

Year 3 — Dynamical Systems and Control

Based on lectures by Dr Tim Hughes

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These notes are not endorsed by the lecturers, and I have modified them (often significantly) after lectures. They are nowhere near accurate representations of what was actually lectured, and in particular, all errors are almost surely mine.

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1 Preliminaries

1.1 Continuous time Dynamical Systems

We are going to consider,

Lecture 1

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d\mathbf{x}}{dt}(t) &= f(x(t), u(t)) \\ y(t) &= g(x(t), u(t))\end{aligned}$$

We are going to call x the state and u the input and y the output. There may be a case where our variables are vector valued and hence have a system of differential equations. We call f and g time invariant as they do not vary with t and not explicitly dependent on t .

Example. The equations governing aerobic digestion are,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{db}{dt} &= (e^{-s} - D)b \\ \frac{ds}{dt} &= ke^{-s}b + D(s_I - s)\end{aligned}$$

where b and s are biomass and substrate concentrations, which comprise the states. Then D and s_I are the dilution rate and input substrate concentration, these are the inputs.

We consider systems over some $0 \leq t \leq t_1$ and we consider where $x(t)$ is uniquely determined over our interval by the initial condition and the input on that same interval. This places a constrain on the functions f and g since, in general, $x(t)$ need not be uniquely determined by the initial condition and the input.

Our form may seem rather restrictive, however, it's less restrictive than it appears, let's consider a pendula

Lecture 2

Example. The angle of a damped pendulum is defined by,

$$mL^2 \frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2} = -\nu \frac{d\theta}{dt} - mgL \sin(\theta) + T$$

now, we let $x_1 = \theta$, $x_2 = \frac{d\theta}{dt}$, $u = T$ and $y = \theta$. Now we write this in the previous form,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dx_1}{dt} &= \frac{d\theta}{dt} = x_2 \\ \frac{dx_2}{dt} &= \frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2} = \frac{1}{mL^2} (-\nu x_2 - mgL \sin(x_1) + u) \\ y &= \theta = x_1\end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned}f_1 &= x_2 \\ f_2 &= \frac{1}{mL^2} (-\nu x_2 - mgL \sin(x_1) + u) \\ g_1 &= x_1\end{aligned}$$

Definition 1.1 (Autonomous). If the input $u(t)$ is missing, then the system is said to be autonomous and the state and output depend only on the initial state.

particular attention is to be paid to linear time-invariant systems, the solutions to linear ODEs. Then we can write them as,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dx}{dt}(t) &= Ax(t) + Bu(t) \\ y(t) &= Cx(t) + Du(t)\end{aligned}$$

1.2 Equilibria and Stability

Definition 1.2 (Equilibrium). Consider a fixed input $u(t) = u_e \forall t \in \mathbb{R}$. Then the state and input pair (x_e, u_e) is called an equilibrium if $f(x_e, u_e) = 0$.

Example. We consider the anaerobic digester. Then, we need solutions to,

$$(e^{-s} - D)b = 0 \quad ke^{-s}b + D(s_I - s) = 0$$

We can solve these equations nicely, and get the following equilibrium,

$$\begin{aligned} (x_e, u_e) &= \left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ c_1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ (x_e, u_e) &= \left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ c_3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} c_4 \\ c_3 \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ (x_e, u_e) &= \left(\begin{bmatrix} c_5 \\ c_6 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} e^{-c_6} \\ c_6 - kc_5 \end{bmatrix} \right) \end{aligned}$$

If we let the input depend on the state, $u(t) = k(x(t))$, $\forall t \geq 0$ and some function k , then we can define new functions $F(x(t)) = f(x(t), u(x(t)))$ and $G(x(t)) = g(x(t), u(x(t)))$, whereupon we obtain an autonomous system,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx}{dt}(t) &= F(x(t)) \\ y(t) &= G(x(t)) \end{aligned}$$

For a autonomous system the state x_e is an equilibrium point if $F(x_e) = 0$. This is a lot simpler. A system may have many equilibria.

Definition 1.3 (Stability). Informally we call an equilibria stable if whenever $x(0)$ is sufficiently close to x_e if $x(t)$ remains close to x_e , $\forall t \geq 0$

Definition 1.4 (Asymptotically Stable). A system is asymptotically stable if it is stable and in addition, if $x(0)$ is sufficiently close to x_e , then $x(t) \rightarrow x_e$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

If we want to see if a system is stable, we can do so by considering energy. In terms of our pendulum, the energy is,

$$V(x_1, x_2) = \frac{g}{L}(1 - \cos(x_1)) + \frac{1}{2}x_2^2$$

and if the system doesn't have an increasing change in energy, then we can say that it stays relatively close to an initial condition and hence can be asymptotically stable. This applies to our $V(x_1, x_2)$.

If we consider a torque input, $u = mL^2x_1$ then will result in an unstable system with respect to it's equilibria point $(0, 0)$. Lecture 3

1.3 Linearisation

You can apply our linear techniques to non-linear systems by linearising them. Firstly, consider an equilibrium point and let f and g be continuously differentiable. Then, we can linearise by using Taylor Series.

Let $u(t) = u_e + \delta u(t)$ and $x(t) = x_e + \delta x(t)$ and also $y_e = g(x_e, u_e)$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\delta x}{dt} &= A\delta x + B\delta u + O(x^2) \\ \delta y &= C\delta x + D\delta u + O(x^2) \end{aligned}$$

where we define A, B, C, D as,

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_d} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_d}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_d}{\partial x_d} \end{bmatrix} (x_e, u_e) \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial u_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial u_d} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_d}{\partial u_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_d}{\partial u_d} \end{bmatrix} (x_e, u_e)$$

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x_m} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial g_m}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial g_m}{\partial x_m} \end{bmatrix} (x_e, u_e) \quad D = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial u_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial u_m} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial g_m}{\partial u_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial g_m}{\partial u_m} \end{bmatrix} (x_e, u_e)$$

where $f \in (\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R})^d$, $g \in (\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R})^m$ and $u \in (\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R})^n$ and $x \in (\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R})^d$.

Example. We consider the Lotka-Volterra equations,

$$\frac{dx_1}{dt} = ax_1 - bx_1x_2 \quad \frac{dx_2}{dt} = cx_1x_2 - dx_2$$

where x_1 and x_2 are the prey and predators and $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$. We have some equilibrium at $(0, 0)$ and also $(\frac{d}{c}, \frac{a}{b})$.

We can calculate our matrix and get,

$$\frac{d\delta \mathbf{x}}{dt} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\frac{bd}{c} \\ \frac{ac}{d} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \delta \mathbf{x} + O(x^2)$$

Example. Consider our friend, the damped pendulum,

$$\frac{dx_1}{dt} = x_1$$

$$\frac{dx_2}{dt} = -\frac{\nu}{mL^2}x_2 - \frac{g}{L}\sin(x_1) + \frac{1}{mL^2}u$$

where $x_1 = \frac{\pi}{6}$ and $x_2 = 0$ and $u = \frac{mgL}{2}$. Then we can form the linearisation matrix,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_2} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_2} \end{bmatrix} \left(\frac{\pi}{6}, 0, \frac{mgL}{2} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -\frac{\sqrt{3}g}{2L} & -\frac{\nu}{mL^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

and as we have an input, we need to form a second matrix,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial u} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial u} \end{bmatrix} \left(\frac{\pi}{6}, 0, \frac{mgL}{2} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{1}{mL^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus,

$$\frac{d\delta \mathbf{x}}{dt} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -\frac{\sqrt{3}g}{2L} & -\frac{\nu}{mL^2} \end{bmatrix} \delta \mathbf{x} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{1}{mL^2} \end{bmatrix} \delta u + O(x^2)$$

1.4 Discrete Time Dynamical Systems

Here is a difference equation,

$$x(k+1) = f(x(k), u(k))$$

$$y(k) = g(x(k), u(k))$$

Here x, y, u are sequences defined for all $k \geq 0 \in \mathbb{Z}$. We write $u, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

We call (x_e, u_e) an equilibrium and input pair if x_e and u_e if there are constant vectors satisfying $f(x_e, u_e) = x_e$. There are also similar ideas to what we considered for continuous systems.

2 LTI Systems

We are going to consider some linear ODES,

Lecture 4

$$\frac{d^n y}{dt^n} + \frac{d^{n-1} y}{dt^{n-1}} + \dots + a_0 y = b_m \frac{d^m u}{dt^m} + b_{m-1} \frac{d^{m-1} u}{dt^{m-1}} + \dots + b_0 u$$

qhwew $a_i, b_i \in \mathbb{R}$ and $u, y : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and we consider $m < n$ for the moment, so the order of differentiation of u doesn't exceed m . To solve these we are going to consider laplace transform.

2.1 Laplace Transforms

Definition 2.1 (exponentially bounded). Here, f is called exponentially bounded, if $|f(t)| \leq M e^{\alpha t}$ for some $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$

The laplace transforms for an exponentially bounded function $f(t)$ defined on $t \geq 0$ is defined by,

$$\mathcal{L}(f) = F(s) = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} f(t) dt$$

The above integral is defined for all $s \in \mathbb{C}$ where $\operatorname{Re} s > \alpha$.

This is a restriction for the existence of laplace transform, but not the DEs. When f is exponentially bounded, means that just that the integral converges nicely, it makes our life easier.

Lemma 2.2. If $f = g$, then $f = g$ for (almost¹) all $t \geq 0$.

We will focus on piecewise continuous, in which $f = g$ for all $t \geq 0$.

This means that the laplace transform is invertible, then we can say $\mathcal{L}^{-1}(\mathcal{L}(f)) = f$ and we will use lookup tables for these transforms.

Remark. Note, we can say nothing about $\mathcal{L}^{-1}(\mathcal{L}(f))$ for $t < 0$

Let f and g be defined on $t \geq 0$

(i) $\mathcal{L}(af + bg) = a\mathcal{L}(f) + b\mathcal{L}(g)$

(ii) $\mathcal{L}(e^{at}) = \frac{1}{s-a}$

(iii) $\mathcal{L}(t^n e^{at}) = \frac{n!}{(s-a)^{n+1}}$

(iv) $\mathcal{L}\left(\frac{d^k f}{dt^k}\right) = s^k \mathcal{L}(f) - s^{k-1} f(0) - \dots - s \frac{d^{k-2} f}{dt^{k-2}}(0) - \frac{d^{k-1} f}{dt^{k-1}}(0)$

(v) $\mathcal{L}\left(\int_0^t f(\tau) d\tau\right) = \frac{1}{s} \mathcal{L}(f)$

(vi) $\mathcal{L}\left(\int_0^t g(t-\tau) f(\tau) d\tau\right) = \mathcal{L}(f(t)) \mathcal{L}(g(t))$

Note, in 4, we assume that f is k differentiable. We will sometimes want to lift this assumption.

If we take the laplace transform of the ODE,

$$\frac{d^n y}{dt^n} + \frac{d^{n-1} y}{dt^{n-1}} + \dots + a_0 y = b_m \frac{d^m u}{dt^m} + b_{m-1} \frac{d^{m-1} u}{dt^{m-1}} + \dots + b_0 u$$

we can rearrange and get something of,

$$Y(s) = \frac{b(s)}{a(s)} U(s) + \frac{c(s) - d(s)}{a(s)}$$

¹we just want the integrals to be equal, but at some t , $f(t) \neq g(t)$. If they are continuous, this doesn't matter

where,

$$\begin{aligned} a(s) &= s^n + a_{n-1}s^{n-1} + \dots + a_0 \\ b(s) &= b_ms^{n-1} + b_{m-1}s^{m-1} + \dots + b_0 \\ c(s) &= y(0)s^{n-1} + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}(0) + a_{n-1}y(0)\right)s^{n-2} + \dots + \left(\frac{d^{n-1}y}{dt^{n-1}}(0) + a_{n-1}\frac{d^{n-2}y}{dt^{n-2}}(0) + \dots + a_1y(0)\right) \\ d(s) &= b_mu(0)s^{m-1} + \left(b_m\frac{du}{dt}(0) + b_{m-1}u(0)\right)s^{m-2} + \dots + \left(b_m\frac{d^{m-1}u}{dt^{m-1}}(0) + b_{m-1}\frac{d^{m-2}u}{dt^{m-2}}(0) + b_1u(0)\right) \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$y(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left(\frac{b(s)}{a(s)} U(s) + \frac{c(s) - d(s)}{a(s)} \right)$$

We are going to use result 7, then we can continue from,

$$\begin{aligned} &= \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left(\frac{b(s)}{a(s)} U(s) + \frac{c(s) - d(s)}{a(s)} \right) \\ &= \int_0^t \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left(\frac{b(s)}{a(s)} \right) (t - \tau) u(\tau) d\tau + \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left(\frac{c(s) - d(s)}{a(s)} \right) \end{aligned}$$

We call the ratio $G(s) = \frac{b(s)}{a(s)}$ the transfer function, $W(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left(\frac{b(s)}{a(s)} \right)$ the impulse response, and $y_f(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left(\frac{c(s) - d(s)}{a(s)} \right)$ the free response, so,

$$y(t) = \int_0^t W(t - \tau) u(\tau) d\tau + y_f(t)$$

The inverse Laplace transforms can be obtained using a partial fraction decomposition. We will show how this works in general later, so consider the example,

Example. Consider, $\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + 3\frac{dy}{dt} + 2y = \frac{du}{dt} + 3u$ with $u(t) = \sin t$, $y(0) = 0$ and $\frac{dy}{dt}(0) = 1$. So,

- Find the free response
- Find the impulse response
- Find $y(t)$ ($t \geq 0$)

We note that both $W(t)$ and $y_f(t)$ both take forms of $\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left(\frac{p(s)}{a(s)} \right)$, so let's find the closed form for this, *Lecture 5*
We split it up into,

$$\frac{p(s)}{a(s)} = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{r_i} \frac{h_{i,j}}{(s - \lambda_i)^j}$$

where $\lambda_i, h_{i,j} \in \mathbb{C}$ and $a(s) = \prod_{j=1}^N (s - \lambda_i)^{r_i}$. Here with $f_k(s) = \frac{p(s)}{\prod_{i=1, i \neq k}^N (s - \lambda_i)^{r_i}}$ the coefficients $h_{k,j}$ can we obtained from some formula,

$$\begin{aligned} h_{k,r_k} &= f_k(\lambda_k) \\ h_{k,r_k-1} &= \frac{df_k}{ds}(\lambda_k) \\ &\vdots \\ h_{k,1} &= \frac{1}{(r_k - 1)!} \left(\frac{d^{r_k-1} f_k}{ds^{r_k-1}}(\lambda_k) \right) \end{aligned}$$

thus,

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left(\frac{p(s)}{a(s)} \right) = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{r_i} \frac{h_{i,j} t^{j-1} e^{\lambda_i t}}{(j-1)!}$$

Applying this we get some formula. We assumed that both $u(t)$ and $y(t)$ are exponentially bounded and sufficiently differentiable, in which case $u(t)$ and $y(t)$ satisfy the differential equation even when they are not exponentially bounded. Now we only need to assume that they are integrable, then we can get a weak solution, i.e. when they are not differentiable. We can consider a step function. We need to have the correct initial conditions.

We only consider piecewise continuous functions, then we define $y(0) = y(0_-)$ and this is the left hand limit, and the same for everything else. To account for this, we modify the Laplace transform to say,

$$\mathcal{L} \left(\frac{d^n f}{dt^n} \right) = s^n \mathcal{L}(f) - s^{n-1} f(0_-) - \dots - s \frac{d^{n-2} f}{dt^{n-2}}(0_-) - \frac{d^{n-1} f}{dt^{n-1}}(0_-)$$

Let's consider the degree of differentiation of the RHS is greater than the left, so we will do polynomial long division. So take the RHS and replace theoremstyle differentials with s^r , then we get,

$$g_r s^r + g_{r-1} s^{r-1} + \dots + g_0 = (s^n + a_{n-1} s^{n-1} + \dots)(q_{r-n} s^{r-n} + q_{r-n-1} s^{r-n-1} + \dots) + b_m s^m + b_{m-1} s^{m-1} + \dots$$

Then we define $y = \hat{y} - (q_{r-n} \frac{d^{r-n} u}{dt^{r-n}} + q_{r-n-1} \frac{d^{r-n-1} u}{dt^{r-n-1}} + \dots)$ then we can transform back to our original equation.

Lecture 6