# Notes on Nonlinear Control

Jan Peters

April 27, 2004

# 1 Second-order Systems

### 1.1 Basics

Every second order system can be brought in the state-space form

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_1(x_1, x_2, t) \\ f_2(x_1, x_2, t) \end{bmatrix}.$$

For second-order systems, we are mostly interested in the phase plane  $(x_2, x_1)$ . The angle of the trajectory is given by

$$\theta(f(\mathbf{x})) = \tan^{-1} \frac{\dot{x}_2}{\dot{x}_1} = \tan^{-1} \frac{f_2(x_1, x_2, t)}{f_1(x_1, x_2, t)},$$

at a point  $\vec{x}$ .

#### 1.2 Linear Systems

Every linear system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$  can be transformed into an equivalent, canonical linear system by  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{Q}^{-1}\mathbf{x}$ , where the qualitative behavior of both is equivalent, and the one of  $\mathbf{z}$  is denoted by

$$\dot{\mathbf{z}} = \mathbf{Q}^{-1} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{\Lambda} \mathbf{z}.$$

The matrix  $\Lambda$  is determined by the Eigenvalues. The Eigenvalues can be computed by

$$\lambda_{1/2} = \frac{T}{2} \pm \frac{T}{2}\sqrt{T^2 - 4\Delta},$$

where  $T = \text{Tr } \mathbf{A}$ , and  $\Delta = \det \mathbf{A}$ . This yields several cases as shown in Table 1. The local coordinate system is then given by the

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{q}_1 z_1 + \mathbf{q}_2 z_2,$$

where  $\mathbf{Q} = [\mathbf{q}_1, \mathbf{q}_2]$ . Hence you can just draw each coordinate system by by setting one of the  $z_i = 0$ .

Eigenvalues	Type	Picture
$\lambda_i > 0$ , and $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{R}$	Stable node	(a) the second s
$\lambda_i < 0$ , and $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{R}$	Unstable node	110 110 8 100 8 100 8
$\lambda_1 \cdot \lambda_2 < 0$ , and $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{R}$	Saddle point	XX (1) XX
$\lambda_i = \alpha \pm j\beta$ , and $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}$	Unstable focus	
$\lambda_i = \alpha \pm j\beta$ , and $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}$	Stable focus	12 1
$\lambda_i = \pm j\beta_i$ , and $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}$	Center	

Table 1: A table showing all main behaviors of second order systems

### 1.3 Second-order linear differential equation

The general second order linear differential equation can be given as

$$\ddot{y} + 2\xi\omega\dot{y} + \omega^2 = 0,$$

and it has the Eigenvalues  $\lambda_{1/2} = -\xi \omega \pm \omega \sqrt{\xi - 2}$ . This implies that it can be a stable focus  $(0 < \xi < 1)$ , a stable node  $(\xi > 1)$ , a center  $(\xi = 0)$ , an unstable focus  $(-1 < \xi < 0)$ , or an unstable node  $(\xi < -1)$ .

#### 1.4 Analysis by Linearization

We can linearize the system around an equilibrium point  $\mathbf{x}_{eq}$  for which  $f(\mathbf{x}_{eq}) = 0$ . When defining  $\Delta \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_{eq}$ , we can linearize the local solution and get

$$\begin{split} \Delta \dot{x}_1 &= \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} \Delta x_1 + \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_2} \Delta x_2 + \epsilon_1, \\ \Delta \dot{x}_2 &= \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_1} \Delta x_1 + \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_2} \Delta x_2 + \epsilon_2, \end{split}$$

where  $\epsilon \in O(\Delta x^2)$ . For small  $\Delta x_i$  the linearized system yields similar behavior as the nonlinear one except for the center.

#### 1.5 Drawing Phase Planes

This gives a recipe for drawing phase planes:

- 1. Horizontal axis is denoted by  $x_1$ , vertical axis by  $x_2$ .
- 2. Equilibrium Points
  - (a) Determine equilibrium points by  $f(\mathbf{x}_{eq}) = 0$ .
  - (b) Linearize around equilibrium points by  $A_{ij} = \partial f_i / \partial x_j$ .
  - (c) Determine equilibrium point type from Eigenvalues by

$$\lambda_{1/2} = \frac{T}{2} \pm \frac{T}{2}\sqrt{T^2 - 4\Delta},$$

where  $T = \text{Tr} \mathbf{A}$ , and  $\Delta = \det \mathbf{A}$ 

- (d) Determine local coordinate system or Eigenvectors from Table 1.
- (e) Draw local trajectories using the example.

#### 3. Determine Isoclines

- (a) Vertical arrows up where  $\dot{x}_1 = 0$ ,  $\dot{x}_2 > 0$ .
- (b) Vertical arrows down where  $\dot{x}_1 = 0$ ,  $\dot{x}_2 < 0$ .
- (c) Horizontal arrows to the right where  $\dot{x}_2 = 0$ ,  $\dot{x}_1 > 0$ .
- (d) Horizontal arrows to the left where  $\dot{x}_2 = 0$ ,  $\dot{x}_1 < 0$ .
- 4. Use symmetry if possible.
- 5. Draw Trajectories which do not intersect.

### **1.6** Special case: $\ddot{y} = g(\dot{y}, y)$

The system  $\ddot{y} = g(\dot{y}, y)$  becomes  $\dot{x}_1 = \dot{y} = x_2$ ,  $\dot{x}_2 = g(\dot{y}, y) = g(x_2, x_1)$  in state-space form. It has the following properties:

- All equilibrium points intersect with the horizontal axis.
- All trajectories have vertical slope at the horizontal axis.
- If  $|g(\dot{y}, y)|$  is bounded, the vertical slope can only occur on the horizontal axis.



Figure 1: Separation of the linear and nonlinear block.

# 2 Piecewiese linear Switching Systems

### 2.1 Response to a Step Impulse

The response to a step input can be analyzed as follows:

- 1. Separate the system into a nonlinear system  $N(e, \dot{e})$  and a linear system F(s) as in Figure 1.
- 2. Transform the F(s) = Y(s)/U(s) into time-domain where  $f(y, \dot{y}, \ddot{y}) + u = 0$ .
- 3. The step input  $r(t) = A \cdot 1(t)$ , yields e = r y = A y, which implies

$$y = A - e, \ \dot{y} = -\dot{e}, \ \ddot{y} = -\ddot{e},$$

and therefore

$$f(A - e, -\dot{e}, -\ddot{e}) + N(e) = 0$$

- 4. Separate all linear regions of N(e) by decision borders, and rename the  $x_1 = e$ , and  $x_2 = \dot{e}$ .
- 5. Analyze the different piece-wise linear regions. Use separation of variable for dr

$$\frac{dx_2}{dx_1} = h(x_1, x_2)$$

if possible. Three practical cases:(i) Lines  $h(x_1, x_2) = const$ , (ii) Parabola  $h(x_1, x_2) = B/x_2$ .

### 2.2 Response to a Ramp Impulse

The response to a step input can be analyzed as follows:

- 1. Separate the system into a nonlinear system  $N(e, \dot{e})$  and a linear system F(s) as in Figure 1.
- 2. Transform the F(s) = Y(s)/U(s) into time-domain where  $f(y, \dot{y}, \ddot{y}) + u = 0$ .

3. The step input r(t) = At, yields e = At - y, which implies

$$y = At - e, \, \dot{y} = A - \dot{e}, \, \ddot{y} = -\ddot{e},$$

and therefore

$$f(At - e, A - \dot{e}, -\ddot{e}) + N(e) = 0.$$

- 4. Separate all linear regions of N(e) by decision borders, and rename the  $x_1 = e$ , and  $x_2 = \dot{e}$ .
- 5. Analyze the different piece-wise linear regions. Use separation of variable for

$$\frac{dx_2}{dx_1} = h(x_1, x_2),$$

if possible. Three practical cases:(i) Lines  $h(x_1, x_2) = const$ , (ii) Parabola  $h(x_1, x_2) = B/x_2$ .

# 3 Conservative Systems

### 3.1 Basics

Aconservative system is given by

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ -f(x_1) \end{bmatrix},$$

which implies

$$\frac{dx_2}{dx_1} = -\frac{f(x_1)}{x_2} \Rightarrow \frac{x_2^2}{2} + \int_{x_{10}}^{x_1} f(x_1)dx_1 = T + V = E,$$

where T is kinetic energy, V is potential energy, and E the total energy determined by the initial conditions. Trajectories can be determined by  $x_2 = \pm \sqrt{2(E - V(x_1))}$ .

## 3.2 Interesting Notes

Interestingly, we have:

• The equilibrium points are at the extrema of the potential energy

$$f(x_1) = \frac{\partial V}{\partial x_1} = 0.$$

- Maxima of  $V(x_1)$  are stable equilibrium points.
- Minima of  $V(x_1)$  are instable equilibrium (saddle) points.

# 4 Describing Function Method

### 4.1 Basics

DFM is employed to determine self-oscillation.

- 1. Assume a time-invariant N(e),  $e = \hat{e} \sin \omega t$ .
- 2. Determine y(t) by Fourier series expansion while neglecting bias ( $\alpha_0$  or k = 0), and higher order harmonics (k > 2). The Fourier coefficients are

$$\alpha_1 = \int_{t_0}^{t_0+T} y(t) \cos(\omega t) dt,$$
  
$$\beta_1 = \int_{t_0}^{t_0+T} y(t) \sin(\omega t) dt.$$

3. This yields

$$y(t) = \alpha_1 \cos \omega t + \beta_1 \sin \omega t = (\beta_1 + \alpha_1 j) \sin \omega t = N_1 \sin \omega t$$

where 
$$N_1 = \sqrt{\alpha_1^2 + \beta_1^2} e^{j\phi}$$
 with  $\phi = \tan(\alpha_1/\beta_1)$ .

4. Determine the equivalent gain or describing function

$$\eta(\hat{e},\omega) = \frac{1}{\hat{e}}\sqrt{\alpha_1^2 + \beta_1^2}e^{j\phi} = \frac{1}{\hat{e}}(\beta_1 + \alpha_1 j).$$

This yields the output oscillations

$$y(t) = \eta(\hat{e}, \omega)\hat{e}\sin\omega t.$$

#### 4.2 Properties

We have proved the following properties in the lecture:

- A sinusoidal describing function for a memoryless nonlinearity is always real, i.e.,  $\alpha_1 = 0$ .
- If nonlinear characteristic N(e) is memoryless, and time-invariant, then the chracteristic function is independent of the frequency  $\eta(\hat{e}, \omega) = \eta(\hat{e})$ .

#### 4.3 Analysis of Limit Cycles with DFM

The input is assumed to be a pure sinusoid, and higher order harmonic effects are neglected. We call the linear system G(s). This allows the following recipe:

1. Replace N(e) by  $\eta(\hat{e}, \omega)$ . Determine  $G(j\omega) = G(s)|_{j\omega}$ .



Figure 2: The Family of Nyquest Plots methods is described in (a), and the Nyquest plane of  $G(j\omega)$  is shown in (b).

2. A limit cycle exists if

$$G(j\omega) = -\frac{1}{\eta(\hat{e},\omega)},$$

or equivalently

$$\eta_R G_R + \eta_I G_I = -1,$$
  
$$\eta_R G_I + \eta_I G_R = 0.$$

- 3. This can be solved either by any of the following methods.
  - Family of Nyquest Plots: Plot imaginary component  $\text{Im}[G(j\omega)\eta(\hat{e},\omega)]$ versus real component  $\text{Re}[G(j\omega)\eta(\hat{e},\omega)]$  for different  $\hat{e}$ , and find the  $\hat{e}_{-1}$  for which  $G(j\omega)\eta(\hat{e}_{-1},\omega) = -1$ . The  $\omega$  for which this is true is the frequency of the cycle. See Figure 2 (a).
  - Nyquest plane of  $G(j\omega)$ : Plot  $G(j\omega)$  as functions of  $\omega$ , and  $-1/\eta(\hat{e})$  as functions of  $\hat{e}$ . The  $\omega$ , and  $\hat{e}$  where they meet are frequency and amplitude of the cycle, respectively. See Figure 2 (b).
  - **Analytical method:** For memory-free nonlinearities, we can solve the equation  $\eta_R(\hat{e})G_I(j\omega) = 0$  for  $\omega = \omega_c$ . We substitute this and solve  $\eta_R(\hat{e})G_R(j\omega_c) = -1$  for  $\hat{e} = \hat{e}_c$ .
- 4. Determine closed loop stability as shown in Figure 3, or using

$$\max_{\hat{e}} \left( -\frac{1}{\eta(\hat{e})} \right) > G(j\omega_C).$$

# 5 Lyopanov Equilibrium Point Analysis

#### 5.1 Definitions

**Equilibrium Point:** The point  $\mathbf{x}_0$  is an EQ iff  $f(\mathbf{x}_0, t) = 0$ .



Figure 3: This figure shows the stability analysis for a system with a memory-free nonlinearity.

**Isolated EQP:**  $\mathbf{x}_0$  is an isolated EQ iff  $\mathbf{x}_0$  EQ $\land \neg \exists \mathbf{x} \in B_{\epsilon}(\mathbf{x}_0) : f(\mathbf{x}, t) = 0.$ 

Lyopanov function: Scalar function  $V(\mathbf{x}, t)$ , derivbative is  $\dot{V}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \partial V / \partial t + (\partial V / \partial \mathbf{x})^T f(\mathbf{x}, t)$ .

**LDPF:**  $\forall \mathbf{x} \in B_{\epsilon}(\mathbf{x}_0) : V(\mathbf{x}, t) \ge W(\mathbf{x}) > 0$ , and  $V(\mathbf{0}, t) = W(\mathbf{0}) = 0$ .

**PDF:**  $\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : V(\mathbf{x}, t) \ge W(\mathbf{x}) > 0$ , and  $V(\mathbf{0}, t) = W(\mathbf{0}) = 0$ .

**Radially unbounded:**  $\lim_{\|\mathbf{x}\|\to\infty} W(\mathbf{x})\to\infty.$ 

**Decrescent:**  $\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n, t \ge 0 : V(\mathbf{x}, t) \le \hat{W}(\mathbf{x}).$ 

#### 5.2 Stability

Stability: An EQ is stable if

$$\forall \epsilon > 0 : \exists \delta(t_0, \epsilon) > 0 : \|\mathbf{x}(t_0)\| < \delta(t_0, \epsilon) \Longrightarrow \|\mathbf{x}(t)\| < \epsilon . \forall t \ge t_0.$$

This is implied by: V lpdf, and  $V(\mathbf{x}, t) \leq 0$ .

Uniform Stability: An EQ is uniformly stable if

 $\forall \epsilon > 0 : \exists \delta(\epsilon) > 0 : \|\mathbf{x}(t_0)\| < \delta(\epsilon) \Longrightarrow \|\mathbf{x}(t)\| < \epsilon . \forall t \ge t_0.$ 

This is implied by: V decrescrent, lpdf, and  $\dot{V}(\mathbf{x}, t) \leq 0$ .

- Asymptotic stability: An EQ is asymptotically stable iff  $\exists \delta > 0 : \|\mathbf{x}(t_0)\| < \delta \implies \lim_{t \to \infty} \|\mathbf{x}(t)\| = 0$ . This is implied by: V decreases the proof of V decreases of V decreases the proof of V decreases of V decr
- **Global Asymptotic Stability:** V decrescrent, pdf, radially unbounded, and  $-\dot{V}(\mathbf{x},t) \leq -\hat{W}(\mathbf{x})$ .

- **Exponential Stability:** A EQ is exponentially stable iff  $\exists r, b, a > 0 : ||\mathbf{x}(t)|| \le k ||\mathbf{x}(t_0)|| e^{-bt}$ .  $\forall t \ge t_0$ . This is given by:  $\forall \mathbf{x} \in B_{\epsilon}(\mathbf{x}_0) : a ||\mathbf{x}||^p \le V(\mathbf{x}, t) \le b ||\mathbf{x}||^p$ ,  $V(\mathbf{x}, t) \le -c ||\mathbf{x}||^p$ .
- **Global Exponential Stability:**  $\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : a \|\mathbf{x}\|^p \leq V(\mathbf{x}, t) \leq b \|\mathbf{x}\|^p, \dot{V}(\mathbf{x}, t) \leq -c \|\mathbf{x}\|^p$ .

### 5.3 Further Lyopanov Methods

- **Instability theorem:** Choose a V so that  $+\dot{V}$  is lpdf, and  $V(\mathbf{0}, t) = 0$ . Show that  $V(\mathbf{x}, t) > 0$  for any point  $\mathbf{x}$  which is arbitrarily close to the origin.
- **La-Salle Krakovski:**  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  is asymptotically stable if (i)  $V(\mathbf{x})$  lpdf, (ii)  $\Omega_e = \{\mathbf{x} | V(\mathbf{x}) \leq c\}$  is bounded, (ii)  $\dot{V}(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0$ , and (iv) the set  $S = \{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_e | \dot{V}(\mathbf{x}) = 0\}$  contains no trajectories of the system (e.g.,  $V(0, x_2) = 0$ , and  $x_1 = 0 \Longrightarrow \dot{x}_2 \neq 0$ ).
- **Linear Time-Invariant Systems:** For a time-invariant system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$ , the origin is globally asymptotically stable iff equivalently (i)  $\forall i$ . Re  $\lambda_i(\mathbf{A}) < 0$ , or (ii) given a positive definite symmetric matrix Q, we can solve

$$\mathbf{P}\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{P} = -\mathbf{Q}$$

for a unique, positive definite  $\mathbf{P}$ . (Note: Solving for  $\mathbf{P}$  given  $\mathbf{Q}$  is sufficient and necessary, solving for  $\mathbf{Q}$  given  $\mathbf{P}$  is *only* sufficient and *not* necessary).

- Linear Time-Variant Systems: For the time-variant system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{x}(t)$ , defining  $\mathbf{H}(t) = \mathbf{A}(t) + \mathbf{A}^{T}(t)$ . Then (sufficient but not necessary):
  - 1. State is bounded by:

$$\|\mathbf{x}(0)\| \frac{1}{2} \int_{t_0}^t \lambda_{\min}(\mathbf{H}(\tau)) d\tau \le \|\mathbf{x}(t)\| \le \|\mathbf{x}(0)\| \frac{1}{2} \int_{t_0}^t \lambda_{\max}(\mathbf{H}(\tau)) d\tau.$$

- 2. Stability:  $\lim_{t\to\infty} \int_{t_0}^t \lambda_{\min}(\mathbf{H}(\tau)) d\tau < M(t_0) < \infty$ , unifrom stability for  $M(t_0) = M$ .
- 3. Uniform asymptotic stability:  $\lim_{t\to\infty} \int_{t_0}^t \lambda_{\min}(\mathbf{H}(\tau)) d\tau = -\infty.$
- 4. Instable:  $\lim_{t\to\infty} \int_{t_0}^t \lambda_{\min}(\mathbf{H}(\tau)) d\tau = +\infty$ .

**Lyopanovs Indirect Method:** The system is given as  $\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{x}(t) + f_1(\mathbf{x}, t)$ , where  $\mathbf{A}(t) = \partial f/\mathbf{x}|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{0}}$ ,  $f_1(\mathbf{x}, t) = \mathbf{A}(t) - f(\mathbf{x}, t)$ , and

$$\lim_{\|\mathbf{x}\| \to 0} \sup_{t > 0} \frac{f_1(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\|\mathbf{x}\|} = 0.$$

This can be solved by performing a stability analysis for the linear system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{x}(t)$ . Asymptotic (Exponential/In-) stability of the linearized system implies local asymptotic (exponential/In-) stability of the nonlinear system. We can make use of this for finding stable feedback controllers.

Determine Region of Attraction: Determine (i) a compact set  $\Omega_e$  containing  $\mathbf{x}_e$  such that it is invariant under  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x})$  (for example  $\Omega_e = \{\mathbf{x}|V(\mathbf{x}) \leq c \lor \dot{V}(\mathbf{x}) < 0\}$ ), and (ii)  $\forall \mathbf{x} \neq 0 : \dot{V}(\mathbf{x}) < 0$  and  $\dot{V}(\mathbf{0}) = 0$ . Follows from LaSalle-Krasovski.

#### 5.4 Helpful Lyopanov Proofs

- **Possible Lyopanov functions:** (i) use the total energy of the physical system, (ii) use  $V(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_i x_i^2/2 \Longrightarrow \dot{V}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_i x_i \dot{x}_i$ ,
- **Mechanical Systems:** Given a mechanical system  $m\ddot{x} + f(\dot{x}) + g(x) = 0$ , with continuous f, g, so that  $\forall x.xf(x) \ge 0$ ,  $\forall x.xg(x) \ge 0$ , we can use  $V(x) = x_2^2/2 + \int_0^{x_1} g(\sigma)d\sigma \Longrightarrow \dot{V}(x) = -x_2f(x_2) \le 0$ . Stability follows through LaSalle-Krasovski.
- **Exponential stability:** Use  $V(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{x}$ , then we have  $\lambda_{\min}(\mathbf{Q}) \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \leq V(\mathbf{x},t) \leq \lambda_{\max}(\mathbf{Q}) \|\mathbf{x}\|^2$ , you only have to determine  $\dot{V}(\mathbf{x},t) \leq -c \|\mathbf{x}\|^p$ .
- **Instability:** Sometimes,  $V(\mathbf{x}) = x_1^2 x_2^2$  is practical iff  $-\dot{V}(\mathbf{x}) = -x_1\dot{x}_1 + x_2\dot{x}_2 > 0$ .

#### 5.5 Notes

- Stability is defined in terms if equilibrium points and NOT systems.
- Lyopanov stability notions are local.
- An EQ can only be stable or unstable.
- For an autonomous system, a stable EQ is also uniformly stable.
- Lyopanov functions are not unique.
- Interpretation: going downhill in direction  $\dot{\mathbf{x}}$  in a landscape  $V(\mathbf{x})$  within 90° of the steepest descent  $-\partial V(\mathbf{x})/\partial \mathbf{x}$ , i.e., at  $-\dot{V}(\mathbf{x}) = -(\partial V(\mathbf{x})/\partial \mathbf{x})^T \dot{\mathbf{x}} \ge 0$ .

### 5.6 Applications of Lyaponov Theory

- **Feedback stabilization:** For a system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, t)$ ,  $\mathbf{y} = g(\mathbf{x})$ , we intend to find  $\mathbf{u} = -p(\mathbf{y}, t)$  so that  $\lim_{t\to\infty} \mathbf{e}(t) = 0$  where  $\mathbf{e}(t) = \mathbf{y}(t) \mathbf{y}_d$ . We can then simply stabilize the system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x}, -p(g(\mathbf{x}), t), t)$ . Example: For mechanical systems  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x}, t) + M(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{u}$ , we can choose  $\mathbf{u} = -M^{-1}(\mathbf{x})[f(\mathbf{x}, t) h(\mathbf{x})]$ , which turns the system into  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = h(\mathbf{x})$  where h is chosen stable.
- **Trajectory following:** When following a trajectory  $\dot{\mathbf{x}}_d = h(\mathbf{x}_d)$  with a system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, t)$ , and a controller  $\mathbf{u} = p_1(\mathbf{x}_d \mathbf{x}) + p_2(\mathbf{x}_d)$ . We can then choose  $\xi = [\mathbf{x}_d, \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}_d] = [\mathbf{x}_d, \mathbf{e}]$  which yields  $\dot{\xi} = [h(\mathbf{x}_d), f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, t)] =$



Figure 4: This figure shows the illustration for a sector.

 $[h(\mathbf{x}_d), f(\mathbf{e} + \mathbf{x}_d, p_1(\mathbf{e}) + p_2(\mathbf{x}_d), t)]$ . We then choose the controller so that the origin is asymptotically stable.

Adaptive control: We have a system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{r}$ , and a (desired) model  $\dot{\mathbf{x}}_m = \mathbf{A}_m \mathbf{x}_m + \mathbf{B}_m \mathbf{r}_m$ . By defining  $\mathbf{e} = \mathbf{x}_m - \mathbf{x}$ , we obtain  $\dot{\mathbf{e}} = \mathbf{A}_m \mathbf{e} + (\mathbf{A}_m - \mathbf{A})\mathbf{x} + (\mathbf{B}_m - \mathbf{B})\mathbf{r}$ . Using the Lyopanov function  $V(\mathbf{e}) = \mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{P} \mathbf{e} + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \mu_{ij} \alpha_{ij}^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m \nu_{ij} \beta_{ij}^2$  with  $\mu_{ij}, \nu_{ij} > 0, \ [\alpha_{ij}] = (\mathbf{A}_m - \mathbf{A}), \ [\beta_{ij}] = (\mathbf{B}_m - \mathbf{B})$ , and using the update rules

$$\dot{\alpha}_{ij} = -\frac{1}{\mu_{ij}} x_j \mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{p}_i, \, \dot{\beta}_{ij} = -\frac{1}{\nu_{ij}} x_j \mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{p}_i$$

in  $\dot{V}$  (where  $\mathbf{P} = [\mathbf{p}_1, \dots, \mathbf{p}_2]$ ), we obtain  $\dot{V} = -\mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{e}$ . The error of the trajectory goes to zero but not the model parameters.

## 6 Frequency Domain Methods

The Lure Problem: The system is given by

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{b}u(t), \ y(t) = \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x}(t) + du(t), \ u(t) = -\varphi(y(t)).$$

The linearity is equivalent to  $G(s) = \mathbf{c}^T (s\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})^{-1}\mathbf{b} + d.$ 

**Assumptions:** We assume that either **A** is Hurwitz ( $\forall i$ . Re  $\lambda_i(\mathbf{A}) < 0$  or exactly one Eigenvalue is zero  $\lambda_1(\mathbf{A}) = 0$ ,  $\forall i \geq 2$ . Re  $\lambda_i(\mathbf{A}) < 0$ ). (**A**, **b**) controllable, (**A**, **c**) observable. The nonlinearity is either odd ( $\varphi(0) = 0$ ,  $\forall y \neq 0.y\varphi(y) > 0$ ), or in a sector (see below).

 $\varphi$  in a sector:  $\varphi$  belongs to a sector  $[k_1, k_2], (\varphi \in S(k_1, k_2)),$  if

$$k_1 y^2 \le y \varphi(y, t) \le k_2 y^2.$$

Stability in a sector is called the absolute stability problem. See Figure 4 for an illustration.

Aizerman's conjecture: If d = 0,  $\varphi \in S(k_1, k_2)$ ,  $\forall k \in [k_1, k_2].(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{b}k\mathbf{c}^T)$  is Hurwitz, then the origin is globally asymptotically stable. Kalman's conjecture: If  $\forall k \in [k_1, k_2].(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{b}k\mathbf{c}^T)$  is Hurwitz, and if

$$k_1 \le \frac{\partial \varphi(y,t)}{\partial y} \le k_2$$

then the origin is globally asymptotically stable (stricter than Aizerman's conjecture).

Kalman-Yakubovitch lemma: If A is Hurwitz,  $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{b})$  controllable,  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\gamma \ge 0, \varepsilon > 0, \mathbf{Q}$  pd, then there is pd P, and  $\mathbf{q} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , so that

$$\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{P} + \mathbf{P} \mathbf{A} = -\mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T - \varepsilon \mathbf{Q}, \ \mathbf{P} \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{v} = \sqrt{\gamma} \mathbf{q},$$

if and only if  $\varepsilon$  small, and  $h(s) = \gamma + 2\mathbf{v}^T(s\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})^{-1}\mathbf{b}$  satisfies  $\forall \omega \in \mathbb{R}$ . Re  $h(j\omega) > 0$ .

- **Circle criterion:** If  $\varphi \in S(\alpha, \beta)$ , the origin of the system will be absolutely stable/globally asymptotically stable if one of the following four sufficient graphical conditions applies (these are illustrated in Table 2).
  - 1. If  $0 < \alpha < \beta$ , the nyquist plot has to encircle the system m times in counterclockwise direction, where m is the number of poles with positive real part.
  - 2. If  $0 = \alpha < \beta$ , the nyquist plot lies above  $-1/\beta$ .
  - 3. If  $\alpha < 0 < \beta$ , the nyquist plot lies in the interior of the disk  $D(\alpha, \beta)$ .
  - 4. If  $\alpha < \beta < 0$ , then use  $\hat{g} = -g$ ,  $\hat{\alpha} = -\beta$ ,  $\hat{\beta} = -\alpha$ , and apply (1).

Alternatively, one could interpret ii analytically as  $\phi \in S(0, k)$ , 1 + kd > 0, Re $\{1 + kg(j\omega)\} > 0$   $\Longrightarrow$ absolute stability.

Popov criterion: The system is slightly modified to

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}u, \ y = \mathbf{c}^T\mathbf{x} + d\xi, \ \dot{\xi} = u, \ u = -\varphi(y),$$

i.e., with a transfer function  $G(s) = \mathbf{c}^T (s\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})^{-1}\mathbf{b} + d/s$ , which has to be Hurwitz, or one Eigenvalue that is zero. The system is globally asymptotically stable if there exists a number r such that  $\operatorname{Re}\{1+j\omega rg(j\omega)\}+1/k > 0$ , or equivalently

$$\operatorname{Re}\{g^*(j\omega)\} > -\frac{1}{k} + r\operatorname{Im} g^*(j\omega),$$

with  $g^*(j\omega) = \operatorname{Re} g(j\omega) + j\omega \operatorname{Im} g(j\omega)$ . The graphical interpretation is given in Figure 5.

	Disk $D(\alpha, \beta)$	Hurwitz?	Sketch
Case (1)	$0 < \alpha < \beta$	-	
Case (2)	$0 = \alpha < \beta$	Required	In g
Case (3)	$\alpha < 0 < \beta$	Required	Ling g(ja) Rag
Case (4)	$\alpha < \beta < 0$	_	

Table 2: This table shows the four cases of the circle criterion.



Figure 5: This figure shows the Popov criterion.

# 7 Extensions of the Notion of Stability

## 7.1 Boundedness

**Uniformly bounded:**  $\forall a \in (0, c) . \exists b(a) . \forall t \ge t_0 . \|x(t_0)\| \le a \Longrightarrow \|x(t)\| < b.$ 

**Globally uniformly bounded:**  $\forall a \in \mathbb{R}. \exists b(a). \forall t \ge t_0. ||x(t_0)|| \le a \Longrightarrow ||x(t)|| < b.$ 

Uniformly ultimately bounded:  $\forall a \in \mathbb{R}. \exists b(a). \forall t \ge t_0 + T(a, b). ||x(t_0)|| \le a \Longrightarrow ||x(t)|| < b.$ 

To be continued...

#### 7.2 Perturbations

Additive perturbation: We assume that the system can be split into a nominal model f and an additive perturbation g, so that

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x}, t) + g(\mathbf{x}, t) = f(\mathbf{x}, t) + (f(\mathbf{x}, t) - \bar{f}(\mathbf{x}, t)).$$

Any same/lower order perturbation can be represented like this.

- Vanishing perturbations: The origin is an equilibrium point of the perturbation, i.e.,  $g(\mathbf{x}, t) = 0$ .
- **Robustness of exponential stability:** Assume  $\mathbf{x} = 0$  an exponentially stable equilibrium point of f, if f is exponentially stable on D, i.e.,

$$\forall \mathbf{x} \in D.c_1 \| \mathbf{x} \|^2 \le V(\mathbf{x}, t) \le c_2 \| \mathbf{x} \|^2, c_3 \| \mathbf{x} \|^2 \le -\left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial \mathbf{x}}^T f(\mathbf{x}, t)\right),$$

and  $\forall \mathbf{x} \in D$ .  $\|\partial V/\partial \mathbf{x}\| < c_4 \|\mathbf{x}\|^2$ . If furthermore, the perturbation fulfills  $\forall \mathbf{x} \in D$ .  $\|g(\mathbf{x}, t)\| < \gamma \|\mathbf{x}\|$  with  $\gamma < c_3/c_4$ , the system is exponentially stable. If  $D = \mathbb{R}^n$ , even globally.

- Linear Systems Nonlinearly Perturbed: Assume  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + g(\mathbf{x}, t)$ , Re $\{\lambda_i(\mathbf{A})\} < 0$ , and  $\|g(\mathbf{x}, t)\| < \gamma \|\mathbf{x}\|$ . If **P** is a solution of the Lyopanov equation  $\mathbf{P}\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{P} = -\mathbf{Q}$ , and  $\gamma < \lambda_{\min}(\mathbf{Q})/(2\lambda_{\max}(\mathbf{P}))$ , the system will be globally exponentially stable. This ratio  $\gamma$  is maximal for  $\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{I}$ .
- Robustness of Asymptotic Stability: Assume  $\mathbf{x} = 0$  an asymptotically stable equilibrium point of f, i.e.,

$$W_1(\mathbf{x}) \le V(\mathbf{x},t) \le W_2(\mathbf{x}), c_3 W_{3/4}^2(\mathbf{x}) \le -\left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial \mathbf{x}}^T f(\mathbf{x},t)\right),$$

and  $\|\partial V/\partial \mathbf{x}\| < c_4 W_{3/4}(\mathbf{x})$ ; all  $W_i(\mathbf{x})$  are pdf. If furthermore, the perturbation fulfills  $\|g(\mathbf{x},t)\| < \gamma W_{3/4}(\mathbf{x})$  with  $\gamma < c_3/c_4$ , the system is asymptotically stable.

Nonvanishing Perturbations: Assume  $\mathbf{x} = 0$  an exponentially stable equilibrium point of f, if f is exponentially stable on  $D = {\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n | \|\mathbf{x}\| < r}$ , i.e.,

$$\forall \mathbf{x} \in D.c_1 \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \le V(\mathbf{x}, t) \le c_2 \|\mathbf{x}\|^2, c_3 \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \le -\left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial \mathbf{x}}^T f(\mathbf{x}, t)\right),$$

and  $\forall \mathbf{x} \in D$ .  $\|\partial V / \partial \mathbf{x}\| < c_4 \|\mathbf{x}\|^2$ . If furthermore, the perturbation fulfills

$$\forall \mathbf{x} \in D. \|g(\mathbf{x}, t)\| \le \delta < \frac{c_3}{c_4} \sqrt{\frac{c_1}{c_2}} \theta r,$$

for some  $0 < \theta < 1$ . Then for all  $\|\mathbf{x}(0)\| < r\sqrt{c_1/c_2}$ ,

$$\forall t_0 \le t \le T. \|\mathbf{x}(t)\| \le k \exp\left[-\gamma(t-t_0)\right] \|\mathbf{x}(0)\| \wedge \|\mathbf{x}(t)\| \le b,$$

for finite T, where  $k = \sqrt{c_2/c_1}$ ,  $\gamma = (1-\theta)c_3/(2c_2)$ ,  $b = (c_3/c_4)\sqrt{c_1/c_2}(\delta/\theta)$ .

# 8 Nonlinear Control Design

#### 8.1 Introduction to Feedback Control Design

- **Objectives of Control Design:** Equilibrium point stabilization, Trajectory tracking, Disturbation rejection (input/output boundedness), robustness (cope with model errors).
- State feedback stabilization: Show that the desired equilibrium point in

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, t), \ \mathbf{u} = \gamma(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}, t), \ \dot{\mathbf{z}} = f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}, t)$$

is asymptotically stable. Use  $\mathbf{z}$  in order to implement I-controllers.

Output feedback stabilization: Show that the desired equilibrium point in

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, t), \ \mathbf{y} = h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, t), \ \mathbf{u} = \gamma(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}, t), \ \dot{\mathbf{z}} = f(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}, t),$$

is asymptotically stable. Use  $\mathbf{z}$  in order to implement I-controllers. For moving the equilibrium point, all variables  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_0$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = h(\mathbf{x}_0 + \hat{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{u}_0 + \hat{\mathbf{u}}, t) - h(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{u}_0, t)$ , have to be moved.

**Linear Systems:** For linear time-invariant systems ( $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{C}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{D}\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{u} = -\mathbf{K}\mathbf{x}$ ), both problems become easier. State feedback linearization requires only Re  $\lambda_i(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}\mathbf{K}) < 0$ . Output stabilization requires an Observer  $d\hat{\mathbf{x}}/dt = (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}\mathbf{K})\hat{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{L}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{C}\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{u})$ , so that we analyze

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{x}} \\ \dot{\mathbf{e}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}\mathbf{K} & \mathbf{B}\mathbf{K} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{L}\mathbf{C} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{e} \end{bmatrix}.$$

where  $\mathbf{e} = \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{\hat{x}}$  represents the error.

**Stabilization by Linearization:** We can stabilize an equilibrium point of the nonlinear system by linearization. We can determine the region of stability using a quadratic Lyopanov function.

#### 8.2 Closed-loop Control

To be continued...

#### 8.3 Integral Control / Gain Scheduling

System description: The system is described by

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w}), \ \dot{\sigma} = h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) - \mathbf{r},$$

where  $\mathbf{w}$  is unknown.

- Stabilizing Control Law: A stabilizing control law  $\mathbf{u} = \gamma(\mathbf{x}, \sigma, h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) \mathbf{r})$ has to fulfill (i)  $\mathbf{u}_0 = \gamma(\mathbf{x}_0, \sigma_0, 0)$ , and (ii) that  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x}, \gamma(\mathbf{x}, \sigma, h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) - \mathbf{r}), \mathbf{w})$ ,  $\dot{\sigma} = h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) - \mathbf{r}$ , has to have an asymptotically stable equilibrium point at  $(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{u}_0)$ .
- Via Linearization: Use the linear control law  $\mathbf{u} = -\mathbf{K}_1\mathbf{x} \mathbf{K}_2\sigma \mathbf{K}_3\mathbf{e}$  with error  $\mathbf{e} = h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) \mathbf{r}$ ). If  $\mathbf{K}_2$  is nonsingular, there is a unique solution for  $\sigma_0$  so that  $\mathbf{u}_0 = -\mathbf{K}_1\mathbf{x}_0 \mathbf{K}_2\sigma_0$ .
- **Gain scheduling:** For tracking a trajectory r(t), we treat each point of the trajectory as an equilibrium point, i.e., we have gains depending on r so that  $\mathbf{u} = -\mathbf{K}_1(r)\mathbf{x} \mathbf{K}_2(r)\sigma \mathbf{K}_3(r)\mathbf{e}$  is stable if r was constant.

#### 8.4 Sliding Mode Control

**Objective:** Assume a system

$$\dot{x}_1 = x_2,$$
  
 $\dot{x}_2 = h(x_1, x_2) + g(x_1, x_2)u$ 

where g, h are unknown and  $g(x_1, x_2) \ge g(x_{10}, x_{20}) > 0$ . We intend bring the system to the manifold  $s = a_1x_1 + x_2 = 0$  with arbitrary  $a_1$ .

Control Law: Assume that you know

$$\left\|\frac{a_1x_2 + h(x_1, x_2)}{g(x_1, x_2)}\right\| \le \rho(x_1, x_2),$$

and the Lyopanov function  $V(s) = 0.5s^2$ , and  $\dot{V}(s) = s\dot{s} \leq g(x_1, x_2)|s|\rho(x_1, x_2) + s \cdot g(x_1, x_2)u$ . Then

$$u = -\beta(x_1, x_2) \operatorname{sign} s,$$

is a stable control law if  $\beta(x_1, x_2) > \rho(x_1, x_2) + \beta_0$  for some  $\beta_0 > 0$ . Nota bene: (i) Manifold is reached in finite time, and  $x_2 = \dot{x}_1 = -ax_1$  converges exponetially fast. (ii) Once reached, the manifold cannot be left. (iii) Robust to parameter variation.

Chattering: Delays in system or controller can cause chattering.

#### Chattering reduction by Separation: Separate the continuous and switch-

ing components. Use nominal  $\hat{h}$ ,  $\hat{g}$  in the control law

...

$$u = -\left\|\frac{a_1x_2 + \hat{h}(x_1, x_2)}{\hat{g}(x_1, x_2)}\right\| - \beta(x_1, x_2)\operatorname{sign} s_1$$

where  $\beta(x_1, x_2) > \rho(x_1, x_2) + \beta_0$  for some  $\beta_0 > 0$ , if

$$\left\|\frac{\delta(x_1, x_2)}{g(x_1, x_2)}\right\| \le \rho(x_1, x_2)$$

with  $\delta(x_1, x_2) = a_1(1 - g(x_1, x_2)/\hat{g}(x_1, x_2))x_2 + (h(x_1, x_2) - \hat{h}(x_1, x_2)g(x_1, x_2)/\hat{g}(x_1, x_2)).$ 

#### Chattering reduction of high gain saturation function: Use the control

law with saturation

$$u = -\beta(x_1, x_2) \operatorname{sat}\left(\frac{s}{\varepsilon}\right),$$

and a Lyopanov function  $V = 0.5x_1^2$ , we can show ultimate boundedness so that all trajectories reach the (invariant) set

$$\Omega_{\varepsilon} = \left\{ x_1 \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{a_1}, s \leq \varepsilon \right\},\,$$

in finite time. If  $\varepsilon$  decreases, the ultimate bound T and chattering increases  $\rightarrow$  trade-off stability vs performance.

**Generalization:** We can generalize using the system  $y^{(n)} = h(\mathbf{x}) + g(\mathbf{x})u$  with  $\mathbf{x} = [y, \dot{y}, \dots, y^{(n-1)}]$ . Assume bounds  $||h(\mathbf{x})|| < \varepsilon(\mathbf{x}), ||g(\mathbf{x})|| < \mu(\mathbf{x})$ . We use this for tracking a trajectory  $\mathbf{x}_d(t)$ , i.e., we have the manifold

 $s(\mathbf{x}) = e_y^{(n-1)} + a_1 e_y^{(n-2)} + \ldots + a_{n-1} e_y = 0$ 

using  $e = y - y_d$ . For  $s(\mathbf{x}) = (d/dt + \lambda)^{n-1}e_y$ , we can determine whether the  $a_i$ 's are suitable by checking  $z^{n-1} + a_1 z^{n-2} + \ldots + a_{n-1} = 0$  is Hurwitz.

#### 8.5 Lyopanov Redesign

**System:** The system with perturbation  $\delta$  is given by  $\dot{x} = f(x, u, t) + g(x, t)[u + \delta(x, u, t)]$ . Assume, you have a controller  $u = \psi(x, t)$ , which stabilizes the nominal system (i.e.,  $\delta(x, u, t) = 0$ ).

Lyopanov function: Determine a Lyopanov function so that

$$\alpha_1\left(\|\mathbf{x}\|\right) \le V(\mathbf{x},t) \le \alpha_2\left(\|\mathbf{x}\|\right), \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial \mathbf{x}}^T \left[f(\mathbf{x},t) + g(x,t)\psi(x,t)\right] \le -\alpha_3\left(\|\mathbf{x}\|\right)$$

**Perturbation Assumption:** Assume that for  $u = \psi(x, t) + v$ , we have the bound

$$\|\delta(x, \psi(x, t) + v, t)\| \le \rho(x, t) + \varkappa_0 \|v\|,$$

with  $0 < \varkappa_0 < 1$ . Nota bene: Only bounds on perturbation,  $\rho(x, t)$  can be large but has to be known.

**Design of** v: Using  $\dot{V} \leq -\alpha_3 (||x||) + w^T v + w^T \delta$  with  $w = (\partial V/\partial x)g(x,t)$ , we realize that  $w^T v + w^T \delta \leq 0$ .

1. Norm 2: This is achieved by

$$v = -\eta(x,t)\frac{w}{\|w\|}$$

with  $\eta(x,t) \ge \rho(x,t)/(1-\varkappa_0)$ . This gives us the control law

$$u = \psi(x,t) - \frac{\rho(x,t)}{1 - \varkappa_0} \frac{w}{\|w\|},$$

which is stable.

2. Norm  $\infty$ : This is achieved by

$$v = -\eta(x, t) \operatorname{sign} w$$

with  $\eta(x,t) \ge \rho(x,t)/(1-\varkappa_0)$ .

3. Norm 1: This is achieved by

$$v = -\eta(x,t)\frac{w}{\|w\|}$$

with  $\eta(x,t) = \rho(x,t)/(1 - \varkappa_0)$ .

## 8.6 Backstepping

To be continued...