Introduction to the Science of Control

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Objectives of Talk

- Learn some control terminology
- Understand relation between scenario and control
- Develop some intuition about control concepts
 - Details occasionally (and intentionally) omitted
- Understand the multiple objectives of control



What is tokamak or plasma control?

- Every control problem starts with a Plant = the system you wish to make behave in some desired way. Includes:
 - The core "machine" (tokamak + plasma)
 - Actuators = devices that cause the plant to change behavior (e.g., power supplies, gas valves, ECH, NBI)
 - Measurements = information used to see how closely the machine does what you want (e.g., flux loops, B-probes, CO2 interferometer, ECE)
 - Other names = "diagnostics", "sensors"
- Control = logic that tells actuator(s) what actions to take to get plant to behave as you want
 - Feedforward control = send pre-determined time dependent command to actuator
 - Feedback control = send new command to actuator at regular intervals based on measurements



Relation between scenario and control

Scenario = the objective(s) of control

- E.g., desired plasma shape, or density, or beta, ...
- Typically input to controllers as (time-dependent) targets ("references")

• Control = method of achieving those objectives

- Perfect knowledge of system to be controlled & no noise or disturbance
 => use feedforward control to program the time evolution of system actuators to achieve the scenario:
 - PF coil power supply voltages, injected gas, heating powers, etc.
- System knowledge is never perfect (usually far from it).
- No system is noise- or disturbance-free.
- Feedback control is used to compensate for:
 - imperfect knowledge of system (model uncertainty)
 - measurement noise
 - disturbances



Model-based Control Design Process

- 1. Make system model
- 2. Verify model predicts behavior of system
- 3. Design controller
- 4. Test using models in closed-loop simulation
- 5. Implement and experimentally tune implementation
- 6. Deploy in routine operation
- Using only 5-6 is feasible and often successful why do steps 1-4?
 - Experimental tuning cost = \$50,000 \$100,000 per day on present devices
 - Performance:
 - Large systems (many inputs / outputs) difficult to tune properly for best control
 - Nonlinear systems can require retuning over many equilibrium states.
 - Even if chosen approach, models useful to understand how control affects system
 - Device risk while testing (empirical control is usually bad before its good)
 - Next Generation devices (e.g. ITER) will not allow empirical tuning



Introduction to System Representation - Block Diagrams



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System Representation – State Space Model (Ordinary Differential Equations)



- I(t) = toroidal conductor currents (states x); M_{*}=mutual inductance matrix (modified by plasma response), R=resistance matrix
- y(t) = coil currents, flux and field in vacuum region; C_{*}=green functions (modified by plasma response)
- v(t) = input voltage from power supplies; U = ones for coils, zeros for vessel conductors



System Representation – Laplace Transform

• Definition: For a given function f(t) with f(0)=0, Laplace transform of f is:

$$F(s) = \mathcal{L}\left\{f(t)\right\} = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} f(t) dt, \qquad s = \sigma + j\omega$$

- Nice properties: $\mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{df}{dt}\right\} = sF(s), \ \mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{d^2f}{dt^2}\right\} = s^2F(s), \ etc...$ $\mathcal{L}\left\{\int_0^t f(\tau)d\tau\right\} = \frac{1}{s}F(s)$
- For an example of how it's used, apply to :

 $\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + Bu(t) \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad sX(s) = AX(s) + BU(s)$ $y(t) = Cx(t) + Du(t) \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad Y(s) = CX(s) + DU(s)$

complex ("s") plane ("frequency domain")

 $\wedge J\omega$

$$sX(s) = AX(s) + BU(s) \implies (sI - A)X(s) = BU(s) \implies X(s) = (sI - A)^{-1}BU(s)$$
$$Y(s) = CX(s) + DU(s) \implies Y(s) = \left[C(sI - A)^{-1}B + D\right]U(s)$$



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System Representation - Transfer Functions

- Transfer Function = ratio of Laplace Transforms of (scalar) output and input signals: $\frac{Y(s)}{U(s)}$
- Example (simple mechanical system; x is displacement):

 $m\ddot{x}(t) + d\dot{x}(t) + kx(t) = u(t) \implies (ms^2 + ds + k)X(s) = U(s) \implies \frac{X(s)}{U(s)} = \frac{1}{(ms^2 + ds + k)}$

• Example (lowpass RC filter):

$$\bigvee_{\text{Vin}} \bigvee_{\text{R}} \bigvee_{\text{C}} \underbrace{\Box}_{\text{Vout}} \qquad \Rightarrow \frac{V_{out}(s)}{V_{in}(s)} = \frac{1}{RCs+1}$$

- General LTI case, from previous page: $Y(s) = \left[C (sI A)^{-1}B + D \right] U(s)$
- If Y, U are scalars: $\frac{Y(s)}{U(s)} = C (sI A)^{-1}B + D$ (Single-Input-Single Output (SISO) system)
- If Multi-Input-Multi-Output (MIMO) system, each element in matrix $C (sI A)^{-1}B + D$ is a scalar transfer function, so it's still called "transfer function"



System Representation - Equivalent Representations





System Representation – Feedforward/Feedback



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Analysis of Dynamics (Time Dependent Behavior)

What is undriven "natural" behavior of system?

$$\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + B(t)$$

- Defined by the eigenvalues λ :

$$\lambda x = Ax$$

• An arbitrary vector x can be expressed as sum of eigenvectors: $x = \sum \alpha_k x_k$

• Then:
$$Ax = \sum_{k=1}^{n} \alpha_k Ax_k = \sum_{k=1}^{n} \alpha_k \lambda_k x_k \implies \dot{x} = \sum_{k=1}^{n} \alpha_k \dot{x}_k = \sum_{k=1}^{n} \alpha_k \lambda_k x_k$$

- That is, we can analyze system as n scalar ODE's: $\dot{x}_{k} = \lambda_{k} x_{k} \implies x_{k}(t) = e^{\lambda_{k} t} x_{k}(0)$
- To determine stability of the system: $\sigma_{k} = real(\lambda_{k}) < 0 \implies x_{k}(t) \rightarrow 0, t \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{(stable)}$ $\sigma_{k} = real(\lambda_{k}) > 0 \implies x_{k}(t) \rightarrow \infty, t \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{(unstable)}$
- If ANY eigenvalue has $Re(\lambda)>0 =>$ system is UNSTABLE.
- Otherwise, system is STABLE.





Analysis of Dynamics (Laplace Domain)



LHP/RHP = Left/Right Half Plane



Analysis of Dynamics (Time vs. Laplace Domains)

- Eigenvalue is a complex number λ satisfying:
 - $(\lambda I A)x = 0 \text{ for some } x \neq 0$
 - \Leftrightarrow $(\lambda I A)^{-1}$ does not exist
 - \Leftrightarrow determinant $\left|\lambda I A\right| = 0$
- Note similarity to portion of Transfer Function:

$$Y(s) = \left[C \left(sI - A \right)^{-1} B + D \right] U(s)$$

• In fact,

$$s\mathbf{I} - A)^{-1} = \frac{1}{|s\mathbf{I} - A|} Adj(s\mathbf{I} - A)$$
 where: $\begin{vmatrix} X \\ Adj(X) \end{vmatrix} = \text{determinant of } X$
 $Adj(X) = \text{adjugate of } X \text{ (matrix of cofactors)}$

• A common situation is D=0, so that the transfer function is:

$$\frac{Y(s)}{U(s)} = C (sI - A)^{-1}B = \underbrace{1}_{(sI - A)} CAdj(sI - A)B$$
 matrix of polynomials in s polynomial in s

• That is, the POLES of transfer function = roots of |sI - A| = EIGENVALUES of A



Understanding System Response – Correspondence Between Eigenvalue (Pole) Location and Time Response





 $V(j\omega)/U(j\omega)$

Understanding System Response – Frequency Response



Understanding System Response – Bode Plots of Frequency Response



NOTE: Bode gain plot is ratio of powers (20log₁₀(amplitude ratio)).



Objectives of Control – Tracking and Regulation

Control plasma major radius:

- Assume plasma current (I_p) is positive
- Radial hoop force F_R pushes plasma outward
- Vertical field (B_z) produced by outer coils holds it in a fixed location (regulation) ...
- ... or moves plasma in/out to match a timedependent request (tracking)



tokamak positive current sign convention (viewed from above)





Objectives of Control – Tracking and Regulation

Control plasma elongation:

 Increasing elongation (κ) has been shown to improve performance (scenario choice), so we want to control:

$$\kappa = \frac{b}{a}$$

- Control accomplished by "pulling" on top and bottom of plasma
- Control objective = produce either fixed (regulation) or varying (tracking) elongation





Objectives of Control – Tracking and Regulation





Objectives of Control – Stabilize System Instability

• Open-loop instability:

 Plasma elongation causes vertical instability (destabilizing curvature):



Anti-symmetric coils provide radial field to apply force that opposes plasma vertical motion





Performance Requirements – Avoid Control-driven Instability (Too high control gain => instability)



Avoid Control-driven Instability





Avoid Control-driven Instability - example





Objectives of Control – Disturbance & Noise Rejection



Disturbance rejection means ratio of norms of errors to input is small:

 $\frac{\|e(s)\|}{\|d_{u}(s)\|} \ll 1, \ \frac{\|e(s)\|}{\|d_{v}(s)\|} \ll 1 \qquad \text{=> attenuates effect of disturbances}$

Noise rejection means ratio of norms of errors to input noise is small: $\frac{\left\|e(s)\right\|}{\left\|n(s)\right\|} \ll 1$

=> attenuates effect of noise

- These are ensured by making norms of transfer functions small, e.g.: $\frac{\|e(s)\|}{\|d_{U}(s)\|} \leq \left\|-(I + CTPK)^{-1}CT\right\| \ll 1 \quad \Rightarrow \text{ effect of V disturbance is small}$
- For example, large gains in controller K can make this small.



Performance Requirements – Time Domain

• Typical Specifications on Step Response:

- Rise Time < X seconds
- Percent Overshoot < Y %</p>
- Settling Time < Z seconds (within ε %)





Scenario choices can affect difficulty of control

- Much of scenario research is search for system operating point with better plasma (not control) performance
 - closer to passively stable
 - reduced actuation requirements
 - compatibility with device constraints (e.g., current limits, wall heating)
- Different types of plasma instability can be introduced when pushing performance
 - Vertical
 - NTM
 - RWM
 - etc.



System Representation – Sampled Data Systems

• Modern control mixes discrete- and continuous-time systems:



• Approach (1) to representation for Control Design:

- Treat entire system as continuous time. Develop continuous controller K(s), then convert to discrete controller K(z).
- Issues: Close to original physics models, but sampling rate must be fast enough to justify treating discrete controller as continuous.

• Approach (2) to representation for Control Design:

- Treat entire system as discrete and develop discrete controller directly. (Methods exist to convert mixed continous/discrete to all discrete system.)
- Issues: Direct production of discrete controller with given sample rate, but difficult to retain physical intuition.



System Representation – Discrete Time Systems

- Time now represented by integers t=k dT (each time is sample number)
- State-Space models are difference equations:

$$x(k+1) = Ax(k) + Bu(k)$$

$$y(k) = Cx(k) + Du(k)$$

• Now we have Z-transform instead of Laplace transform

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

u(**k**)

• Nice properties:

 $\begin{array}{c|c} u(k)=f(k) \\ U(z)=F(z) \end{array} \begin{array}{c|c} 1-sample \\ delay \end{array} \begin{array}{c|c} y(k)=f(k-1) \\ Y(z)=z^{-1}F(z) \end{array}$

• Transfer functions now defined on "z"-plane:

$$zX(z) = AX(z) + BU(z)$$

$$Y(z) = CX(z) + DU(z)$$

$$\Rightarrow Y(z) = \left\lceil C(zI - A)^{-1}B + D \right\rceil U(z)$$





y(k)

System

Controllers – Example Digital Implementations

• Simple gain multiplier:

- Command signal u(k) = K * e(k) (error e(k) = r(k) y(k))
- K can be scalar (SISO) or matrix (MIMO)
- Digital filter (SISO): only previous samples

$$u(k) = a_1 u(k-1) + \dots + a_n u(k-n)^{k}$$

+ b_e(k) + b_e(k-1) + \dots + b_e(k-1)^{k}

$$b_0 e(k) + b_1 e(k-1) + \dots + b_m e(k-m)$$

 $\Rightarrow \frac{U(z)}{E(z)} = \frac{b_0 + b_1 z^{-1} + \dots + b_m z^{-m}}{1 - a_1 z^{-1} - \dots - a_n z^{-n}}$

• State Space:

present and previous samples

- Either SISO or MIMO: $u(k) = C_c x_c(k) + D_c e(k)$ $x_c(k+1) = A_c x_c(k) + B_c e(k)$
- Output computed from present error & state (computed last time)
- Controller state is updated at each time step



Next – some examples of types of controllers

Why different controller types?

- Simple versus difficult to use
- SISO versus MIMO system
- Highly coupled versus mostly diagonal system
- How problem is posed (what you "care about")
- Noise characteristics of system
- Disturbance sources/effects and characteristics
- Level of knowledge of system dynamics (model uncertainty)
- Guaranteed stability including model uncertainty versus nominal stability (not accounting for uncertainty)
- Guaranteed performance including uncertainty versus nominal performance (not accounting for uncertainty)



Controller Types – PID controllers

- PID = Proportional, Derivative, Integral feedback
 - Ideal: $u(t) = K_{p}e(t) + K_{D}\dot{e}(t) + K_{I} \int e(t)dt$
 - -e(t) = error signal, u(t) = command to control actuator
- Simple and often all that is needed (DO NOT confuse "often" with "always")
- Purpose of each term:
 - K_P : Tracking ($K_PG/(1+K_PG) \sim 1$ over control bandwidth)
 - K_1 : Regulation (gain is infinite at j ω =0 => steady-state error = 0)
 - K_D: Damping, phase lead

Issues:

- K_P: can destabilize if too large
- K_I: integrator windup
- K_D: amplifies noise at high frequencies

• Advantage:

- Simple, tunable

Disadvantage

- Difficult to determine gains in highly coupled systems



(implemented as simple gain multiplier) (implemented as digital filter)

(implemented as digital filter)

Controller Types – LQG controllers

- LQG= Linear, Quadratic, Gaussian ("optimal control")
 - $\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + Bu(t) + v(t)$ Assume the linear system has Gaussian noise v(t), w(t):

y(t) = Cx(t) + w(t)

- Minimize objective functional J ...
- $J = \int_0^\infty \left[x(t)^T Q x(t) + u(t)^T R u(t) \right] dt$ - ... where Q>0, R>0 (quadratic cost)
- Typically, states x are variations around a **stable** equilibrium x_0
- Sometimes J has terms for output y or error e = reference output
- Main idea: keep signals small "on average" (variation due to noise)
- **Optimal controller is given by:** $\dot{\hat{x}}(t) = A\hat{x}(t) + Bu(t) + K(y(t) C\hat{x}(t))$

 $u(t) = -L\hat{x}(t)$

- First equation is the Kalman Filter, which provides an optimal estimate \hat{x} for x
- If state x measured directly, insert x in place of \hat{x} and use 2nd equation only
- Advantage:
 - Straightforward to generate controller optimal against "noise", once J is defined
- Disadvantage
 - Matrices Q and R typically determined through trial and error



Controller Types – H-infinity ("robust") controllers

- H^{\sim} = method for synthesizing robust controllers ("Hardy space, infinity norm")
- Robust = guaranteed stability/performance with unknown (but bounded) uncertainty in plant model



- ... and make transfer function from Δ_{out} to Δ_{in} as small as possible
- Advantage:
 - Guarantees robust stability and performance in the deployed feedback system

Disadvantage:

- More difficult to understand and to use; some tools produce conservative designs



Summary

Control Terminology and Concepts:

 Linear/Nonlinear systems, Linear-Time-Invariant system, Discrete time system, System gain/phase, s-plane, z-plane, poles, zeros, pure delay, phase lag, phase lead, SISO, MIMO, feedforward, feedback, open-loop instability, control-driven instability, LHP, RHP, frequency response, roll-off, gain margin, phase margin, stability margin, disturbance, overshoot, rise time, settling time

Control Tools and Methods:

 Block Diagrams, Transfer Functions, State Space Models, Laplace Transform, Z-Transform, Fourier Transform, Bode plot, derivation of closed-loop transfer function, Root Locus, PID controllers, LQG controllers, H-infinity controllers

• Multiple Objectives of Control:

- Stability
- Tracking and Regulation
- Disturbance Rejection
- Noise Rejection
- Robustness



Further Reading

• Free online documentation (including books):

- Wikibook of automatic control systems, http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Control_Systems (not how you would want to learn control, but useful as a reference)
- Wikibook of signals and systems, http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Signals_and_Systems
- Matlab documentation at https://www.mathworks.com/help/helpdesk.html
 - Control System Toolbox, Robust Control Toolbox

Good entry-level control books:

- Franklin, Powell, Emami-Naeini, Feedback Control of Dynamic Systems
- Friedland, Control System Design: An Introduction to State-Space Methods

