

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.

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

(Note: Red arrows point from the crossed-out terms to the zero initial conditions mentioned in the text above.)

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

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

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 $\alpha_0 > 0$)

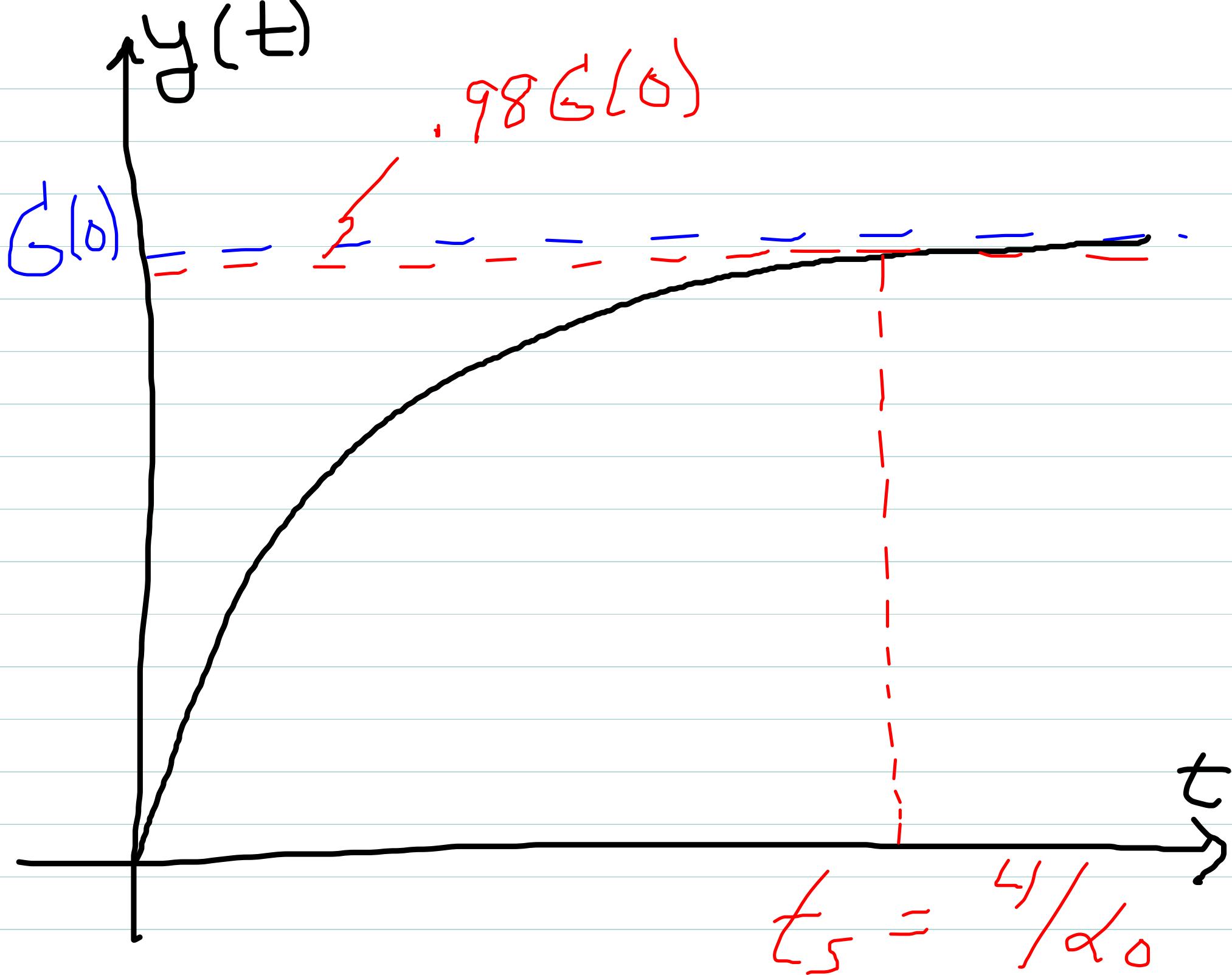
$$Y(s) = \frac{\beta_0}{s(s + \alpha_0)} = \frac{A_1}{s} + \frac{A_2}{s + \alpha_0}$$

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

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

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

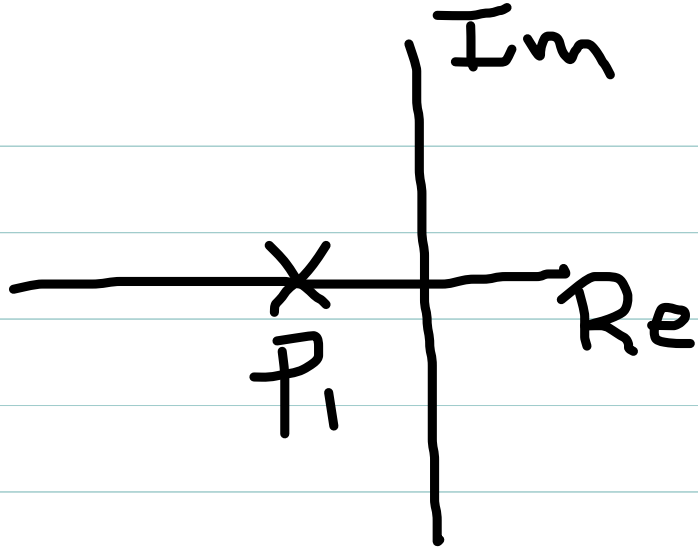
$$G(s) = \frac{\beta_0}{s^2 + \alpha_1 s + \alpha_0} \quad \alpha_1^2 = 4\alpha_0 \quad (\xi = 1)$$
$$= \frac{\beta_0}{(s - p_1)^2} \quad \text{repeated real pole}$$

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

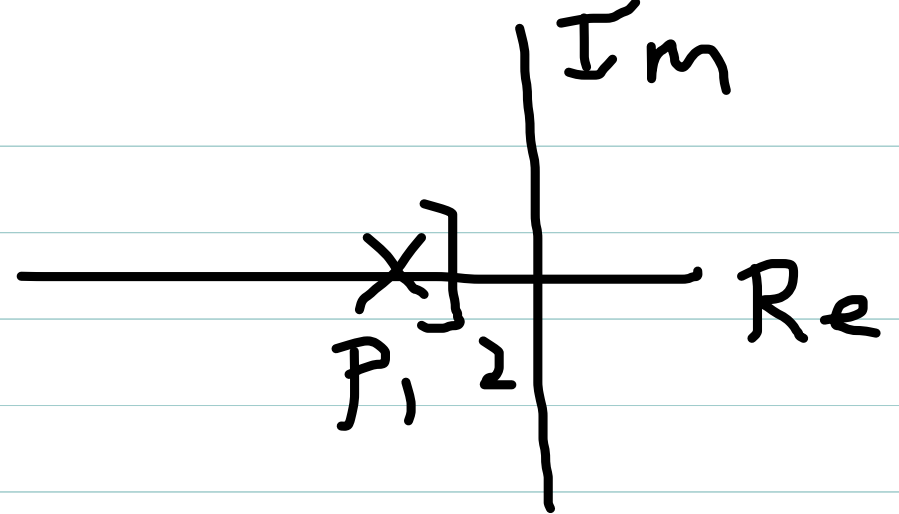
$$y(t) = G(0) + [A_2 + A_3 t] e^{p_1 t}$$

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 $\left(\frac{6}{T_{p,1}}\right)$

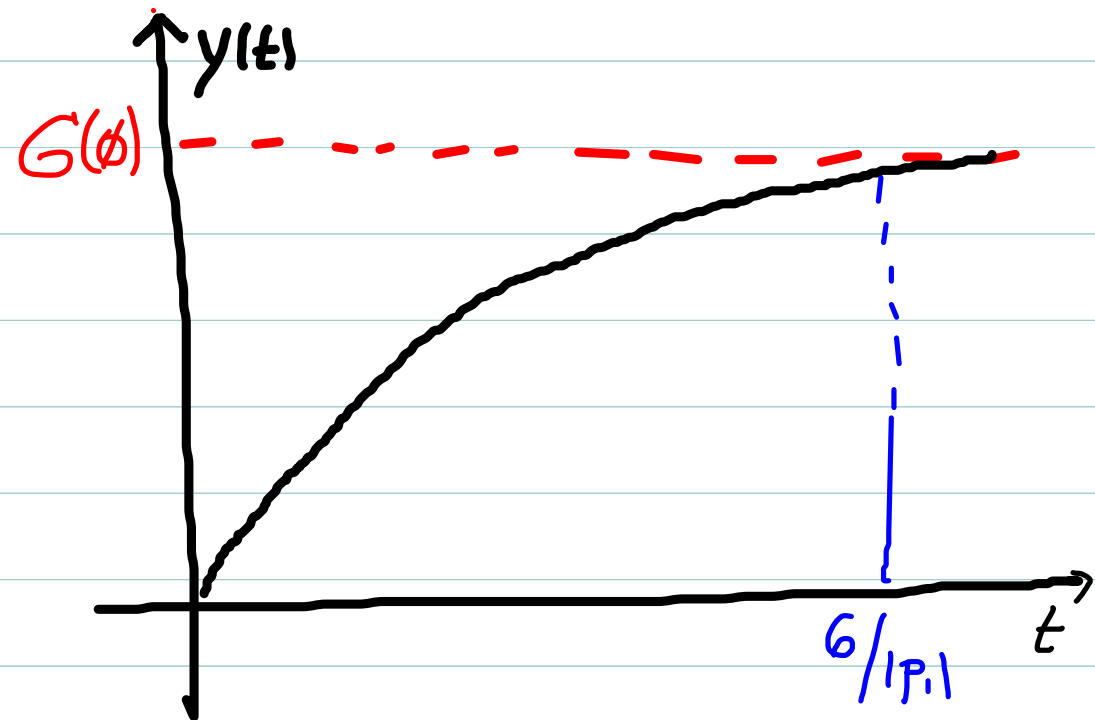
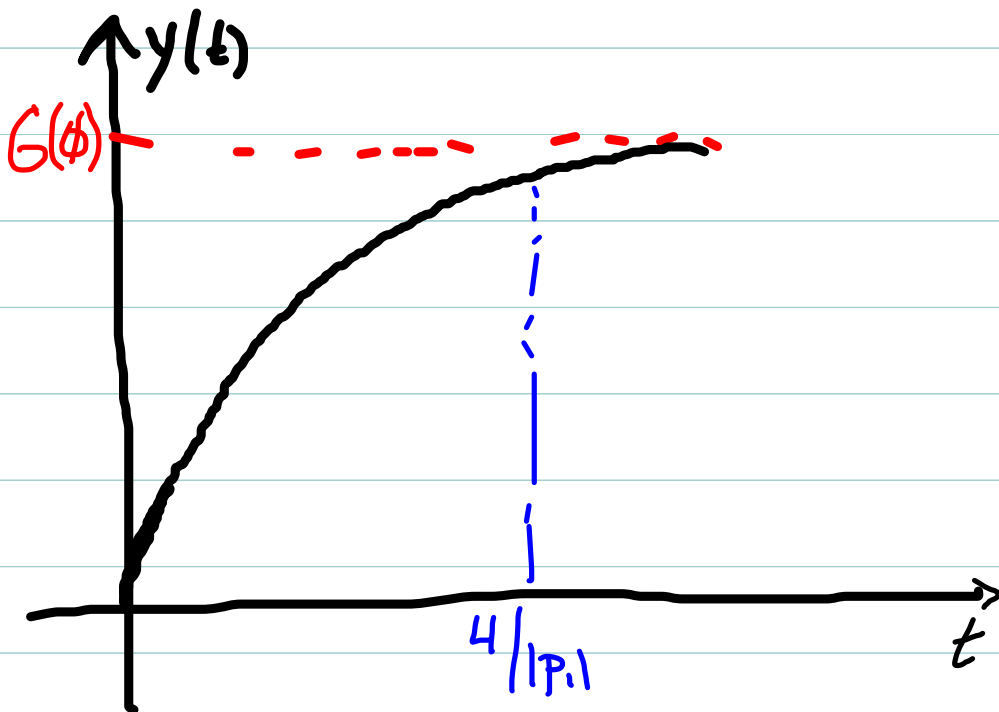


1st order



2nd order, repeated real

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



2nd order Response, Case 3

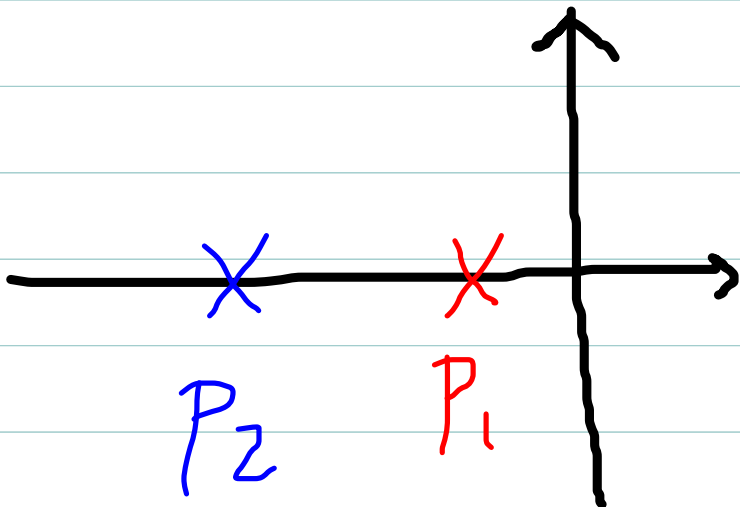
$$\alpha_1^2 > 4\alpha_0$$

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

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

Assume for notation sake that poles are numbered so that

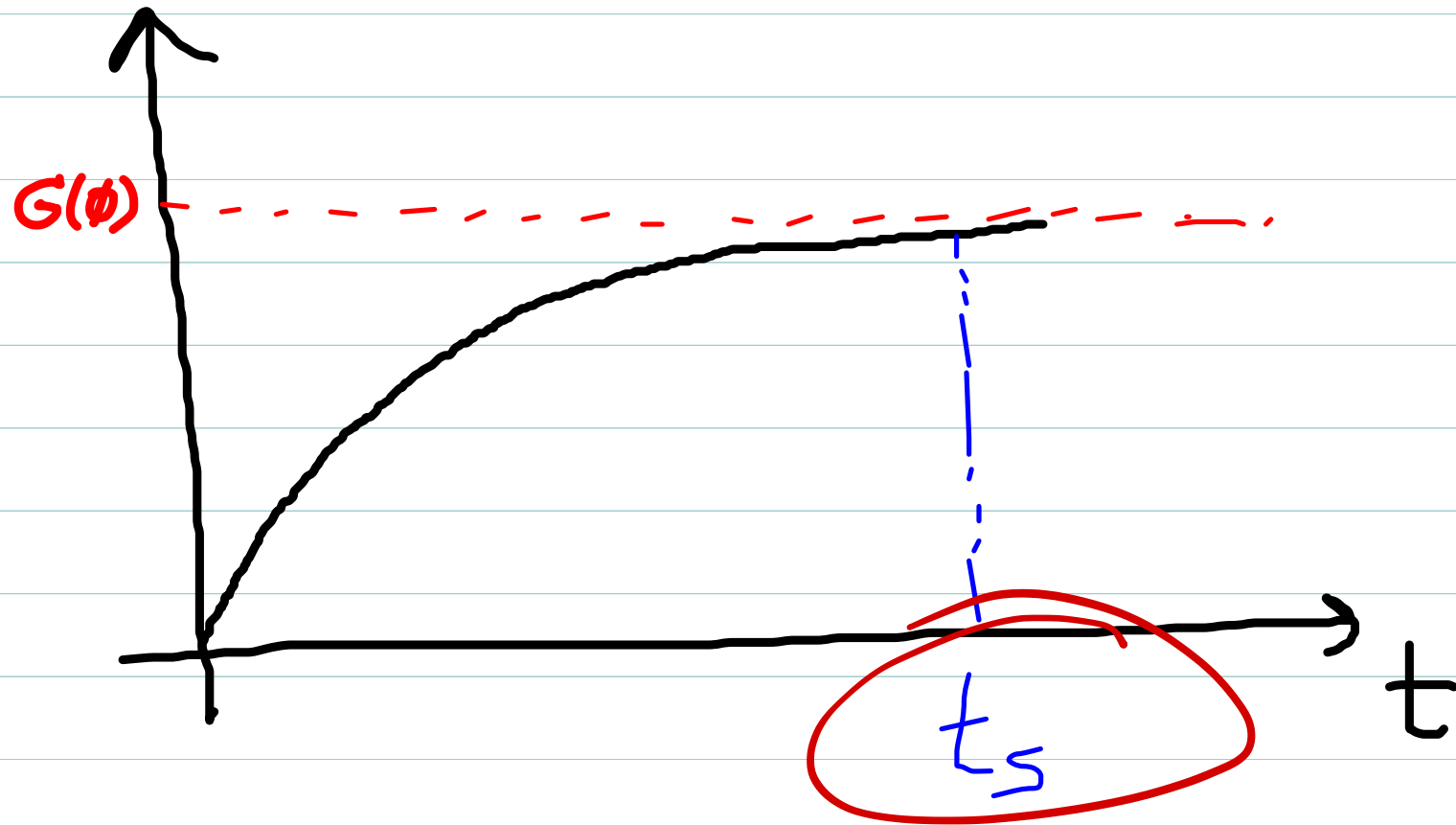
$$p_2 < p_1 \quad (\Rightarrow |p_2| > |p_1| \text{ since } p_1, p_2 \text{ assumed negative})$$



p_1 is the "slow pole"

p_2 is the "fast pole"

General sol'n again resembles 1st order response



t_s difficult to quantify precisely for arbitrary P_1, P_2

Two Limiting cases:

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

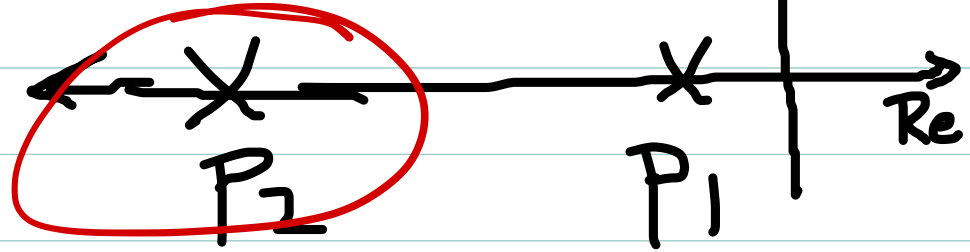
Case 3b: $|P_2| \approx |P_1|$

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.

"2nd Order" Step Responses

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Useful Observation (Case 1)

$$p_1 = \sigma + j\omega_d \quad \omega_d = \text{Im}\{p_1\}$$

Note slight change of notation! $\omega \rightarrow \omega_d$

$$s^2 + \alpha_1 s + \alpha_0 = (s - p_1)(s - \bar{p}_1)$$

$$= s^2 - (p_1 + \bar{p}_1)s + p_1 \bar{p}_1$$

$$= s^2 - 2\text{Re}\{p_1\}s + |p_1|^2$$

$$= s^2 - 2\sigma s + (\sigma^2 + \omega_d^2)$$

Hence:

$$\alpha_1 = -2\sigma = -2\text{Re}\{p_1\}$$

$$\alpha_0 = \sigma^2 + \omega_d^2 = |p_1|^2$$

Rapidly identify pole location from coefs.

2nd Order Response, Case 1:

$$Y(s) = \frac{\beta_0}{s(s-p_1)(s-\bar{p}_1)} = \frac{A_1}{s} + \frac{A_2}{(s-p_1)} + \frac{\bar{A}_2}{(s-\bar{p}_1)}$$

$$A_1 = [sY(s)]_{s=0} = \frac{\beta_0}{p_1 \bar{p}_1} = \frac{\beta_0}{\alpha_0} = G(0)$$

$$A_2 = [(s-p_1)Y(s)]_{s=p_1} = \frac{\beta_0}{p_1(p_1-\bar{p}_1)} = \frac{\beta_0}{(\sigma+j\omega_d)(2j\omega_d)}$$

$$\frac{1}{2}G(0) = \left(\frac{\beta_0}{2\alpha_0}\right) \left(\frac{\alpha_0}{(\sigma+j\omega_d)(j\omega_d)}\right) - B$$

So:

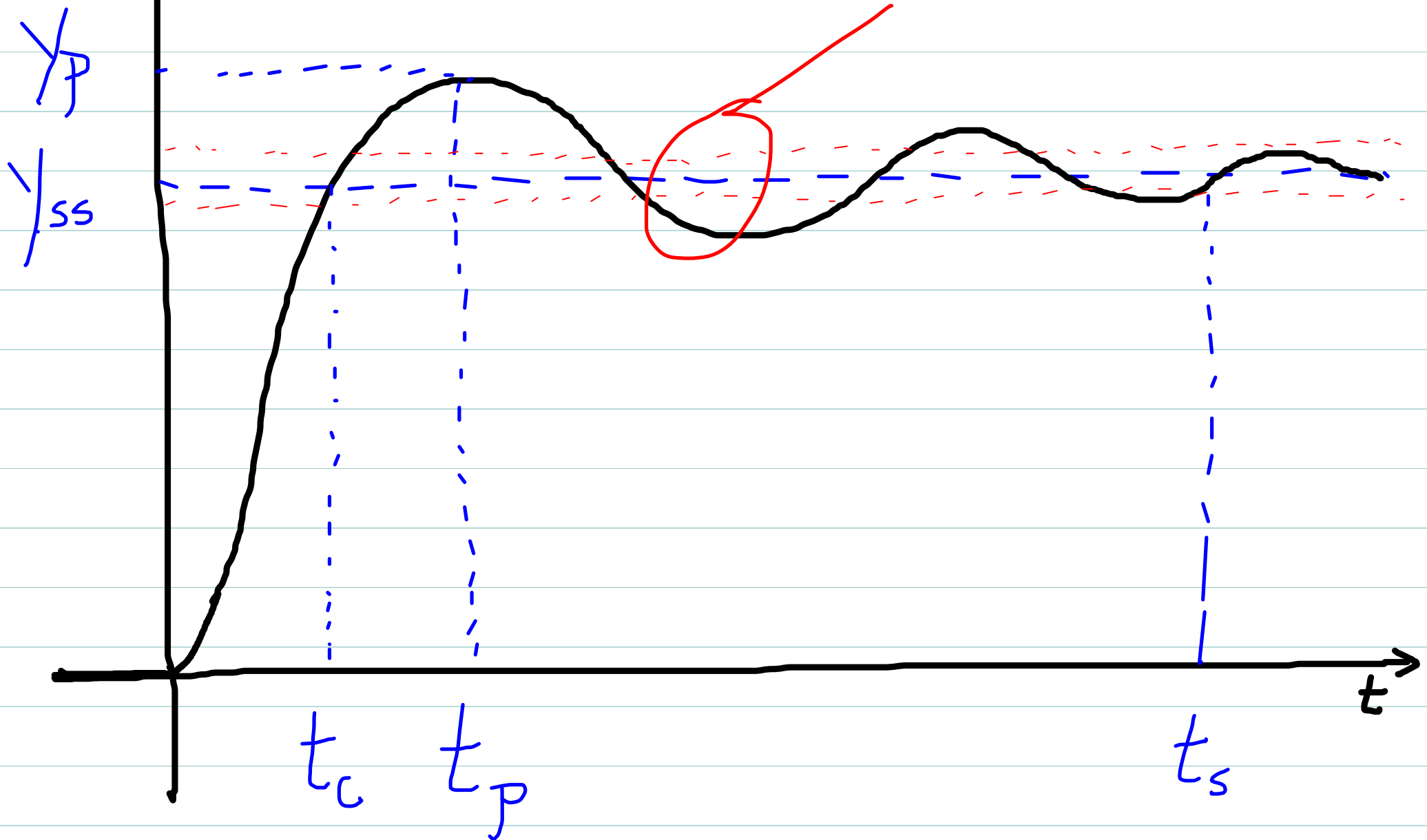
$$y(t) = G(0) + 2|A_2| e^{\sigma t} \cos(\omega_d t + \angle A_2)$$

OR:

$$y(t) = G(0) [1 + |B| e^{\sigma t} \cos(\omega_d t + \angle B)]$$

$y(t)$

$\pm 2\%$ of y_{ss}



General Observations

- (1) $y(t)$ continually oscillates about its steady-state value $y_{ss} = G(\phi)$
 - (2) t_c = time steady-state is first crossed
 - (3) 1st oscillation is largest, and creates an initial overshoot past the steady-state.
 - (4) This initial overshoot has peak value y_p , and occurs at time t_p
 - (5) Settling time t_s defined where response enters $\pm 2\%$ tolerance band and remains within it for times thereafter
- Must learn to rapidly quantify these!!

$$y(t) = G(0) [1 + |B| e^{\sigma t} \cos(\omega_d t + \angle B)]$$

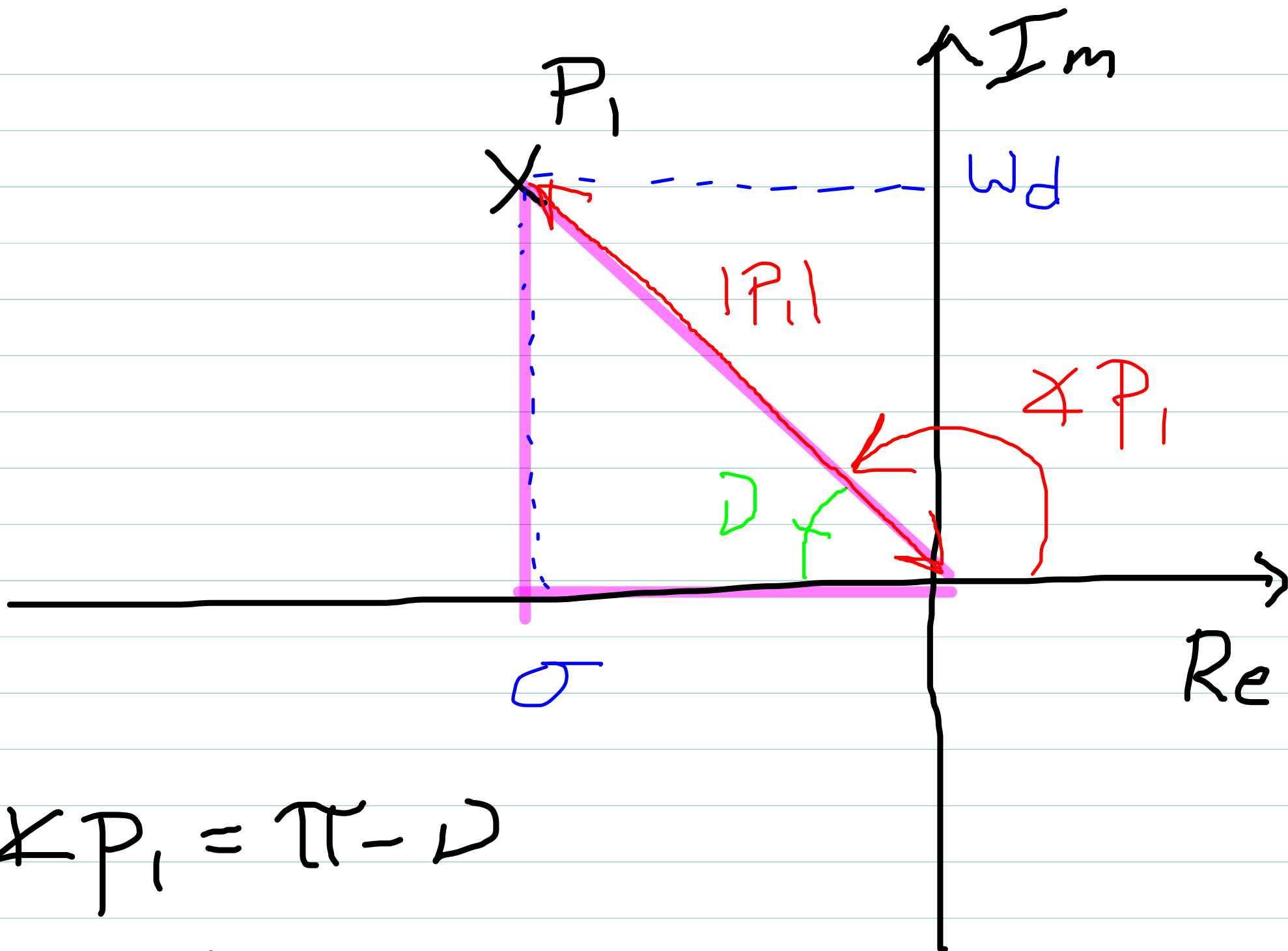
where: $B = \frac{\alpha_0}{(j\omega_d)(\sigma + j\omega_d)} = \frac{|P_1|^2}{(j\omega_d) P_1}$

\Rightarrow Transient features completely determined by location of pole $P_1 = \sigma + j\omega_d$ in complex plane

$$|B| = \frac{|P_1|^2}{|j\omega_d| \cdot |P_1|} = \frac{|P_1|}{\omega_d}$$

$$\angle B = \cancel{\angle |P_1|^2} - (\angle(j\omega_d) + \angle P_1)$$

$$= -\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + \angle P_1\right) \text{ — must quantify this!}$$



$$\angle P_1 = \pi - \nu$$

Note: $\nu > \phi$ is supplement of $\angle P_1$

So:

$$\begin{aligned}\angle B &= -\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + \angle P_1\right) = -\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + (\pi - \nu)\right) \\ &= -\frac{3\pi}{2} + \nu\end{aligned}$$

and thus:

$$y(t) = G(0) \left[1 + \left(\frac{|P_1|}{\omega_d} \right) e^{\sigma t} \cos(\omega_d t - \frac{3\pi}{2} + \nu) \right]$$

so:

$$y(t) = G(0) \left[1 - \left(\frac{|P_1|}{\omega_d} \right) e^{\sigma t} \sin(\omega_d t + \nu) \right]$$

Need to understand how ν depends on P_1