

MECE 3350U  
Control Systems

Lecture 4  
Transfer Functions

## Videos in this lecture

Lecture 4: <https://youtu.be/KP6DATDCIdc>

Exercise 16: <https://youtu.be/2BB031cdm5U>

Exercise 17: <https://youtu.be/DoL2rarunKg>

Exercise 18: <https://youtu.be/0o8Woo0oIhs>

Exercise 19: <https://youtu.be/HZMWeGR0RFo>

Exercise 20: <https://youtu.be/bz7P2R0XYMw>

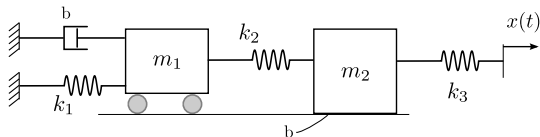
## Outline of Lecture 4

By the end of today's lecture you should be able to

- Understand the concept of transfer functions
- Find the transfer function of a given system
- Find the temporal response of a system for a given input

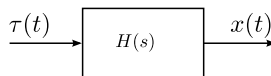
## Applications

If the spring is stretched to a point  $x(t) = 5$  mm, held, then released at time  $t = 0$ , how does the position of  $m_1$  evolve in time?



## Applications

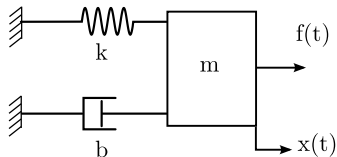
What torque must be applied to each of the robot joints so that end-effector moves along a given trajectory with a given speed?



## Input/output relation

**Transfer function:** A relation between the input and output of a linear system

Example: Input: force  $f(t)$ , output: displacement  $x(t)$



$$m \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + b \frac{dx}{dt} + kx = f(t)$$

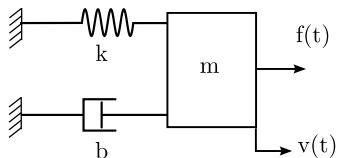
Taking the Laplace transform:

The transfer function is

$$H(s) = \frac{X(s)}{F(s)} = \quad (1)$$

## Input/output relation

Example: Input: force  $f(t)$ , output: **velocity**  $v(t)$



The dynamic model is

(2)

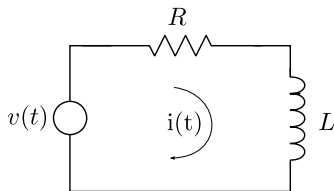
Laplace transform of (2) is

The transfer function is

$$H(s) = \frac{V(s)}{F(s)} = \quad (3)$$

## Input/output relation

Input: Voltage  $v(t)$ , output: Current  $i(t)$



$$v(t) = Ri(t) + L \frac{di(t)}{dt} \quad (4)$$

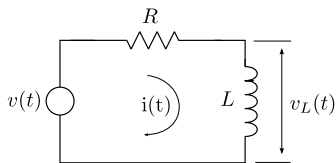
Taking the Laplace transform of (4):

The transfer function is

$$H(s) = \frac{I(s)}{V(s)} =$$

## Input/output relation

Input: Voltage  $v(t)$ , **output**:  $v_L(t)$



$$v(t) = Ri(t) + L \frac{di(t)}{dt}, \quad v_L = L \frac{di(t)}{dt} \quad (5)$$

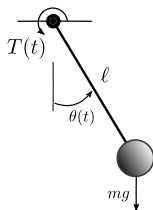
Taking the Laplace transform of (5):

The transfer function is

$$\frac{I(s)}{V(s)} = \frac{1}{Ls + R}, \quad \frac{V_L(s)}{V(s)} =$$

## Input/output relation

The equation of motion of the simple pendulum is



$$m \frac{d^2\theta(t)}{dt^2} + m \frac{g}{\ell} \sin \theta = T(t) \quad (6)$$

For small angles,  $\sin \theta \approx \theta$ , in the frequency domain:

$$\frac{\theta(s)}{T(s)} = \quad (7)$$

## Transfer function poles and zeros

Transfer function: A rational function in the complex variable  $s = \sigma + j\omega$ :

$$H(s) = \frac{N(s)}{D(s)} = \frac{b_m s^m + b_{m-1} s^{m-1} + \dots + b_1 s + b_0}{a_n s^n + a_{n-1} s^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 s + a_0} \quad (8)$$

The zeros  $z_i$  are the roots of

$$N(s) = 0$$

Thus:

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow z_i} N(s) = 0 \quad (9)$$

The poles  $p_i$  are the roots of

$$D(s) = 0$$

Thus:

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow p_i} H(s) = \infty \quad (10)$$

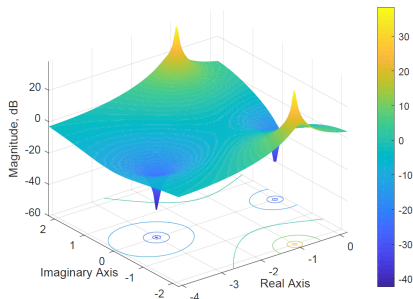
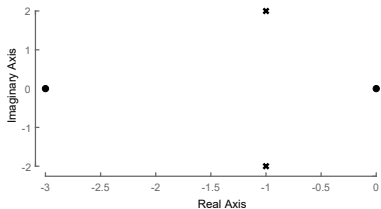
## Poles and zeros

Consider the following function:

$$F(s) = \frac{s(s + 3)}{s^2 + 2s + 5}$$

→ Poles:  $-1 + 2j$ ,  $-1 - 2j$

→ Zeros:  $0$ ,  $-3$



## First order transfer functions

**Order:** The number of the highest derivative in the denominator (power of  $s$ )

Standard form of a first order system:

$$G(s) = k \frac{1}{\tau s + 1}$$

Characteristic equation: The denominator of the transfer function

$$H(s) = \frac{I(s)}{V(s)} = \frac{1}{Ls + R} =$$

**Time constant:** Characterizes the response to a step input of a first-order system.

$$\tau = \frac{L}{R} \quad (11)$$

→ The denominator must be in the form of  $\tau s + 1$

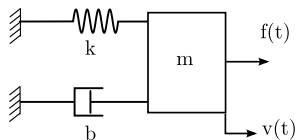
## Second order transfer functions

Standard form

$$H(s) = \frac{\omega_n^2}{s^2 + 2\zeta\omega_n s + \omega_n^2} \quad (12)$$

Where:  $\omega_n$  is the natural frequency,  $\zeta$  is the damping ratio.

We will come back to these definitions in the next lecture.



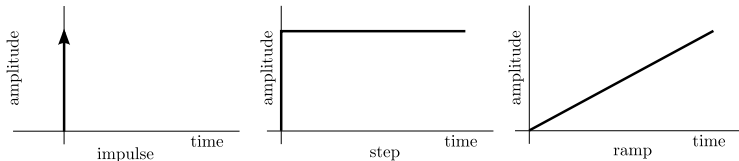
$$H(s) = \frac{X(s)}{F(s)} = \frac{1}{ms^2 + bs + k} =$$

$\Rightarrow \zeta = \frac{b}{2\sqrt{mk}}$ : Dimensionless **damping ratio**

$\Rightarrow \omega_n = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$ : Natural frequency (rad/s)

## Temporal response

**Step 1:** Define the input signal in Laplace domain



input signal    time domain    frequency domain

impulse     $r(t) = \delta(t)$      $R(s) = 1$

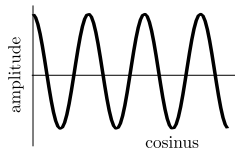
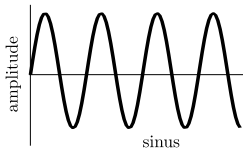
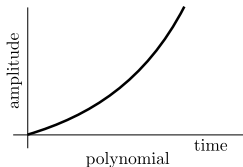
step     $r(t) = a$      $R(s) = a\frac{1}{s}$

ramp     $r(t) = at$      $R(s) = a\frac{1}{s^2}$

$a$  is a constant

# Temporal response

**Step 1:** Define the input signal in Laplace domain



input signal    time domain    frequency domain

polynomial     $r(t) = at^n$      $R(s) = a \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}$

sine     $r(t) = \sin(at)$      $R(s) = \frac{a}{s^2+a^2}$

cosine     $r(t) = \cos(at)$      $R(s) = \frac{s}{s^2+a^2}$

$a$  is a constant

## Temporal response

**Step 2:** Replace the input signal in the transfer function

$$H(s) = \frac{X(s)}{F(s)} = \frac{1}{ms^2 + bs + k} \quad (13)$$

For a impulse input  $f(t) = \delta(t)$ ,  $F(s) = 1$  and the temporal response is

$$X(s) = \frac{1}{ms^2 + bs + k} \quad (14)$$

For a step-type input  $f(t) = 1$  N,  $F(s) = 1/s$  and the temporal response is

$$X(s) = \frac{1}{ms^2 + bs + k} \left( \frac{1}{s} \right) \quad (15)$$

For a sinusoidal input  $f(t) = 5 \sin(t)$  N:

$$X(s) = \frac{1}{ms^2 + bs + k} \left( \frac{5}{s^2 + 1} \right) \quad (16)$$

## Temporal response

**Step 3:** Calculate the inverse transform of the resulting function

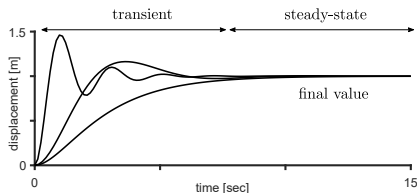
For a impulse input  $f(t) = \delta(t)$ ,  $F(s) = 1$  and the temporal response is

$$x(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{ms^2 + bs + k} \right\} \quad (17)$$

For a step-type input  $f(t) = 1 \text{ N}$ ,  $F(s) = 1/s$  and the temporal response is

$$x(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{ms^2 + bs + k} \left( \frac{1}{s} \right) \right\} \quad (18)$$

and so on.



## Steady-state value

**Final value theorem:** Gives the steady-state value without computing the inverse transform.

If the function converges, i.e., the poles of  $sX(s)$  have negative real parts, then:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} sX(s) \quad (19)$$

For a step type input, the mass spring damper system settles at

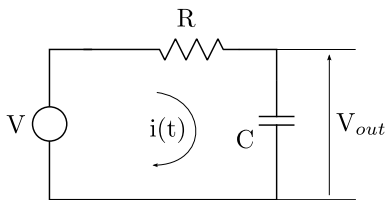
$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} sX(s) = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} s \left\{ \frac{1}{ms^2 + bs + k} \left( \frac{1}{s} \right) \right\} = \quad (20)$$

For a impulse input, the *RL* system converges at

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} i(t) = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} sI(s) = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} s \left\{ \frac{1}{Ls + R} \right\} = \quad (21)$$

## Exercise 16

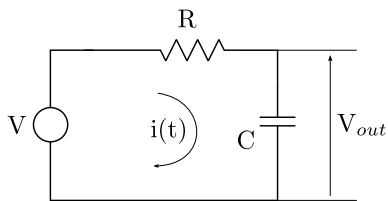
Find the transfer function  $H(s)$  between the input voltage  $V$  and the output voltage  $V_{out}$ .



### Procedure:

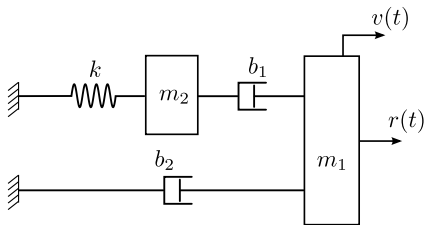
- Find the differential equation for the current
- Find the equation for the output voltage
- Calculate the transfer function

## Exercise 16 - continued



## Exercise 17

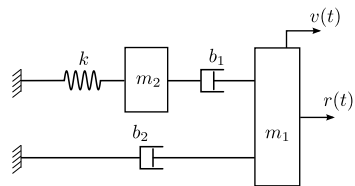
Find the transfer function  $H(s) = \frac{V(s)}{R(s)}$  between the force  $r(t)$  and the velocity of mass  $m_1$ .



### Procedure:

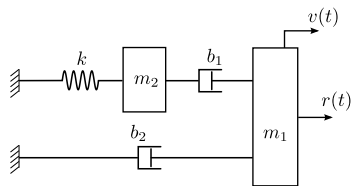
- Find the differential equation the velocity of each mass
- Calculate the Laplace transform
- Calculate the transfer function

## Exercise 17 - continued



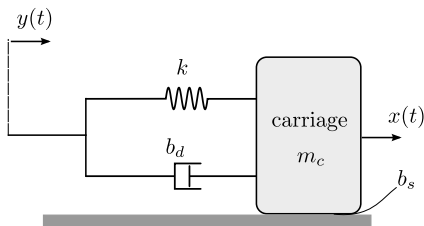
## Exercise 17 - continued

$$\begin{aligned} [m_1 s + (b_1 + b_2)] V(s) - b_1 V_2(s) &= R(s) \\ -b_1 V(s) + \left( m_2 s + b_1 + \frac{k}{s} \right) V_2(s) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$



## Exercise 18

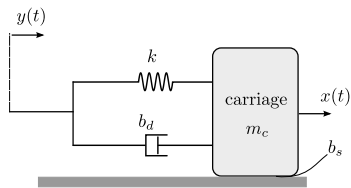
A high precision positioning slide is shown in the figure. The drive shaft friction is  $b_d = 0.65$ , the drive shaft spring constant is  $k = 1.8$ ,  $m_c = 1$ , and the slide friction is  $b_s = 0.9$ .



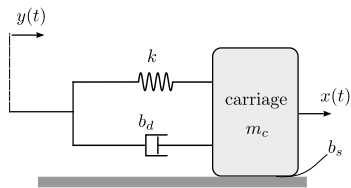
**Determine:**

- Find the transfer function  $H(s) = X(s)/Y(s)$ .
- Calculate the natural frequency, damping ratio, the poles, and zeros of  $H(s)$
- Find the steady-state value for a step input
- Plot the step response of using Matlab

## Exercise 18 - continued



## Exercise 18 - continued



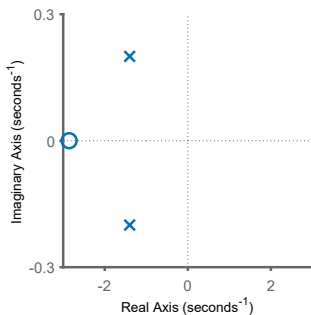
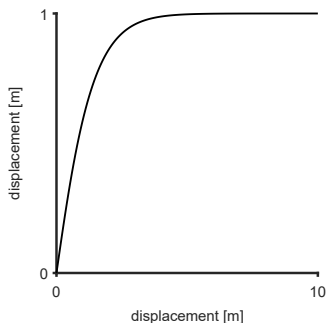
## Exercise 18 - continued - Using Matlab

$H = \text{tf}([0.7 \ 2],[1 \ 2.8 \ 2])$  → Transfer function

`damp(H)` → Natural frequency and damping

`step(H,10)` → Step response

`pzplot(H)` → Location of zeros and poles



## Exercise 19

Calculate the natural frequency and damping ratio of the following transfer function

$$T(s) = \frac{1.05 \times 10^7}{2s^2 + 1.6 \times 10^3s + 1.05 \times 10^7}$$

**Determine:**

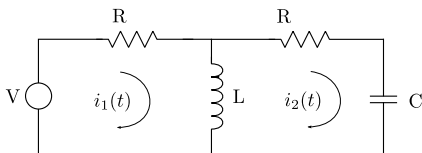
- Write the transfer function in standard form
- Find the steady-state value for a step input
- Calculate the natural frequency and damping ratio

## Exercise 19 - continued

$$T(s) = \frac{1.05 \times 10^7}{2s^2 + 1.6 \times 10^3s + 1.05 \times 10^7}$$

## Exercise 20

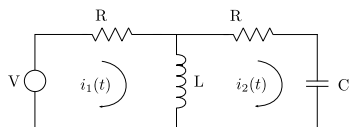
Find the transfer function  $G(s) = \frac{I_2(s)}{V(s)}$  of the circuit shown. Then, calculate the step response of the circuit using Matlab. Take  $R = 10 \Omega$ ,  $C = 0.001 \text{ F}$ ,  $L = 0.1 \text{ H}$ ,  $V = 5 \text{ V}$ .



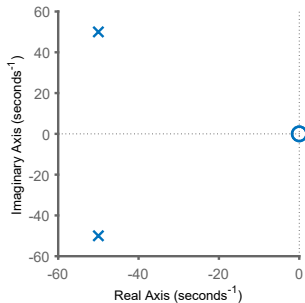
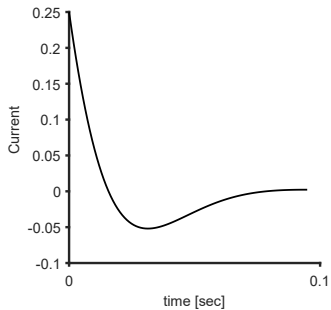
### Determine:

- Find the transfer function  $H(s) = I_2(s)/V(s)$ .
- Find the steady-state value for a step input
- Plot the step response of using Matlab

## Exercise 20 - continued

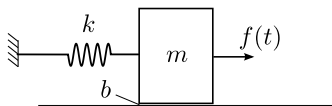


## Exercise 20 - continued - Using Matlab



## Skills check 5 - From 2018 midterm

Find the transfer function between the acceleration  $A(s)$  and the force  $F(s)$  of the mass-spring system shown. The coefficient of viscous friction between the mass and the plane is  $b$  (4 marks)<sup>1</sup>.

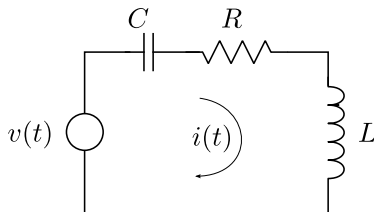


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$${}^1H(s) = s^2 / (ms^2 + bs + k)$$

## Skills check 6 - From 2018 final examination

Find the transfer function between the input voltage  $v(t)$  and the **electric charge**  $q(t)$  in the *LRC* circuit (3 marks out of 100)<sup>2</sup>.

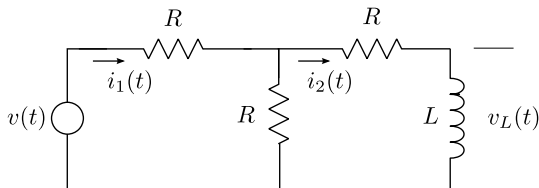


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$$^2H(s) = 1/[L(s^2 + (R/L)s + 1/(LC))]$$

## Skills check 7 - From 2018 final examination

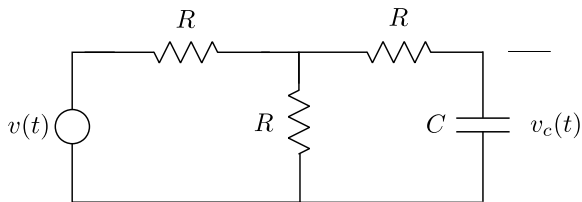
Find the transfer function between the input voltage  $V(s)$  and the voltage across the inductor  $V_L(s)$ <sup>3</sup>.



<sup>3</sup>Consult instructor or TA for answer

## Skills check 8 - Strongly recommended

Consider the  $RC$  network shown, where  $v(t)$  is the input voltage and  $v_c(t)$  is the circuit output voltage.  $R$  is the same for all resistors. Using the transfer function and its inverse Laplace transform, determine the temporal response of  $v_c(t)$  for a **unit step-type input** of  $v(t)$ .<sup>4</sup>

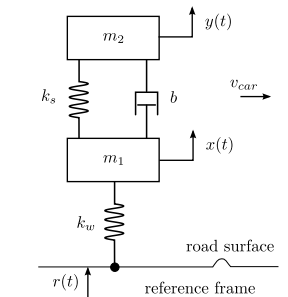


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$${}^4 v_c(t) = 0.5(1 - e^{-2t/(3RC)})$$

## Skills check 9 - From 2018 assignment 1

The figure shows an automobile suspension system composed of two masses  $m_1$  and  $m_2$ , a spring of stiffness  $k_s$ , and a damper with a coefficient of viscous friction  $b$ . The lower spring  $k_w$  represents the tire compressibility<sup>5</sup>.



- (a) Find the transfer function  $Y(s)/R(s)$ .
- (b) Calculate the final value of  $y(t)$  for a unit step-type displacement of the road surface, i.e.,  $r(t) = 1$ .

<sup>5</sup>Answer see next slide

## Skills check 9 - Answer

(a)

$$\frac{Y(s)}{R(s)} = \frac{k_w b}{m_1 m_2} \left( \frac{s + \frac{k_s}{b}}{s^4 + as^3 + bs^2 + cs + d} \right) \quad (22)$$

where

$$a = \frac{b}{m_1} + \frac{b}{m_2}$$

$$b = \frac{k_s}{m_1} + \frac{k_s}{m_2} + \frac{k_w}{m_1}$$

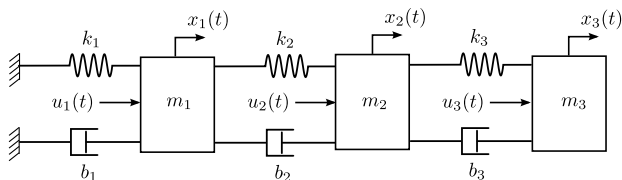
$$c = \frac{k_w b}{m_1 m_2}$$

$$d = \frac{k_w k_s}{m_1 m_2}$$

(b)  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) = 1$

## Skills check 10

Consider the three-mass system shown. The system has three input forces i.e.,  $u_1(t)$ ,  $u_2(t)$ ,  $u_3(t)$ , and three outputs  $x_1(t)$ ,  $x_2(t)$ , and  $x_3(t)$ .



Obtain the equations of motion in the frequency domain. All initial conditions are zero<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>6</sup>Final answer in the next slide

## Skills check 10 - Answer

For mass 1

$$U_1(s) + (k_2 + sb_2)X_2(s) = [m_1s^2 + (b_1 + b_2)s + k_1 + k_2]X_1(s)$$

For mass 2

$$U_2(s) + (k_3 + sb_3)X_3(s) + (k_2 + b_2s)X_1(s) = [m_2s^2 + (b_2 + b_3)s + k_2 + k_3]X_2(s)$$

For mass 3

$$U_3(s) + (k_3 + sb_3)X_2(s) = (m_3s^2 + b_3s + k_3)X_3(s)$$

## Next class...

- Effect of pole locations