

# **Regulation Theory**

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#### **Power converters:**

Convert electric energy from one form to another that is optimally suited for user loads

Regulation is an important part of the design and construction of

any power converter

#### **Course objective:**

- ✓ Recall common continuous-time control techniques
- Present digital control: Associated tools and more specifically the Z-transform, concept of discrete-time model, main methods to synthesize digital controllers, choice of the sampling frequency
- This course does not aim to describe control theory in a systematic and exhaustive way

It will be limited to the control of single-input single-output linear timeinvariant systems

Non-linear control theory will not be presented here



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#### Control theory

- Interdisciplinary branch of engineering and mathematics that deals with the behavior of dynamical systems with inputs

- Usual objective: Provide the input(s) to a system to obtain the desired effect on its output(s)



If the system is a single-input single-output linear and time-invariant system, then its input and output are related by a differential equation with constant coefficients:

$$a_n \cdot \frac{d^n}{dt^n} y + \ldots + a_0 \cdot y = b_0 \cdot u + \ldots + b_m \cdot \frac{d^m}{dt^m} u \qquad m \le n$$
 **n = system order**

= Time domain representation



### **Basic recalls**

Taking the Laplace transform of both sides and assuming zero initial conditions:

$$a_n \cdot s^n Y + \ldots + a_0 \cdot Y = b_0 \cdot U + \ldots + b_m \cdot s^m U$$

where s is the Laplace operator

=>

$$\frac{Y(s)}{U(s)} = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{m} b_i \cdot s^i}{\sum_{j=0}^{n} a_i \cdot s^j} = \frac{Num(s)}{Den(s)} = H(s)$$

H(s) = system transfer function

= Frequency domain representation





#### Why use feedback control ?

What if we design a controller that equals the plant inverse:

 $C = H^{-1}$  (Feedforward correction)

Then in theory (assuming a unit gain for the actuator TF): Y = Yref Impossible in practice because of:

- Uncertainty or variation of the model parameters
- Random disturbances



A feedback correction is needed

Advantages:

- Guaranteed performance even with model uncertainties
- Reduced sensitivity to parameter variations
- Disturbance rejection
- Stabilization of unstable open-loop systems

Drawback (contrary to feedforward correction): Reaction after the error has arisen  $\rightarrow$  Slowness



#### Typical control structure

= Combination of feedback and feedforward control



#### Closed control loop performance criteria:

- Static & dynamic behavior
- Stability & robustness



Translate into constraints on the frequency response of the compensated system in **open-loop** (= Controller + Plant)



• Typical control structure for current-regulated power supplies

= Cascade structure: Nested connection of a fast inner voltage loop and a slower outer current loop Perturbations



- Fast inner voltage loop: Acts as an active filter to reject the output voltage ripple and the output voltage fluctuations due to float of input mains + simplifies the design of the current loop

- Outer current loop: Ensures the overall stability of the power supply + provides an inherent over-voltage limitation





**Open-loop bandwidth: Interval of pulsatances for which**  $|C(jw) \cdot H(jw) \cdot G(jw)| > 1$ 

**Closed-loop:** 
$$CL(s) = \frac{Y(s)}{Yref(s)} = \frac{C(s) \cdot H(s)}{1 + C(s) \cdot H(s) \cdot G(s)}$$

Error vs. input & perturbation:

$$\varepsilon(s) = \varepsilon_{Yref}(s) + \varepsilon_P(s)$$

$$\frac{\varepsilon_{Yref}(s)}{Yref(s)} = \frac{1}{1 + C(s) \cdot H(s) \cdot G(s)}$$
$$\frac{\varepsilon_P(s)}{P(s)} = -\frac{G(s)}{1 + C(s) \cdot H(s) \cdot G(s)}$$

NB: Defining transfer functions in Matlab  $\rightarrow$  Function 'tf'



- Precision of closed-loop systems
  - Static error
    - Precision versus the input

Final value theorem:  $\lim_{t \to \infty} \varepsilon_{Yref}(t) = \lim_{s \to 0} s \cdot \varepsilon_{Yref}(s) = \lim_{s \to 0} \frac{s}{1 + C(s) \cdot H(s) \cdot G(s)} \cdot Yref(s)$ 

- => To achieve zero steady-state error, we require
  - at least 1 integrator (pole @ s =0) in the open-loop TF for a step input (Yref(s) = K/s)
  - at least 2 integrators in the open-loop TF for a ramp input (  $Yref(s) = K/s^2$  )
  - ---
  - Sinusoidal input:  $K \cdot \sin(w_0 \cdot t)$

At steady state,  $\varepsilon_{Yref}$  is a harmonic signal which module  $\left|\varepsilon_{Yref}\right|$  is such that  $\frac{\left|\varepsilon_{Yref}\right|}{K} = \left|\frac{1}{1+C(s)\cdot H(s)\cdot G(s)}\right|_{s=jw_0}$  => if  $w_0$  is inside the OL bandwidth:  $\frac{\left|\varepsilon_{Yref}\right|}{K} \approx \left|\frac{1}{C(s)\cdot H(s)\cdot G(s)}\right|_{s=jw_0}$ 

Error amplitude inversely proportional to OL gain @  $w_0$ 

#### - Perturbation rejection

$$\lim_{t \to \infty} \varepsilon_P(t) = \lim_{s \to 0} s \cdot \varepsilon_P(s) = \lim_{s \to 0} \frac{-s \cdot G(s)}{1 + C(s) \cdot H(s) \cdot G(s)} \cdot P(s)$$

To reject disturbances of class N  $\rightarrow$  at least N integrators in  $C(s) \cdot H(s)$ 



- Precision of closed-loop systems
  - Dynamic error



**Pb: Limit**  $\varepsilon_d$  to  $\varepsilon_{d \max}$ 

Assumption: Velocity v and acceleration  $\gamma$  of the input are limited The input signal is then defined by the following constraints:  $v < v_{max}$   $\gamma < \gamma_{max}$ 

It can be demonstrated that

$$\varepsilon_d < \varepsilon_{d_{\max}} \implies |OL(s)|_{s=j\frac{\gamma_{\max}}{v_{\max}}} > \frac{v_{\max}^2}{\gamma_{\max} \cdot \varepsilon_{d_{\max}}}$$



### Stability & robustness of closed-loop systems

$$CL(s) = \frac{Y(s)}{Yref(s)} = \frac{C(s) \cdot H(s)}{1 + C(s) \cdot H(s) \cdot G(s)}$$

#### Closed-loop stability ⇔

Real part of the closed-loop TF poles (= Roots of the characteristic equation  $1 + C(s) \cdot H(s) \cdot G(s) = 0$ ) < 0



s-plane stable pole location







Summary



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#### Influence of the poles on the transient behavior



NB: Poles farther to the left  $\rightarrow$  Faster transient regime

=> The poles closest to the imaginary axis are the ones that tend to dominate the response since their contribution takes a longer time to die out: Called dominant poles if the ratio of their real part to the one of any other poles < typically 1/5

Enables to simplify the TF by keeping the dominant pole(s) (and the static gain unchanged)



#### Particular case: 2nd order systems with complex conjugate poles

A common strategy for controller design consists to derive its parameters from a pole placement such that the closed-loop behaves like a 1rst order or a 2nd order system  $2^{nd}$  order  $\Sigma$ : The design specifications imply constraints on the dominant poles  $p_1, \overline{p_1} \Rightarrow$  on the cut-off frequency  $w_n$  and the damping ratio  $\zeta$  of the TF  $CL_{des}$   $CL_{des}(s) = \frac{w_n^2}{s^2 + 2 \cdot \zeta \cdot w_n \cdot s + w_n^2}$ 



1		0	п	п
Ris	e time (10% $\rightarrow$	90%):		1
	$t_r \approx (2.6 \cdot$	$\zeta^2 - 0.4$	$5 \cdot \zeta +$	$(1.2)/w_n$
Pea	ak overshoot:	$M_p =$	$e^{-\pi\cdot\zeta}$	$\int \sqrt{1-\zeta^2}$
Set	ttling time (to 19	%):	$t_s \approx 4$	$6/\zeta \cdot w_n$
	$t_r, M_p,$	$t_s \Rightarrow \zeta$	, w <sub>n</sub>	

ζ	$M_p$ in %	$\Phi_{\mathrm{M}}$ in degrees
0,1	73	11
0,3	37	33
0,5	16	52
0,7	4,6	65
0,9	0,15	73

NB: For 2<sup>nd</sup> order systems, a good phase margin guarantees a good gain margin



#### Particular case: 2nd order systems

#### Influence of a zero

$$CL(s) = K \cdot \frac{s + z_0}{(s - p_1) \cdot (s - \overline{p_1})}$$

where  $z_0 \in \mathbb{R}_*$  and  $K = p_1 \cdot \overline{p_1} / z_0$  ( $\rightarrow$  unit static gain)

The unit step response of the above TF can be written as:

$$Y(s) = \frac{K}{s} \cdot \frac{s + z_0}{(s - p_1) \cdot (s - \overline{p_1})} = \frac{K \cdot z_0}{s \cdot (s - p_1) \cdot (s - \overline{p_1})} + \frac{K \cdot s}{s \cdot (s - p_1) \cdot (s - \overline{p_1})}$$
  
=>  $y(t) = y_{2^{nd} order}(t) + \frac{1}{z_0} \cdot \frac{d}{dt} y_{2^{nd} order}(t)$ 

#### The additional zero makes the system faster and more oscillatory

Step Response = more prominent effect as  $z_0$  decreases w ithout zero 2.5 z0=10 Im z0=5  $w_n = 10$  $\zeta = 0.7 \quad P_1 \times$ z0=2 2 Amplitude 1.5 ► Re 0.5 0 0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 Time (sec)



#### Controller design process:

- 1. Specification of the desired closed control loop performance => Tradeoff (cf. above)
  - = Linked to plant dynamics & power availability of the actuator during transients (Prevent actuator saturation  $\Box$  Loss of controllability)
- 2. Choice of the controller type and its design method
- 3. Modelling of the plant to be controlled => Transfer function, state-space equations

#### To get the plant dynamic model:

- 1. Use physic laws to derive the differential equations used to represent it mathematically Power converters:
  - Construct equivalent averaged circuit model
  - Determine large-signal averaged model
  - Perturb and linearize about quiescent operating point to obtain small-signal averaged model
  - Simplify the transfer function (by keeping the dominant poles)

If hysteretic control is to be used rather than PWM: Model this non-linear element using the 1rst order harmonic approximation method  $\rightarrow$  Complex equivalent gain

2. Other method: Given generic model structure, estimate parameters from experimental data (= plant model identification)



#### Proportional-integral-derivative (PID) controller

- By far the most widely used control algorithm
- Involves only 3 separate constant parameters to tune the control loop
  - $\rightarrow$  Simple and intuitive (many controllers do not even use derivative action = PI)
  - → Well-suited for systems exhibiting dominant 1rst or 2<sup>nd</sup> order behavior, for which the desired performance of the CL compared to the OL response of the  $\Sigma$  is not too demanding → For systems with higher order dominant dynamics, or systems including high delay or several

oscillation modes, the PID is no longer adequate and a more complex regulator (with more parameters) has to be used

#### PID algorithm:

$$u(t) = K_p \cdot \varepsilon(t) + K_i \int_0^t \varepsilon(t) + K_d \cdot \frac{d}{dt} \varepsilon(t)$$

#### Controller TF standard form:

$$C_{PID}(s) = K_p + \frac{K_i}{s} + \frac{K_d \cdot s}{1 + \frac{K_d}{N \cdot K_p} \cdot s} \qquad 10 \le N_{typ.} \le 20$$

NB: Pure derivative amplifies noise => LP filter

Effects of PID tuning on closed control loop					
Param. change	Rise time	Overshoot	Settling time	Steady-state error	System stability
Increase <i>Kp</i>	Decrease	Increase	Small change	Decrease	Degrade
Increase <i>Ki</i>	Decrease	Increase	Increase	Eliminate	Degrade
Increase <i>Kd</i>	Small change	Decrease	Decrease	No effect	Improve if <i>Kd</i> small



#### **PID synthesis methods**

A number of alternative approaches for PID tuning are available:

- Heuristic PID tuning procedures: Ziegler-Nichols, Cohen-Coon, ...
- Graphical methods: Loop shaping, root locus, ...
- Pole placement
- Minimization of integral type criterion





#### Design of the voltage loop controller using the loop shaping method

**Loop shaping** is one of the primary methodologies used for designing classical controllers such as PIDs => The controller structure and gains are selected such that the magnitude of the OL frequency response has particular characteristics - or a particular shape



Assume the following specs: 1/ Zero static error 2/ Dynamic precision: |OL| > 40dB @ w03/ Bandwidth: {0, wc} 4/  $\Phi M \ge 50^{\circ}$ 

A PI controller is first tried for Cv(s) but it leads to insufficient phase margin
→ A lead compensator is

then added to correct  $\Phi M$ 



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#### Design of the current loop controller using pole placement

Open current loop transfer function:

$$OL_I(s) = C_I(s) \cdot CL_V(s) \cdot \frac{b_0}{1 + a_1 \cdot s}$$
 where  $b_0 = 1/R_{load}$   $a_1 = L_{load}/R_{load}$ 

With a PI controller for Ci(s) and after  $\Sigma$  simplification by keeping the dominant pole:

$$OL_I(s) \approx k_p \cdot \left(1 + \frac{k_i}{s}\right) \cdot \frac{b_0}{1 + a_1 \cdot s}$$

Setting  $k_I = 1/a_1$  (pole cancellation) the closed loop can be written as

$$CL_I(s) = \frac{1}{1 + (a_1/k_p \cdot b_0) \cdot s}$$

Then choosing  $k_p = a_1 \cdot w_n / b_0$  with  $w_n = 2.2/t_r$ , the CL behaves like a 1<sup>st</sup> order system with a rise time equal to  $t_r$ 

This pole cancelation method requires a good knowledge of the process. If  $a_1$  is likely to vary ( $L_{load} = f(I)$ ) and especially when the pole  $-1/a_1$  is close to the origin, the following pole placement gives better results (Cf. next slide):  $k_p = (a_1 \cdot 2 \cdot \xi \cdot w_n - 1)/b_0$   $k_i = a_1 \cdot w_n^2/(k_p \cdot b_0)$ 

The CL then behaves like a 2<sup>nd</sup> order system which characteristic eq. =  $s^2/w_n^2 + (2 \cdot \xi/w_n) \cdot s + 1$ 

Pb: This controller setting gives rise to a zero  $-k_i$  in the CL TF which may affect the transient response => Solution to cancel this zero = filter the reference



#### Design of the current loop controller using pole placement

Solution to cancel the zero of the CL TF:



IP controller



Integral windup issue:

When the output of the current or voltage controller reaches its saturation value, the integral part of the controller gets 'overcharged' At the end of the saturated mode of operation, a negative error is needed to remove the accumulated positive error , which may give large transients => Anti-windup mechanism Example:





#### Benefits and consequences of using digital control over analog

- Development of digital technology over the past 2 decades
   Improvement in performance, cost and usability
- Increasing demands for higher performance and monitoring capabilities

Benefits of using digital control:

- Performance enhancement, as digital control allows more complex regulation schemes (Ex: Non linear, predictive, adaptive control strategies, ...)
- Improved flexibility
- Better reliability and reproducibility (no ageing effects, thermal drifts, ...)
- Better noise immunity
- Provides system monitoring and archiving capability
- More compact and lightweight
- Implementation of human-machine interface & external communication requires some kind of embedded processor

One major issue: Time delays introduced to do computations of control algorithm in the processor

Other drawbacks = Aliasing, quantization errors, limit cycling, software bugs, ...

NB: Interesting alternative = Mix of analog and digital

- ....

Growing use of digital control in power converters



#### Z transform = Major mathematical tool for analysis in such topics as digital control and digital signal processing

- Reminder: The Laplace transform X(s) of a continuous-time causal signal x(t) is given by  $X(s) = \int_{0-}^{+\infty} x(t) \cdot e^{-st} \cdot dt \qquad s = \sigma + j \cdot w \text{ such that X(s) converges}$
- Case of discrete-time causal signals:  $x^{*}(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} x(k) \cdot \delta(t - k \cdot Ts)$   $x(k) = x(t)|_{t=k \cdot Ts}$  $\{x(k)\}, k \in \mathbb{Z}$ : Sequence of sampled values (= 0  $\forall$  k<0)

Ts: Sampling period (assumed constant)

 $\delta$ : Dirac delta function



=> The Laplace transform X\*(s) of a discrete-time signal x\*(t) is given by  $X*(s) = \sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} x(k) \cdot e^{-s \cdot k \cdot Ts}$  (1)

Not a polynomial form...



With the change of variable  $z = e^{s \cdot Ts}$  in eq. (1), we derive the following expression **= definition of the Z-transform:** 

$$X(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} x(k) \cdot z^{-k}$$

 $\forall z \in \mathbb{C}$  for which X(z) converges

=> Takes the form of a polynomial of the complex variable z

The Z-transform is the discrete-time counter-part of the Laplace transform  $\Rightarrow$  Essential tool for the analysis and design of discrete-time systems

#### Interpretation of the variable z<sup>-1</sup>

From Laplace time shifting property, we know that  $e^{-s \cdot Ts}$  is time delay by Ts second Therefore  $z^{-1} = e^{-s \cdot Ts}$  corresponds to unit sample period delay



• Properties of Z-transforms

- Linearity 
$$Z[\lambda \cdot x(k) + \mu \cdot y(k)] = \lambda \cdot X(z) + \mu \cdot Y(z)$$

- Shifting property 
$$Z[x(k-n)] = z^{-n} \cdot X(z)$$

- Convolution 
$$Z[x(k) * y(k)] = Z\left[\sum_{n=-\infty}^{n=+\infty} x(n) \cdot y(k-n)\right] = X(z) \cdot Y(z)$$

- Multiply by k property 
$$Z[k \cdot x(k)] = -z \cdot \frac{d}{dz}(X(z))$$

- Final value 
$$\lim_{k \to \infty} x(k) = \lim_{z \to 1} (z-1) \cdot X(z)$$



#### • Examples of Z-transforms





#### • Z-transform Table

Time function	Laplace Transform	Discrete Time function	Z transform
$\delta(t)$	1	$\delta(nT)$	1
u(t)	$\frac{1}{s}$	u(nT)	$\frac{z}{z-1}$
t	$\frac{1}{s^2}$	nT	$\frac{zT}{\left(z-1\right)^2}$
$\frac{t^2}{2}$	$\frac{1}{s^3}$	$\frac{(nT)^2}{2}$	$\frac{z(z+1)T^2}{2(z-1)^3}$
$e^{-at}$	$\frac{1}{s+a}$	$e^{-anT}$	$\frac{z}{z - e^{-aT}}$
$t e^{-at}$	$\frac{1}{\left(s+a\right)^2}$	$nT e^{-a nT}$	$\frac{zT  e^{-aT}}{\left(z - e^{-aT}\right)^2}$
$a^{t/T}$	$\frac{1}{s - (1/T)\ln(a)}$	$a^n$	$\frac{z}{z-a} \qquad (a>0)$
$\sin(\omega t)$	$\frac{\omega}{s^2 + \omega^2}$	$\sin(\omega nT)$	$\frac{z\sin(\omega T)}{z^2 - 2z\cos(\omega T) + 1}$
$\cos(\omega t)$	$\frac{s}{s^2 + \omega^2}$	$\cos(\omega nT)$	$\frac{z^2 - z\cos(\omega T)}{z^2 - 2z\cos(\omega T) + 1}$



 $X(s) \rightarrow X(z)$  ?

Case of signals having only simple poles

$$X(s) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{A_i}{s - s_i} \qquad \qquad \Rightarrow x(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} A_i \cdot e^{s_i \cdot t} \quad t \ge 0$$

By sampling x(t), we obtain the following discrete sequence

$$x(k) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} A_i \cdot e^{s_i \cdot k \cdot Ts} \quad k \ge 0$$
  
From line 5 of the Z-transform table:  $X(z) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{A_i \cdot z}{z - e^{si \cdot Ts}}$ 

$$\Rightarrow X(s) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{A_i}{s - s_i} \xrightarrow{Z} X(z) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{A_i}{1 - e^{si \cdot Ts} \cdot z^{-1}}$$
(2)

=> A pole  $s_i$  in X(s) yields a pole  $z_i = e^{s_i \cdot Ts}$  in X(z)

$$s_i \xrightarrow{Z} z_i = e^{s_i \cdot Ts}$$



General case

$$X(z) = \sum_{s_i = \text{poles of } X(s)} \text{Residues } \left\{ X(s) \cdot \frac{1}{1 - e^{s \cdot Ts} \cdot z^{-1}} \right\}_{s = s_i}$$
(3)

Calculation of the residue at the pole  $s_j$  of multiplicity m:

Residue 
$$\left\{ X(s) \cdot \frac{1}{1 - e^{s \cdot Ts} \cdot z^{-1}} \right\}_{s=s_j} = \frac{1}{(m-1)!} \cdot \lim_{s \to s_j} \frac{d^{m-1}}{ds^{m-1}} \left[ (s-s_j)^m \cdot X(s) \cdot \frac{1}{1 - e^{s \cdot Ts} \cdot z^{-1}} \right]$$

For a simple pole (m = 1):

Residue 
$$\left\{X(s) \cdot \frac{1}{1 - e^{s \cdot Ts} \cdot z^{-1}}\right\}_{s=s_j} = \lim_{s \to s_j} (s - s_j) \cdot X(s) \cdot \frac{1}{1 - e^{s \cdot Ts} \cdot z^{-1}}$$

An example of calculation will be given further on in this document



#### Mapping from s-plane to z-plane

Since  $z_i = e^{s_i \cdot Ts} = e^{\sigma_i \cdot Ts} \cdot e^{j \cdot w_i \cdot Ts}$  we can map the s-plane to the z-plane as below:



NB: 2 poles in the s-plane which imaginary part differ by  $2\pi/T_s$  map to the same pole in the z-plane Bijective mapping between both planes =>  $Im(X(s)) \in [-\pi/T_s; +\pi/T_s]$ 

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\pi}{Ts} > \max_{i} \left\{ \left| Im(s_{i}) \right| \right\}$$



#### • Mapping from s-plane to z-plane



Legend:

	s = jw	z =1
	$s = \sigma \ge 0$	$z=r, r\geq 1$
- · - · -	$s = \sigma \le 0$	$z = r,  0 \le r \le 1$
=::=	$\begin{cases} s = -\zeta w_n \pm j w_n \sqrt{1 - \zeta^2} \\ \zeta = \text{Constant},  w_n \text{varies} \end{cases}$	Logarithmic spiral
	$s = \sigma \pm j \pi / Ts$	z = -r



#### Modelling of the plant to be controlled



Model of the DAC = Zero-order hold (ZOH)

 $\rightarrow$  Converts u(k) to u(t) by holding each sample value for one sample interval

 $u(t) = u(k), \quad k \cdot Ts \le t \le (k+1) \cdot Ts$  => Delay introduced by the ZOH = Ts/2

The Laplace transform transfer function of the ZOH is

$$H_{ZOH}(s) = \frac{1 - e^{-s \cdot Ts}}{s}$$
$$\implies H(z) = \left(1 - z^{-1}\right) \cdot Z\left[\frac{H(s)}{s}\right]$$

If H(s) has poles  $s = s_i$ , then H(z) has poles  $z = e^{s_i \cdot Ts}$ . But the zeros are unrelated



Calculation of  $Z\left[\frac{H(s)}{s}\right]$ :

- Partial fraction decomposition + use z-transform table

- If 
$$\frac{H(s)}{s}$$
 has only simple poles, use Eq. (2):  

$$\frac{H(s)}{s} = \frac{A_l}{s} + \sum_{i=2}^{N} \frac{A_i}{s - s_i} \xrightarrow{Z} X(z) = \frac{A_l}{1 - z^{-1}} + \sum_{i=2}^{N} \frac{A_i}{1 - e^{si \cdot Ts} \cdot z^{-1}}$$
- Use Eq. (3):  $H(z) = \sum_{s_i = poles \ of \ H(s)/s} \text{Residues } \left\{ \frac{H(s)}{s} \cdot \frac{1}{1 - e^{s \cdot Ts} \cdot z^{-1}} \right\}_{s = s_i}$ 

#### - $H(z) \rightarrow$ Ask Matlab: Function 'c2d'

**Syntax** sysd = c2d(sys,Ts)

#### Description

sysd = c2d(sys,Ts) discretizes the continuous-time LTI model sys using zero-order hold on the inputs and a sample time of Ts seconds.



# Digitally controlled continuous-time systems

Let 
$$Y(z) = Z[y(k)]$$
;  $Yref(z) = Z[Yref(k)]$ ;  $E(z) = Z[\varepsilon(k)]$ ;  $U(z) = Z[u(k)]$ 

Open-loop transfer function:

$$\frac{Y(z)}{E(z)} = C(z) \cdot H(z)$$

Closed-loop transfer function:

$$\frac{Y(z)}{Yref(z)} = \frac{C(z) \cdot H(z)}{1 + C(z) \cdot H(z)}$$

Controller algorithm:

Transfer function of the digital controller

$$C(z) = \frac{U(z)}{E(z)} = \frac{b_0 + b_1 \cdot z^{-1} + \dots + b_p \cdot z^{-p}}{1 + a_1 \cdot z^{-1} + \dots + a_n \cdot z^{-n}}$$
  

$$\Rightarrow \left(1 + a_1 \cdot z^{-1} + \dots + a_n \cdot z^{-n}\right) \cdot U(z) = \left(b_0 + b_1 \cdot z^{-1} + \dots + b_p \cdot z^{-p}\right) \cdot E(z)$$
  
Hence  

$$u(k) + a_1 \cdot u(k-1) + \dots + a_n \cdot u(k-n) = b_0 \cdot \varepsilon(k) + b_1 \cdot \varepsilon(k-1) + \dots + b_p \cdot \varepsilon(k-p)$$

$$\Rightarrow u(k) = b_0 \cdot \varepsilon(k) + b_1 \cdot \varepsilon(k-1) + \dots + b_p \cdot \varepsilon(k-p) - a_1 \cdot u(k-1) - \dots - a_n \cdot u(k-n)$$

= **Difference equation**, where present output is dependent on present input and past inputs and outputs

(Z[x(k -



# Digitally controlled continuous-time systems



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#### Modelling of the PWM converter

The PWM can be modelled by a DAC



#### Using Eq. (3), with a double pole:

$$Z\left[\frac{e^{\theta \cdot s}}{s^{2}}\right] = \frac{1}{(2-1)!} \cdot \lim_{s \to 0} \frac{d^{2-1}}{ds^{2-1}} \left[ (s-0)^{2} \cdot \frac{e^{\theta \cdot s}}{s^{2}} \cdot \frac{1}{1 - e^{s \cdot Ts} \cdot z^{-1}} \right]$$
$$= \lim_{s \to 0} \frac{d}{ds} \left[ e^{\theta \cdot s} \cdot \frac{1}{1 - e^{s \cdot Ts} \cdot z^{-1}} \right] = \frac{\theta \cdot (1 - z^{-1}) + Ts \cdot z^{-1}}{(1 - z^{-1})^{2}}$$

In this example n = 1 and  $\theta = 0$ 

$$\Rightarrow H(z) = \frac{Vdc \cdot Ts}{2 \cdot L} \cdot \frac{z^{-2}}{1 - z^{-1}}$$



#### System behavior & stability

- = determined by the roots of the closed-loop TF polynomials
- Stability of digital closed-loops





**Closed-loop transfer function:** 

$$CL(z) = \frac{Y(z)}{Yref(z)} = \frac{C(z) \cdot H(z)}{1 + C(z) \cdot H(z)}$$

#### Closed-loop stability ⇔

Modulus of the closed-loop TF poles (= Roots of the characteristic equation  $1 + C(z) \cdot H(z) = 0$ ) < 1



Im[OL]

#### Robustness

**Open-loop transfer function:**  $OL(z) = C(z) \cdot H(z)$ 



NB: Matlab plots & margins  $\rightarrow$  Functions 'nyquist' , 'bode' , 'margin'



Influence of the poles on the transient behavior

Illustration with the step response analysis of a system CL(z) having only simple poles:

$$y(k) = CL(1) + \sum_{\substack{i=1 \ real}}^{n} c_i \cdot z_i^{\ k} + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \ complex}}^{m} |c_j| \cdot |z_j|^k \cdot \cos(k \cdot \theta_j + \varphi_j)$$

- Steady-state:

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} y(k) = CL(1)$$

- Contribution of real poles  $z_i$ 

Sum of exponential terms  $\begin{cases} \xrightarrow{k \to \infty} 0 & \text{if } |z_i| < 1\\ \xrightarrow{k \to \infty} \pm \infty & \text{if } |z_i| > 1 \end{cases}$ 

#### - Contribution of complex conjugate poles z<sub>j</sub>

Oscillating  $\begin{cases} \xrightarrow{k \to \infty} 0 & if |z_j| < 1 \Rightarrow \text{Damped oscillations} \\ \xrightarrow{k \to \infty} \pm \infty & if |z_j| > 1 \Rightarrow \text{Undamped oscillations} \end{cases}$ 



Influence of the poles on the transient behavior





#### NB: Poles closer to origin $\rightarrow$ Faster transient regime



#### • Particular case: 2nd order systems

As seen previously, a common controller design method consists to derive the controller parameters from a pole placement such that the dominant closed-loop dynamics is of second order  $Den_{ct} = (s) = (s^2 + 2 \cdot \zeta \cdot w + w^2) \cdot P = (s)$ 

#### **Reminder: Continuous-time theory**

The design specifications imply constraints on the cut-off frequency  $w_n$ and the damping ratio  $\zeta$ 

#### Discrete closed-loops:



$$\begin{cases} \text{Rise time (10\% \rightarrow 90\%):} \\ t_r \approx (2.6 \cdot \zeta^2 - 0.45 \cdot \zeta + 1.2) / w_n \\ \text{Peak overshoot:} \quad M_p = e^{-\pi \cdot \zeta / \sqrt{1 - \zeta^2}} \\ \text{Settling time (to 1\%):} \quad t_s \approx 4.6 / \zeta \cdot w_n \end{cases}$$

Pole mapping from s-plane to z-plane:  

$$s_{1} = -w_{n} \cdot \left(\zeta - j \cdot \sqrt{1 - \zeta^{2}}\right) \Rightarrow z_{1} = e^{-w_{n} \cdot Ts \cdot \left(\zeta - j \cdot \sqrt{1 - \zeta^{2}}\right)}$$

$$s_{1} = -w_{n} \cdot \left(\zeta - j \cdot \sqrt{1 - \zeta^{2}}\right) \Rightarrow z_{1} = e^{-w_{n} \cdot Ts \cdot \left(\zeta - j \cdot \sqrt{1 - \zeta^{2}}\right)}$$

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$$s_{1} = -w_{n} \cdot \left(\zeta - j \cdot \sqrt{1 - \zeta^{2}}\right) \Rightarrow z_{1} = e^{-w_{n} \cdot Ts \cdot \left(\zeta - j \cdot \sqrt{1 - \zeta^{2}}\right)}$$

$$s_{2} = -\zeta \cdot w_{n} \Rightarrow z_{1} = e^{-\zeta \cdot w_{n}} \Rightarrow z_{1} = e^{-\zeta \cdot w_{n}} \Rightarrow |z_{1}| < e^{-4.6/\zeta \cdot w_{n$$



Particular case: 2nd order systems

#### Influence of a zero



- Increasing overshoot when the zero is moving towards +1  $\rightarrow$  Take care...

- The reference tracking performance can be improved by designing appropriate zeros in the closed-loop transfer function





Same conclusions as for continuous-time closed-loops

- Precision versus the input

To achieve zero steady-state error, we require

- $\rightarrow$  at least 1 integrator (pole @ z =1) in the open-loop TF  $C(z) \cdot H(z)$  for a step input
- $\rightarrow$  at least 2 integrators in the open-loop TF for a ramp input
- → ...

#### - Perturbation rejection

To reject disturbances of class N  $\rightarrow$  at least N integrators in  $C(z) \cdot H(z)$ 



2 main ways to synthesize discrete-time controllers:





#### Emulation design

1rst step: Continuous-time controller design. At this stage the sampling is ignored (But the impact on the phase margin of the control delay & anti-aliasing filter should preferably be taken into account → preserve stability margin)

2nd step: Discretization of the continuous-time controller (Followed by simulations to check # Methods: performance)

- Approximate *s*, i.e.  $C(s) \rightarrow C(z)$
- Pole-zero matching

3rd step: Derivation of the controller algorithm (difference equation)

#### Approximation methods:

- Euler

$$s \to \frac{1}{Ts} \cdot \left(1 - z^{-1}\right)$$

- Tustin's or bilinear approximation

$$s \to \frac{2}{Ts} \cdot \frac{1 - z^{-1}}{1 + z^{-1}}$$

Example: Discretization of a PI controller using Tustin's approximation

$$C(s) = Kp \cdot \left(1 + \frac{1}{Ti \cdot s}\right) \qquad \Box \qquad C(z) = C(s)|_{s = \frac{2}{Ts} \cdot \frac{1 - z^{-1}}{1 + z^{-1}}} = Kp \cdot \left(\frac{1 + Ts/(2 \cdot Ti) + (-1 + Ts/(2 \cdot Ti)) \cdot z^{-1}}{1 - z^{-1}}\right)$$

Matlab: sysd = c2d(sys,Ts,'tustin')

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• Comparison between Euler and Tustin's approx.





- Comparison between Euler and Tustin's approx.
  - Pole and zero locations not preserved  $\rightarrow$  Frequency response is changed
  - Increasing the sampling frequency  $\rightarrow$  Smaller approximation errors



=> Better result with Tustin



#### • Comparison between Euler and Tustin's approx.

#### Example 2: Ideal derivative



Euler: Filtering effect @ high frequencies

Tustin: Magnitude  $\rightarrow \infty$  when w  $\rightarrow \pi/Ts$ Noise amplification @ high frequencies

=> Euler more appropriate for discretization of high-pass filters

=> Tustin more appropriate for discretization of low-pass filters

Other discretization method = Matched transform

 $C(s) = K \cdot \frac{\prod (s - r_j)}{\prod_j (s - \sigma_j)} \xrightarrow{Z} C(z) = Kc \cdot \frac{\prod (z - e^{r_j \cdot Ts})}{\prod (z - e^{\sigma_j \cdot Ts})}$ sysd = c2d(sy Kc is set so to obtain the same static gain

No frequency distortion => Well-adapted for the discretization of transfer functions including resonances (ex: notch filter, ...)



#### Direct discrete-time design

- A system controlled using an emulation controller always suffer performance degradation compared with its continuous-time counter-part

- To reduce the degree of degradation, very fast sampling can be needed, as {ADC – Digital controller – DAC} should behave the same as the analogue controller (generally PID type = very simple control algorithm)

Bad use of the potentialities of the digital controller

In this case, direct discrete-time design offers an alternative solution, since in this design the sampling is considered from the beginning of the design process

1<sup>st</sup> step: Discretization of the continuous-time plant

2<sup>rd</sup> step: Choice of controller type and synthesis methodology

3<sup>rd</sup> step: Derivation of the controller algorithm (difference equation)



#### • Choice of the sampling period

- Ts too small => Fast and expensive control hardware

=> Numerical issues: Recall the relation between poles in s-domain and z-domain:  $z_i = e^{s_i \cdot Ts}$  => For  $Ts \rightarrow 0$  we have  $z_i \rightarrow 1 \quad \forall s_i$ 

 $\rightarrow$  Makes trouble when working in finite precision

=> Systems with control delays that are not multiples of the sampling period: Plant discretization may bring about unstable zeros

 $\rightarrow$  Limitation on the possible method to compute the regulator

=> If the sampling frequency of the outer current loop is small enough in comparison with the inner voltage loop bandwidth: No need to include the digital model of the voltage source  $\rightarrow$  Lower order controller, less complexity

- Ts too large => Loss of information, aliasing (violation of the sampling theorem) => Regulation may not react enough readily to disturbances affecting the  $\Sigma$ => Plant discretization may give birth to poles having negative real part: Not desirable as the step response caused by such poles cycles back and forth between positive and negative deviations from the steady-state value To prevent this: Re[ $z_i$ ]>0 =>  $1/Ts > 2/\pi \cdot |Im[s_i]$ 

Rule of thumb:

Choice of Ts based on the closed-loop bandwidth  $F^{CL}_{B}$ 

$$\frac{1}{Ts} = (6 \ to \ 25) \cdot F^{CL}{}_B$$



- RST controller structure
  - Digital control → Enables implementation of new controller structures



R, S and T are 3 polynomials to be determined (usually by pole placement)

• The control signal is calculated as  $U(z) = \frac{T(z^{-1})}{S(z^{-1})} \cdot Yref(z) - \frac{R(z^{-1})}{S(z^{-1})} \cdot Y(z)$ 

=> Combination of Feedforward and Feedback that can be tuned separately

• General approach with RST: Decouple the regulation pb from the tracking pb





- RST controller structure
  - Closed-loop system equation:

$$Y = \frac{B \cdot T}{A \cdot S + B \cdot R} \cdot Yref + \frac{A \cdot S}{A \cdot S + B \cdot R} \cdot P$$

• Synthesis of the RST control law using pole-zero placement: 1<sup>st</sup> step: Choose arbitrarily a desired closed-loop transfer function or model  $CL_{des}(z^{-1}) = B_m(z^{-1})/A_m(z^{-1})$ 

2<sup>nd</sup> step: Cancel poles and zeros of the plant TF (stable ones)

$$\begin{array}{lll} A(z^{-1}) = A^{-}(z^{-1}) \cdot A^{+}(z^{-1}) & \implies & R(z^{-1}) = A^{+}(z^{-1}) \cdot R_{1}(z^{-1}) \\ B(z^{-1}) = B^{-}(z^{-1}) \cdot B^{+}(z^{-1}) & \implies & S(z^{-1}) = B^{+}(z^{-1}) \cdot S_{1}(z^{-1}) \\ & \implies & S(z^{-1}) = B^{+}(z^{-1}) \cdot S_{1}(z^{-1}) \end{array}$$

- $A^{-}(z^{-1})$ : *"non-compensable poles"* = unstable & poorly damped poles + poles with negative real part
- $B^{-}(z^{-1})$ : "non-compensable zeros" = unstable & poorly damped zeros + plant pure delay  $z^{-d}$  (d  $\geq$  1) + zeros having negative real part

Cannot be a factor of  $A \cdot S + B \cdot R$  (=> CL unstable), thus:  $B_m = B^- \cdot B_{m_1}$ 

3<sup>rd</sup> step: Perturbation rejection in steady-state

The open-loop TF must contain the classes of perturbation => Introduce an appropriate nb of integral terms in the controller by means of the polynomial S

 $S_1(z^{-1}) = (1 - z^{-1})^{n-l} \cdot S_2(z^{-1})$  *n*: perturbation class *l*: plant class



#### RST controller structure

Synthesis of the RST control law (cont'd)

4<sup>th</sup> step: Compute R and S = Solve the following Diophantine equation such that the poles of the CL regulated system are in the required position

$$A^{-}(z^{-1}) \cdot (1-z^{-1})^{n-l} \cdot S_{2}(z^{-1}) + B^{-}(z^{-1}) \cdot R_{1}(z^{-1}) = A_{m}(z^{-1})$$

5<sup>th</sup> step: Compute T

$$T(z^{-1}) = A^+(z^{-1}) \cdot B_{m_1}(z^{-1})$$

NB: To ensure unity gain to the CL TF, we must have T(1) = R(1)

**Particular case:** System with stable zeros (apart from the pure delay  $z^{-1}$  systematically present = consequence of the ZOH) =>  $B^- = z^{-1}$ 

Then the tracking TF is 
$$\frac{Y}{Yref} = \frac{B \cdot T}{A \cdot S + B \cdot R} = \frac{z^{-1} \cdot B^+ \cdot A^+ \cdot B_{m_1}}{A^+ \cdot A^- \cdot B^+ \cdot S_1 + z^{-1} \cdot B^+ \cdot A^+ \cdot R_1} = \frac{z^{-1} \cdot B_{m_1}}{A_m} = \frac{B_m}{A_m}$$
  
Choosing  $B_{m_1}(z^{-1}) = A_m(z^{-1})$ , thus  $T(z^{-1}) = A^+(z^{-1}) \cdot A_m(z^{-1})$ 

 $=> \frac{Y}{Yref} = z^{-1}$  NB: Requires an accurate modelling of the system → Identification may be necessary. Moreover, if the Σ parameters are likely to vary (ex: magnet saturation →  $L_{load} = f(I)$ ), adaptive control may be required



#### RST controller structure

• Synthesis of the RST control law (cont'd)

Choice of  $A_m$ Degree( $A_m$ )  $\leq$  degree of the first member of the Diophantine eq. If CL desired behavior = 2<sup>nd</sup> order  $\Sigma$ :  $A_m(z^{-1}) = (1 - z_1 \cdot z^{-1}) \cdot (1 - \bar{z_1} \cdot z^{-1}) \cdot P_{aux}(z^{-1})$  $\begin{cases} z_1, \bar{z_1} = e^{-\zeta \cdot w_n \cdot T_S} \cdot e^{\pm j \cdot w_n \cdot T_S \cdot \sqrt{1 - \zeta^2}} = \text{dominant poles} \\ P_{aux}(z^{-1}) \text{ contains the } \{\text{degree}(A_m) - 2\} \text{ remaining poles } z_i, \\ \text{chosen for example such that } |z_i| \leq 0.1 \text{ (=> fast transient response as compared to the one due to } z_1, \bar{z_1}) \end{cases}$ 

PID = Special case of RST controller

$$Num_{PID}(z^{-1}) = R(z^{-1}) = r_0 + r_1 \cdot z^{-1} + r_2 \cdot z^{-2} \qquad T(z^{-1}) = R(z^{-1})$$
$$Den_{PID}(z^{-1}) = S(z^{-1}) = (1 - z^{-1}) \cdot (1 + s_1 \cdot z^{-1})$$

• IP controller

$$Num_{PI}(z^{-1}) = R(z^{-1}) = r_0 + r_1 \cdot z^{-1} \qquad T(z^{-1}) = R(1) = r_0 + r_1$$
$$Den_{PI}(z^{-1}) = S(z^{-1}) = 1 - z^{-1}$$

Polynomial T = simple gain chosen to ensure unity gain to the closed-loop TF



#### RST controller structure

Example: Design a RST for the current loop of the previously presented Buck converter

System model:

$$\frac{B(z^{-1})}{A(z^{-1})} = CL_V(z^{-1}) \cdot \frac{z^{-n}}{R_{load}} \cdot \frac{(e^{-a\cdot\theta} - e^{-a\cdot Ts}) \cdot z^{-1} + 1 - e^{-a\cdot\theta}}{1 - z^{-1} \cdot e^{-a\cdot Ts}}$$

$$CL_V(z^{-1})$$
 = Voltage  
closed-loop TF  
 $a = R_{load}/L_{load}$   
 $tc = n \cdot Ts - \theta$  = Control  
delay

Assume 1/Ts << voltage CL bandwidth, Ts << 1/a, tc << Ts

$$\implies \qquad \frac{B(z^{-1})}{A(z^{-1})} \approx \frac{b_0 \cdot z^{-1}}{1 - z^{-1}} \quad b_0 = \frac{Ts}{L_{load}}$$

Analog signals often sampled @ a rate > 1/Ts: If cut-off freq. of anti-aliasing filter >>  $F^{CL}_{B}$ , no need to take it into account in the model

Diophantine equation:  $(1-z^{-1})^2 + b_0 \cdot z^{-1} \cdot (r_0 + r_1 \cdot z^{-1}) = (1-z_1 \cdot z^{-1}) \cdot (1-\bar{z_1} \cdot z^{-1})$  $\Rightarrow r_0 = \frac{2 - (z_1 + \bar{z_1})}{b_0} \quad r_1 = \frac{z_1 \cdot \bar{z_1} - 1}{b_0}$ 

Choice for T:

- If no tracking requirement:  $T(z^{-1}) = r_0 + r_1$
- => No undesirable zero in the CL TF = no overshoot
- Fast tracking required:

$$T(z^{-1}) = (1 - z_1 \cdot z^{-1}) \cdot (1 - \overline{z_1} \cdot z^{-1}) / b_0$$





# A lot more... But time is over

# Thank you for your attention

**Questions?**