Feedback Systems:
Notes on Linear Systems Theory

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These notes are a supplement for the second edition of *Feedback Systems* by Åström and Murray (referred to as FBS2e), focused on providing some additional mathematical background and theory for the study of linear systems.

Chapter 1

Signals and Systems

The study of linear systems builds on the concept of linear maps over vector spaces, with inputs and outputs represented as function of time and linear systems represented as a linear map over functions. In this chapter we review the basic concepts of linear operators over (infinite-dimensional) vector spaces, define the notation of a linear system, and define metrics on signal spaces that can be used to determine norms for a linear system. We assume a basic background in linear algebra.

This chapter is mainly used to place the results that follow on a sound mathematical footing. It can be skipped on first reading.

1.1 Linear Spaces and Mappings

We briefly review here the basic definitions for linear spaces, being careful to take a general view that will allow the underlying space to be a signal space (as opposed to a finite dimensional linear space).

Definition 1.1. A set V is a *linear space over* $\mathbb{R}$ if the following axioms hold:

1. Addition: For every $x, y \in V$ there is a unique element $x + y \in V$ where the addition operator + satisfies:

   (a) Commutativity: $x + y = y + x$.

   (b) Associativity: $(x + y) + z = x + (y + z)$.

   (c) Additive identity element: there exists an element $0 \in V$ such that $x + 0 = x$ for all $x \in V$.

   (d) Additive inverse: For every $x \in V$ there exists a unique element $-x \in V$ such that $x + (-x) = 0$.

2. Scalar multiplication: For every $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and $x \in V$ there exists a unique vector $\alpha x \in V$ and the scaling operator satisfies:

   (a) Associativity: $(\alpha\beta) = \alpha(\beta x)$.

   (b) Distributivity over addition in V: $\alpha(x + y) = \alpha x + \alpha y$.

   (c) Distributivity over addition in $\mathbb{R}$: $(\alpha + \beta)x = \alpha x + \beta x$.

5

(d) Multiplicative identity: $1 \cdot x = x$ for all $x \in V$.

More generally, we can replace $\mathbb{R}$ with any *field* (such as complex number $\mathbb{C}$). The terms "vector space", "linear space", and "linear vector space" will be used interchangeably throughout the text.

A vector space V is said to have a basis $\mathcal{B} = \{v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_n\}$ is any element $v \in V$ can be written as a linear combination of the basis vectors v_i and the elements of $\mathcal{B}$ are linearly independent. If such a basis exists for a finite n, then V is said to be finite-dimensional of dimension n. If no such basis exists for any finite n then the vector space is said to be infinite-dimensional.

Example 1.1 ($\mathbb{R}^n$). The finite-dimensional vector space $V = \mathbb{R}^n$ consisting of elements $x = (x_1, \ldots, x_n)$ is a vector space over the reals, with the addition and scaling operations defined as

$$x + y = (x_1 + y_1, \ldots, x_n + y_n)$$
$$\alpha x = (\alpha x_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)$$

Example 1.2 ($\mathcal{P}[t_0, t_1]$). The space of piecewise continuous mappings from a time interval $[t_0, t_1] \subset \mathbb{R}$ to $\mathbb{R}$ is defined as the set of functions $F : [t_0, t_1] \to \mathbb{R}$ that have a finite set of discontinuities on every bounded subinterval.
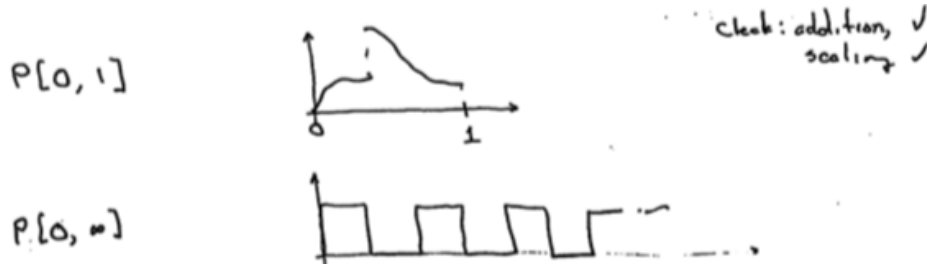
As an exercise, the reader should verify that the axioms of a linear space are satisfied.

Extensions and special cases include:

1. $\mathcal{P}^n[t_0, t_1]$: the space of piecewise continuous functions taking values in $\mathbb{R}^n$.

2. $\mathcal{C}^n[t_0, t_1]$: the space of continuous functions $F : [t_0, t_1] \to \mathbb{R}^n$.

All of these vector spaces are infinite dimensional.

Example 1.3 ($V_1 \times V_2$). Given two linear spaces V_1 and V_2 of the same type, the Cartesian product $V_1 \times V_2$ is a linear space with addition and scaling defined component-wise. For example, $\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m$ is the linear space $\mathbb{R}^{m+n}$ and the linear space $\mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1] \times \mathcal{C}[t_0, t_1]$ is a linear space $\mathcal{C}^2[t_0, t_1]$ with the operations

$$(f, g)(t) = (f(t), g(t)), \tag{S1.1}$$
$$(f_1, g_1) + (f_2, g_2) = (f_1 + g_1, f_2 + g_2), \tag{S1.2}$$
$$\alpha(f, g) = (\alpha f, \alpha g). \tag{S1.3}$$

Given a vector space V over the reals, we can define a *norm* on the vector space that associates with each element $x \in V$ a real number $\|x\| \in \mathbb{R}$.

Definition 1.2. A mapping $\|\cdot\| : V \to \mathbb{R}$ is a *norm* on V if it satisfies the following axioms:

6

1. $\|x\| \geq 0$ for all $x \in V$.

2. $\|x\| = 0$ if and only if $x = 0$.

3. $\|\alpha x\| = |\alpha| \, \|x\|$ for all $x \in V$ and $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$.

4. $\|x + y\| \leq \|x\| + \|y\|$ for all $x, y \in V$ (called the *triangle inequality*).

These definitions are easy to verify for finite-dimensional vector spaces, but they hold even if a vector space is infinite-dimensional.

The following table describes some standard norms for finite-dimensional and infinite dimensional linear spaces.

Name	$V = \mathbb{R}^n$	$V = \{\mathbb{Z}_+ \to \mathbb{R}^n\}$	$V = \{(-\infty, \infty) \to \mathbb{R}\}$
1-norm, $\|\cdot\|_1$	$\sum_i |x_i|$	$\sum_k \|x[k]\|$	$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |u(\tau)|, d\tau$
2-norm, $\|\cdot\|_2$	$\sqrt{\sum_i |x_i|^2}$	$\left(\sum_k \|x[k]\|^2\right)^{1/2}$	$\left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |u(\tau)|^2, d\tau\right)^{1/2}$
p-norm, $\|\cdot\|_p$	$\sqrt[p]{\sum_i |x_i|^p}$	$\left(\sum_k \|x[k]\|^2\right)^{1/p}$	$\left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |u(\tau)|^p, d\tau\right)^{1/p}$
∞-norm, $\|\cdot\|_\infty$	$\max_i |x_i|$	$\max_k \|x[k]\|$	$\sup_t |u(t)|$

(The function sup is the supremum, where $\sup_t u(t)$ is the smallest number $\bar{u}$ such that $u(t) \leq \bar{u}$ for all t.)

A linear space equipped with a norm is called a *normed linear space*. A normed linear space is said to be *complete* if every Cauchy sequence in V converges to a point in V. (A sequence $\{x_i\}$ is a Cauchy sequence if for every $\epsilon > 0$ there exists an integer N such that $\|x_p - x_q\| < \epsilon$ for all $p, q > N$.) Not every normed linear space is complete. For example, the normed linear space $\mathcal{C}[0, \infty)$, consisting of continuous, real-valued functions is not complete since it is possible to construct a sequence of continuous functions that converge to a discontinuous function (for example a step function). The space $\mathcal{P}[0, \infty)$ consisting of piecewise continuous functions is complete. A complete normed linear space is called a *Banach space*.

Let V and W be linear spaces over $\mathbb{R}$ (or any common field). A mapping $A : V \to W$ is a linear map if

$$A(\alpha_1 v_1 + \alpha_2 v_2) = \alpha A v_1 + \alpha_2 V_2$$

for all $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ and $v_1, v_2 \in V$. Examples include:

1. Matrix multiplication on $\mathbb{R}^n$.

2. Integration operators on $\mathcal{P}[0, 1]$: $Av = \int_0^1 v(t) \, dt$.

3. Convolution operators: let $h \in \mathcal{P}[0, \infty)$ and define the linear operator C_h as

$$(C_h v)(t) = \int_0^t h(t - \tau)v(\tau) \, d\tau$$

This last item provides a hint of how we will define a linear system.

Definition 1.3. An *inner product* on a linear space V is a mapping $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : V \times V \to \mathbb{R}$ with the following properties:

1. Bilinear: $\langle \alpha_1 v_1 + \alpha_2 v_2, w \rangle = \alpha_1 \langle v_1, w \rangle + \alpha_2 \langle v_2, w \rangle$ and the same for the second argument.

2. Symmetric: $\langle v, w \rangle = \langle w, v \rangle$

3. Positive definite: $\langle v, v \rangle > 0$ if $v \neq 0$.

A (complete) linear space with an inner product is called a *Hilbert* space. The inner produce also defines a norm given by $\|v\| = \langle v, v \rangle$. A property of the inner product is that $|\langle u, v \rangle| \leq \|u\|_2 \cdot \|v\|_2$ (the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality), which we leave as an exercise (hint: rewrite u as $u = z + (\langle u, v \rangle / \|v\|) v$ where z can be shown to be orthogonal to u).

Example 1.4 (2-norm)**.** Let $V = \mathcal{C}(-\infty, \infty)$. Then $\| \cdot \|_2$ can be verified to be a norm by checking each of the axioms:

1. $\|u\|_2 = \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |u(t)|^2 \, dt \right)^{1/2} > 0$.

2. If $u(t) = 0$ for all t then $\|u\|_2 = 0$ by definition. To see the converse, assume that $\|u\|_2 = 0$. Then by definition we must have

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |u(t)|^2 \, dt = 0$$

   and therefore $\|u\|_2 = 0$ on any subset of $(-\infty, \infty)$. Since $\mathcal{C}(-\infty, \infty)$ consists of continuous functions, it follows that $u(t) = 0$ at all points t (if not, then there would be a subset of $(-\infty, \infty)$ on which $|u(t)| > 0$ and the integral would not be zero.

3. $\|\alpha u\|_2 = \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\alpha u(t)|^2 \, dt \right)^{1/2} = \alpha \|u\|_2$.

4. To show the triangle inequality for the 2-norm, we make use of the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality by defining the inner product between two elements of V as

$$\langle u, v \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u(t) v(t) \, dt.$$

   It can be shown that this satisfies the properties of an inner product. Using the fact that $\|u\|_2 = \langle u, u \rangle$ we can show that

$$\begin{aligned}
\|u + v\|_2^2 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |u(t)|^2 + 2u(t)v(t) + |v(t)|^2 \, dt \\
&= \|u\|_2^2 + 2\langle u(t), v(t) \rangle \, dt + \|v\|_2^2 \\
&\leq \|u\|_2^2 + 2|\langle u(t), v(t) \rangle| \, dt + \|v\|_2^2 \\
&\leq \|u\|_2^2 + 2\|u\|_2 \cdot \|v\|_2 + \|v\|_2^2 = (\|u\|_2 + \|v\|_2)^2
\end{aligned}$$

1.2   Input/Output Dynamical Systems

We now proceed to define an input/output dynamical system, with an eventual focus on linear input/output dynamical systems. It is useful to distinguish between three different conceptual aspects of a "dynamical system:

- A *physical system* represents a physical (or biological or chemical) system that we are trying to analyze or design. An example of a physical system would be a vectored thrust aircraft or perhaps a laboratory experiment intended to test different control algorithms.

- A *system model* is an idealized version of the physical system. There may be many different system models for a given physical system, depending on what questions we are trying to answer. A model for a vectored thrust aircraft might be a simplified, planar version of the system (relevant for understanding basic tradeoffs), a nonlinear model that takes into account actuation and sensing characteristics (relevant for designing controllers that would be implemented on the physical system), or a complex model including bending modes, thermal properties and other details (relevant for doing model-based assessment of complex specifications involving those attributes).

- A *system representation* is a mathematical description of the system using one or more mathematical frameworks (e.g., ODEs, PDEs, automata, etc).

In the material that follows, we will use the word "system" to refer to the system representation, but keeping in mind that this is just a mathematical abstraction of a system model that is itself an approximation of the actual physical system.

Definition 1.4. Let $\mathcal{T}$ be a subset of $\mathbb{R}$ (usually $\mathcal{T} = [0, \infty)$ or $\mathcal{T} = \mathbb{Z}_+$). A *dynamical system* on $\mathcal{T}$ is a representation consisting of a tuple $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{U}, \Sigma, \mathcal{Y}, s, r)$ where

- the *input space* $\mathcal{U}$ is a set of functions mapping $\mathcal{T}$ to a set U representing the set of possible inputs to the system (typically $\mathcal{U} = \mathcal{P}^m[0, \infty)$);

- the *state space* Σ is a set representing the state of the system (usually $\mathbb{R}^n$, but can also be infinite dimensional, for example when time delays or partial differential equations are used);

- the *output space* $\mathcal{Y}$ is set of functions mapping $\mathcal{T}$ to a set Y representing the set of measured outputs of the system (typically $\mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{P}^p[0, \infty)$);

- the *state transition function* $s : \mathcal{T} \times \mathcal{T} \times \Sigma \times \mathcal{U} \to \Sigma$ is a function of the form $s(t_1, t_0, x_0, u(\,\cdot\,))$ that returns the state $x(t_1)$ of the system at time t_1 reached from state x_0 at time t_0 as a result of applying an input $u \in \mathcal{U}$;

- the *readout function* $r : \mathcal{T} \times \Sigma \times U \to Y$ is a function of the form $r(t, x, u)$ that returns the output $y(t) \in Y$ representing the value of the measured outputs of the system at time $t \in \mathcal{T}$ given that we are at state $x \in \Sigma$ and applying input $u \in U$.

Furthermore, the following axioms must be satisfied:

(A1) State transition axiom: for any $t_0, t_1 \in \mathcal{T}$ and $x_0 \in \Sigma$ with $t_1 \geq t_0$, if $u(\,\cdot\,), \tilde{u}(\,\cdot\,) \in \mathcal{U}$ and

$$u(t) = \tilde{u}(t) \quad \text{for all} \quad t \in [t_0, t_1] \cap \mathcal{T}$$

then

$$s(t_1, t_0, x_0, u(\,\cdot\,)) = s(t_1, t_0, x_0, \tilde{u}(\,\cdot\,)).$$

(A2) Semi-group axiom: For all $t_0 \leq t_1 \leq t_2 \in \mathcal{T}$, all $x_0 \in \Sigma$, and all $u(\,\cdot\,) \in \mathcal{U}$

$$s(t_2, t_1, s(t_1, t_0, x_0, u(\,\cdot\,)), u(\,\cdot\,)) = s(t_2, t_0, x_0, u(\,\cdot\,)).$$
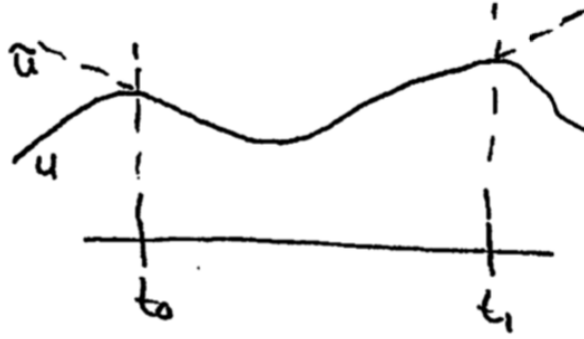
Figure S1.1: Illustration of the state transition axiom.

The definition of a dynamical system captures precisely the notion of a system that has an internal "state" $x \in \Sigma$ and that this state summarizes all information about the system at a given time. Axiom A1 states that inputs differ before reaching a state x_0 and after reaching a state x_1 but are otherwise the same will generate the same trajectory in state space, as illustrated in Figure S1.1. Axiom A2 has the interpretation that we can compute the state at time t_2 by first calculating the state at some intermediate time t_1. In both cases, these are formal statements that the state $x(t)$ summarizes all effects due to the input prior to time t.

Example 1.5 (Input/output differential equation representation). A nonlinear input/output system can be represented as the differential equation

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f(x, u), \qquad y = h(x, u), \tag{S1.4}$$

where x is a vector of state variables, u is a vector of control signals, and y is a vector of measurements. The term dx/dt represents the derivative of the vector x with respect to time, and f and h are (possibly nonlinear) mappings of their arguments to vectors of the appropriate dimension.

For mechanical systems, the state consists of the configuration variables $q \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and time derivatives of the configuration variables $\dot{q} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ (representing the generalized velocity of the system), so that $x = (q, \dot{q}) \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$. Note that in the dynamical system formulation of mechanical systems we model the dynamics as first-order differential equations, rather than the more traditional second-order form (e.g., Lagrange's equations), but it can be shown that first order differential equations can capture the dynamics of higher-order differential equations by appropriate definition of the state and the maps f and h.

A model is called a *linear* state space model if the functions f and h are linear in x and u. A linear state space model can thus be represented by

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = A(t)x + B(t)u, \qquad y = C(t)x + D(t)u, \tag{S1.5}$$

where $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $u \in \mathbb{R}^m$, $y \in \mathbb{R}^p$ and $A(t)$, $B(t)$, $C(t)$, and $D(t)$ are constant matrices of appropriate dimension. The matrix A is called the *dynamics matrix*, the matrix B is called the *control matrix*, the matrix C is called the *sensor matrix*, and the matrix D is called the *direct term*. Frequently models will not have a direct term, indicating that the input signal u does not influence the output directly.

10

This definition of a dynamical system is not the most general one possible. In particular, we note that our definition is restricted to model systems that are *causal*: the current state depends only on the past inputs. Furthermore, we have ignored the important class of stochastic dynamical systems, in which the inputs, outputs, and states are described by probability distributions rather than deterministic values. Similarly, this class of systems does not capture other types of non-deterministic systems where a single state may lead to more than one possible output, a situation that is not uncommon in automata theory.

In addition to restricting ourselves to deterministic, causal dynamical systems, we will also often be interested in the case where the system is time-invariant as well. To define time invariance we define the *shift operator* $T_\tau : \mathcal{U} \to \mathcal{U}$ as $(T_\tau u)(t) = u(t + \tau)$. We further define the *input/output map* $\rho : \mathcal{T} \times \mathcal{T} \times \Sigma \times \mathcal{U} \to Y$ as

$$\rho(t, t_0, x_0, u(\cdot)) = r(t, s(t, t_0, x_0, u(\cdot)), u(t)),$$

which allows us to evaluate the output of the system at time t given the initial state $x(t_0) = x_0$ and the input applied to the system.

Definition 1.5. A dynamical systems is *time invariant* if

1. $\mathcal{U}$ is closed under translation:

$$u(\cdot) \in \mathcal{U} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad T_\tau u(\cdot) \in \mathcal{U}.$$

2. The input/output map is *shift invariant*:

$$\rho(t_1, t_0, x_0, u(\cdot)) = \rho(t_1 + \tau, t_0 + \tau, x_0, T_\tau u(\cdot)).$$

It is straightforward to show that a linear state space model is time invariant if the matrices $A(t)$, $B(t)$, $C(t)$, and $D(t)$ do not depend on time, leading to the representation

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = Ax + Bu, \qquad y = Cx + Du. \tag{S1.6}$$

For our purposes, we will use a slightly more general description of a linear dynamical system, focusing on input/output properties.

Definition 1.6. An input/output dynamical system is a *linear input/output dynamical system* if

1. $\mathcal{U}$, Σ, and $\mathcal{Y}$ are linear spaces over $\mathbb{R}$ (or some other common field, such as $\mathbb{C}$);

2. for fixed $t, t_0 \in \mathcal{T}$ with $t \geq t_0$, $\rho : \mathcal{T} \times \mathcal{T} \times \Sigma \times \mathcal{U} \to Y$ is linear in $\Sigma \times \mathcal{U}$ onto Y:

$$\rho(t, t_0, x_0, u(\cdot)) = \rho(t, t_0, x_0, 0) + \rho(t, t_0, 0, u(\cdot))$$
$$\rho(t, t_0, \alpha x + \beta x', 0) = \alpha \rho(t, t_0, x, 0) + \beta \rho(t, t_0, x', 0)$$
$$\rho(t, t_0, 0, \alpha u(\cdot) + \beta u'(\cdot)) = \alpha \rho(t, t_0, 0, u(\cdot)) + \beta \rho(t, t_0, 0, u'(\cdot)).$$

It follows from this definition that if $\mathcal{D}$ is a linear dynamical system representation then the output response can be divided into an initial condition (zero-input) response and a force (zero-initial state) response:

$$\rho(t, t_0, x_0, u(\cdot)) = \underbrace{\rho(t, t_0, x_0, 0)}_{\text{zero-input response}} + \underbrace{\rho(t, t_0, 0, u(\cdot))}_{\text{zero-state response}}.$$

11

Furthermore, the principle of superposition holds for the zero-state response:

$$\rho(t, t_0, x_0, \alpha u(\,\cdot\,) + \beta u'(\,\cdot\,)) = \alpha \rho(t, t_0, x_0, u(\,\cdot\,)) + \beta \rho(t, t_0, x_0, u(\,\cdot\,)).$$

These properties will be familiar to readers who have already encountered linear input/output systems in signal processing or control theory, though we do note here the subtlety that these definitions and properties hold in the time-varying case as well as for time-invariant systems.

For the remainder of the notes we will restrict ourselves to linear, time-invariant (LTI) representations. We will also generally concentrate on the zero-state response, corresponding to the (pure) input/output response.

1.3   Linear Systems and Transfer Functions

Let G be a linear, time-invariant, causal, finite-dimensional system. A different way of defining G is to define the zero-state response as a *convolution equation*:

$$y = G * u, \qquad y(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} G(t - \tau) u(\tau) \, d\tau.$$

In this formulation, the function $G : (-\infty, \infty) \to \mathbb{R}^m$ is called the *impulse response* of the system and can be regarding as the response of the system to a unit impulse $\delta(t)$ (see FBS2e for the definition of the impulse function). The term $G(t - \tau)$ then represents the response of the system at time t to an input and time τ and the convolution equation is constructed by considering the input to be the convolution of the impulse function $\delta(\,\cdot\,)$ with the input $u(\,\cdot\,)$ and applying the principle of superposition. We also note that if the system is causal then $G(t) = 0$ for all $t < 0$ (if this is not the case, then $y(t)$ and depending on $u(\tau)$ for $\tau < t$).

An alternative to representation of the input/output response as a convolution integral is to make use of the (one-sided) Laplace transform of the inputs, outputs, and impulse response. Letting $\hat{Y}(s)$ represent the Laplace transform of the signal $y(t)$w where $s \in \mathbb{C}$ is the Laplace variable, we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
\hat{Y}(s) &= \int_0^\infty y(t) e^{-st} \, dt \\
&= \int_0^\infty \left(\int_0^\infty G(t - \tau) u(\tau) \, d\tau \right) e^{-st} \, dt \\
&= \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty \left(G(t - \tau) u(\tau) \, e^{-s(t - \tau)} \, dt \right) d\tau \\
&= \underbrace{\left(\int_0^\infty G(t) e^{-st} \, dt \right)}_{\hat{G}(s)} \underbrace{\left(\int_0^\infty u(\tau) e^{-s\tau} \, d\tau \right)}_{\hat{U}(s)}.
\end{aligned}
$$

The Laplace transform of $y(t)$ is thus given by the product of the Laplace transform of the impulse response $G(t)$ and the Laplace transform of the input $u(t)$. The function $\hat{G}(s)$ is called the *transfer function* between input u and output y and represents the zero-state, input/output response of the system. Notationally, we will often write $\hat{G}_{yu}$ to represent the transfer function from u to y so that we have

$$\hat{Y}(s) = \hat{G}_{yu}(s) \hat{U}(s).$$

For a system with m inputs and p outputs, a transfer function $\hat{G}(s)$ represents a mapping from $\mathbb{C}$ to $\mathbb{R}^{p \times m}$. Similar to our definition of norms for signal spaces, we can define norms for Laplace transforms. For the single-input, single-output (SISO) case we define

$$\|\hat{G}\|_2 = \left(\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\hat{G}(j\omega)|^2 \, d\omega \right)^{1/2}, \qquad \|\hat{G}\|_\infty = \sup_\omega |\hat{G}(j\omega)|.$$

It is left as an exercise to show that these are actually norms that satisfy the properties in Definition 1.2. The 2-norm is a measure of the energy of the impulse response of the system by making use of *Parseval's theorem*:

$$\|\hat{G}\|_2 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |G(t)|^2 \, dt.$$

The ∞-norm can be though of in multiple ways: it is the peak value of the frequency response of the system represented by $\hat{G}$ or, equivalently, the distance in the complex plane to the farthest point on the Nyquist plot of $\hat{G}$ (see FBS2e for the definition of the Nyquist plot). It can be shown that the ∞-norm is *submultiplicative*:

$$\|\hat{G}\hat{H}\|_\infty \leq \|\hat{G}\|_\infty \|\hat{H}\|_\infty.$$

For a linear, time-invariant (LTI) state space model of the form

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = Ax + Bu, \qquad y = Cx + Du,$$

with $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $u \in \mathbb{R}$, and $y \in \mathbb{R}$, it can be shown that the transfer function has the form

$$\hat{G}(s) = C(sI - A)^{-1}B + D = \frac{n(s)}{d(s)}$$

where $n(s)$ and $d(s)$ are polynomials and $d(s)$ has highest order n. The *poles* of G are the roots of the denominator polynomial and the *zeros* of G are the roots of the numerator polynomial. We say that a transfer function $\hat{G}$ is *proper* if $\hat{G}(j\infty)$ is finite (in which case $\deg d \geq \deg n$), *strictly proper* if $\hat{G}(j\infty) = 0$ ($\deg d > \deg n$), and *biproper* if $\hat{G}$ and $\hat{G}^{-1}$ are both proper ($\deg d = \deg n$). The transfer function is said to be *stable* if it is analytic in the closed right half-plane (i.e., there are no right half-plane poles).

The following result is sometimes useful in proofs and derivations.

Theorem 1.1. *The 2-norm (respectively ∞-norm) of a rational transfer function $\hat{G}$ is finite if and only if $\hat{G}$ is strictly proper (respectively proper) and has no poles on the imaginary axis.*

1.4 System Norms

Given a norm for input signals and a norm for output signals, we can define the *induced norm* for an input/output system. Although this can be done for the general case of nonlinear input/output systems, we restrict ourselves here to the case of a linear input/output system. We furthermore assume that the input/output response is represented by the transfer function (hence we consider only the zero-state response).

Definition 1.7. The *induced a to b norm* for a linear system G is given by

$$\|G\|_{b,a} = \sup_{\|u\|_a \leq 1} \|y\|_b \qquad \text{where } y = G * u.$$

The induced a-norm to b-norm for a system is also called the *system gain*.

Theorem 1.2. *Assume that $\hat{G}$ is stable and strictly proper and that $\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{P}(-\infty, \infty)$. Then the following table summarizes the induced norms of G:*

	$\|u\|_2$	$\|u\|_\infty$
$\|y\|_2$	$\|\hat{G}\|_\infty$	∞
$\|y\|_\infty$	$\|\hat{G}\|_2$	$\|G\|_1$

Sketch of proofs.

2-norm to 2-norm. We first show that the 2-norm to 2-norm system gain is less than or equal to $\|\hat{G}\|_\infty$:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\|y\|_2^2 &= \|\hat{Y}\|_2^2 \\
&= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\hat{G}(j\omega)|^2 \cdot |\hat{U}(j\omega)|^2 \, d\omega \\
&\leq \|\hat{G}\|_\infty^2 \cdot \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\hat{U}(j\omega)|^2 \, d\omega \\
&\leq \|\hat{G}\|_\infty^2 \cdot \|\hat{U}\|_2^2 = \|\hat{G}\|_\infty^2 \cdot \|u\|_2^2.
\end{aligned}
$$

To establish equality it suffices to show that we can find an input that achieves the bound.

Let ω_0 be a frequency such that $\|\hat{G}(j\omega_0)\| = \|\hat{G}\|_\infty$ (this exists because $\hat{G}$ is stable and strictly proper). Define a signal u_ϵ such that

$$
|\hat{U}_\epsilon(j\omega)| = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\pi/3} & \text{if } \omega_0 - \epsilon \leq \omega \leq \omega_0 + \epsilon \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
$$

and hence $\|u_\epsilon\|_2 = 1$. Then

$$
\begin{aligned}
\|\hat{Y}_\epsilon\|_2^2 &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\omega_0-\epsilon}^{\omega_0+\epsilon} |\hat{G}(j\omega)|^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{\epsilon}\right) d\omega \\
&= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\omega_0-\epsilon}^{\omega_0+\epsilon} |\hat{G}(j\omega_0)|^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{\epsilon}\right) d\omega + \delta_\epsilon \\
&= \|\hat{G}\|_\infty^2 \|u_\epsilon\|_2^2 + \delta_\epsilon,
\end{aligned}
$$

where δ_ϵ represents the error that we obtain by evaluating $\hat{G}$ at $s = j\omega_0$ instead of $s = j\omega$ in the integral. By definition $\delta_\epsilon \to 0$ as $\epsilon \to 0$ (since $\hat{G}$ is continuous) and hence

$$\|\hat{Y}_0\|_2^2 = \|\hat{G}\|_\infty^2 \|\hat{U}_0\|^2$$

and so this input achieves the bound. (Note: to be more formal we need to rely on the fact that $\mathcal{U}$ and $\mathcal{Y}$ are Banach spaces.

∞-*norm to 2-norm.* Consider the bounded input $u(t) = 1$. This gives a constant output $y(t) = G(0)u(t)$. Assuming that the system has non-zero gain at $\omega = 0$ then $\|y\|_2 = \infty$. (If the gain is zero at zero frequency, a similar argument is possible using a sinusoid $u = \sin(\omega t)$.)

2-norm to ∞-norm. We make use of the following corollary of the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality:

$$\left(\int_{t_0}^{t_1} u(t)v(t)\, dt \right)^2 \leq \left(\int_{t_0}^{t_1} |u(t)|^2\, dt \right) \left(\int_{t_0}^{t_1} |v(t)|^2\, dt \right).$$

The output satisfies

$$\begin{aligned}
|y(t)|^2 &= \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} G(t-\tau)u(\tau)\, d\tau \right)^2 \\
&\leq \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |G(t-\tau)|^2\, d\tau \right) \cdot \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |u(\tau)|^2\, d\tau \right) \\
&= \|G\|_2^2 \|u\|_2^2 = \|\hat{G}\|_2^2 \|u\|_2^2.
\end{aligned}$$

Since this holds for all t, it follows that

$$\|y\|_\infty \leq \|\hat{G}\|_2 \|u\|_2.$$

To get equality, we can apply the signal $u(t) = G(-t)/\|G\|_2$. We have the $\|u\|_2 = 1$ and

$$|y(0)| = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} G(-t)G(-t)/\|G\|_2\, dt = \|G\|_2.$$

So $\|y\|_\infty \geq |y(0)| = \|\hat{G}\|_2 \|u\|_2$. Combining the two inequalities we have that $\|y\|_\infty = \|\hat{G}\|_2 \|u\|_2$.

∞-*norm to ∞-norm.* See DFT [4].

□

1.5 Exercises

1.1 (DFT 2.1) Suppose that $u(t)$ is a continuous signal whose derivative $\dot{u}(t)$ is also continuous. Which of the following quantities qualifies as a norm for u:

(a) $\sup_t |\dot{u}(t)|$

(b) $|u(0)| + \sup_t |\dot{u}(t)|$

(c) $\max\{\sup_t |u(t)|, \sup_t |\dot{u}(t)|\}$

(d) $\sup_t |u(t)| + \sup_t |\dot{u}(t)|$

Make sure to give a thorough answer (not just yes or no).

1.2 (DFT 2.2) Consider the Venn diagram in Figure 2.1 of DFT. Show that the functions u1 to u9, defined below, are located in the diagram as shown in Figure 2.2. All the functions are zero for $t < 0$xs.

$$u_1(t) = \begin{cases} 1/\sqrt{t}, & \text{if } t \leq 1 \\ 0, & \text{if } t > 1 \end{cases}$$

$$u_2(t) = \begin{cases} 1/t^{\frac{1}{4}}, & \text{if } t \leq 1 \\ 0, & \text{if } t > 1 \end{cases}$$

$$u_3(t) = 1$$

$$u_4(t) = 1/(1+t)$$

$$u_5(t) = u_2 + u_4$$

$$u_6(t) = 0$$

$$u_7(t) = u_2(t) + 1$$

1.3 (DFT 2.4) Let D be a pure time delay of τ seconds with transfer function

$$\widehat{D}(s) = e^{-s\tau}.$$

A norm $\|\cdot\|$ on transfer functions is *time-delay invariant* if for every bounded transfer function $\widehat{G}$ and every $\tau > 0$ we have

$$\|\widehat{D}\widehat{G}\| = \|\widehat{G}\|$$

Determine if the 2-norm and ∞-norm are time-delay invariant.

1.4 Consider a discrete time system having dynamics

$$x[k+1] = Ax[k] + Bu[k], \qquad y[k] = Cx[k],$$

where $x[k] \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the state of the system at time $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, $u[k] \in \mathbb{R}$ is the (scalar) input for the system, $y[k] \in \mathbb{R}$ is the (scalar) output for the system and A, B, and C are constant matrices of the appropriate size. We use the notation $x[k] = x(kh)$ to represent the state of the system at discrete time k where $h \in \mathbb{R}$ is the sampling time (and similarly for $u[k]$ and $y[k]$).

Let $\mathcal{T} = [0, h, \ldots, Nh]$ represent a discrete time range, with $N \in \mathbb{Z}$.

(a) Considered as a dynamical system over $\mathcal{T}$, what is the input space $\mathcal{U}$, output space $\mathcal{Y}$, and state space Σ corresponding to the dynamics above? Show that each of these spaces is a linear space by verifying the required properties (you may assume that $\mathbb{R}^p$ is a linear space for appropriate p).

(b) What is the state transition function $s(t_1, t_0, x_0, u(\cdot))$? Show that this function satisfies the state transition axiom and the semi-group axiom.

(c) What is the readout function $r(t, x, u)$? Show that the input/output system is a linear input/output dynamical system over $\mathcal{T}$.

(d) What is the zero-input response for the system? What is the zero-state response for the system?

1.5 (DFT 2.5) Compute the 1-norm of the impulse response corresponding to the transfer function

$$\frac{1}{\tau s + 1} \qquad \tau > 0.$$

1.6 (DFT 2.6) For $\hat{G}$ stable and strictly proper, show that $\|G\|_1 < \infty$ and find an inequality relating $\|\hat{G}\|_\infty$ and $\|G\|_1$. (Remember that G represents the impulse response corresponding to the transfer function $\hat{G}$.)

1.7 (DFT 2.7) Derive the ∞-norm to ∞-norm system gain for a stable, proper plant $\hat{G}$. (Hint: write $\hat{G} = c + \hat{G}_1$ where c is a constant and $\hat{G}_1$ is strictly proper.)

1.8 (DFT 2.8) Let $\hat{G}$ be the transfer function for a stable, proper plant (but not necessarily strictly proper).

(a) Show that the ∞-norm of the output y given an input $u(t) = \sin(\omega t)$ is $|\hat{G}(jw)|$.

(b) Show that the 2-norm to 2-norm system gain for $\hat{G}$ is $\|\hat{G}\|_\infty$ (just as in the strictly proper case).

1.9 (DFT 2.10) Consider a system with transfer function

$$\hat{G}(s) = \frac{s+2}{4s+1}$$

and input u and output y. Compute

$$\|G\|_1 = \sup_{\|u\|_\infty = 1} \|y\|_\infty$$

and find an input that achieves the supremum.

1.10 (DFT 2.12) For a linear system with input u and output y, prove that

$$\sup_{\|u\| \leq 1} \|y\| = \sup_{\|u\| = 1} \|y\|$$

where $\| \cdot \|$ is any norm on signals.

1.11 Consider a second order mechanical system with transfer function

$$\hat{G}(s) = \frac{1}{s^2 + 2\omega_n \zeta s + \omega_n^2}$$

(ω_n is the natural frequency of the system and ζ is the damping ratio). Setting $\omega_n = 1$, plot the ∞-norm as a function of the damping ratio $\zeta > 0$. (You may use a computer to to this, but if you do then make sure to turn in a copy of your code with your solutions.)

17