

Impulse Response

The impulse response of a system is the output $y(t)$ when $u(t) = \delta(t)$ and all ICs on $y(t)$ are zero.

$$Y(s) = G(s)U(s) + \frac{[c(s) - b(s)]}{r(s)}$$

$$\Rightarrow u(t) = \delta(t) \Rightarrow b(s) = \emptyset \text{ and } U(s) = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{all ICs on } y(t) \text{ zero} \Rightarrow c(s) = \emptyset$$

So:

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

and thus

$$y(t) = \mathcal{Z}^{-1}\{G(s)\} \triangleq g(t)$$

The impulse response $g(t)$ is the inverse transform of the transfer function $G(s)$

Conversely, Knowledge (or measurement) of $g(t)$ tells us what the transfer function is, and hence the governing diff'l eq'ns.

\Rightarrow Foundation of "system identification" theory.

Additional Laplace Property

for any two functions $f_1(t), f_2(t)$ with transforms $F_1(s), F_2(s)$

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F_1(s)F_2(s)\} = \int_{0^-}^{\infty} f_1(t-\tau)f_2(\tau) d\tau$$

"convolution"

Implication: $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{G(s)U(s)\} = \int_{0^-}^{\infty} g(t-\tau)u(\tau) d\tau$

proving generally what we showed specifically
for the hovercraft problem.

There we had $\ddot{y}(t) = Ku(t)$

$$\Rightarrow G(s) = \frac{K}{s^2} \Rightarrow g(t) = Kt$$

and thus $g(t-\tau) = K(t-\tau)$.

Note:

Laplace actually let's us "divide out" the effect of any known input to recover the transfer function (impulse response)

$$Y(s) = G(s)U(s) \quad (\text{assuming } \emptyset \text{ ICs})$$

$$[Y(s) = G(s)U(s)] \times \left(\frac{1}{U(s)}\right)$$

$$\left[\frac{Y(s)}{U(s)}\right] = G(s) \left[\frac{U(s)}{U(s)}\right]$$

$$= \boxed{G(s) \cdot 1}$$

— response to ideal impulse.

Structure of Impulse Response

$$g(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{G(s)\} = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{q(s)}{r(s)}\right\}$$
$$= \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\gamma_k}{(s-p_k)}\right\} \quad p_k \text{ poles of } G(s)$$

$$\text{or } g(t) = \sum_{k=1}^n \gamma_k e^{p_k t}$$
$$\gamma_k = \left[(s-p_k)G(s)\right]_{s=p_k}$$

(assuming non-repeated modes for simplicity)

$$g(t) = \sum_{k=1}^n \gamma_k e^{p_k t}$$

Note:

$\Rightarrow g(t)$ is a specific linear combination of the modes.

\Rightarrow Like a special homogeneous response

Alternate characterization of system stability

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |g(t)| \rightarrow 0$$

(if system is stable)

Step Responses

The (unit) step response of a system is the output $y(t)$ when $u(t) = 1(t)$ and all ICs on $y(t)$ are zero.

$$Y(s) = G(s)U(s) + \frac{[\cancel{c(s)} - \cancel{b(s)}]}{r(s)}$$

$$U(s) = \frac{1}{s} \text{ here, so}$$

$$Y(s) = \left(\frac{1}{s}\right) G(s) = \frac{g(s)}{s r(s)}$$

General Thoughts about step responses

① Every system has a unit step response:

$$Y(s) = \left[\left(\frac{1}{s} \right) G(s) \right]$$

$$y(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s} G(s) \right\} \triangleq y_{us}(t)$$

Find $y_{us}(t)$ as usual by partial fraction expansion and inverse transform of each term

However, we want to be able to predict main features of $y_{us}(t)$ by inspection for 1st and 2nd order systems

⇒ Very common special cases

⇒ "Building blocks" for more complex systems

② (Use of linearity, I)

$$u(t) = c \mathbb{1}(t) \Rightarrow y(t) = c y_{us}(t)$$

All $y(t)$ VALUES are the unit step VALUES multiplied by c .

Equivalent to "rescaling" vertical Axis on plot of $y(t)$,
however horizontal (time) Axis is unaffected

\Rightarrow Characteristic times (t_s, t_c, t_p)
are unaffected

Will encounter
these shortly.

\Rightarrow Corresponding $y(t)$ VALUES scaled by c :

$$y_{ss} = c G(0), \quad y_p = c G(0) [1 + \underline{M_p}]$$

\Rightarrow True for any c , positive or negative

(3) (Use of Linearity, II)

By definition, unit step response assumes all ICs are zero.

However, can easily "Add on" effects of nonzero ICs.

$$Y(s) = \left[\frac{1}{s} G(s) \right] + \left[\frac{\overset{\text{Nonzero Now}}{C(s)}}{r(s)} \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) &= \mathcal{J}^{-1}\{Y(s)\} = \mathcal{J}^{-1}\left\{\left(\frac{1}{s}\right)G(s)\right\} + \mathcal{J}^{-1}\left\{\frac{C(s)}{r(s)}\right\} \\ &= y_{us}(t) + \underbrace{\mathcal{J}^{-1}\left\{\frac{C(s)}{r(s)}\right\}}_{\sim \text{Added terms from ICs}} \end{aligned}$$

Solve for last term by PFE

Effect of added terms on t_s, t_p, y_p etc depends on specific ICs. No simple formulae to quantify their effects.

"1st Order" Responses

$$\dot{y}(t) + \alpha_0 y(t) = \beta_0 u(t) \Rightarrow G(s) = \frac{\beta_0}{s + \alpha_0}$$

Single real pole at $p_1 = -\alpha_0$ (stable if $\alpha_0 > 0$)

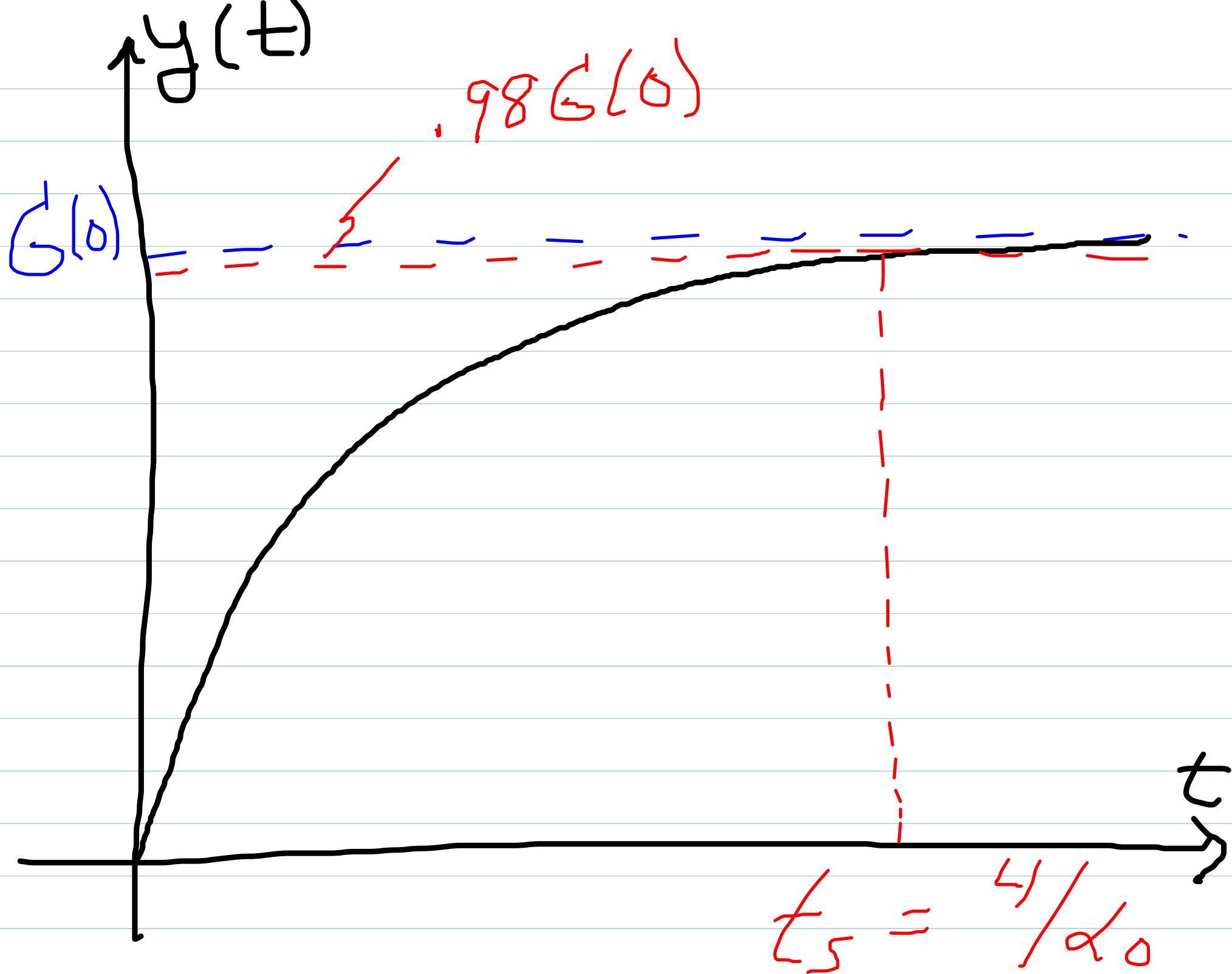
$$Y(s) = \frac{\beta_0}{s(s + \alpha_0)} = \frac{A_1}{s} + \frac{A_2}{s + \alpha_0}$$

$$A_1 = [sY(s)]_{s=0} = \frac{\beta_0}{\alpha_0} = G(0)$$

$$A_2 = [(s + \alpha_0)Y(s)]_{s=-\alpha_0} = \frac{-\beta_0}{\alpha_0} = -G(0)$$

Thus:

$$y(t) = G(0) [1 - e^{-\alpha_0 t}]$$



Notes

① Response asymptotically approaches steady-state

$$y_{ss}(t) = G(0) \quad (\text{as expected})$$

② Response never crosses its steady-state

③ Response settles within 2% of its steady-state
in

$$t_s = \frac{4}{|\operatorname{Re}\{p\}|} = \frac{4}{\alpha_0}$$

④ "Shape" of graph is same for any 1st order system

Responses only differ by:

- Steady-state level, $G(0)$
- settling time, t_s

"2nd Order" Step Responses

$$\ddot{y}(t) + \alpha_1 \dot{y}(t) + \alpha_0 y(t) = \beta_0 u(t) \Rightarrow G(s) = \frac{\beta_0}{s^2 + \alpha_1 s + \alpha_0}$$

2 poles, both stable if $\alpha_1 > 0, \alpha_0 > 0$.

3 possibilities for poles:

- ① $\alpha_1^2 < 4\alpha_0 \Rightarrow p_1, p_2$ complex conjugates
- ② $\alpha_1^2 = 4\alpha_0 \Rightarrow p_1 = p_2$ repeated real
- ③ $\alpha_1^2 > 4\alpha_0 \Rightarrow p_1, p_2$ real, non-repeated

Case ① is most interesting (and complicated)
tackle this after the other two

2nd order response, Case 2

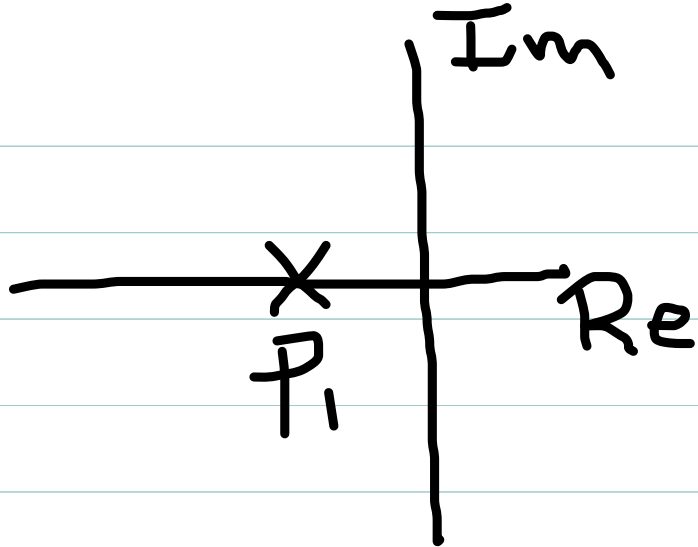
$$G(s) = \frac{\beta_0}{s^2 + \alpha_1 s + \alpha_0} \quad \alpha_1^2 = 4\alpha_0 \quad (\xi = 1)$$
$$= \frac{\beta_0}{(s - p_1)^2} \quad \text{repeated real pole}$$

$$Y(s) = \left(\frac{1}{s}\right)G(s) = \frac{A_1}{s} + \frac{A_2}{(s - p_1)} + \frac{A_3}{(s - p_1)^2}$$

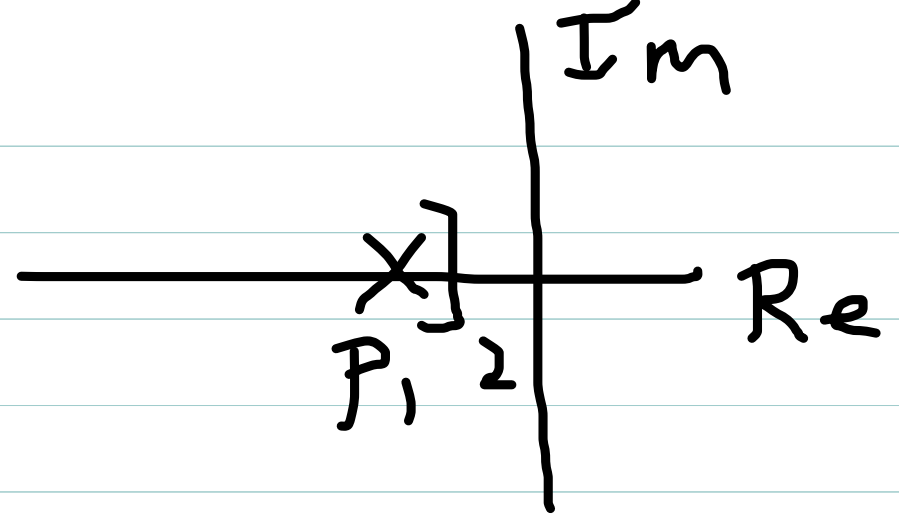
$$y(t) = G(0) + [A_2 + A_3 t] e^{p_1 t}$$

Non-oscillatory, since poles are real

Features resemble 1st order response
(No overshoot, $y_{ss} = G(0)$ approached asymptotically
from below), but t_s 50% longer $\left(\frac{6}{T_{p,1}}\right)$

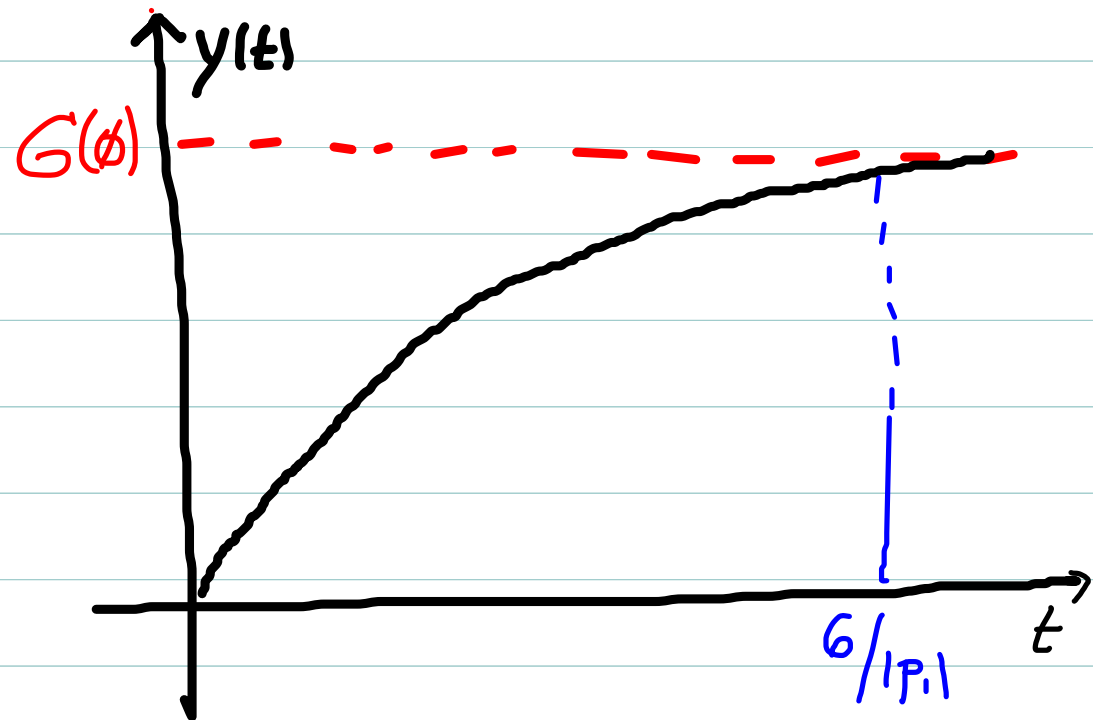
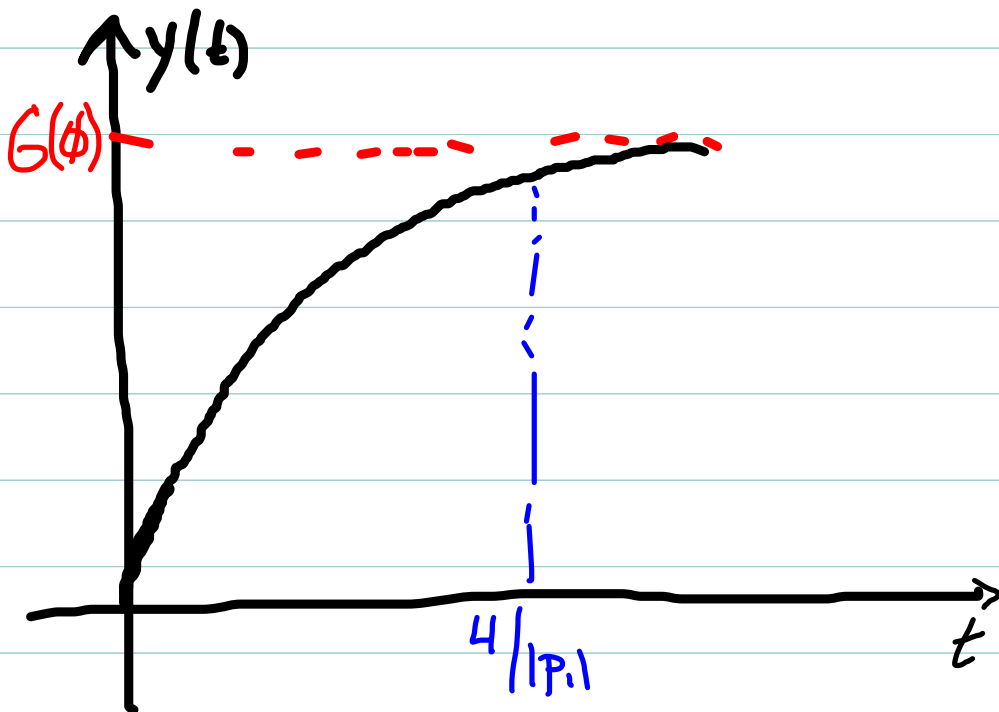


1st order



2nd order, repeated real

Add'l $te^{P_1 t}$ term
"slows down" response.



2nd order Response, Case 3

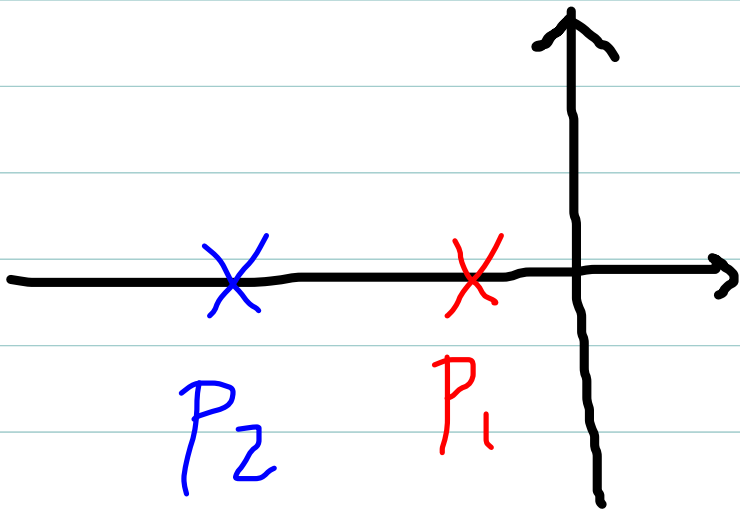
$$\alpha_1^2 > 4\alpha_0$$

$$Y(s) = \frac{\beta_0}{s(s-p_1)(s-p_2)} \quad p_1 \neq p_2.$$

$$\Rightarrow y(t) = G(0) + A_1 e^{p_1 t} + A_2 e^{p_2 t}$$

Assume for notation sake that poles are numbered so that

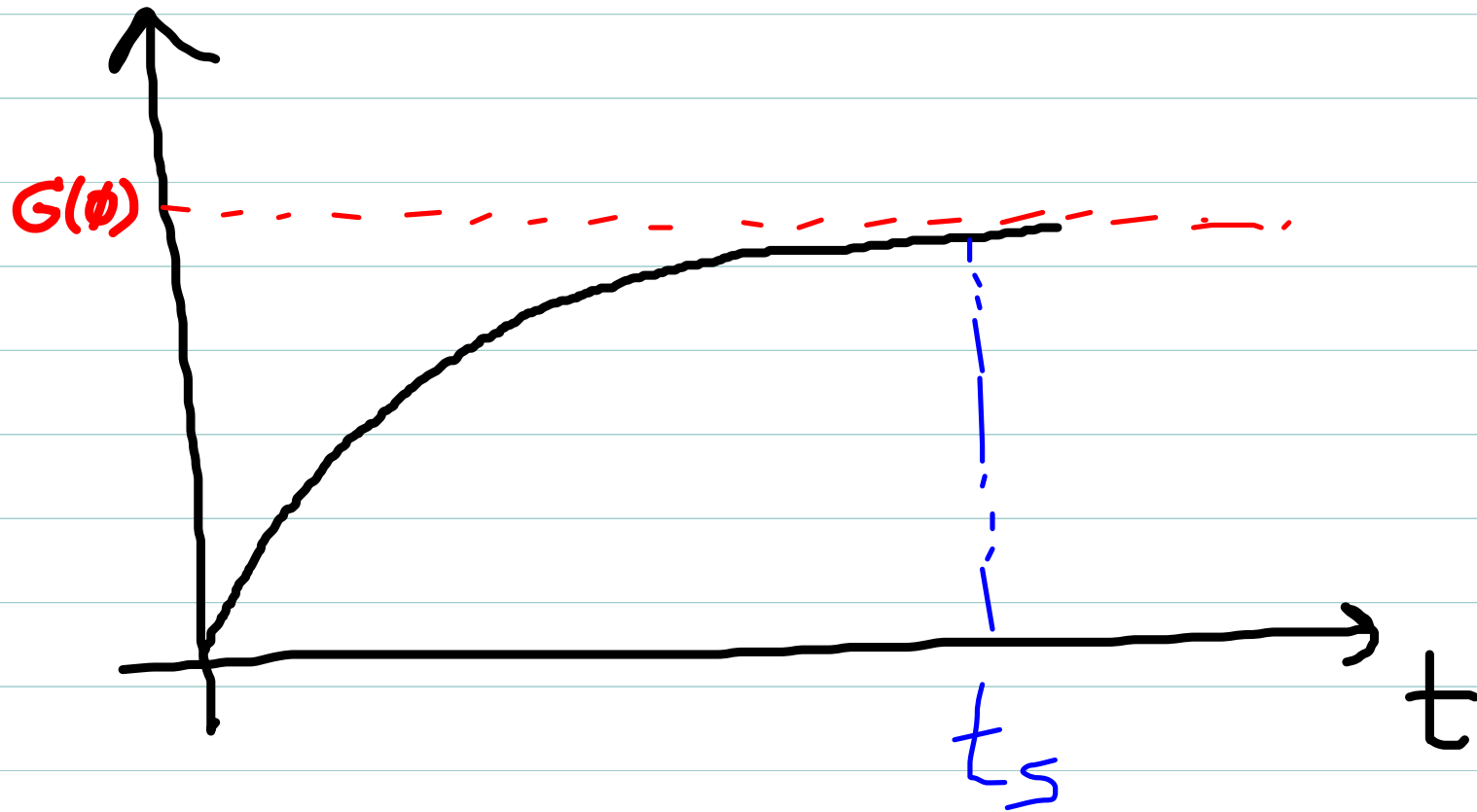
$$p_2 < p_1 \quad (\Rightarrow |p_2| > |p_1| \text{ since } p_1, p_2 \text{ assumed negative})$$



p_1 is the "slow pole"

p_2 is the "fast pole"

General sol'n again resembles 1^{st} order response



t_s difficult to quantify precisely for arbitrary P_1, P_2

Two limiting cases:

Case 3a: $|P_2| \gg |P_1|$

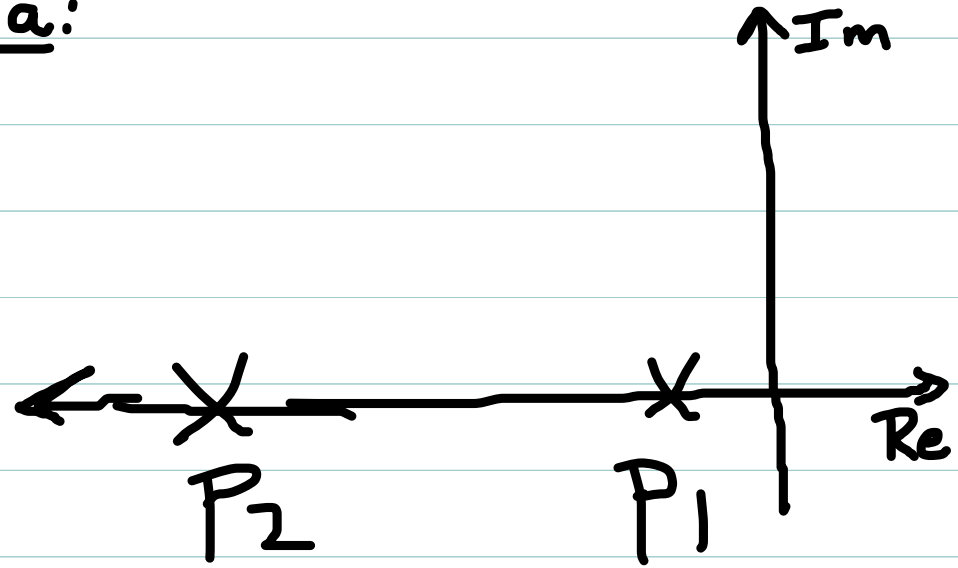
Case 3b: $|P_2| \approx |P_1|$

Case 3a:

$$y(t) = G(\phi) + A_1 e^{p_1 t} + A_2 e^{p_2 t}$$

$$|p_2| \gg |p_1|$$

$\Rightarrow p_2$ much further
into LHP than p_1



$\Rightarrow e^{p_2 t} \rightarrow \phi$ much faster than $e^{p_1 t}$

$\Rightarrow e^{p_1 t}$ controls settling time ("slow pole")

So $t_s \approx \frac{4}{|p_1|}$ in this case

\Rightarrow Corresponds with previous "1st cut" of
approximating system settling time with
settling time of slowest mode.

Dominant Modes

When $|p_2| \gg |p_1|$ we say that mode $e^{p_1 t}$ "dominates" transient response, or that $e^{p_1 t}$ ("slow mode") is the

Dominant mode

What is a sufficient separation for a mode to be dominant

Generally, if $|p_2| > 5|p_1|$ or $|p_2| > 10|p_1|$

i.e. if p_2 is 5-10 times further into LHP

\Rightarrow settling time of $e^{p_2 t}$ 5-10 times faster than that of $e^{p_1 t}$

(5 is usually sufficient. Some authors use 8 or even 10)

Case 3b

$|P_2| \approx |P_1| \Rightarrow P_2 \approx P_1$ Poles are "nearly" repeated

Here it is best to approximate the settling time

as though the poles were actually repeated

$$t_s \approx \frac{6}{|P_1|}$$

Simple rule of thumb for this:

$$1 \leq \frac{|P_2|}{|P_1|} \leq 1.1$$

Intermediate Case 3 Situations

$$\text{If } 1.1 < \frac{|P_2|}{|P_1|} < 5 \text{ (or 8 or 10)}$$

$$\frac{4}{|P_1|} < t_s < \frac{6}{|P_1|}$$

Unfortunately, there is no simple formula for interpolating between the two limits based on the exact ratio.