



# Introduction to Digital Control & Stability of Digital Systems

ELEC 3004: Systems: Signals & Controls  
Dr. Surya Singh  
(Some material adapted from Paul Pounds)

Lecture 19

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## Today...

Week	Date	Lecture Title
1	27-Feb	Introduction
	1-Mar	Systems Overview
2	6-Mar	Signals & Signal Models
	8-Mar	System Models
3	13-Mar	Linear Dynamical Systems
	15-Mar	Sampling & Data Acquisition
4	20-Mar	Time Domain Analysis of Continuous Time Systems
	22-Mar	System Behaviour & Stability
5	27-Mar	Signal Representation
	29-Mar	Holiday
6	10-Apr	Frequency Response
	12-Apr	z-Transform
7	17-Apr	Noise & Filtering
	19-Apr	Analog Filters
8	24-Apr	Discrete-Time Signals
	26-Apr	Discrete-Time Systems
9	1-May	Digital Filters & IIR/FIR Systems
	3-May	Fourier Transform & DTFT
10	8-May	Introduction to Digital Control
	10-May	<b>Stability of Digital Systems</b>
11	15-May	PID & Computer Control
	17-May	Applications in Industry
12	22-May	State-Space
	24-May	Controllability & Observability
13	29-May	Information Theory/Communications & Review
	31-May	Summary and Course Review



## Goals for the Week

- Wrap up Digital Filters (and bookend it with a Pop-Quiz)
- Introduce Digital Systems and Feedback Control
- z-Transform for Digital Control
- Design Using Digital Equivalents → Friday
- Stability of Digital Systems



## Announcements:



- Final Exam:
  - 15 Questions (60% Short Answer, 40% Regular Problems)
  - 3 Hours
  - Closed-book
  - Took tutor ~90min to complete
  - Equation sheet will be provided (in addition to your own)  
[See Prac Final – Coming out next week]
  - Yes, it has an unexpected twist at the end, but you'll like it. 😊

→ Saturday, June 15 at 9:30 AM (sorry!)

ELEC3004	Signals, Systems & Control	15/06/2013	9:30 AM	Agarwal, Atu - Vasuian, Fab	UQ Union Complex (21) - Innes Room
				Vermeulen, Nat - Zulkarnain, Moh	UQ Union Complex (21) - Heath Room



## Digital control

Once upon a time...

- Electromechanical systems were controlled by electromechanical compensators
  - Mechanical flywheel governors, capacitors, inductors, resistors, relays, valves, solenoids (fun!)
  - But also complex and sensitive!

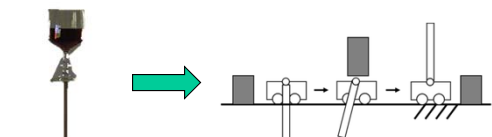
→ Idea: Digital computers in real-time control

- Transform approach (classical control)
  - Root-locus methods (pretty much the same as METR 3200)
  - Bode's frequency response methods (these change compared to METR 3200)
- State-space approach (modern control)

→ Model Making: Control of frequency response as well as Least Squares Parameter Estimation



## Digital Control



$L = \frac{1}{2}M\dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2}m\dot{\theta}^2 - mgf \cos \theta$

where  $\dot{x}$  is the velocity of the cart and  $\dot{\theta}$  is the velocity of the point mass (m).  $\dot{x}$  and  $\dot{\theta}$  can be expressed in terms of  $x$  and  $\theta$  by writing the velocity as the first derivative of the position.

$\dot{x}^2 = \dot{x}^2$

$\dot{\theta}^2 = \left(\frac{d}{dt}(x - l \sin \theta)\right)^2 + \left(\frac{d}{dt}(l \cos \theta)\right)^2$

Simplifying the expression for  $\dot{\theta}^2$  leads to

$\dot{\theta}^2 = \dot{x}^2 - 2l\dot{\theta} \cos \theta + l^2\dot{\theta}^2$

The Lagrangian is now given by:

$L = \frac{1}{2}(M+m)\dot{x}^2 - ml\dot{\theta} \cos \theta + \frac{1}{2}ml^2\dot{\theta}^2 - mgf \cos \theta$

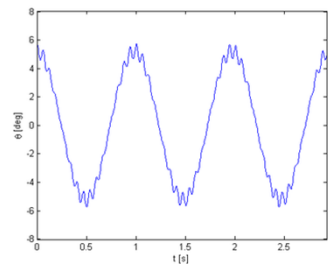
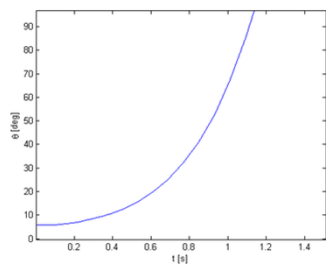
and the equations of motion are:

$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = F$   
 $\frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta} = 0$

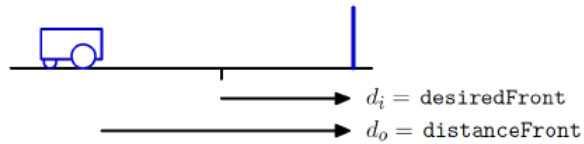
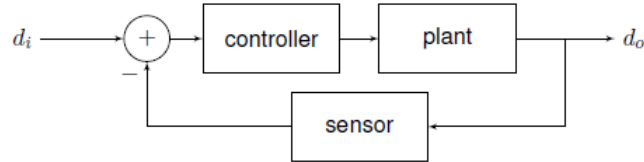
substituting  $L$  in these equations and simplifying leads to the equations that describe the motion

$(M+m)\ddot{x} - ml\ddot{\theta} \cos \theta + ml\dot{\theta}^2 \sin \theta = F$   
 $\ddot{\theta} - g \sin \theta = \dot{x} \cos \theta$

Wikipedia,  
Cart and pole



## Simple Controller Goes Digital



plant:  $y[n] = y[n - 1] - Tu[n - 1]$

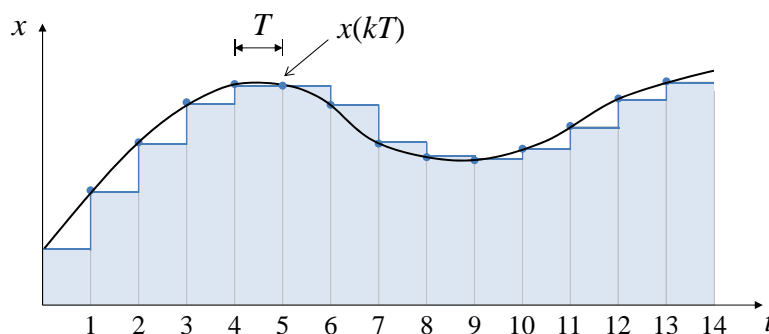
sensor:  $y[n] = u[n - 1]$

controller:  $y[n] = Ku[n]$

Complex system behaviors, depending on  $K$

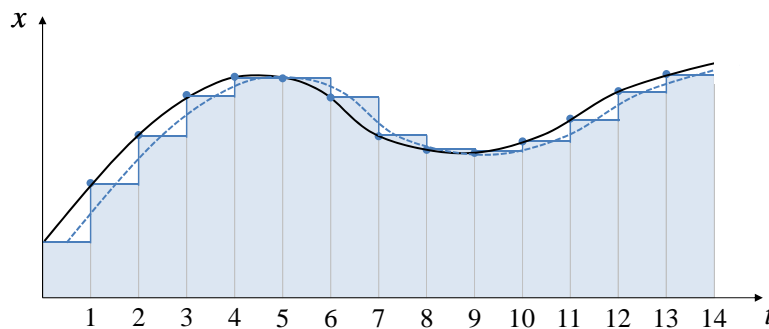
## Return to the discrete domain

- Recall that continuous signals can be represented by a series of samples with period  $T$



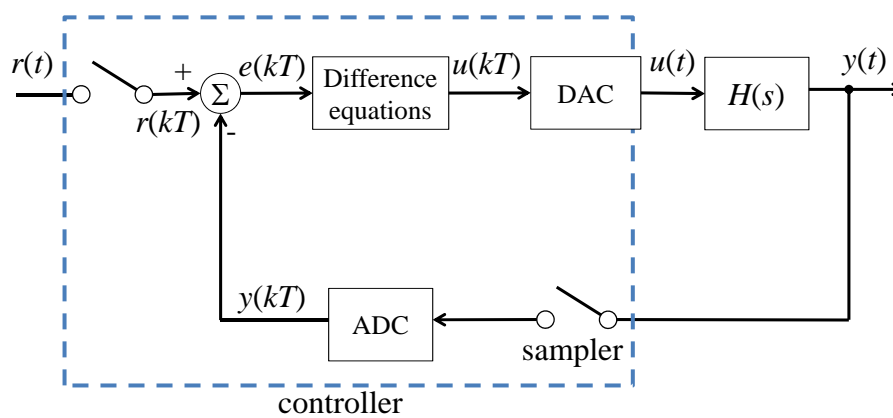
## Zero Order Hold

- An output value of a synthesised signal is held constant until the next value is ready
  - This introduces an effective delay of  $T/2$



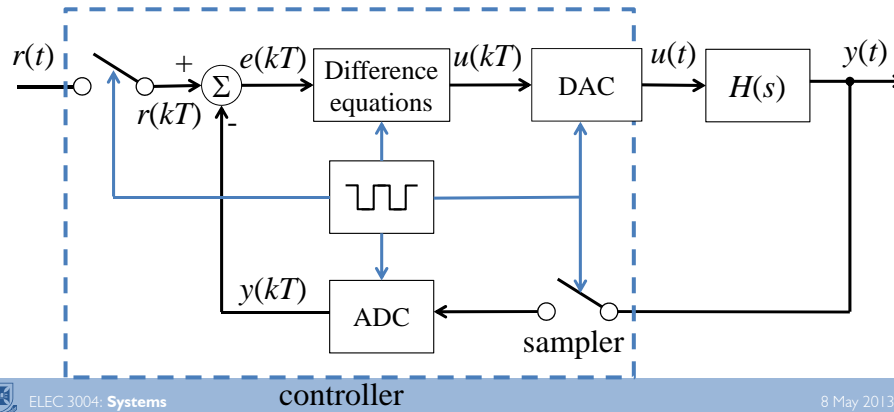
## Digitisation

- Continuous signals sampled with period  $T$
- $k$ th control value computed at  $t_k = kT$



## Digitisation

- Continuous signals sampled with period  $T$
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## Difference equations

- How to represent differential equations in a computer?  
Difference equations!
- The output of a difference equation system is a function of current and previous values of the input and output:

$$y(t_k) = D(x(t_k), x(t_{k-1}), \dots, x(t_{k-n}), y(t_{k-1}), \dots, y(t_{k-n}))$$

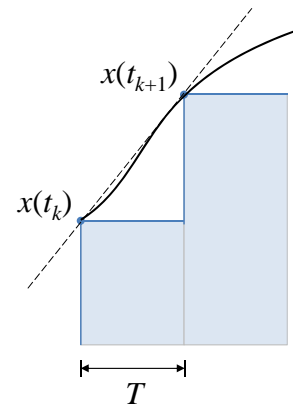
- We can think of  $x$  and  $y$  as parameterised in  $k$   
Useful shorthand:  $x(t_{k+i}) \equiv x(k+i)$

## Euler's method\*

- Dynamic systems can be approximated<sup>†</sup> by recognising that:

$$\dot{x} \cong \frac{x(k+1) - x(k)}{T}$$

- As  $T \rightarrow 0$ , approximation error approaches 0



\*Also known as the forward rectangle rule  
†Just an approximation – more on this later

## An example!

Convert the system  $\frac{Y(s)}{X(s)} = \frac{s+2}{s+1}$  into a difference equation with period  $T$ , using Euler's method.

1. Rewrite the function as a dynamic system:

$$sY(s) + Y(s) = sX(s) + 2X(s)$$

Apply inverse Laplace transform:

$$\dot{y}(t) + y(t) = \dot{x}(t) + 2x(t)$$

2. Replace continuous signals with their sampled domain equivalents, and differentials with the approximating function

$$\frac{y(k+1) - y(k)}{T} + y(k) = \frac{x(k+1) - x(k)}{T} + 2x(k)$$

## An example!

Simplify:

$$y(k + 1) - y(k) + Ty(k) = x(k + 1) - x(k) + 2Tx(k)$$

$$y(k + 1) + (T - 1)y(k) = x(k + 1) + (2T - 1)x(k)$$

$$y(k + 1) = x(k + 1) + (2T - 1)x(k) - (T - 1)y(k)$$

We can implement this in a computer.

Cool, let's try it!



## Back to the future

A quick note on causality:

- Calculating the “(k+1)th” value of a signal using

$$y(k + 1) = x(k + 1) + Ax(k) - By(k)$$

relies on also knowing the next (future) value of  $x(t)$ .

(this requires very advanced technology!)  
future value      current values

- Real systems always run with a delay:

$$y(k) = x(k) + Ax(k - 1) - By(k - 1)$$





## Back to the example!

```
T = 0.02; //period of 50 Hz, a number pulled from thin air
A = 2*T-1; //pre-calculated control constants
B = T-1;

...

while(1)
{
    if(interrupt_flag) //this triggers every 20 ms
    {
        x0 = x; //save previous values
        y0 = y;
        x = update_input(); //get latest x value
        y = x + A*x0 - B*y0; //do the difference equations
        update_output(y); //write out current value
    }
}

(The actual maths bit)
```



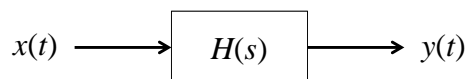
## Coping with complexity

- Transfer functions help control complexity
  - Recall the Laplace transform:

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

where

$$\mathcal{L}\{\dot{f}(t)\} = sF(s)$$



Is there a something similar for sampled systems?



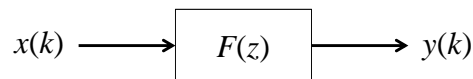
## The $z$ -transform

- The discrete equivalent is the  $z$ -Transform<sup>†</sup>:

$$\mathcal{Z}\{f(k)\} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} f(k)z^{-k} = F(z)$$

and

$$\mathcal{Z}\{f(k-1)\} = z^{-1}F(z)$$



Convenient!

<sup>†</sup>This is not an approximation, but approximations are easier to derive



## The $z$ -transform

- Some useful properties
  - **Delay by  $n$  samples:**  $\mathcal{Z}\{f(k-n)\} = z^{-n}F(z)$
  - **Linear:**  $\mathcal{Z}\{af(k) + bg(k)\} = aF(z) + bG(z)$
  - **Convolution:**  $\mathcal{Z}\{f(k) * g(k)\} = F(z)G(z)$

So, all those block diagram manipulation tools you know and love will work just the same!



## The z-transform

- In practice, you'll use look-up tables or computer tools (ie. Matlab) to find the z-transform of your functions

$F(s)$	$F(kt)$	$F(z)$
$\frac{1}{s}$	1	$\frac{z}{z-1}$
$\frac{1}{s^2}$	$kT$	$\frac{Tz}{(z-1)^2}$
$\frac{1}{s+a}$	$e^{-akT}$	$\frac{z}{z-e^{-aT}}$
$\frac{1}{(s+a)^2}$	$kT e^{-akT}$	$\frac{zT e^{-aT}}{(z-e^{-aT})^2}$
$\frac{1}{s^2+a^2}$	$\sin(akT)$	$\frac{z \sin aT}{z^2 - (2 \cos aT)z + 1}$



## Why z-Transform

- Makes it easy to analyse feedback systems governed by difference equations

- For any complex number  $z = r e^{j\omega}$   $y[n] \xleftrightarrow{Z} Y(z)$

- Forward Analysis:  $Y(z) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} h[k] z^{-k}$

- Backward Synthesis  
(for any fixed  $r > 0$  on which the Z-transform converges):

$$y[n] = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{2\pi} Y(r e^{j\omega}) (r e^{j\omega})^n d\omega$$

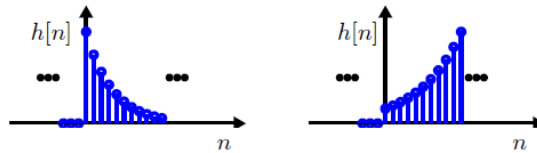


## z-Transforms for Difference Equations

- First-order linear constant coefficient difference equation:

First-order linear constant coefficient difference equation:

$$y[n] = ay[n - 1] + bu[n]$$



$$h[n] = \begin{cases} ba^n & n \geq 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

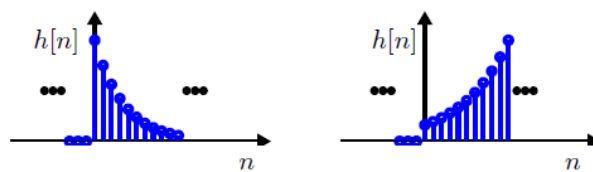
$$H(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} ba^k z^{-k} = b \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{a}{z}\right)^k = \frac{b}{1 - az^{-1}}, \quad \text{when } |z| > |a|.$$



## z-Transforms for Difference Equations

First-order linear constant coefficient difference equation:

$$y[n] = ay[n - 1] + bu[n]$$



$$y[n] - ay[n - 1] = bu[n]$$

⇕

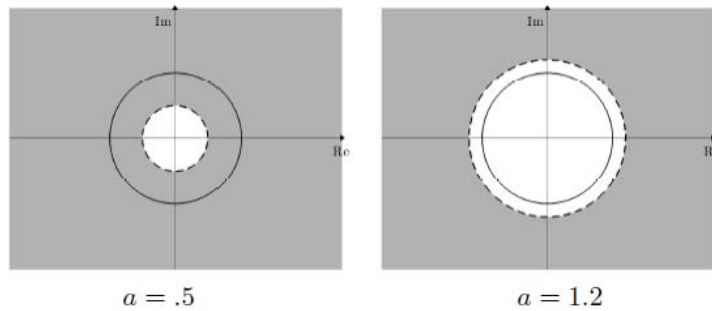
$$Y(z) - az^{-1}Y(z) = bU(z)$$

$$H(z) = \frac{Y(z)}{U(z)} = \frac{b}{1 - az^{-1}}, \quad \text{when does it converge?}$$



## Region of Convergence (ROC) Plots

$$H(z) = \frac{Y(z)}{U(z)} = \frac{b}{1 - az^{-1}}, \quad |z| > |a|$$



## Properties of the ROC

- The ROC is always defined by circles centered around the origin.

$h[k]r^{-k}$  is absolutely summable, where  $r = |z|$ .

- Right-sided signals have “outsided” ROCs.

if  $\exists n_0$  such that  $h[n] = 0 \forall n < n_0$ , then if  $r_0 \in \text{ROC}$ , then  $\forall r$  with  $r_0 < r < \infty$  are also in the ROC.

- Left-sided signals have “insided” ROCs.  
(with  $\forall r$  within  $0 < r < r_0$ )



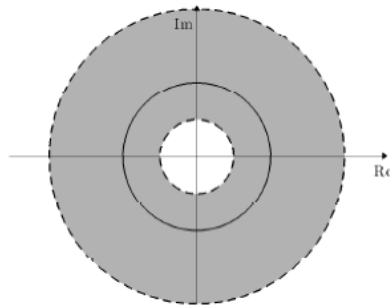
## Combinations of Signals

$$y_1[n] = \begin{cases} ba^n & n \geq 0 \\ 0 & n < 0 \end{cases}$$

$a = .5$

$$y_2[n] = \begin{cases} 0 & n \geq 0 \\ -ba^n & n < 0 \end{cases}$$

$a = 2$



ROC for  $\alpha_1 y_1[n] + \alpha_2 y_2[n]$



## Higher-order difference equations

$$y[n] = a_1 y[n-1] + a_2 y[n-2] + a_3 y[n-3] + b_0 u[n] + b_1 u[n-1] + \dots$$

Easy to take the Z-transform

$$Y(z) = a_1 z^{-1} Y(z) + a_2 z^{-2} Y(z) + a_3 z^{-3} Y(z) + b_0 U(z) + \dots$$

$$H(z) = \frac{b_0 + b_1 z^{-1} + b_2 z^{-2} + \dots}{1 - a_1 z^{-1} - a_2 z^{-2} - a_3 z^{-3} + \dots}$$



## Final value theorem

- An important question: what is the steady-state output a stable system at  $t = \infty$ ?

– For continuous systems, this is found by:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} sX(s)$$

– The discrete equivalent is:

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} x(k) = \lim_{z \rightarrow 1} (1 - z^{-1})X(z)$$

(Provided the system is stable)



## An example!

- Back to our difference equation:

$$y(k) = x(k) + Ax(k - 1) - By(k - 1)$$

becomes

$$\begin{aligned} Y(z) &= X(z) + Az^{-1}X(z) - Bz^{-1}Y(z) \\ (z + B)Y(z) &= (z + A)X(z) \end{aligned}$$

which yields the transfer function:

$$\frac{Y(z)}{X(z)} = \frac{z + A}{z + B}$$

Note: It is also not uncommon to see systems expressed as polynomials in  $z^{-n}$



This looks familiar...

- Compare:

$$\frac{Y(s)}{X(s)} = \frac{s+2}{s+1} \text{ vs } \frac{Y(z)}{X(z)} = \frac{z+A}{z+B}$$

How are the Laplace and  $z$  domain representations related?



Consider the simplest system

- Take a first-order response:

$$f(t) = e^{-at} \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \frac{1}{s+a}$$

- The discrete version is:

$$f(kT) = e^{-akT} \Rightarrow \mathcal{Z}\{f(k)\} = \frac{z}{z - e^{-aT}}$$

The equivalent system poles are related by

$$z = e^{sT}$$

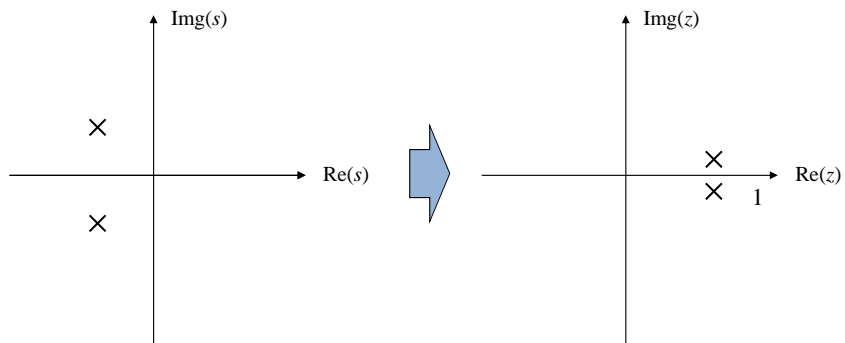
That sounds somewhat profound... but what does it mean?





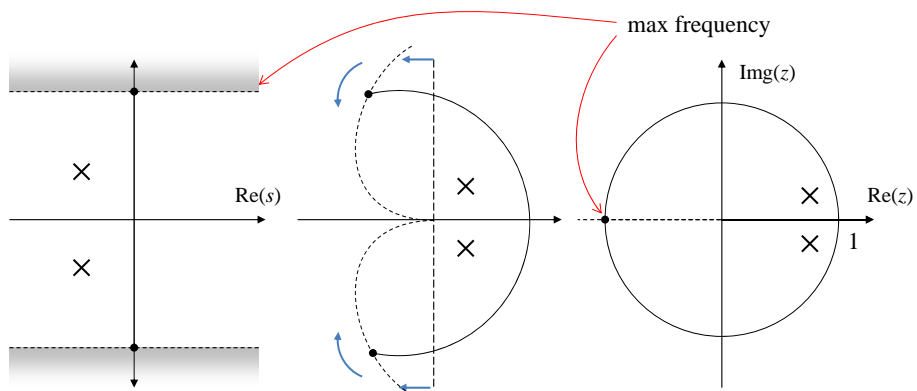
## The $z$ -Plane

- $z$ -domain poles and zeros can be plotted just like  $s$ -domain poles and zeros:



## Deep insight #1

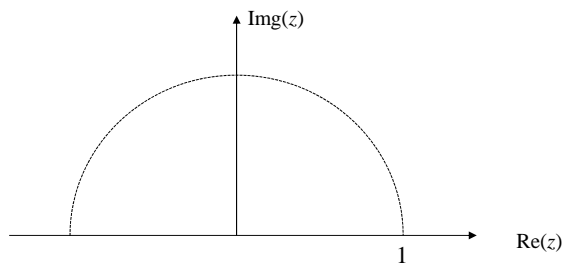
The mapping between continuous and discrete poles and zeros acts like a distortion of the plane



## The $z$ -plane

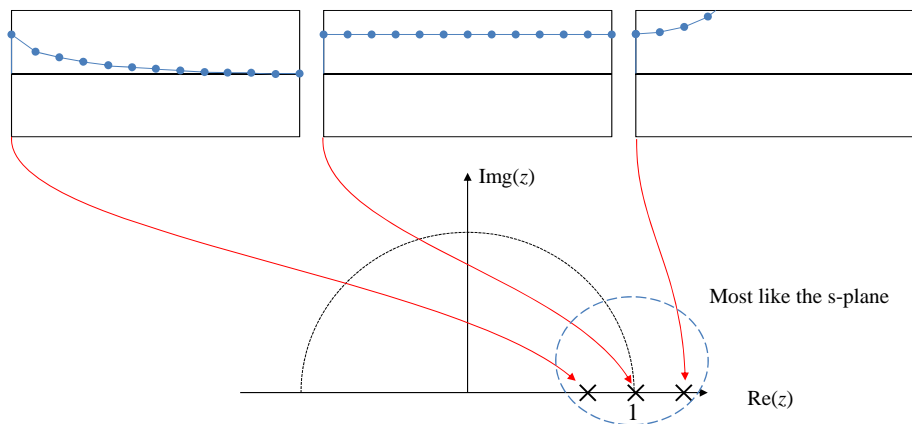
- We can understand system response by pole location in the  $z$ -plane

[Adapted from Franklin, Powell and Emami-Naeini]



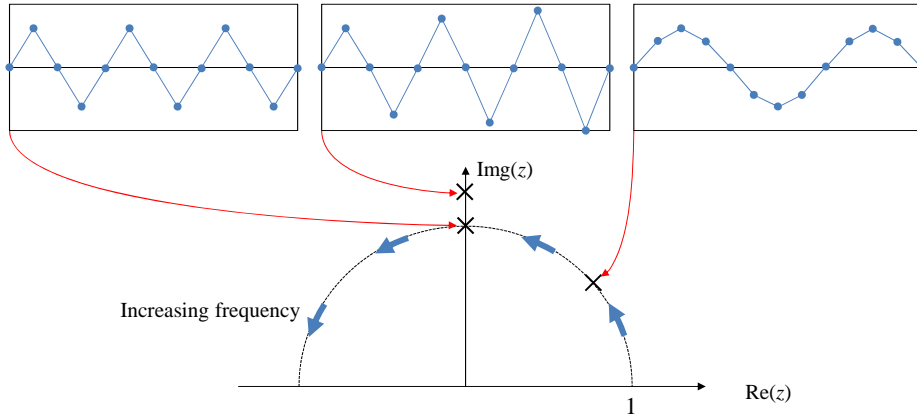
## Effect of pole positions

- We can understand system response by pole location in the  $z$ -plane



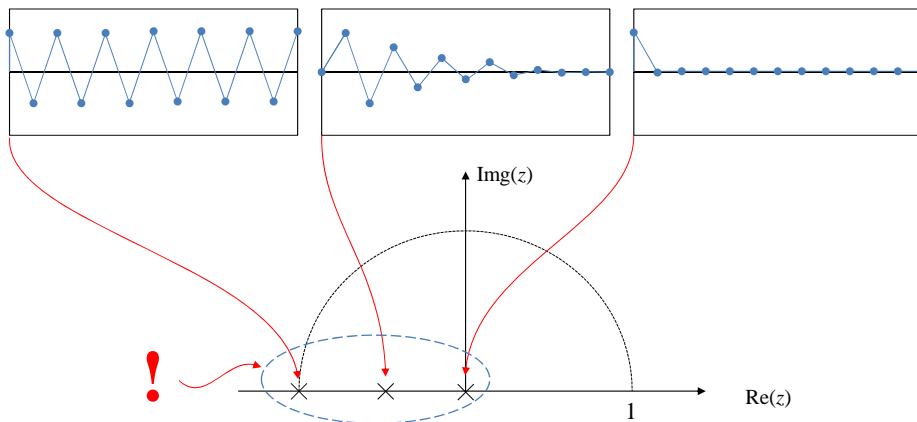
## Effect of pole positions

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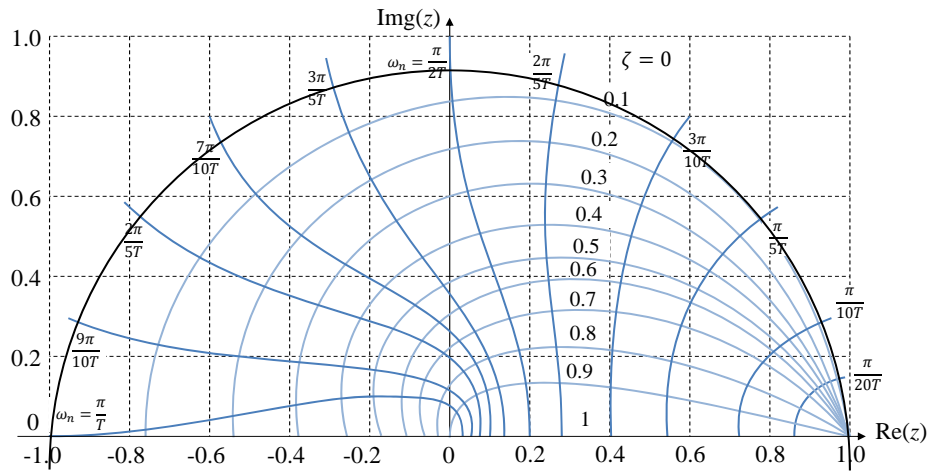
## Effect of pole positions

- We can understand system response by pole location in the  $z$ -plane



## Damping and natural frequency

$$z = e^{sT} \text{ where } s = -\zeta\omega_n \pm j\omega_n\sqrt{1-\zeta^2}$$

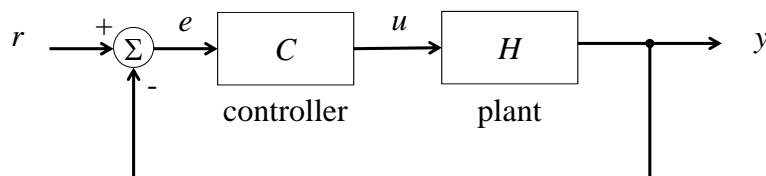


[Adapted from Franklin, Powell and Emami-Naeini]

## Quick refresher: the root locus

- The transfer function for a closed-loop system can be easily calculated:

$$\begin{aligned} y &= CH(r - y) \\ y + CHy &= CHR \\ \therefore \frac{y}{r} &= \frac{CH}{1 + CH} \end{aligned}$$



## Quick refresher: the root locus

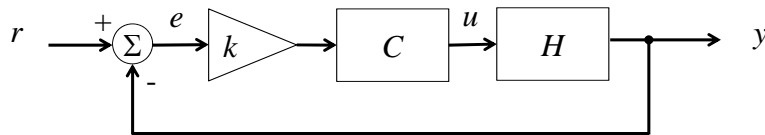
- We often care about the effect of increasing gain of a control compensator design:

$$\frac{y}{r} = \frac{kCH}{1 + kCH}$$

Multiplying by denominator:

$$\frac{y}{r} = \frac{kC_n H_n}{C_d H_d + kC_n H_n}$$

characteristic polynomial



## Example:

- Is this system stable?

$$u(k) = 0.9u(k-1) - 0.2u(k-2)$$

- Time-shift it:

$$u(k+2) = 0.9u(k+1) - 0.2u(k)$$

- z-Transform:

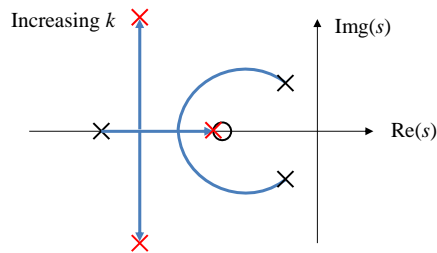
$$(1)z^2 - 0.9z + 0.2 = 0$$

- Characteristic Roots:

$$z=0.5, z=0.4 \rightarrow \text{STABLE!}$$

## Quick refresher: the root locus

- Pole positions change with increasing gain
  - The trajectory of poles on the pole-zero plot with changing  $k$  is called the “root locus”
  - This is sometimes quite complex

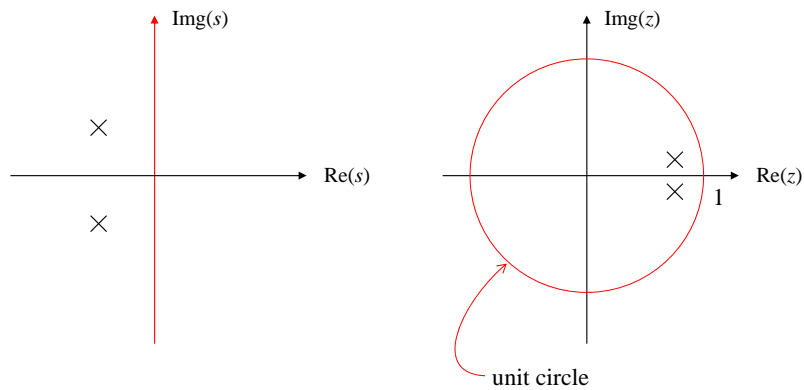


(In practice you'd plot these with computers)



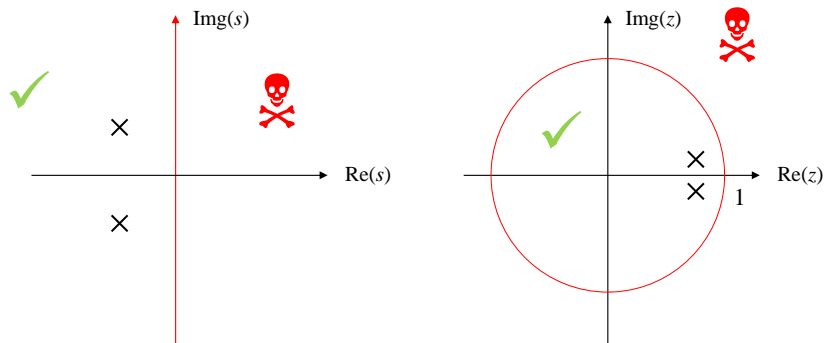
## $z$ -plane stability

- In the  $z$ -domain, the unit circle is the system stability bound



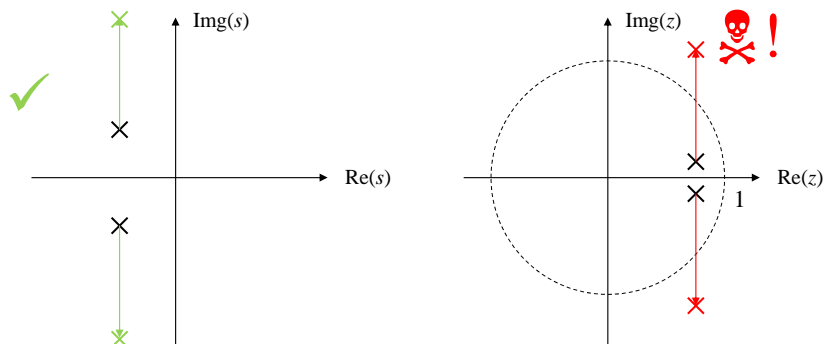
### z-plane stability

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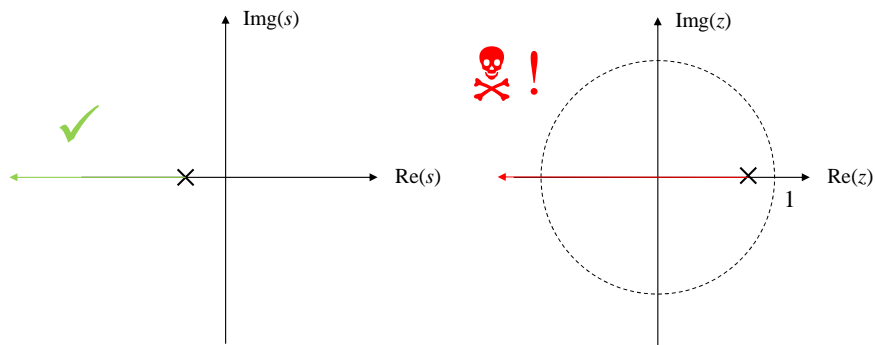
### z-plane stability

- The  $z$ -plane root-locus in closed loop feedback behaves just like the  $s$ -plane:



## Deep insight #2

Gains that stabilise continuous systems can actually *destabilise* digital systems!



## Quick plug\*

- Most of this is based on Chapter 8 of “**Feedback Control of Dynamic Systems**” by Franklin, Powell and Emami-Naeini.



\* No, they're not paying me – it's just a really good book!