

# **ECE 602: LUMPED LINEAR SYSTEMS**

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Stability of Linear Systems

# Stability of Linear Systems

- **Objective:** Introduce internal and external **stability** concepts of linear lumped continuous-time (CT) and discrete-time (DT) systems
- Consider a CT linear time-varying (LTV) system

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{x}(t)$$

which has an equilibrium state at the origin of the state space,  
 $\mathbf{x}_e = \mathbf{0}$

## Definition (Asymptotic Stability)

The equilibrium state  $\mathbf{x}_e = \mathbf{0}$  is **asymptotically stable** if any solution  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  starting from any initial condition  $\mathbf{x}(0) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  satisfies

$$\mathbf{x}(t) \rightarrow \mathbf{0} \quad \text{as} \quad t \rightarrow \infty$$

# Exponential stability $\implies$ Asymptotic stability

## Definition (Exponential Stability)

The equilibrium state  $\mathbf{x}_e = \mathbf{0}$  is **exponentially stable** of the system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{x}$  if any solution  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  starting from any initial condition  $\mathbf{x}(0) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  satisfies

$$\|\mathbf{x}(t)\| \leq Ke^{-rt}\|\mathbf{x}(0)\|$$

for some constants  $K > 0$  and  $r > 0$

# Internal stability of CT linear time-invariant (LTI) systems

## Theorem

*For a CT LTI system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , the following statements are equivalent*

- ① *The equilibrium state  $\mathbf{x}_e = \mathbf{0}$  is asymptotically stable*
- ② *The equilibrium state  $\mathbf{x}_e = \mathbf{0}$  is exponentially stable*
- ③ *All eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{A}$  are in the open left-half complex plane, that is,  $\Re \lambda_i(\mathbf{A}) < 0$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$*

# Internal stability of CT linear time-invariant (LTI) systems theorem restated

## Theorem

*For a CT LTI system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , the following statements are equivalent*

- ① *The system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$  is asymptotically stable*
- ② *The system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$  is exponentially stable*
- ③ *All eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{A}$  are in the open left-half complex plane, that is,  $\Re \lambda_i(\mathbf{A}) < 0$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$*

# Instability of CT linear time-invariant (LTI) systems

- LTI CT system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , is unstable if  $\|\mathbf{x}(t)\|$  is unbounded for some initial condition  $\mathbf{x}(0)$
- This is the case if either of the following conditions holds:
  - ①  $\mathbf{A}$  has at least one eigenvalue in the open left-half complex plane, that is, there exists an eigenvalue such that  $\Re \lambda_i(\mathbf{A}) > 0$
  - ② There are eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{A}$  with multiplicity greater than one on the imaginary axis, that is,  $\mathbf{A}$  has an eigenvalue on the  $j\omega$  axis whose Jordan block size  $> 1$
  - ③  $\mathbf{A}$  has defective eigenvalue on the  $j\omega$  axis

# Marginally stable systems

- LTI CT system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , is **marginally stable** if all solution  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  are bounded and at least one solution  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  does not converge to zero
- This is the case if **both** of the following conditions hold:
  - ①  $\mathbf{A}$  has no eigenvalues in the open left-half complex plane, that is,  $\mathbf{A}$  has no eigenvalue such that  $\Re \lambda_i(\mathbf{A}) > 0$
  - ②  $\mathbf{A}$  has simple eigenvalues on the  $j\omega$ -axis, that is, any eigenvalue of  $\mathbf{A}$  on the  $j\omega$ -axis is non-defective
- Some texts classify marginally stable systems as unstable

# Internal Stability versus Input/Output Stability

- Consider a CT LTI single-input single-output (SISO) system modeled by a proper transfer function  $G(s)$ , where

$$Y(s) = G(s)U(s)$$

## Definition (BIBO Stability)

The system is BIBO stable  $\iff$  for any bounded input  $u(\cdot)$ , the output  $y(\cdot)$  is bounded



# BIBO Stability Test

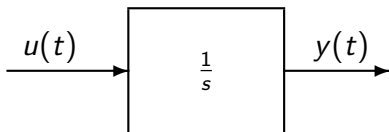
## Theorem

*A continuous MIMO LTI system with a proper rational transfer function matrix,  $\mathbf{G}(s)$ , is BIBO stable if and only if every pole of  $G_{ij}(s)$  has a negative real part, where*

$$\mathbf{G}(s) = \begin{bmatrix} G_{11}(s) & G_{12}(s) & \cdots & G_{1m}(s) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ G_{p1}(s) & G_{p2}(s) & \cdots & G_{pm}(s) \end{bmatrix}$$

## Example

- Is the following system BIBO stable?



- Ans: NO
- Indeed, let  $u(t) = 1(t)$  (bounded input), then  $y(t) = t^2 1(t)$  (unbounded output)

# Internal stability of DT Linear Systems

Discrete-time (DT) LTV system  $\mathbf{x}[k+1] = \mathbf{A}[k]\mathbf{x}[k]$ ,  $k = 0, 1, \dots$

## Definition (Asymptotic Stability)

LTV system is **asymptotically stable at time**  $k_0$  if its solution  $\mathbf{x}[k]$  starting from any initial condition  $\mathbf{x}[k_0] \in \mathbb{R}^n$  at time  $k_0$  satisfies

$$\mathbf{x}[k] \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as} \quad k \rightarrow \infty$$

## Definition (Exponential Stability)

LTV system is **exponentially stable at time**  $k_0$  if its solution  $\mathbf{x}[k]$  starting from any initial condition  $\mathbf{x}[k_0] \in \mathbb{R}^n$  at time  $k_0$  satisfies

$$\|\mathbf{x}[k]\| \leq Kr^{k-k_0}\|\mathbf{x}[k_0]\| \quad \text{for all } k = k_0, k_0 + 1, \dots$$

for some constants  $K > 0$  and  $0 \leq r < 1$

# Stability of autonomous DT linear time-invariant (LTI) systems

## Theorem

For a DT LTI system  $\mathbf{x}[k+1] = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}[k]$ ,  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , the following statements are equivalent

- 1 The system is asymptotically stable
- 2 The system is exponentially stable
- 3 All eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{A}$  are inside of the open unit disk in the complex plane, that is,  $|\lambda_i(\mathbf{A})| < 1$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$

- Note: starting time  $k_0$  does not matter

# Marginal Stability of DT LTI Systems

System  $\mathbf{x}[k+1] = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}[k]$ ,  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , is **marginally stable** if both of the following hold:

- ①  $\mathbf{A}$  has no eigenvalues outside the closed unit disk, that is, there are no eigenvalues such that  $|\lambda_i(\mathbf{A})| > 1$
- ②  $\mathbf{A}$  has eigenvalues on the unit circle, each being non-defective

# Instability of DT LTI Systems

System  $\mathbf{x}[k+1] = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}[k]$ ,  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , is **unstable** if either of the following is true:

- ①  $\mathbf{A}$  has eigenvalues outside the closed unit disk, that is, for some eigenvalues  $|\lambda_i(\mathbf{A})| > 1$
- ②  $\mathbf{A}$  has defective eigenvalues on the unit circle