

Chapter 5: Continuous time systems

Van Assche Jonah

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- 1 Linear differential equations
- 2 Laplace transform
- 3 Solving LDEs with the Laplace transform
- 4 Properties of state-space representation
- 5 Transfer functions
 - Impulse response and time constant
 - Relationship between state space and transfer functions
- 6 Transient response analysis of first order and second order systems
 - First order systems
 - Second order systems

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Linear differential equations: definitions 1/2

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The **order of a LDE** is the index of the highest derivative of y .

$$L_n(y) = \sum_{i=0}^n A_i(t) \frac{d^{n-i}y}{dt^{n-i}} = f(t).$$

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- if $A_{0:n}(t)$ are constants (ie. not functions of time), the LDE is said to have **constant coefficients**

Example: radioactive decay 1/2

Let $N(t)$ be the number of radioactive atoms at time t , then:

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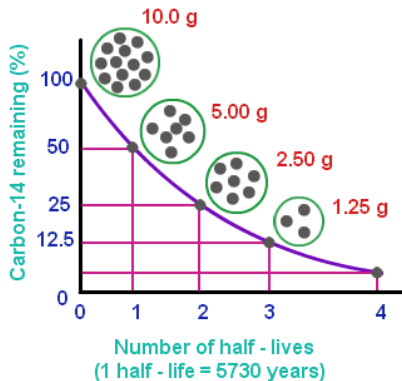
$$\frac{dN(t)}{dt} = -kN(t),$$

for some constant $k > 0$.

This is a first order homogeneous LDE with constant coefficients.

Example: radioactive decay 2/2

Decay of Carbon - 14



Solving homogeneous LDEs with constant coefficients 1/3

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Dividing by e^{zt} yields the n th order **characteristic polynomial**:

$$F(z) = \sum_{i=0}^n A_i z^{n-i} = 0.$$

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The specific linear combination depends on initial conditions.

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$$y^{(4)}(t) - 2y^{(3)}(t) + 2y^{(2)}(t) - 2y^{(1)}(t) + y(t) = 0.$$

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These zeros correspond to the following basis functions t :

$$e^{jt}, \quad e^{-jt}, \quad e^t, \quad te^t.$$

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The Laplace transform

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The initial value theorem states $f(0^+) = \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} sF(s)$.

The final value theorem states $f(\infty) = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} sF(s)$,
if all poles of $sF(s)$ are in the left half plane (ie. real part < 0).

Important properties of the Laplace transform

property	time domain	s-domain
linearity	$af(t) + bg(t)$	$aF(s) + bG(s)$

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with $u(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t \delta(\tau)d\tau$ (Heaviside) and $\delta(t)$ the Dirac delta.

The inverse Laplace transform converts s-domain to time domain:

$$f(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)\} = \frac{1}{j2\pi} \int_{\gamma-jT}^{\gamma+jT} e^{st} F(s) ds.$$

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Practically, the inverse Laplace transform takes two steps:

- 1 write $F(s)$ in terms of partial fractions
- 2 transform each term in the partial fraction based on tables of s/t -domain pairs (course notes p 4.32-4.33)

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Via induction, the Laplace transform of the n th order derivative:

$$\mathcal{L}\{f^{(n)}\} = s^n F(s) - \sum_{i=1}^n s^{n-i} f^{(n-i)}(0)$$

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Expanding Eq. (2) into (1) yields:

$$Y(s) \sum_{i=0}^n A_i s^i - \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^i A_i s^{i-j} y^{j-1}(0) = F(s)$$

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The solution in the time domain is obtained via the inverse Laplace transform: $y(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{Y(s)\}$.

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This holds for linear, time-invariant systems with n states if:

$$\text{rank}(\mathcal{O}) = n, \quad \mathcal{O} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C} \\ \mathbf{CA} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{CA}^{n-1} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{O} : \text{observability matrix}$$

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A linear, time-invariant system with n states is controllable if:

$$\text{rank}(\mathcal{C}) = n, \quad \mathcal{C} = [\mathbf{B} \quad \mathbf{AB} \quad \dots \quad \mathbf{A}^{n-1}\mathbf{B}],$$

where \mathcal{C} is called the **controllability matrix**.

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The transfer function of input i to output j is defined as:

$$H_{i,j}(s) = \frac{Y_j(s)}{U_i(s)}, \quad \mathbf{U}(s) = \mathcal{L}\{u(t)\}, \quad \mathbf{Y}(s) = \mathcal{L}\{y(t)\}.$$

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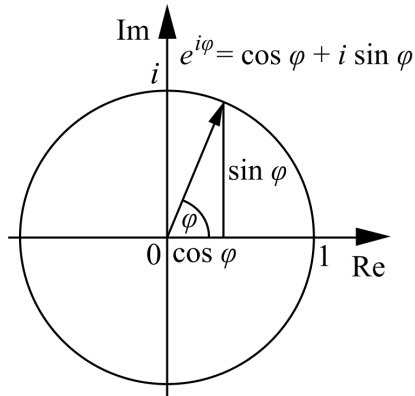
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The complex Laplace variable can be rewritten: $s = \sigma + j\omega$.

The frequency response of a system can be analyzed via $\mathbf{H}(j\omega)$:

$$e^{\sigma+j\omega} = e^{\sigma}(\cos \omega + j \sin \omega).$$

Illustration of Euler's formula



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Poles and zeros may cancel, ie. if $D(s) = N(s) = 0$ for some s .

Steady state response

The output of a linear time-invariant system yields consists of:

- a steady-state output $y_{ss}(t)$, which similar periodicity to $u(t)$
→ y_{ss} comprises the same frequencies as $u(t)$
- a transient output $y_{tr}(t)$
→ if the system is stable, then $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y_{tr}(t) = 0$
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The steady-state output $y_{ss}(t)$ of a linear time invariant system:

- consists of signals of same frequencies as the input signal $u(t)$
- which may have been magnified and/or phase changed

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For stable continuous time systems the impulse response always converges to 0:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} h(t) = 0, \text{ because } \mathbf{D} = 0 \text{ and } \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{x}(t) = 0.$$

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The impulse response is the inverse Laplace transform of the transfer function $h(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{H(s)\}$.

For stable continuous time systems the impulse response always converges to 0:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} h(t) = 0, \text{ because } \mathbf{D} = 0 \text{ and } \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{x}(t) = 0.$$

The speed of convergence depends on the position of the poles.

The transfer function of first order systems can be written as:

$$H(s) = \frac{K}{\tau s + 1} \quad \leftrightarrow \quad h(t) = \frac{K}{\tau} e^{-t/\tau},$$

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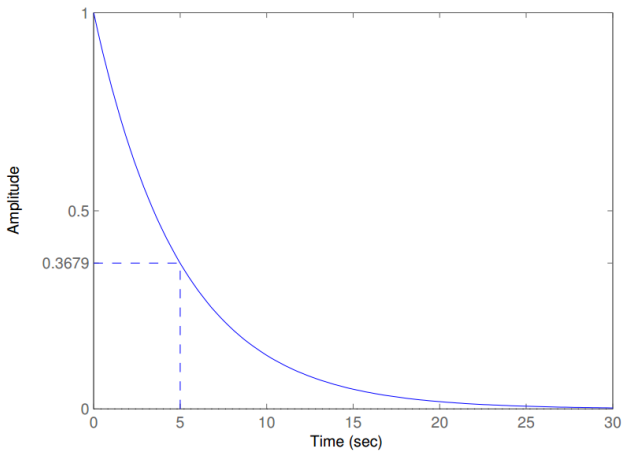
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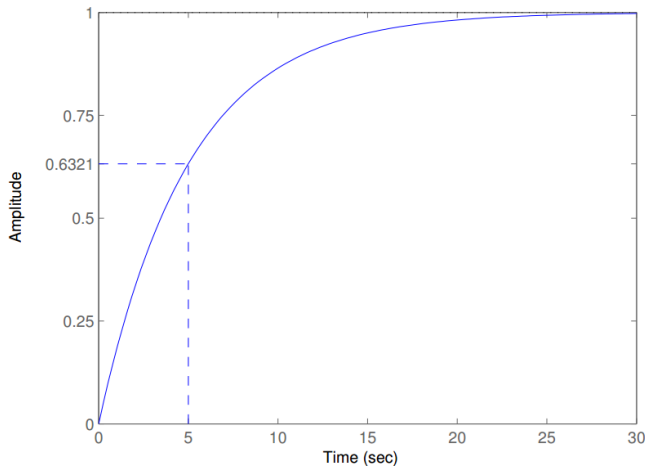
The time constant summarizes the speed of a system's dynamics:

- after τ seconds, the impulse response reaches $h(0)/e$.
- after τ seconds, the step response has reached $1 - e^{-1} \approx 63\%$ of its regime value.

Impulse response $H(s) = 5/(5s + 1) \leftrightarrow h(t) = \exp(-t/5)$



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From state-space to transfer functions

We start from the linear state-space representation:

time domain

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}(t) \\ \mathbf{y}(t) = \mathbf{C}\mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{D}\mathbf{u}(t) \end{cases}$$

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$$\begin{cases} s\mathbf{X}(s) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{X}(s) + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{U}(s) \\ \mathbf{Y}(s) = \mathbf{C}\mathbf{X}(s) + \mathbf{D}\mathbf{U}(s) \end{cases}$$

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$$(s\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})\mathbf{X}(s) = \mathbf{B}\mathbf{U}(s)$$

$$\mathbf{X}(s) = (s\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})^{-1}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{U}(s)$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{Y}(s) = \mathbf{C}(s\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})^{-1}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{U}(s) + \mathbf{D}\mathbf{U}(s)$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{H}(s) = \mathbf{C}(s\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})^{-1}\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{D}$$

Relationship between poles and eigenvalues of **A** 1/2

Poles are zeros of the denominator of $\mathbf{H}(s)$, e.g. those values of s for which $\mathbf{H}(s)$ is singular.

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$$\begin{bmatrix} sX_1(s) \\ sX_2(s) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & 0 \\ 0.2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_1(s) \\ X_2(s) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \beta \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} U(s)$$
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The transfer function $H(s) = \frac{\beta}{s-\alpha}$ has only one pole ($s_1 = \alpha$).

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Transient Response

The time response of a control system may be written as:

$$y(t) = y_{tr}(t) + y_{ss}(t)$$

Where $y_{tr}(t)$ is the transient response and $y_{ss}(t)$ is the steady state response. Most important characteristic of dynamic system is absolute stability.

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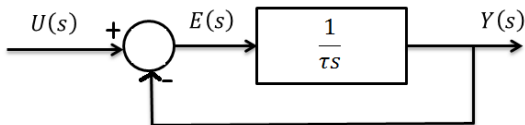
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Transient response: when input of system changes, output does not change immediately but takes time to go to steady state

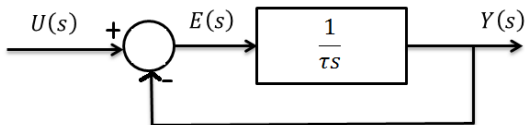
First order systems

E.g. RC circuit, thermal system, ...



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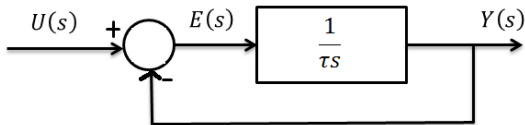
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Unit step response

- Laplace of unit-step is $\frac{1}{s} \rightarrow$ substituting $U(s) = \frac{1}{s}$ into equation $Y(s) = \frac{1}{s} \frac{1}{\tau s + 1}$
- Expanding into partial fractions gives

$$Y(s) = \frac{1}{s} - \frac{\tau}{\tau s + 1} = \frac{1}{s} - \frac{1}{s + \frac{1}{\tau}}$$

Unit step transient response

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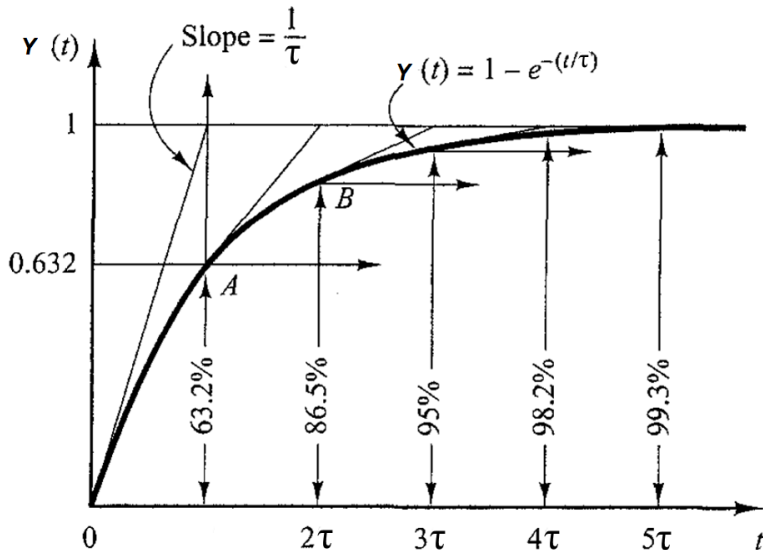
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⑤ Slope at time $t = 0$ is $\frac{1}{\tau}$

$$\left. \frac{dy}{dt} \right|_{t=0} = \left. \frac{1}{\tau} e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} \right|_{t=0} = \frac{1}{\tau}$$

Where τ is called the system time constant

Unit step transient response



Unit ramp transient response

- ① Laplace transform of unit ramp is $\frac{1}{s^2}$

$$Y(s) = \frac{1}{\tau s + 1} \frac{1}{s^2}$$

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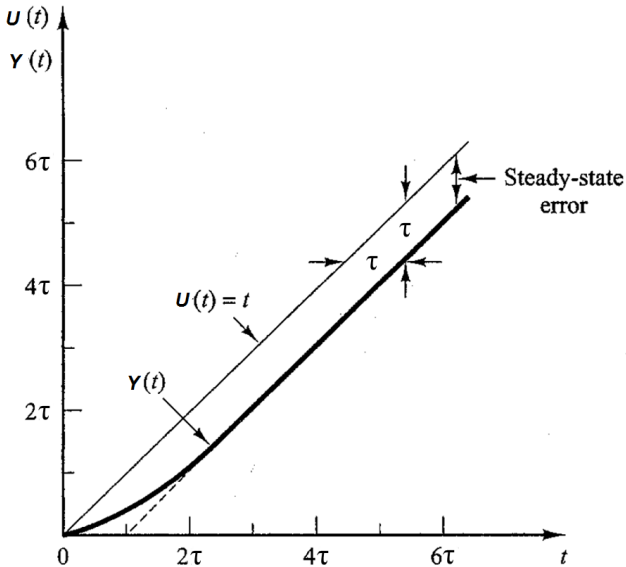
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- ⑤ For t approaching infinity, $e(t)$ approaches τ

$$e(\infty) = \tau$$

Unit ramp transient response



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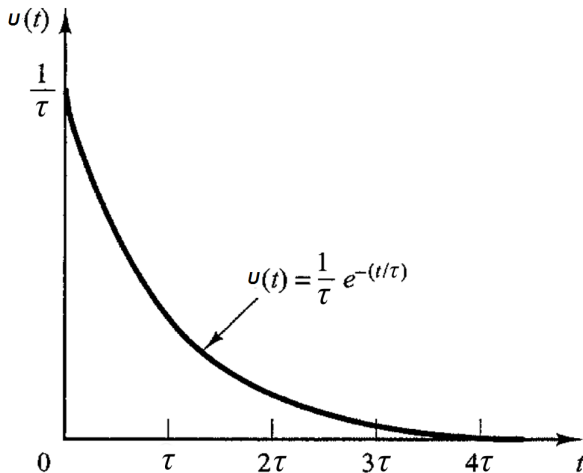
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For $t \rightarrow +\infty$, $y(t) \rightarrow 0$

Unit-Impulse Response



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Second order systems

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If the transfer function has two real poles, the frequency response can be found by combining the effects of both poles

Second order systems

Sometimes the transfer function has two complex conjugate poles. In that case we have to find a different solution for finding the frequency response.

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In order to study the transient behaviour, let us first consider the following simplified example of a second order system

$$H(s) = \frac{c}{ds^2 + es + c}$$

Step response second order system

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② The transfer function can be rewritten as:

$$\begin{aligned} H(s) &= \frac{\frac{c}{d}}{s^2 + \frac{e}{d}s + \frac{c}{d}} \\ &= \frac{\frac{c}{d}}{\left[s + \frac{e}{2d} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{e}{2d}\right)^2 - \frac{c}{d}}\right]\left[s + \frac{e}{2d} - \sqrt{\left(\frac{e}{2d}\right)^2 - \frac{c}{d}}\right]} \end{aligned}$$

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④ The poles are real if

$$e^2 - dc \geq 0$$

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To simplify the transient analysis, it is convenient to write

$$\frac{f}{d} = \omega_n^2, \quad \frac{e}{d} = 2\zeta\omega_n = 2\sigma$$

Where

σ is the attenuation

ω_n is the natural frequency

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$$H(s) = \frac{\omega_n^2}{s^2 + 2\zeta\omega_n s + \omega_n^2}$$

Which is called the standard form of the second-order system.

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The dynamic behavior of the second-order system can then be described in terms of only two parameters ζ and ω_n .

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- The system is then called **underdamped**
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If $\zeta > 1$, the system is called **overdamped**

We will now look at the unit step response for each of these cases

Underdamped system

For the underdamped case ($0 < \zeta < 1$), the transfer function can be written as:

$$H(s) = \frac{\omega_n^2}{(s + \zeta\omega_n + j\omega_d)(s + \zeta\omega_n - j\omega_d)}$$

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For a unit-step input we can write

$$Y(s) = \frac{\omega_n^2}{(s^2 + 2\zeta\omega_n s + \omega_n^2)s}$$

Underdamped system

Which can be rewritten as partial fractions

$$\begin{aligned} Y(s) &= \frac{1}{s} - \frac{s + 2\zeta\omega_n}{s^2 + 2\zeta\omega_n s + \omega_n^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{s} - \frac{s + \zeta\omega_n}{s^2 + 2\zeta\omega_n s + \omega_n^2} - \frac{\zeta\omega_n}{s^2 + 2\zeta\omega_n s + \omega_n^2} \end{aligned}$$

Underdamped system

Which can be rewritten as partial fractions

$$\begin{aligned} Y(s) &= \frac{1}{s} - \frac{s + 2\zeta\omega_n}{s^2 + 2\zeta\omega_n s + \omega_n^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{s} - \frac{s + \zeta\omega_n}{s^2 + 2\zeta\omega_n s + \omega_n^2} - \frac{\zeta\omega_n}{s^2 + 2\zeta\omega_n s + \omega_n^2} \end{aligned}$$

It can be shown that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left[\frac{s + \zeta\omega_n}{(s + \zeta\omega_n)^2 + \omega_d^2}\right] &= e^{-\zeta\omega_n t} \cos(\omega_d t) \\ \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left[\frac{\omega_d}{(s + \zeta\omega_n)^2 + \omega_d^2}\right] &= e^{-\zeta\omega_n t} \sin(\omega_d t) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore:

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left[Y(s)\right] = y(t)$$

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$$= 1 - e^{-\zeta\omega_n t} \left(\cos(\omega_d t) + \frac{\zeta}{\sqrt{1-\zeta^2}} \sin(\omega_d t) \right)$$

$$= 1 - \frac{e^{-\zeta\omega_n t}}{\sqrt{1-\zeta^2}} \sin\left(\omega_d t + \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{1-\zeta^2}}{\zeta}\right)\right)$$

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It can be seen that the frequency of the transient oscillation is the damped natural frequency ω_d and thus varies with the damping ratio ζ

Underdamped system

The error signal is the difference between input and output

$$\begin{aligned} e(t) &= y(t) - u(t) \\ &= e^{-\zeta\omega_n t} \left(\cos(\omega_d t) + \frac{\zeta}{\sqrt{1-\zeta^2}} \sin(\omega_d t) \right) \end{aligned}$$

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At steady state, or at $t = \infty$, the error goes to zero

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- ω_d is always lower than ω_n

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Where

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- Once the faster decaying exponential term has disappeared, the response is similar to that of a first-order system
- In that case, $H(s)$ can be approximated by

$$H(s) = \frac{\zeta\omega_n - \omega_n\sqrt{\zeta^2 - 1}}{s + \zeta\omega_n - \omega_n\sqrt{\zeta^2 - 1}} = \frac{s_2}{s + s_2}$$

Overdamped system

With the approximate transfer function, the unit-step response becomes

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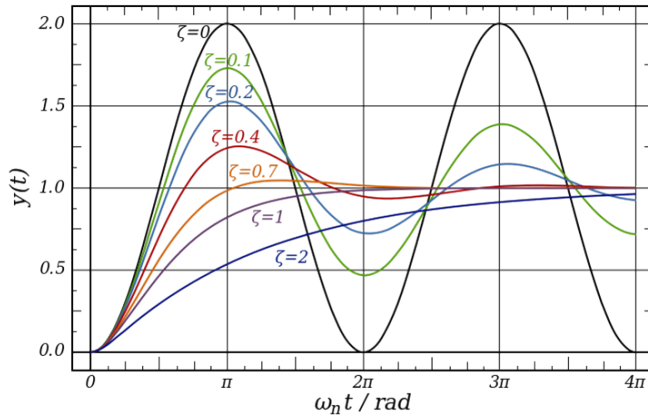
$$Y(s) = \frac{\zeta\omega_n - \omega_n\sqrt{\zeta^2 - 1}}{(s + \zeta\omega_n - \omega_n\sqrt{\zeta^2 - 1})s}$$

The time response for the approximate transfer function is then given as

$$y(t) = 1 - e^{-(\zeta - \sqrt{\zeta^2 - 1})\omega_n t}, \text{ for } t \geq 0$$

Second order systems unit step response curves

Response on a step function



Second order systems - characteristics

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

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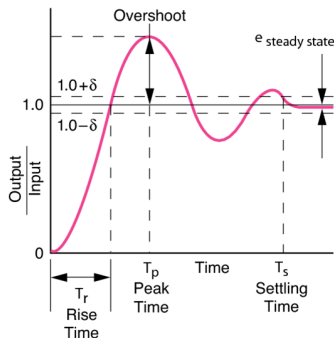
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Peak Time: Time to reach overshoot.

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



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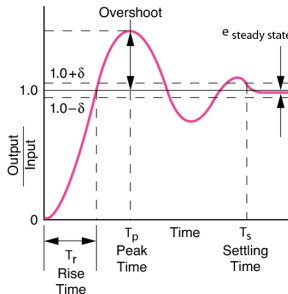
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$$\text{For: } \delta = \frac{0.02}{\sqrt{1-\zeta^2}}$$

We find:

$$e^{-\zeta \omega_n T_s} < 0.02$$

$$T_s = \frac{4}{\omega_n \zeta}$$



Second order systems - resonance

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A different view on the Tacoma bridge disaster:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ai2QFxEStxo>

In fact the collapse was a result of a number of effects like Aerodynamic flutter and vortices. Read the full article here:

<http://www.ketchum.org/billah/Billah-Scanlan.pdf>

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Another phenomenon with bridges and resonance is that many people marching with the same rhythm can cause a bridge to start resonating like the Angers bridge in 1850. A more recent example is the Millennium bridge in London who started resonating.

Second order systems - damping

When we want a system with no resonance, we choose one with damping < 0.707 . This means a pole between 135° and 225° :

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We mostly want a short settling time ($< 4s$). This results in another restriction on the poles of the system:

$$\tau_n = \frac{4}{\omega\zeta} < 4s$$
$$\omega_n\zeta > 1$$

Second order systems - damping

