different graphical interpretations for the cases where  $k_1 < 0$  and where  $H_1(s)$  has zeros in the open right half-plane, but these are omitted because they are not valid quantizer transfer curves or because nonminimum phase  $H_1(s)$  are not considered here (see [23, Sec. 7.1.1] for a full examination).

**Theorem 3.1.3** (Tsyppkin criterion for time-varying nonlinearities [24, Sec. 4.6]). *Given the DT Lur'e feedback system in Figure 3.1 where the denominator of  $H_1(z)$  is Schur and  $\psi(t, \cdot)$  is a memoryless function sector bounded by  $[0, k_2]$ , the closed-loop system is globally asymptotically stable if the following inequality is satisfied:*

$$\frac{1}{k_2} + \Re\{H_1(z)\} \geq 0 \quad \forall |z| = 1. \quad (3.4)$$

**Theorem 3.1.4** (Tsyppkin criterion for time-invariant nonlinearities [24, Sec. 4.7]). *Given the DT Lur'e feedback system in Figure 3.1 where the denominator of  $H_1(z)$  is Schur and  $\psi(\cdot)$  is a time-invariant memoryless function sector bounded by  $[0, k_2]$ , the closed-loop system is globally asymptotically stable if there exists a scalar  $\gamma \geq 0$  such that the following inequality is satisfied:*

$$\frac{1}{k_2} + \Re\{(1 + \gamma(1 - z^{-1}))H_1(z)\} \geq 0 \quad \forall |z| = 1. \quad (3.5)$$

The Jury-Lee criteria are less strict cases of the Tsyppkin criteria requiring that the nonlinearity be slope bounded and monotonic. However, this is not applicable to quantizer feedback, where the slope may be infinite at points. The above techniques from nonlinear control are sufficient conditions and are related to important results from passivity theorem.

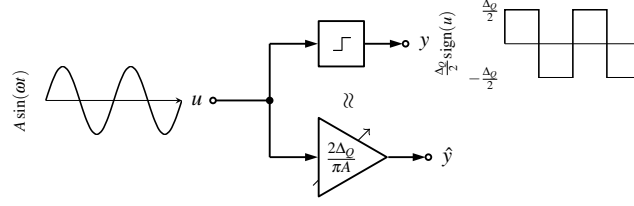
### 3.1.2 $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ Stability Criterion

The  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  stability criterion, commonly known as Lee's rule, is a heuristic predictor of stability stating that a modulator is likely to be stable if the NTF out-of-band gain, or  $\|S(\lambda)\|_\infty$ , does not exceed a benchmark value. The rule was initially based on the empirical study of a fourth-order DT sigma delta modulator with single-bit quantization [25]. The criterion is not necessary nor sufficient for stability and must be verified with extensive simulations. Despite this, the rationale for its use as a suggestion of stability comes from the Bode sensitivity integral shown in Equation 3.6 for Schur stable  $H_1(z)$  [26, Thm. 1].

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \log |S(\omega)| d\omega = 0 \quad (3.6)$$

The integral enforces that the total area under the curve of the NTF log-magnitude





**Figure 3.2:** An ideal 1-bit quantizer (above) and its describing function approximation (below).

versus frequency is equal to zero. Applied to the sigma delta linear model, if the sensitivity of the closed-loop system to the quantization error is suppressed in the signal band, it must be compensated for by an area of amplified sensitivity outside the signal band. Because the quantization error is nonlinear and signal dependent, the higher the gain of the sensitivity function, the greater chance there is for a limit cycle at that frequency to destabilize the loop. Thus, the Lee's rule is a indicator of the performance-stability tradeoff. In practice,  $\|S(z)\|_\infty \leq 2$  is often used, but this has been found to be conservative for low-order and inadequate for high-order designs [27]. However, the criterion is used extensively as a starting point for practical design due to its inclusion in popular software tools. A recent extension of Lee's rule produces a more complex  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  bound based on empirical results that may be used as an alternative stability goal [28]. This stability criterion is easy to formulate as part of an optimization problem as it may be applied with an  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  constraint on the  $r \rightarrow e$  channel of Equation 2.8:

$$\|G_{er}(\lambda)\|_\infty \leq \gamma_\infty. \quad (3.7)$$

### 3.1.3 Describing Function Approximation and Root Locus Stability

Two closely related stability methods are the describing function approximation and the root locus approach. These both rely on the variable gain  $K$  introduced in Section 2.1 but use different interpretations of it to stabilize the modulator.

The describing function method [29] is an approximate technique of linearization often applied to steady-state electrical circuits or to nonidealities in mechanical systems. As shown in Figure 3.2, a zero-mean sinusoidal input to the quantizer is

assumed:  $u(t) = A \sin(\omega t)$ . The Fourier series of the output is truncated at the first odd coefficient because the quantizer transfer curve is also an odd function. For a single-bit quantizer, the first coefficients are:

$$a_1 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \psi(t) \cos(\omega t) d(\omega t) \quad (3.8)$$

$$b_1 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \psi(t) \sin(\omega t) d(\omega t), \quad (3.9)$$

where  $\psi(t)$  is the nonlinear quantizer function. Integral 3.8 evaluates to zero while the period of Integral 3.9 may be split into two parts:

$$b_1 = \frac{1}{\pi} \left( \int_0^{\pi} \psi(t) \sin(\omega t) d(\omega t) + \int_{\pi}^{2\pi} \psi(t) \sin(\omega t) d(\omega t) \right).$$

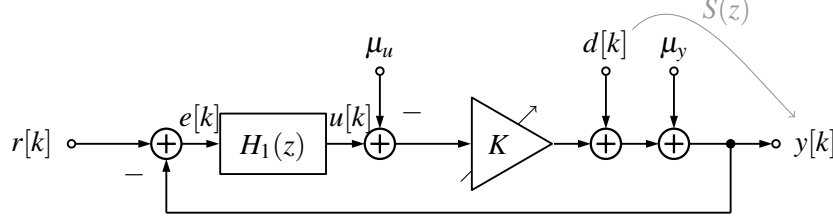
In the interval  $\omega t \in (0, \pi)$ , the single-bit quantizer outputs  $\frac{\Delta_Q}{2}$  whereas in the interval  $\omega t \in (\pi, 2\pi)$ , the single-bit quantizer outputs  $-\frac{\Delta_Q}{2}$ . By symmetry, this integral simplifies to Equation 3.10.

$$b_1 = \frac{\Delta_Q}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \sin(\omega t) d(\omega t) = \frac{2\Delta_Q}{\pi} \quad (3.10)$$

Using the Fourier series approximation  $\hat{y}(t) \approx y(t)$ , the describing function is derived as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} K(A) &= \frac{\hat{y}(t)}{u(t)} \\ &= \frac{b_1 \sin(\omega t)}{A \sin(\omega t)} \\ &= \frac{2\Delta_Q}{\pi A}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the describing function of the single-bit quantizer is a variable gain  $K(A)$  dependent on the quantizer input amplitude. As expected, when the input amplitude approaches zero, the gain approaches infinity and when it approaches  $\pm \frac{\Delta_Q}{2}$ , the gain approaches one. In fact, instability in sigma delta modulators is often associated with low frequency, large amplitude limit cycles where the quantizer gain



**Figure 3.3:** The block diagram for the  $\mathcal{H}_2$  stability criterion.

is low. The describing function method is a good approximation to large signal stability but often fails to predict small limit cycles because the higher harmonics of the output are neglected. The describing function has been applied to the design of sigma delta modulators [30] and extended to be dependent on phase in addition to gain to design a sixth-order modulator [31].

In the open loop, the describing function method approximated the quantizer as a variable gain. The root locus can determine stability by showing the position of the closed-loop poles as a function of this gain. One method to design stable sigma delta modulators is to position the poles and zeros of the loop filter such that the root locus remains in the stable region of the complex plane when sweeping through valid quantizer gain values [32–34]. Recall that the LFT was used to model the varying gain in Section 2.3. Equation 3.11 defines  $M$  when the gain is within a given range  $K \in [k_l, k_h]$  with nominal value  $k_0$ .

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{k_h - 2k_0 + k_l}{k_h - k_l} & \frac{-2(k_0 - k_h)(k_0 - k_l)}{k_h - k_l} \\ 1 & k_0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (3.11)$$

The root locus stability criterion may be used in robust control fashion by choosing a range for  $K$ , e.g.  $[k_l, k_h] = [1/\|u\|_\infty, \infty]$ , then constraining the  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  norm to unity for the  $z \rightarrow w$  channel as seen in Equation 3.12. This ensures that the linearized model is stable for the selected gain values.

$$\|G_{zw}(\lambda)\|_\infty \leq 1. \quad (3.12)$$

### 3.1.4 $\mathcal{H}_2$ Stability Criterion

Previously, the quantizer was replaced by an additive noise source and some performance estimations were presented assuming that the quantization noise was uncorrelated with input had a white spectrum. The white noise model is only a close approximation if the following hold [35, Ch. 6]:

1. The quantizer is not overloaded,
2. There are a large number of quantization levels with small  $\Delta_Q$ , and
3. The probability density function (PDF) of input samples is smooth.

In reality, especially with single-bit quantization, the approximation does not hold. The  $\mathcal{H}_2$  stability criterion, sometimes called the power gain rule, uses a statistical look at the quantizer input [2]. The output  $y[k]$  of a single-bit quantizer may be considered the superposition of three signals: a DC component  $\mu_y$ , AC component amplified by the quantizer gain  $K(u[k] - \mu_u)$ , and the quantization noise  $d[k]$ , as seen in Figure 3.3. With these additional degrees of freedom, one can enforce that  $d[k]$  is zero mean, white, and uncorrelated with the quantizer input  $u[k]$  by setting  $K$  to that in Equation 3.13.

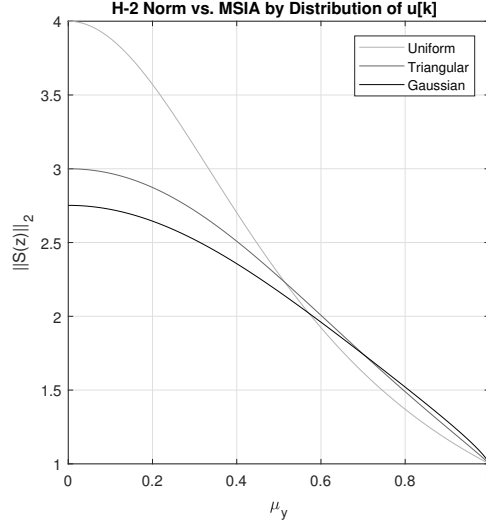
$$K = \frac{\text{cov}\{u[k], y[k]\}}{\sigma_u^2} \quad (3.13)$$

The gain  $K$  is now entirely dependent on  $\mu_y$  and the distribution of  $u$ . Due to the fact that  $y[k]$  has bounded output power (equal to one with  $\Delta_Q = 2$  single-bit quantization), the variance at the output may be calculated:

$$\sigma_y^2 = K^2 \sigma_u^2 + \sigma_d^2. \quad (3.14)$$

Functions relating  $\mu_y$  to  $\sigma_d^2$  have been derived for the Gaussian [36, Eq. 26], uniform [2, Eq. 6.16], and triangular [2, Eq. 6.17] distributions. Once a distribution has been chosen, the only free variable remaining is  $\mu_y$ .

With reference to Figure 3.3, the NTF is the gain from quantization noise to the output. Because the  $\mathcal{H}_2$  norm is a power gain,  $\|S(z)\|_2^2$  is the amplification of variances  $\sigma_d^2$  to  $\sigma_y^2$ . Altogether,  $\mu_y$  defines  $\sigma_d^2$ , so for bounded output power,

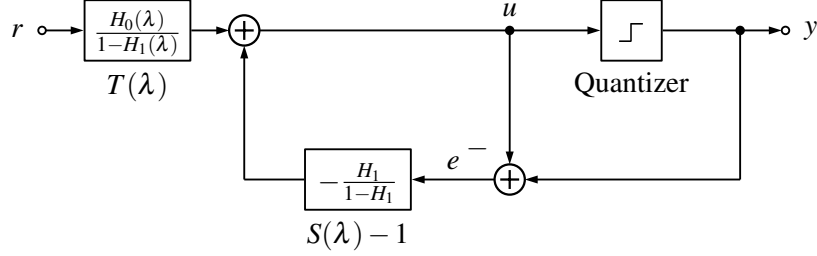


**Figure 3.4:** The choice of PDF for the quantizer input signal places bounds on the squared  $\mathcal{H}_2$  norm of the NTF for a given MSIA [2].

a maximum  $\|S(z)\|_2$  is established. The  $\mathcal{H}_2$  stability criterion can be applied by choosing a quantizer input signal distribution, which sets the relationship between  $\mu_y$  and  $\|S(z)\|_2$ . Because the STF gain is near one in the signal band,  $\mu_y$  tracks input  $r$  and thus can be seen as the maximum stable input amplitude (MSIA) for that value of  $\|S(z)\|_2$ . The maximum permitted MSIA for a given  $\mathcal{H}_2$  norm is shown in Figure 3.4 for the three probability density functions mentioned. None of the cases guarantee stability because the actual PDF of the quantizer input is not known. However, the Gaussian PDF has been shown to be a close approximation for high-order designs [2] despite being more conservative than the others.

To employ this stability criterion, the  $\mathcal{H}_2$  norm of the sensitivity function, or  $r \rightarrow e$  channel of Equation 2.8, is constrained to a value dependent on the desired MSIA  $\|u\|_\infty$  and the choice of PDF. This criterion is seen in Equation 3.15 and is only applicable to DT designs because the CT sensitivity function has infinite  $\mathcal{H}_2$  norm.

$$\|G_{er}(z)\|_2 \leq \gamma_2. \quad (3.15)$$



**Figure 3.5:** The block diagram of the error feedback form of a sigma delta modulator.

### 3.1.5 $\ell_1$ Stability Criterion

The  $\ell_1$  stability criterion (also known as Anastassiou's stability criterion) is best understood when the modulator is transformed into the equivalent error feedback structure shown in Figure 3.5. This form is primarily of theoretical importance because its implementation is extremely sensitive to filter coefficient values in the feedback path [7]. The advantage for analysis is that the NTF and STF are shown in independent blocks. This structure is used to define the  $\ell_1$  norm stability criterion by writing the equations for signals  $u$  and  $y$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} u &= rT(\lambda) + e(S(\lambda) - 1) \\ y &= e + u \\ &= rT(\lambda) + eS(\lambda). \end{aligned} \quad (3.16)$$

In the time domain, the input to the quantizer from Equation 3.16 can be bounded by the following (the DT version is shown):

$$|u[k]| \leq \left| \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} t[i]r[t-i] \right| + \left| \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (s[i] - 1)e[t-i] \right|, \quad (3.17)$$

where  $t[k]$  is the impulse response of the STF and  $s[k]$  is the impulse response of the NTF. Because the STF only operates on the input as a pre-filter, the assumption  $T(\lambda) = 1$  is taken and Equation 3.17 simplifies to:

$$|u[k]| \leq |r[k]| + \left| \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (s[i] - 1) e[t-i] \right|. \quad (3.18)$$

With a single-bit quantizer, the output  $y$  is quantized to  $\{-1, 1\}$  so the quantization error signal is bounded to within  $\left[0, \frac{\Delta_Q}{2}\right]$  if  $|u[k]| \leq 2$ , where  $\Delta_Q$  is the quantization step size, in this case 2.

$$|u[k]| \leq |r[k]| + \left| \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (s[i] - 1) \right| \frac{\Delta_Q}{2} \quad (3.19)$$

Taken over all time, the maximum magnitude of each signal is the  $\ell_\infty$  norm and the summation over the impulse response of  $S(\lambda) - 1$  in Equation 3.19 is its  $\ell_1$  norm. The  $\ell_1$  norm is equivalent to the maximum peak-to-peak gain of the system. Substituting this into Equation 3.19 and simplifying  $\frac{\Delta_Q}{2} = 1$  gives:

$$\begin{aligned} \|u\|_\infty &\leq \|r\|_\infty + \|S(\lambda) - 1\|_1 \\ &\leq \|r\|_\infty + \|S(\lambda)\|_1 - 1. \end{aligned}$$

Assuming a worst case quantizer input magnitude of  $\|u\|_\infty = 2$ , the expression for  $\ell_1$  stability based on maximum input magnitude is shown in Equation 3.20 [37].

$$\|S(\lambda)\|_1 \leq 3 - \|r\|_\infty \quad (3.20)$$

Thus, a modulator with a single-bit quantizer is guaranteed to be stable for inputs of magnitude less than three minus the  $\ell_1$  norm of the NTF. If this value is negative, the modulator is not proven stable by this criterion, for any input. The  $\ell_1$  criterion is powerful because it is a sufficient condition of BIBO stability but it is very conservative as it assumes the worst-case input to the loop filter which may be impossible or extremely unlikely. Like the  $\mathcal{H}_2$  and  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  cases, the  $\ell_1$  stability criterion may be applied to the  $r \rightarrow e$  system in Equation 2.8 by the following:

$$\|G_{er}(\lambda)\|_1 \leq \gamma. \quad (3.21)$$

### 3.1.6 Scale Invariance of the Single-Bit Quantizer

Here an important result is mentioned that reduces conservatism in the stability criteria from Section 3.1.4 and Section 3.1.5 that are derived from a norm constraint on the NTF. If  $K$  is interpreted not a a time-varying gain that models the quantizer but as a fixed design variable, it is obvious that the value of  $K$  has no effect if it precedes the single-bit quantizer. The filter  $H_1(\lambda)$  in expression for the NTF from Equation 1.3 may be substituted by the filter and gain in series, yielding:

$$S(K, \lambda) = \frac{1}{1 - KH_1(\lambda)}. \quad (3.22)$$

The fictitious gain may be swept in the region  $(0, \infty)$  in a nonlinear search to minimize the norm of interest. Because all these NTFs are equivalent, the smallest achieved value  $\min_K \|S(K, \lambda)\|_p$  can be used in place of  $\|S(\lambda)\|_p$  for  $p = 1, 2$  as a slightly less conservative stability criterion.

## 3.2 Stability Concepts Not Used by this Optimization Framework

It may be worthwhile to introduce further methods of designing sigma delta modulators that are likely stable. The method in this section are presented for a greater understanding of ways to promote stability but are not able to be used in the optimization framework for the reasons provided.

### 3.2.1 Methods Ensuring Bounded States

A different way of ensuring stability of a modulator system is the positive invariant set approach. This is a mixed analytical and simulation-based method to find positive invariant sets in the state-space of the system. These are regions of  $n$ -dimensional space for which, once entered, the states of the system  $x$  remain inside under given input conditions. The method is computationally intensive and relies on sampling to expand or contract the set bounds [7], which is not rigorous. However, given a random enough input, it may be a very close approximation to the actual positive invariant sets. A simpler version of this technique uses hypercubes as set boundaries and can be combined with the  $\ell_1$  rule to ensure stability



[38]. The method is a good analysis of predicted stability because it also captures the integrator state values of the system which are important for the actual circuit implementation. However, it is not easy to apply as a design method.

### 3.2.2 Diagonal Modulators and Nonlinear Approaches

It is shown in [39] that many modulator topologies can be converted into a state-space diagonal representation of the LF. In these cases, an  $n$ th order modulator simplifies into  $n$  parallel 1st-order modulators interacting only through the quantizer nonlinearity. By examining the stability of the 1st-order modulator using its fixed points [40], the parallel modulators can be shown as a “shifted” version, where the shift indicates an offset at the quantizer input due to the other parallel paths. The equations for the fixed points are rearranged to form constraints on the system’s poles, inputs, and output matrix coefficients. The downside of this method is that the loop filter is restricted to a specific form and the mathematics become difficult when complex conjugate poles are introduced as are present in most high-order designs [41].

Direct nonlinear control based methods have also been used for sigma delta modulator design. For example, the modulator can be interpreted as the controller in a sliding mode control (SMC) scheme. The SMC assumption that the sample time of the system approaches infinity is reasonable for sigma delta modulators due to the typically large oversampling ratios. SMC approaches to sigma delta modulator design have been done with some success [42–44]. These are promising techniques but some issues remain, such as how design the reduced order system dynamics.

## 3.3 Performance Goals

The performance goal for the design of sigma delta modulators is simply the attenuation of quantization error in the signal band. In a signals and systems context, this can be made solvable by minimizing the  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  norm of the noise transfer function within the signal band. In the sigma delta literature, this is sometimes called min-max optimization and has some advantages in contrast to minimization of the power using the  $\mathcal{H}_2$  norm [17]. To frame the problem, one must first specify a

frequency range of interest. In the DT case, this band has width equal to  $\frac{\pi}{OSR}$  and in the CT case, this is equal to the actual signal band. Using the GKYP expression, the  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  norm of the NTF in the signal band is minimized to either below a target value (feasibility problem) or as low as possible (optimization problem), subject to any of the above stability constraints. With reference to the augmented system in Equation 2.8, the GKYP constraint is placed on the  $r \rightarrow e$  channel that exposes the sensitivity function:

$$\min_{\lambda \in [\omega_l, \omega_h]} \|G_{er}(\lambda)\|_\infty. \quad (3.23)$$

In DT designs, the Bode integral (3.6) combined with the performance goal sets the roll-off of the NTF. For CT designs, the performance goal combined with any stability constraint does not capture the effect of the quantizer sampling frequency because the S/H block was omitted in Section 1.2.2. This leads to designs with very low roll-off. To rectify this and force sharp roll-off, the constraint in 3.24 is added for CT designs. This forces sharp roll-off by reducing the  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  norm of the complementary sensitivity function (STF) just outside the signal band. Because  $S(j\omega) + T(j\omega) = 1 \quad \forall \omega$ , this constraint allows the sharp roll-off to be optimized for. The appearance of this constraint also shows evidence of the implicit antialiasing feature of CT loop filters.

$$\|G_{yr}(j\omega)\|_\infty \leq \gamma_T \quad \forall \omega \in [\omega_h, f_s] \quad (3.24)$$

## Chapter 4

# Optimization of Loop Filter Design

In this chapter, the model of the sigma delta modulator system developed in Chapter 2 is combined with the stability and performance expressions from Chapter 3 in a framework to synthesize a loop filter satisfying the desired criteria. Modulator design is done by solving a multiobjective optimization problem with a singular performance goal and one or more stability criteria applied to different channels of the system. The optimization framework unifies the expression for the GKYP,  $\mathcal{H}_2$ , and  $\ell_1$  norm LMIs for the augmented system. The expressions for optimizing each norm are presented in Sections 4.1 to 4.3 followed by a method to make the problem convex in Section 4.4.

### 4.1 GKYP Lemma

It is common in control systems to design based on constraints in the frequency domain. The KYP lemma establishes an equivalence between these frequency domain inequalities and LMI expressions on the state-space matrices of the system. Frequency domain inequalities defined with the KYP lemma are valid across all frequencies and this necessitates the use of weighting filters or frequency gridding to target a specific frequency band. The generalized KYP lemma allows criteria to be applied to specific subsets of the system's Nyquist plot. In the design of sigma

delta loop filters, the GKYP lemma will primarily be used as a performance goal by setting constraints on the signal band, but may also be used in the design of CT modulators and those satisfying the stability criteria presented in Section 3.1.1. The GKYP lemma is presented in Lemma 4.1.1 below.

**Lemma 4.1.1** (GKYP lemma, as presented in [45]). *Given state-space matrices  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_p \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$ ,  $\mathcal{C}_q \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times n}$ ,  $\mathcal{D}_{qp} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 1}$  of system  $G_{qp}(\lambda)$ , frequency range  $[\omega_l, \omega_h]$ , and symmetric matrix variables  $P, Q \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , the finite frequency condition:*

$$\|G_{qp}(\lambda)\|_\infty \leq \gamma_\infty \quad \omega_l \leq \lambda \leq \omega_h$$

*holds if and only if  $Q \geq 0$  and the LMI:*

$$-\begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T (\Phi \oplus P + \Psi \oplus Q) \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \\ -\begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{C}_q & \mathcal{D}_{qp} \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -\gamma_\infty \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{C}_q & \mathcal{D}_{qp} \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \geq 0 \quad (4.1)$$

*is satisfied, where  $\oplus$  denotes the Kronecker product. For the CT case with low pass (LP) or band pass (BP) designs:*

$$\Phi = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \Psi = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & j\omega_c \\ -j\omega_c & -\omega_l \omega_h \end{bmatrix} \quad (4.2)$$

*while for the DT, LP or BP case:*

$$\Phi = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \Psi = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & e^{j\omega_c} \\ e^{-j\omega_c} & -2\cos\omega_0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (4.3)$$

*where:*

$$\omega_l = \begin{cases} -\omega_h & \omega_l = 0 \\ \omega_l & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}, \quad \omega_c = \frac{\omega_h + \omega_l}{2}, \quad \omega_0 = \frac{\omega_h - \omega_l}{2}.$$

For the high pass (HP) case where  $\omega_h = \infty$  (CT), Equation 4.2 is modified to:

$$\Psi = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -\omega_l^2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (4.4)$$

while for the HP case where  $\omega_h = \pi$  (DT), Equation 4.3 is modified to:

$$\Psi = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -1 & -2 \cos \omega_l \end{bmatrix}. \quad (4.5)$$

#### 4.1.1 $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ Minimization Across All Frequencies

Often, a conventional  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  constraint across all frequency is desired, as is for the stability criterion from Section 3.1.2. In this case, Lemma 4.1.1 may be modified by eliminating  $Q$  and adding an additional non-negative definiteness constraint for stability:

$$Q = \mathbf{0} \quad P \geq 0. \quad (4.6)$$

#### 4.1.2 Positive Real Constraints

The GKYP lemma presented above is valid for placing a  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  norm constraint on the gain of a transfer function within a region of frequency space. The matrix:

$$\Pi = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -\gamma_\infty \end{bmatrix} \quad (4.7)$$

in Equation 4.1 accomplishes this by defining a circle in the complex plane with radius  $(\sqrt{\gamma_\infty})^{-1}$  and centre at the origin [46, Lem. 1]. Because the gain of a transfer function is represented by the distance from a point along the Nyquist curve to the

origin, this circle captures gain constraints by the parameter  $\gamma_\infty$  using the small gain theorem. This technique may be extended to arbitrary conical regions of the Nyquist diagram. Recall that the circle criterion for CT systems and Theorem 3.1.3 for DT systems placed constraints on the Nyquist diagram defined by a vertical line. The matrix  $\Pi$  may be modified to the following:

$$\Pi = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 2\gamma \end{bmatrix}, \quad (4.8)$$

which defines a section of the complex plane divided by the line  $\Re\{\lambda\} = \gamma$  to enable a positive real constraint on the transfer function. Thus, the circle criterion (Tsypkin criterion) may be realized with the GKYP lemma using this  $\Pi$  with  $\gamma = \frac{1}{k_2}$  applied to the  $r \rightarrow e$  sensitivity channel.

## 4.2 $\mathcal{H}_2$ Semidefinite Expression

The  $\mathcal{H}_2$  norm used in the stability constraint from Section 3.1.4 can be minimized between two channels by solving a pair of inequalities with some similarities to Lemma 4.1.1.

**Theorem 4.2.1.** *Given state-space matrices  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_p \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$ ,  $\mathcal{C}_q \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times n}$ ,  $\mathcal{D}_{qp} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 1}$  of system  $G_{qp}(\lambda)$ , symmetric matrix variable  $P \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  and  $\Phi$  from Equation 4.2 or 4.3, the  $\mathcal{H}_2$  condition:*

$$\|G_{qp}(\lambda)\|_2 \leq \gamma_2$$

*holds if and only if the following LMIs are satisfied:*

$$-\begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T (\Phi \oplus P) \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \geq 0 \quad (4.9)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \gamma_2 & \mathcal{C}_q & \mathcal{D}_{qp} \\ \mathcal{C}_q^T & P & 0 \\ \mathcal{D}_{qp}^T & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \geq 0. \quad (4.10)$$

*Proof.* Simplifying Equation 4.9 by multiplying outer factors and summing yields:

$$\begin{bmatrix} P\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A}^T P & P\mathcal{B}_p \\ \mathcal{B}_p^T P & 1 \end{bmatrix} \geq 0 \quad (4.11)$$

for CT. Assuming  $\mathcal{D}_{qp} = 0$  as is necessary for the CT case, (4.10) simplifies to:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \gamma_2 & \mathcal{C}_q \\ \mathcal{C}_q^T & P \end{bmatrix} \geq 0. \quad (4.12)$$

Equations 4.11 and 4.12 comprise the well-known  $\mathcal{H}_2$  LMI for CT systems [47, 48]. For the DT case, the simplification of Equation 4.9 along the same lines results in:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\mathcal{A}^T P \mathcal{A} + P & -\mathcal{A}^T P \mathcal{B}_p \\ -\mathcal{B}_p^T P \mathcal{A} & -\mathcal{B}_p^T P \mathcal{B}_p + 1 \end{bmatrix} \geq 0 \quad (4.13)$$

which can be manipulated into the form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} P & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A}^T \\ \mathcal{B}_p^T \end{bmatrix} P \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \end{bmatrix} \geq 0. \quad (4.14)$$

By Schur complement around  $P^{-1}$ , Equation 4.14 becomes:

$$\begin{bmatrix} P^{-1} & \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ \mathcal{A}^T & P & 0 \\ \mathcal{B}_p^T & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \geq 0. \quad (4.15)$$

Finally, after a congruent transformation of Equation 4.15 by  $\text{diag}(P, I, 1)$ , combining it with Equation 4.10 matches the well-known  $\mathcal{H}_2$  LMI for DT systems [48]:

$$\begin{bmatrix} P & P\mathcal{A} & P\mathcal{B}_p \\ \mathcal{A}^T P & P & 0 \\ \mathcal{B}_p^T P & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

□

### 4.3 $\ell_1$ Semidefinite Expression

The computation of the  $\ell_1$  norm is not generally possible in a semidefinite programming context. Instead, it is made tractable by minimizing the  $\star$ -norm, an upper bound on the  $\ell_1$  norm [49]. The  $\star$ -norm minimization is a set of two LMIs and one bilinear matrix inequality (BMI) with a scalar parameter that enters non-linearly. The BMI can be solved by running a simple one-dimensional constrained minimization problem where the parameter  $\alpha$  is minimized and the semidefinite program in Theorem 4.3.1 is solved for that  $\alpha$  at each iteration.

**Theorem 4.3.1.** *Given state-space matrices  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_p \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$ ,  $\mathcal{C}_q \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times n}$ ,  $\mathcal{D}_{qp} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 1}$  of system  $G_{qp}(\lambda)$ , symmetric matrix variable  $P \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , auxiliary scalar variables  $\mu \geq 0$ ,  $\nu \geq 0$ , and  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ , and  $\Phi$  from Equation 4.2 or 4.3, the  $\star$ -norm condition:*

$$\|G_{yx}(\lambda)\|_{\star} \leq \gamma_{\star}$$

*holds if and only if  $P \geq 0$ , the following LMI and BMI:*

$$-\begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T \left( \left( \Phi + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha \end{bmatrix} \right) \oplus P \right) \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \geq 0 \quad (4.16)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \alpha P & 0 & \mathcal{C}_q \\ 0 & \mu - 1 & \mathcal{D}_{qp} \\ \mathcal{C}_q^T & \mathcal{D}_{qp}^T & \nu \end{bmatrix} \geq 0 \quad (4.17)$$

*are satisfied for some  $\alpha$ , and the following LMI is also satisfied:*

$$\begin{bmatrix} \gamma_{\star} & \mu & \nu \\ \mu & 1 & 0 \\ \nu & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \geq 0. \quad (4.18)$$

*Proof.* The proof proceeds in a similar way to that of Theorem 4.2.1 by transforming Equation 4.16 as was done with Equation 4.9. Then, combined with Equations 4.17 and 4.18, the matrix inequalities are in the form of the  $\star$ -norm semidefinite program reported in literature [50, 51].  $\square$



#### 4.4 Convexification

The LMIs presented in this Chapter are convex in optimization variable  $P$  when the state-space matrices of the system are known. For synthesis, Equations 4.1, 4.9, and 4.16 are non-convex as there are products between the state-space matrices  $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_p$  and the optimization variable  $P$ . There are a number of approaches to make the problem convex in the design parameters. As described in Section 1.4, a common workaround is to define  $S(\lambda)$  as an FIR filter. In FIR form, the  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}_p$  matrices are constant, thus  $\mathcal{C}_q$  may be optimized in a convex fashion [17, 18]. A different approach is to use weighting filters where the “controller” can be extracted from the “plant” to restore convexity as is done with  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  control [14, 18]. The GKYP lemma may also be applied with convex constraints on the gain only. Another option is to work around the non-convexity with an iterative scheme [52]. For this thesis, the controller-plant approach was attempted using the extended controller parameterizations [53]. GKYP gain constraints were examined although there wasn’t any clear way to enforce the closed-loop realizability conditions from Section 2.2.1. In the end, the iterative workaround method resulted in better modulator designs. Before the iterative procedure is presented, a change of variables and congruent transformation must be done on the non-convex LMIs. As a first step, the number of product terms can be reduced by assuming the state space system in Equation 2.6 is in controllable canonical form (CCF) as shown below:

$$\dot{x} = \overbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \\ -a_0 & -a_1 & -a_2 & \cdots & -a_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}}^{A_H} x + \overbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}^{B_H} e \quad (4.19)$$

$$u = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} b_0 & b_1 & b_2 & \cdots & b_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}}_{C_H} x, \quad (4.20)$$

where vectors  $a_H \equiv [a_0 \ a_1 \ a_2 \ \cdots \ a_{n-1}]^T$  and  $b_H \equiv [b_0 \ b_1 \ b_2 \ \cdots \ b_{n-1}]^T$

are the numerator and denominator coefficients of the loop filter in ascending powers of  $\lambda$ . Note the important fact that when Equation 2.6 is in CCF, sub-systems  $G_{er}(\lambda)$ ,  $G_{yr}(\lambda)$ , and  $G_{zw}(\lambda)$  from Equation 2.8 are in CCF as well, possibly after a trivial state-space transformation by  $T = \frac{1}{-m_{21}}I_n$  for the latter to ensure that the lower element of  $T\mathcal{B}_w$  is unity. The goal below is to design  $a_H$  and  $b_H$  by solving an optimization problem in different variables consisting of one or more of the constraints described in Chapter 3.

#### 4.4.1 Change of Variables

Let  $a \equiv a_H + m_{22}b_H$ , the negative transpose of the lower row of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Define  $b$  as one of the following depending on the subsystem  $G_{qp}(\lambda)$ :

$$b \equiv \begin{cases} -m_{22}b_H & G_{qp}(\lambda) = G_{er}(\lambda) \\ -m_{12}m_{12}b_H & G_{qp}(\lambda) = G_{zw}(\lambda) \\ m_{22}b_H & G_{qp}(\lambda) = G_{yr}(\lambda) \\ b_H & G_{qp}(\lambda) = G_{ur}(\lambda) \end{cases} \quad (4.21)$$

The vectors  $a$  and  $b$  are the denominator and numerator coefficients, respectively, of the closed-loop transfer function in descending powers of  $\lambda$ . The semidefinite program is redefined in terms of these variables to simplify nomenclature. The implementation concern of deriving  $a$ ,  $b$  from the closed-loop state-space matrices of Equation 2.9 is given in Remark 1.

**Remark 1.** Given state-space matrices  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_p \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$ ,  $\mathcal{C}_q \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times n}$ ,  $\mathcal{D}_{qp} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 1}$  of system  $G_{qp}(\lambda)$ , a subsystem of Equation 2.9, it is assumed that there exists a transformation matrix  $T$  that places  $G_{qp}(\lambda)$  into CCF. The vectors  $b$  and  $a$  are equal to:

$$a = -T^{-T} \mathcal{A}^T T^T T \mathcal{B}_p \quad (4.22)$$

$$b = T^{-T} \mathcal{C}_q^T \quad (4.23)$$

#### 4.4.2 Sensitivity Shaping

Addressing the performance goal in Section 3.3, the authors of [22, Th. 1] have shown that a congruent transformation of Equation 4.1 by the matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (4.24)$$

on the left and its transpose on the right eliminates any products between  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $P$ ,  $Q$ , restoring linearity in the first summation term. This leaves only products between  $a$  and  $b$  in the second term of Equation 4.1. Simplifying and using a Schur complement results in only one non-convex term, that is  $aa^T$  in the upper-left block. The procedure in [22] is only applicable to shaping the sensitivity function  $G_{er}(\lambda)$  because it assumes  $\mathcal{D} = 1$ . A full derivation that is valid for any  $\mathcal{D}$ , such as that encountered when solving Equation 3.12, is produced in Appendix A.1.

#### 4.4.3 $\mathcal{H}_2, \ell_1$ Optimization

The congruent transformation procedure from Section 4.4.2 does not depend on the centre expression in the relevant LMI (that may be a function of any of  $\Phi$ ,  $\Psi$ ,  $P$ ,  $Q$ ) so it is applicable to Equations 4.9 and 4.16, which have the same outer factors, restoring linearity to the first summation term. The second term of both is the same. Equation 4.25 shows this second term with the congruent transformation from Equation 4.24 applied:

$$\begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T = \begin{bmatrix} aa^T & a \\ a^T & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (4.25)$$

It is seen that, like Equation 4.1, the other semidefinite programs can undergo a change of variables to have the same, single nonlinear term  $aa^T$ . The full expression is given in Appendix A.2.

#### 4.4.4 Iterative Procedure

The non-convex inequalities have now been converted into a form where one quadratic term exists. The solving of a quadratically constrained LMI is a difficult problem. Several methods of solving Equation A.1 and Equation A.8 were attempted but

had poor results. These included using a general non-convex solver directly, using a rank-constrained LMI solver, and using Shor's relaxation to linearize the problem. Instead, the iterative method from [52] is used. For problems with simple non-convexities, this method appears to be similar to the method used in [22] except with an extra parameter to guarantee finite convergence.

In short, the iterative method proceeds following Algorithm 1, where the quadratic term is separated from the rest of the LMI by splitting the optimization problem into the form:

$$\begin{aligned} \min f(\lambda) \text{ s.t.} \\ C_i(a, \lambda, \cdot) + Q(a) \geq 0 \quad \forall i \end{aligned} \quad (4.26)$$

where  $f(\gamma)$  is the objective function,  $C_i(a, \gamma, \cdot)$  is the  $i$ th convex LMI constraint, and  $Q(a) = \begin{bmatrix} aa^T & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  is the quadratic part involving  $a$ . A maximum number of iterations `maxIter` is defined, as well as termination criteria  $\varepsilon$  and an optional weight  $\kappa$  to penalize wandering in the neighbourhood of a solution.

The iterative LMI problems generated with this method were solved numerically using the YALMIP Toolbox for MATLAB [54] with the LMILAB solver [55] wrapped by the Nelder-Mead simplex algorithm [56] to solve for  $\alpha$  in the  $\ell_1$  BMI (if applicable). Curiously, other SDP solvers seem to converge on inferior solutions and often encounter numerical problems. Parameters  $\kappa$  and  $\varepsilon$  were tuned as necessary by observing the convergence of  $a$  by iteration with example values presented in Table 6.1.

Algorithm 1 requires an feasible initialization in the form of a loop filter transfer function. In many cases, passing a simple transfer function such as:

$$H_1(z) = \frac{z^{n-1}}{z^n}$$

for the DT case, or:

$$H_1(s) = \frac{(s+1)^{n-1}}{(s+1)^n}$$

for the CT case results in convergence. For more difficult cases with higher

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**Algorithm 1** Iterative convexification procedure

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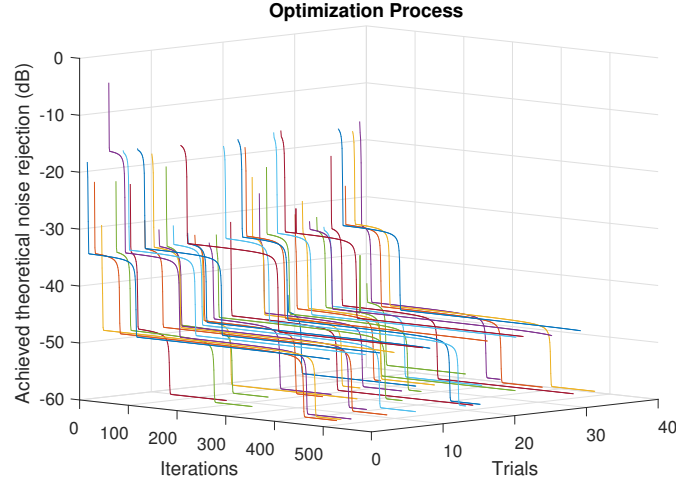
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1: procedure QMISOLVE( $a_{init}$ )
2:    $a_f = \text{CHECKFEAS}(a_{init})$ 
3:    $(a, b, \gamma) = \text{CVXITER}(a_f)$ 
4:   return  $a, b, \gamma$ 
5: end procedure
6: function CHECKFEAS( $a_{in}$ )
7:   given starting value  $a_{in}$ , find feasible  $a$  s.t.:  $\triangleright$  Convex feas. problem
8:      $C_i(a + a_{in}, \gamma, \cdot) + Q(a + a_{in}) - Q(a) \forall i$ 
9:    $a_{out} \leftarrow a + a_{in}$ 
10:  return  $a_{out}$ 
11: function CVXITER( $a_{in}$ )
12:   $k \leftarrow 0$ 
13:   $a^{(0)} \leftarrow a_{in}$ 
14:  while  $k < \text{maxIter}$  and  $\Delta_a > \varepsilon$  do
15:    solve:  $\triangleright$  Convex opt. problem
16:       $\min f(\gamma) + \kappa \|a\|_2^2$  s.t.
17:       $C_i(a + a^{(k)}, \gamma, \cdot) + Q(a + a^{(k)}) - Q(a) \forall i$ 
18:       $k \leftarrow k + 1$ 
19:       $a^{(k)} \leftarrow a^{(k-1)} + a$ 
20:       $\Delta_a \leftarrow \|a^{(k)} - a^{(k-1)}\|_2$ 
21:  end while
22:  return  $a^{(k)}, b, \gamma$ 
23: end function

```

---

order or more aggressive OSR, it may be necessary to use a more appropriate starting point such as the poles and zeros chosen from a specific region by the authors of [22, Fig. 2] or a LF derived from the `synthesizeNTF` function in the Delta Sigma Toolbox [7, Appx. B]. A third option explored is using the Shor convex relaxation [57] to find an approximate convex starting point. This involves solving the optimization problem derived from that in Equation 4.26 but with an additional matrix variable and positive semidefinite constraint to try to force  $\mathring{A} = aa^T$ :



**Figure 4.1:** An example of the dependence of the iterative optimization scheme on initial conditions.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \min \text{Tr}\{W\} \text{ s.t.} \\
 & C_i(a, \lambda, \cdot) \geq 0 \quad \forall i \\
 & W = \begin{bmatrix} \mathring{A} & a \\ a^T & 1 \end{bmatrix} \geq 0 \\
 & \mathring{A} = \mathring{A}^T.
 \end{aligned}$$

Figure 4.1 shows the an example of the achieved GKYP  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  norm in the sensitivity function signal band after 500 iterations of CVXITER from Algorithm 1 with initial condition poles randomly placed in the unit circle. It can be seen that the performance objective is minimized in “stages” corresponding to a pole-zero pair being optimized, increasing the apparent order of the system. If the algorithm terminates at a sub-optimal level, there often exists a pole-zero cancellation in the loop filter.

## Chapter 5

# Design Examples

The optimization framework developed in Chapter 4 may now be used to produce loop filters using various criteria from Chapter 3. In Sections 5.1 to 5.4 below, a 5th-order DT modulator with a 32 times OSR is designed for EEG recording applications using several different stability criteria. This application demands a LP design to capture EEG signals from the delta band (below 4 Hz) to the gamma band (up to 100 Hz) inclusive. Therefore, the modulator will be clocked at 6.4 kHz to avoid aliasing. In Section 5.6, a 3rd-order CT modulator with a 32 times OSR is shown to demonstrate the method as applied to CT designs. This example is intended for audio applications, i.e., LP signals with Nyquist frequency 44.1 kHz.

### 5.1 Design Using $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ Stability Criterion

The  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  design procedure is done by solving the GKYP optimization problem for performance while the  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  constraint promotes a stable design. Lemma 4.1.1 is used for the former while Lemma 4.1.1 combined with the auxiliary conditions in Equation 4.6 is used for the latter, which implicitly forces the NTF to be stable. For a Lee criterion of  $\gamma_\infty = 1.5$ , the optimization problem converges to the loop filter transfer function shown in Equation 5.1 after 3 iterations of CVXITER from Algorithm 1 using an initial condition derived from the Delta Sigma Toolbox [7, Appx. B].

$$H_1(z) = \frac{0.799(z^2 - 1.59z + 0.657)(z^2 - 1.92z + 0.966)}{(z - 0.954)(z^2 - 1.95z + 0.953)(z^2 - 1.99z + 0.994)}. \quad (5.1)$$

The sensitivity function of this filter can be seen in Figure 5.1. Note that the Lee criterion for stability is satisfied across all frequencies and the peak gain in the signal band has been minimized to  $-64$  dB by the GKYP lemma. This compares favourably (in the  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  sense) to the design produced with the toolbox in [7, Appx. B], which has peak gain in the signal band of  $-55$  dB<sup>1</sup>.

Like most high-order designs using the Lee criterion, stability is conditional on input amplitude. A simulation of this can be seen in Figure 5.2, also performed with the Delta Sigma Toolbox. A peak SQNR of 86 dB at an input amplitude of 0.62 was achieved with a MSIA of 0.71 and a minimum resolvable input amplitude of  $-91$  dB full-scale (FS). The comparable toolbox design achieved a very similar peak SQNR but with a slightly better MSIA and minimum resolvable input amplitude of 0.76 and  $-96$  dB FS, respectively. The trade-off between stability and performance as the Lee criterion goal is changed is shown in Figure 5.3. For Lee criterion targets above 2.1, a feasible design is not found. An abrupt onset of instability is observed for designs with Lee criterion above 2.1.

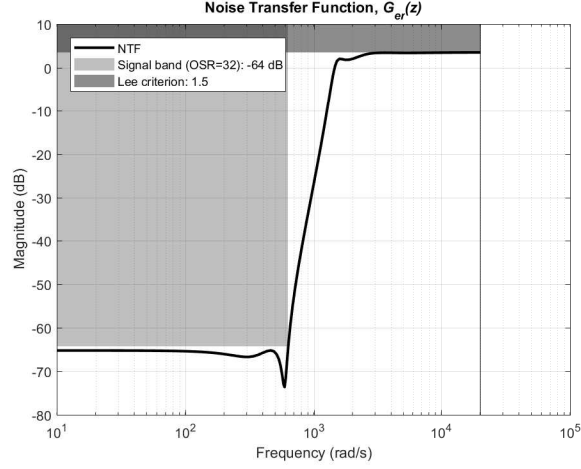
## 5.2 Design Using Root Locus Stability Criterion

The root locus design technique is done by solving the GKYP optimization problem in for performance while the constraint in Equation 3.12 is enforced for robustness against the quantizer gain. Similar to the previous example, Lemma 4.1.1 is applied to the  $r \rightarrow e$  sensitivity channel and Lemma 4.1.1 along with conditions in Equation 4.6 to the  $w \rightarrow z$  robustness channel. While a sufficient condition for stability would be that the root locus remains in the stable region for all positive quantizer gains  $K$ , this produces a very conservative design. Instead, the quantizer gain robustness criterion can be used to enhance the stable input range of the design from Section 5.1. Instability in sigma delta modulators is often associated with low quantizer gains. To improve stability, the lower bound of the quantizer gain,  $k_l$ , may be changed and the optimization problem solved. Thus  $k_l$  is a parameter that

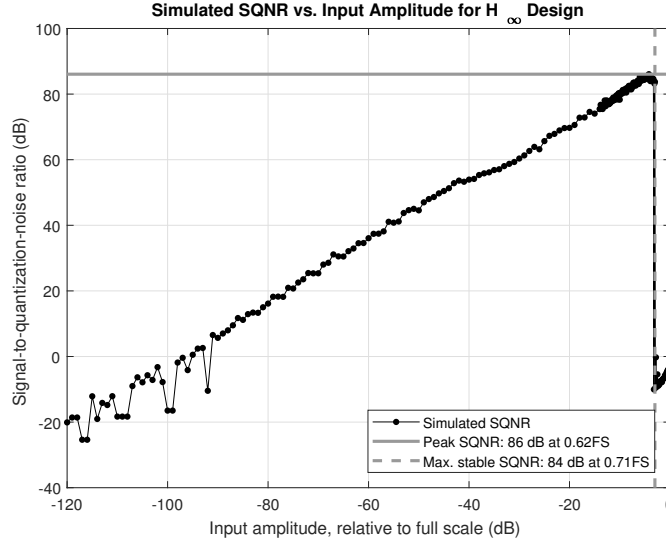
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<sup>1</sup>The Delta Sigma Toolbox command `synthesizeNTF(5, 32, 1, 1.5, 0)` was used to produce the transfer function used in this comparison.

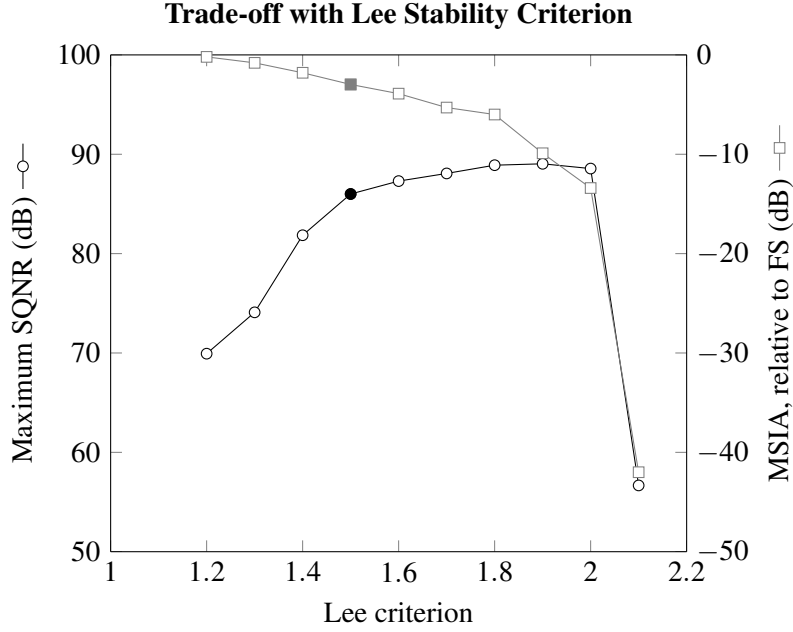




**Figure 5.1:** The sensitivity function of the design in Example 5.1. The dark shaded area represents the stability constraint and the light shaded area represents the achieved noise attenuation performance.



**Figure 5.2:** An SQNR simulation with 247 points of the design in Example 5.1 to an input sinusoid of frequency 50 Hz and varying amplitude to investigate its conditional stability.

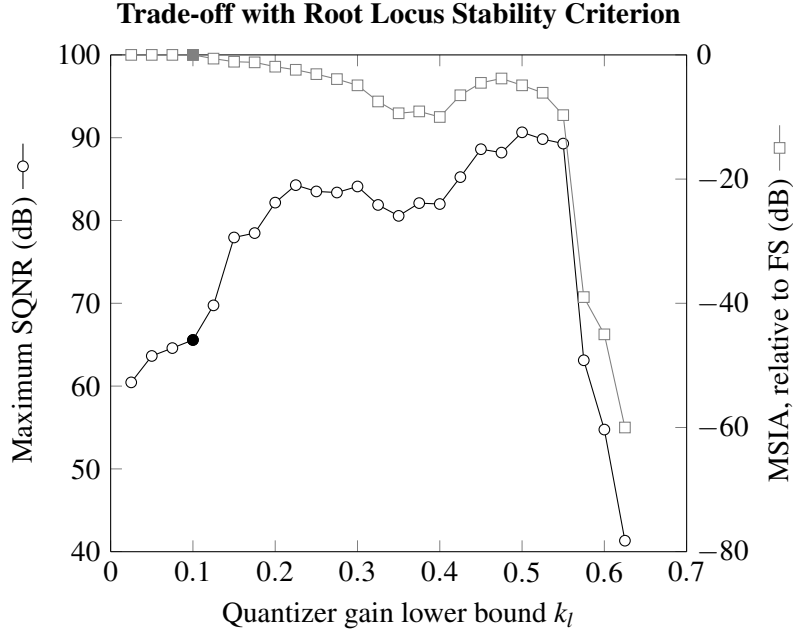


**Figure 5.3:** The performance (maximum simulated SQNR) and stability (simulated MSIA) achieved with the modulator design from Section 5.1 for different Lee criterion goals. The shaded markers indicate the selected design Lee criterion value.

trades off performance and stability, which is shown in Figure 5.4. With some trial-and-error,  $k_l = 0.1$  results in a modulator that is full-scale stable under simulation. The solver converges to the loop transfer function shown in Equation 5.2 after 840 iterations of CVXITER from Algorithm 1 using an initial condition derived from the Delta Sigma Toolbox [7, Appx. B].

$$H_1(z) = \frac{1.80(z - 0.806)(z - 0.641)(z^2 - 1.93z + 0.949)}{(z - 0.607)(z^2 - 1.94z + 0.943)(z^2 - 1.98z + 0.990)}. \quad (5.2)$$

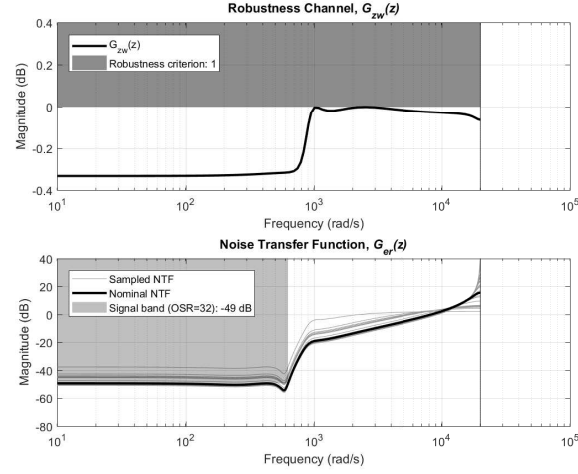
The robustness and sensitivity channels are shown in Figure 5.5. The  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  norm of the  $G_{zw}(z)$  transfer function is less than 1 for all frequencies, showing that the system is stable for all norm-bounded quantizer gains in the range  $[k_l, k_h] = [0.1, \infty)$ . The root locus shown in Figure 5.6 confirms that this is the case. A



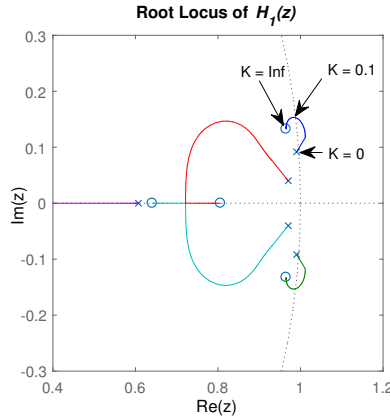
**Figure 5.4:** The performance (maximum simulated SQNR) and stability (simulated MSIA) achieved with the modulator design from Section 5.2 for different quantizer gain robustness goals. The shaded markers indicate the selected design  $k_l$  value. The root locus is entirely within the unit circle for  $k_l \leq 0.075$ .

simulation like done previously shows that system is empirically stable for input amplitudes up to FS. As expected when stability is increased, the empirical peak SQNR is reduced to 66 dB with the minimum resolvable input amplitude at -52 dB FS.

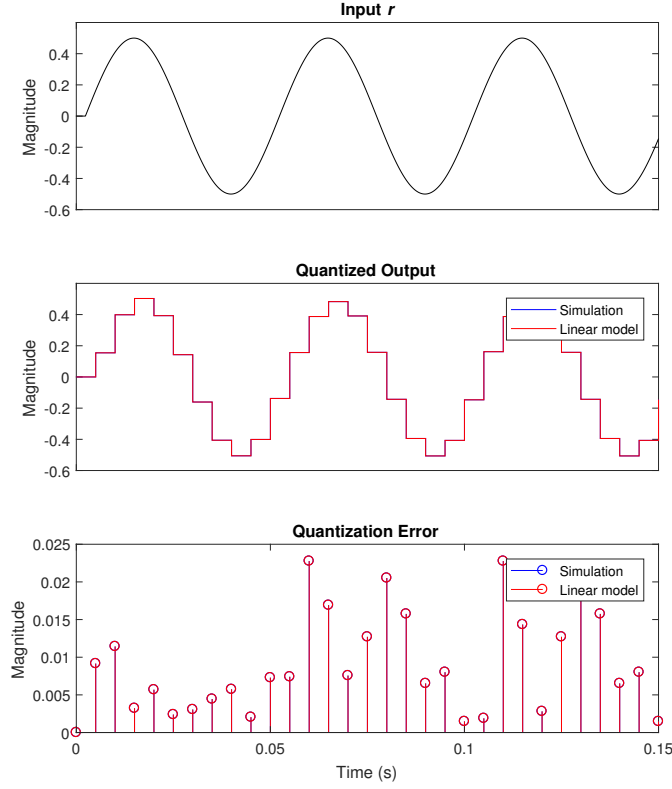
The time-varying gain linear model of the quantizer from Figure 2.1 is exact if the instantaneous quantizer gain remains lower bounded. To verify that this condition on the linear model is appropriate, the system was simulated with a sinusoidal input and compared to a linear system for which the quantizer gain was bounded and calculated at each sampling instant. Figure 5.7 shows the simulation results of these two systems which agree down to numerical precision. Figure 5.8 shows the histogram of quantizer gain values. The lowest quantizer gain observed across



**Figure 5.5:** Upper: a frequency response plot of the robustness channel for the design in Example 5.2. Lower: the nominal sensitivity function of the same design along with sensitivity functions for randomly sampled quantizer gains with the achieved noise attenuation performance shaded.



**Figure 5.6:** A subset of the complex plane showing the root locus of the filter from Example 5.2 across quantizer gains.

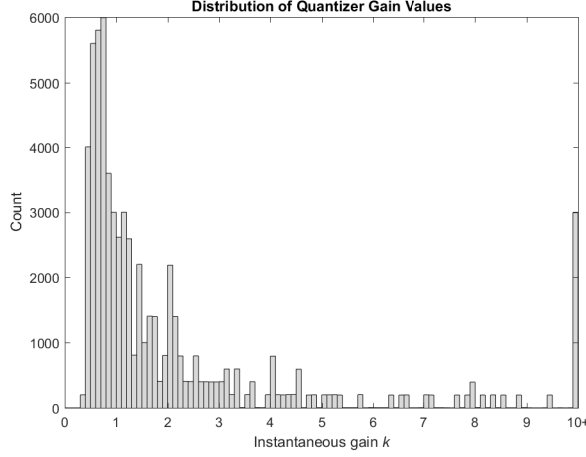


**Figure 5.7:** The simulation of the modulator design from Section 5.2 compared with a linearized model of the same system. The 20 Hz sinusoidal input is shown (top) along with the quantized output signal for both the simulated system and linearized model (middle) and their associated quantization errors (bottom). Note that the traces of the two systems overlap.

the 10 s simulation window was 0.398, confirming that the linear model may be considered reasonable under this input.

### 5.3 Design Using $\mathcal{H}_2$ Stability Criterion

The  $\mathcal{H}_2$  design technique is done by again solving the optimization problem in Equation 3.23 for performance while maintaining the stability constraint from Equation 3.15. The former uses Lemma 4.1.1 while the latter uses Theorem 4.2.1. In this example, the goal is to design a modulator for the same specifications as that

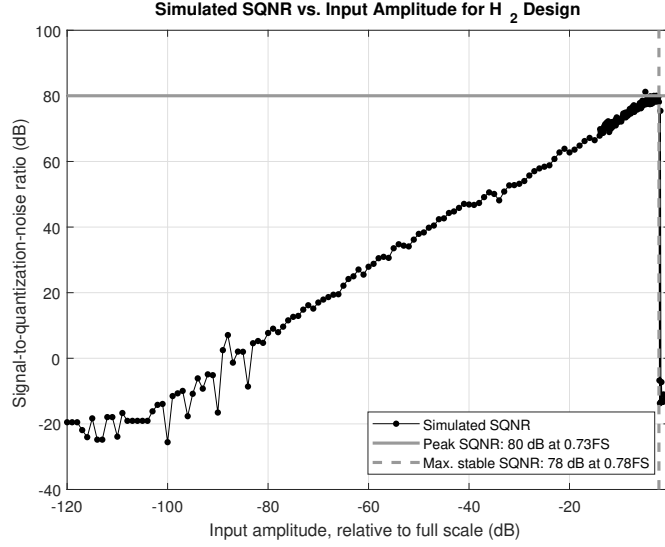


**Figure 5.8:** A histogram of instantaneous quantizer gain values for the simulation performed in Figure 5.7 shows that the gain never falls below 0.1 in this simulation.

from Section 5.1 but with slightly increased stability. One advantage of the  $\mathcal{H}_2$  criterion is that there is a more systematic way to target a specific MSIA. For this example, the quantizer input signal is modelled with the Gaussian PDF. For a target MSIA of 0.68, the criterion is satisfied if  $\|G_{er}(z)\|_2^2 < 1.79$ . Using this constraint along with the performance optimization, the solver terminates after 1500 iterations of CVXITER from Algorithm 1 using an initial condition derived from the Delta Sigma Toolbox [7, Appx. B]. Even after 1500 iterations, the LF contains a pole-zero near cancellation indicating that the optimization scheme was not able to find a feasible 5th-order design. After simplification, the 4th-order LF transfer function is:

$$H_1(z) = \frac{0.599(z - 0.654)(z^2 - 1.93z + 0.966)}{(z^2 - 1.97z + 0.972)(z^2 - 1.99z + 0.995)}.$$

Computing the NTF gain using the scale invariance procedure from Section 3.1.6, an optimum value of  $K = 0.877$  is obtained and the  $\mathcal{H}_2$  criterion predicts stability for input signals less than 0.69 FS. Because this stability criteria is only an approximation, the empirical MSIA is 0.78. The peak SQNR was found to be 80 dB at an input amplitude of 0.73. The minimum resolvable input amplitude was found

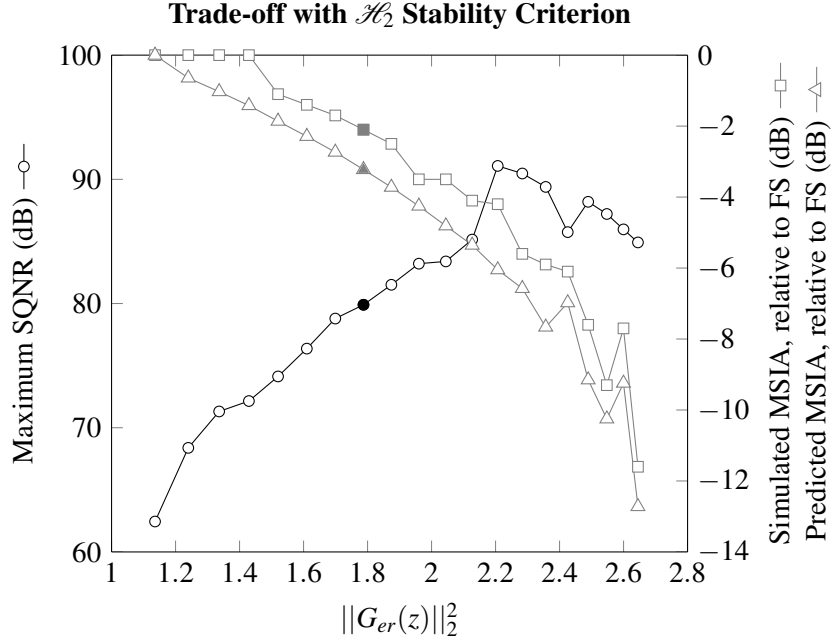


**Figure 5.9:** An SQNR simulation with 247 points of the design in Example 5.3 to an input sinusoid of frequency 50 Hz and varying amplitude to investigate its conditional stability.

to be  $-84$  dB FS. The SQNR versus input amplitude measurements can be seen in Figure 5.9 and the trade-off between performance and stability as the  $\mathcal{H}_2$  target is swept is shown in Figure 5.10.

## 5.4 Design Using $\ell_1$ Stability Criterion

In this example, the  $\ell_1$  method is used to create a modulator design that is mathematically guaranteed to be stable for a range of input amplitudes by solving the GKYP optimization problem while using the  $\star$ -norm constraint. This constraint is only an upper bound on the  $\ell_1$  norm, so there is some trial-and-error to find this  $\star$ -norm upper bound that produces the desired  $\ell_1$  norm bound. In this case, running the optimization problem with a  $\star$ -norm constraint of 4 results in  $\|G_{er}(z)\|_1 = 2.32$ . The loop filter shown in Equation 5.3 is obtained after 100 iterations of CVXITER from Algorithm 1 using an initial condition derived from the Delta Sigma Toolbox [7, Appx. B].

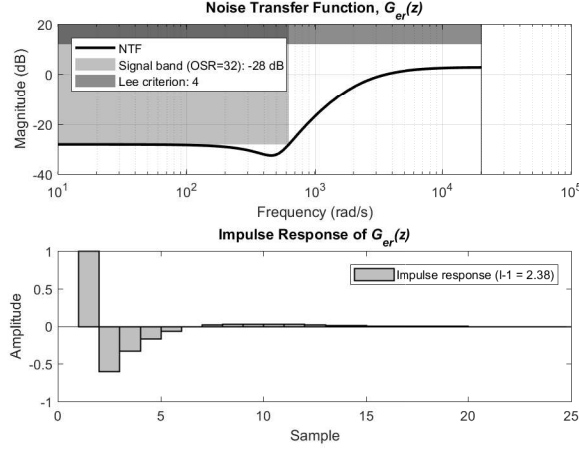


**Figure 5.10:** The performance (maximum simulated SQNR) and stability achieved with the modulator design from Section 5.2 for  $\mathcal{H}_2$  norm goals. The simulated MSIA is shown along with the predicted MSIA using the Gaussian quantizer input PDF and scale invariance property. The shaded markers indicate the selected design  $\|G_{er}(z)\|_2^2$  value.

$$H_1(z) = \frac{0.602(z^2 - 1.69z + 0.718)}{(z - 0.891)(z^2 - 1.949z + 0.955)}. \quad (5.3)$$

This design is guaranteed to be stable for input amplitudes up to 0.68 FS, but empirical stability is seen for the entire input range. The cost for this stability is a decrease in performance: a peak SQNR of 59 dB and a minimum resolvable input amplitude of  $-41$  dB FS. Note that similar to the case in Section 5.3, there are now 2 pole-zero cancellations in the final loop filter resulting in an order 3 transfer function. The NTF for this design can be seen in Figure 5.11. The simulated performance along with the simulated and guaranteed stability is shown for various  $\star$ -norm goals in Figure 5.12.

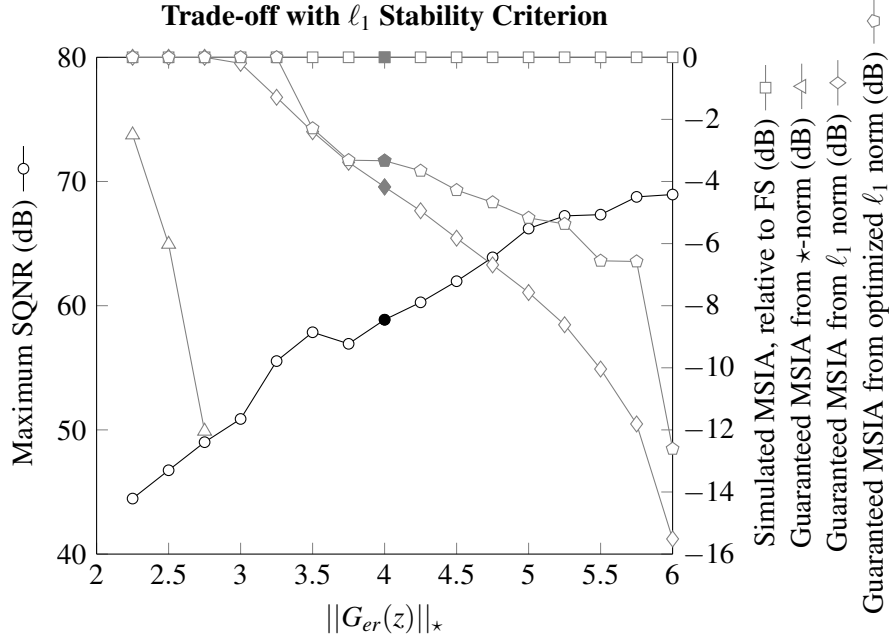




**Figure 5.11:** Upper: The sensitivity function of the  $\ell_1$  norm design from Section 5.4 shows the signal band rejection has been diminished in order to provide mathematically guaranteed stability. Lower: the impulse response of the sensitivity function has been minimized by the  $\ell_1$  norm criterion.

## 5.5 Discussion of the Above Examples

For the problem of digitizing an EEG signal, the  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  design provides a relatively good balance of SQNR and MSIA over a wide range of Lee criterion values and is familiar due to Lee's rule being used in many other design methodologies. However, there are diminishing returns when increasing the allowable out-of-band gain and the design fails for very high or very low Lee criterion targets. In addition, it is not clear the exact relationship between the Lee criterion and the stability before a series of designs are produced, necessitating some simulation to verify performance and stability after the design process is completed. The root locus method has a more intuitive meaning but the achieved performance and stability may vary with only small changes in the design target. The  $\mathcal{H}_2$  design method produced the highest SQNR for some optimization targets with a smoother performance-stability trade-off. Based on the observations in this Section, a modulator designed using the  $\mathcal{H}_2$  method appears to be the best general-purpose choice. As expected, the  $\ell_1$  procedure is extremely conservative and requires a long computation time to arrive



**Figure 5.12:** The performance (maximum simulated SQNR) and stability achieved with the modulator design from Section 5.4 for  $\star$ -norm goals. The simulated MSIA is shown along with the guaranteed MSIA computed using methods of decreasing conservativeness: the  $\star$ -norm upper bound, the  $\ell_1$  norm, and the  $\ell_1$  norm using the scale invariance property. The shaded markers indicate the selected design  $\|G_{er}(z)\|_*$  value.

at a reasonable set of filter coefficients. A design using the  $\ell_1$  method would likely only be suitable for safety critical applications where extreme reliability is required at the expense of some performance.

## 5.6 Continuous-Time Design

To examine how the optimization framework may be used to directly produce CT designs, a 3rd order CT sigma delta modulator is produced for audio applications. Due to the absence of stability criteria that may be directly applied to continuous-time designs, the following constraints are used:

$$\min_{\omega \in [0, 2\pi \cdot 4.41 \times 10^5]} \|G_{er}(j\omega)\|_{\infty} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad (5.4)$$

$$\|G_{er}(j\omega)\|_{\infty} \leq 4 \text{ dB} \quad \forall \omega \quad (5.5)$$

$$\|G_{yr}(j\omega)\|_{\infty} \leq -10 \text{ dB} \quad \omega \in [2\pi \cdot 7.056 \times 10^5, \infty) \quad (5.6)$$

The constraint in Equation 5.4 uses Equation 3.23 to minimize the in-band noise of the sensitivity function. The constraint in Equation 5.5 favours stability by placing a maximum gain on the NTF. Unlike discrete-time designs, there is no influence of the quantizer sampling frequency captured in the first two constraints. Thus, the constraint in Equation 5.6 is used to force high roll-off by reducing the STF outside the signal band.

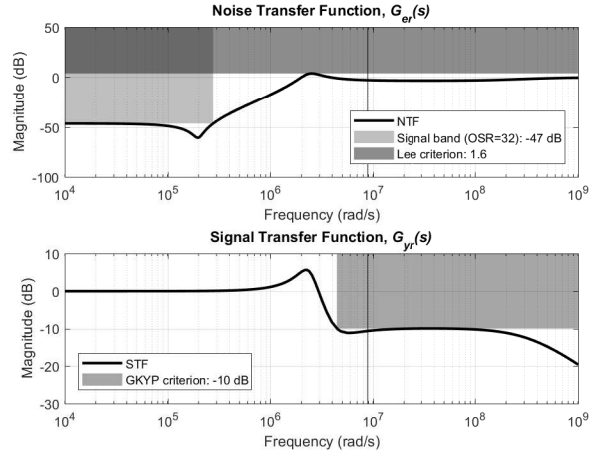
The optimization process converges on the loop filter transfer function:

$$\frac{1.11 \times 10^8 (s^2 + 3.25 \times 10^6 + 1.178 \times 10^{13})}{(s + 2.37 \times 10^8)(s^2 + 3.80 \times 10^4 + 3.94 \times 10^{10})},$$

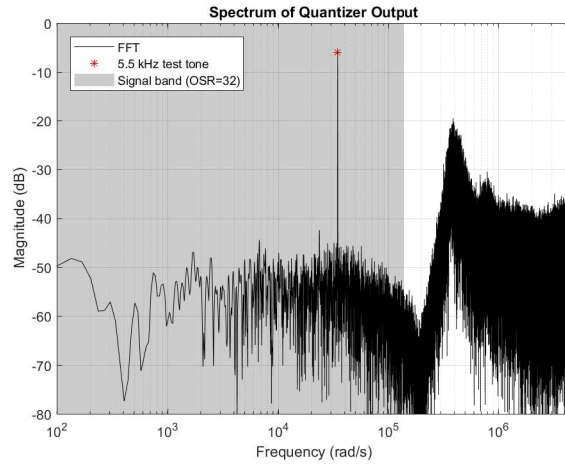
for which the sensitivity and complementary sensitivity functions are shown in Figure 5.13 and the spectrum of the simulated quantizer output is shown in Figure 5.14.

## 5.7 Summary of Design Examples

In Section 5.1, a set of constraints was proposed to design a sigma delta modulator in a way similar to the Delta Sigma Toolbox. A lower  $\mathcal{H}_{\infty}$  norm across the STF signal band was achieved but the simulation performance was very close to the Toolbox result. The modulator exhibited a well-defined onset of instability that was reasonably well correlated with the  $\mathcal{H}_{\infty}$  norm target up to a point ( $\|G_{er}(z)\|_{\infty} > 2$ ) where the design was completely unstable. Diminishing returns of peak SQNR were seen as the Lee criterion was increased above 1.6. When the root locus robustness criteria was used in Section 5.2, choosing a low  $k_l$  restricted the root locus to entirely within the unit circle and, as expected, produced designs stable to FS. As  $k_l$  was increased, the peak SQNR increased and MSIA decreased, but not as smoothly as in the Lee criterion case. Both the Lee criterion and root locus de-



**Figure 5.13:** Upper: the sensitivity function of the CT from Section 5.6. Lower: the complementary sensitivity function with a GKYP constraint to enforce sharp roll-off.



**Figure 5.14:** The 14 000-point FFT of the quantizer output of the CT design from Section 5.6 shows about  $-40$  dB of noise shaping to a  $3.46 \times 10^4$  rad s $^{-1}$  input sinusoid with amplitude 0.5 FS.

sign methods yielded similar peak SQNR values for some value of the criterion. The  $\mathcal{H}_2$  design method from Section 5.3 produced a pronounced peak SQNR after which the MSIA began to decrease rather than the abrupt unstable region seen with the previous designs. The Gaussian PDF seemed slightly conservative for this example, as the predicted MSIA was consistently about 2 dB lower than the simulation. The  $\ell_1$  design in Section 5.4 was very conservative because it not only uses the worst-case  $\ell_1$  stability criterion, but conservativeness also propagates from the  $\star$ -norm approximation and solving of the BMI. Despite the simulations being stable to FS for all  $\star$ -norm targets attempted, the method managed to produce an acceptable 3rd-order design. Finally, the CT example did not produce a very useful modulator likely due to the choice of constraints, but did show that the method can be applied directly to the CT class of modulators.

## Chapter 6

# Conclusions

This thesis has outlined the development of a systematic, high-level design framework for sigma delta modulators. To accomplish this, Chapter 1 presents the basic principles of sigma delta coding that permit high resolution despite using coarse quantization. A simplified structure of the signal flow was presented as were the various transfer functions and their effect on noise shaping. In Chapter 2, the non-linear nature of the quantizer was dealt with using techniques from control systems, allowing the modulator to be treated by an optimization framework. The well-posedness, internal stability, and sensitivity integral concepts were introduced that place limitations on the theoretical performance possible by using feedback. A state-space model was developed with channels exposing modulator transfer functions of interest. Chapter 3 presented a literature review of some stability criteria and examined how various criteria could be applied to the model as a system norm constraint. The actual optimization and convexification equations were presented in Chapter 4 as a series of LMIs coupled with an iterative procedure used as a workaround for the non-convex quadratic term. Finally, design examples were presented in Chapter 5 motivated by a bio-signal acquisition problem. These examples showcase different stability criteria and the trade-off between performance and stability.

As outlined in Section 1.6, the major contributions in this work include:

1. Uniting GKYP,  $\mathcal{H}_2$ , and  $\ell_1$  designs into a consistent set of LMIs for the design of IIR NTFs.

2. Extending the GKYP lemma used in [22] to be compatible with non-unity  $\mathcal{D}$  matrices so that it can be used to place constraints on channels other than the sensitivity function.
3. Addition of the uncertain quantizer gain method of enforcing stability using robust control techniques.
4. Application of the SDP framework to direct CT sigma delta modulator design.

## 6.1 Limitations

In Chapter 5, it was shown that the framework presented here is applicable to many sigma delta modulator design problems and can be competitive with existing tools. Despite this, the method has several limitations:

1. The influence of integrator state saturation is not included in the model, thus it does not capture designs which are only stable when integrator saturation is applied.
2. The LMI optimization expressions are not feasible for LFs with poles or zeros exactly on the unit circle (for DT) or imaginary axis (for CT).
3. Although mathematically correct, many state-of-the-art SDP solvers fail to reach the optimum solution of the LMIs.
4. The parameters `maxIter`,  $\epsilon$ , and  $\kappa$  used in the iterative optimization process are difficult to choose and may need to be set based on the chosen stability criteria. Example ad-hoc values used by the author are listed in Table 6.1.
5. It is often difficult to avoid pole-zero cancellations in high order LF during optimization so careful choice of initial conditions and the iteration parameters may be necessary.

**Table 6.1:** Suggested starting point for termination parameters used in the iterative convexification procedure.

Design type	maxIter	$\epsilon$	$\kappa$
$\mathcal{H}_\infty$	500	$1 \times 10^{-6}$	0.005
Root locus	2 000	$1 \times 10^{-4}$	0.005
$\mathcal{H}_2$	150	$1 \times 10^{-6}$	0
$\ell_1$	1 000	$1 \times 10^{-4}$	0.001

## 6.2 Future Work

There remain many interesting directions of future study relating to this problem. A more direct application to circuit design is the first of them. For example, constraints on the transfer function coefficients for ease of implementation would be advantageous (e.g., ratios that encourage low capacitor sizes for switched-capacitor DT designs). As well, it has been assumed that any realizable loop filter is acceptable. It may be more desirable to restrict the loop filter to that which can be implemented using a specific topology. Both of these would seem relatively straightforward by redefining the variables  $a$  and  $b$  and imposing additional terms to the objective function. As a longer-term goal, an automated method that could synthesize hardware description language (HDL) code for simulation (and perhaps testing of D/A designs using an field programmable gate array (FPGA)) of a design made using this framework would be an exciting next step.

A deeper look into the CT design procedure in order to identify more ideal design constraints would be another area of future work. Many recent high-throughput sigma delta modulator designs are moving to the CT domain. This also brings about a greater sensitivity to non-idealities such as clock jitter, which could possibly be incorporated into the linear model as an uncertainty in a way similar to the quantizer gain. Currently, internal stability is guaranteed for designs using this framework, but one cannot specify a maximum signal magnitude that is not exceeded at any point in the system. Improving the model so that the effect of state saturation would make designs more realistic. Saturation is not only necessary for an actual circuit implementation, but can also prevent the onset of instability.

On the practical side, it is of interest to improve the convexification procedure



## *CHAPTER 6. CONCLUSIONS*

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to eliminate some of the limitations described above and make the design procedure easier for circuit design experts who may not be totally familiar with the field of convex optimization.

## *CHAPTER 6. CONCLUSIONS*

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## Appendix A

# Derivation of Matrix Inequalities with One Quadratic Term

### A.1 Derivation of GKYP Inequality with Arbitrary $\mathcal{D}$

**Theorem A.1.1.** *Equation 4.1 from Section 4.1 is equivalent to the following:*

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\Xi_{11} + aa^T & -\Xi_{12} + a & -\mathcal{C}_q^T - a\mathcal{D}_{qp}^T \\ -\Xi_{12}^T + a^T & -\Xi_{22} + 1 & -\mathcal{D}_{qp}^T \\ -\mathcal{C}_q - a^T \mathcal{D}_{qp} & -\mathcal{D}_{qp} & \gamma_\infty \end{bmatrix} \geq 0 \quad (\text{A.1})$$

where (A.1) contains just one nonlinear term in variable  $a$ , and:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Xi_{11} & \Xi_{12} \\ \Xi_{12}^T & \Xi_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T (\Phi \oplus P_\gamma + \Psi \oplus Q_\gamma) \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T$$

$$P_\gamma = \gamma_\infty^{-1} P \quad Q_\gamma = \gamma_\infty^{-1} Q. \quad (\text{A.2})$$

*Proof.* Starting from Equation 4.1, the procedure mentioned in Section 4.4.2 is followed to eliminate non-convex products in the first term of the LMI [22, Th. 1]:

APPENDIX A. DERIVATION OF MATRIX INEQUALITIES WITH ONE  
QUADRATIC TERM

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$$-\begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T f(\Phi, \Psi, P, Q) \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T + \dots \geq 0. \quad (\text{A.3})$$

Let the notation  $\Xi_{ij}$  be used for the linear part:

$$-\begin{bmatrix} \Xi_{11} & \Xi_{12} \\ \Xi_{12}^T & \Xi_{22} \end{bmatrix} + \dots \geq 0. \quad (\text{A.4})$$

Equation A.4 may undergo a congruent transformation by  $\gamma_\infty^{-\frac{1}{2}}I$  introducing a commutable factor of  $\gamma_\infty^{-1}$  to every element. For the first summation term, the factor is absorbed into  $Q$  and  $P$  with the redefinition from Equation A.9 yielding:

$$-\begin{bmatrix} \Xi_{11} & \Xi_{12} \\ \Xi_{12}^T & \Xi_{22} \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{C}_q & \mathcal{D}_{qp} \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_\infty^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{C}_y & \mathcal{D}_{qp} \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T \geq 0. \quad (\text{A.5})$$

Multiplying the inner factors in the second term of Equation A.5 leads to:

$$-\begin{bmatrix} \Xi_{11} & \Xi_{12} \\ \Xi_{12}^T & \Xi_{22} \end{bmatrix}^T - \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_\infty^{-1} \mathcal{C}_q^T \mathcal{C}_q & \gamma_\infty^{-1} \mathcal{C}_q^T \mathcal{D}_{qp} \\ \gamma_\infty^{-1} \mathcal{D}_{qp}^T \mathcal{C}_q & \gamma_\infty^{-1} \mathcal{D}_{qp}^T \mathcal{D}_{qp} - 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T \geq 0$$

which can be expanded into:

$$\begin{aligned} & -\begin{bmatrix} \Xi_{11} & \Xi_{12} \\ \Xi_{12}^T & \Xi_{22} \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & a \mathcal{D}_{qp}^T \\ 0 & \mathcal{D}_{qp}^T \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{C}_q^T \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \gamma_\infty^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{C}_q^T \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} I & a \mathcal{D}_{qp}^T \\ 0 & \mathcal{D}_{qp}^T \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T + \\ & + \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T \geq 0. \quad (\text{A.6}) \end{aligned}$$

The 3 outer factors multiplied with  $\gamma_\infty^{-1}$  in the middle term of Equation A.6 are then combined together and the last summation term is also multiplied through, resulting in the following:

$$-\begin{bmatrix} \Xi_{11} & \Xi_{12} \\ \Xi_{12}^T & \Xi_{22} \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{C}_q^T + a\mathcal{D}_{qp}^T \\ \mathcal{D}_{qp}^T \end{bmatrix} \gamma_\infty^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{C}_q^T + a\mathcal{D}_{qp}^T \\ \mathcal{D}_{qp}^T \end{bmatrix}^T + \begin{bmatrix} aa^T & a \\ a^T & 1 \end{bmatrix} \geq 0. \quad (\text{A.7})$$

The last summation term of Equation A.7 is then added with the linear part  $\Xi$ . Because  $\gamma_\infty > 0 \leftrightarrow \gamma_\infty^{-1} > 0$ , a Schur complement taken around  $\gamma_\infty$  allows Equation A.7 to be written as the single matrix inequality shown in Equation A.1.

□

## A.2 Derivation of $\mathcal{H}_2$ and $\ell_1$ Inequalities

**Theorem A.2.1.** Equation 4.9 from Section 4.2 and Equation 4.16 from Section 4.3 are equivalent to the following:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\Xi_{11} + aa^T & -\Xi_{12} + a \\ -\Xi_{12}^T + a^T & -\Xi_{22} + 1 \end{bmatrix} \geq 0, \quad (\text{A.8})$$

where Equation A.8 contains just one nonlinear term in variable  $a$ , and:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Xi_{11} & \Xi_{12} \\ \Xi_{12}^T & \Xi_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T f(\Phi, P_\gamma, \alpha) \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T$$

$$f(\Phi, P_\gamma, \alpha) = \begin{cases} \Phi \oplus P_\gamma & \text{for the } \mathcal{H}_2 \text{ case} \\ \left( \Phi + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha \end{bmatrix} \right) \oplus P_\gamma & \text{for the } \ell_1 \text{ case} \end{cases} \quad (\text{A.9})$$

$$P_\gamma = \gamma_\infty^{-1} P. \quad (\text{A.10})$$

*Proof.* Starting from either Equation 4.9 or Equation 4.16, the procedure mentioned in Section 4.4.3 is followed to eliminate non-convex products in the first term of the LMI independent of  $f(\Phi, P_\gamma, \alpha)$ . The second summation term is the same in both LMIs and simplifies to Equation 4.25. Combining these, the matrix inequality from Equation A.8 is produced. □