## The curse of linearity and time-invariance

Università di Roma

Tor Vergata

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**CDC 2019 -- Nice** 

### **Motivations**



A semi-plenary at the CDC provides a unique opportunity to reflect on the past and to look at the future ...

I spent 20+ years understanding *linear objects* from a nonlinear perspective and I now believe that

linearity and time-invariance are a curse

They confuse our intuition and delay our understanding .... pretty much like Euclidean geometry and the standard notion of orthogonality obfuscate our understanding of space

Before spending another 20+ years in trying to (mis-)understand more *linear objects* I would like to reflect on some of the lessons I have learnt.

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(f)

 $(\mathbf{x})$ 

## The rules



How to break the curse of linearity and time-invariance

- 1. Study linear, time-invariant systems
- 2. Avoid matrix multiplication/inversion
- 3. While differentiating, keep track of constant terms
- 4. Never use frequency or Laplace transforms
- 5. If need use, matrices always act on something
- 6. Replace *linear algebra* with interconnection, invariance, pde's, coordinates transformations, the principle of optimality, dynamic programming, trajectories, differential operators, graph theory

## The plan

- 1. Moments and phasors (Giordano Scarciotti)
- 2. The Loewner functions (Joel Simard)
- 3. Persistence of excitation (Alberto Padoan)
- 4. Adaptive control (Kaiwen Chen)
- 5. Optimal control (Mario Sassano)



Analysis



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## Moments are ubiquitous in maths/physics/biology ....

$$\eta_m = \int_{?} r^m \operatorname{density}(r) dr \qquad r = \operatorname{distance}$$

Moments in probability: 1, mean, variance, skewness, ....

Moment of a force/torque: first order moment

Electrical dipole: first order moment

^

Moment of inertia: second order moment

Phasors: first order moments

Biomass concentration: first order moment

Cell density: zero-th order moment

T. Stieltjes, Recherches sur les fractions continues. Annales de la Faculté des Sciences de l'Université de Toulouse pour les Sciences Mathématiques et les Sciences Physiques, 1984.



## ... and systems theory

$$h: t \to I\!\!R \qquad \eta_m(s^\star) = \int_0^\infty t^m e^{-s^\star t} h(t) dt$$

h is the impulse response of a linear time-invariant (SISO) system

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu y = Cx$$
 
$$W(s) = C(sI - A)^{-1}B$$

0-moment at  $s^*: \eta_0(s^*) = C(s^*I - A)^{-1}B$ 



*k*-moment at  $s^{\star}$ :

$$\eta_k(s^{\star}) = \frac{(-1)^k}{k!} \left[ \frac{d^k}{ds^k} \left( C(sI - A)^{-1} B \right) \right]_{s=s^{\star}} = C(s^{\star}I - A)^{-(k+1)} B$$



## Moments: from transfer functions to state space

$$h: t \to I\!\!R \qquad \eta_m(s^\star) = \int_0^\infty t^m e^{-s^\star t} h(t) dt$$

h is the impulse response of a linear time-invariant (SISO) system

0-moment at 
$$s^*$$
:  $\eta_0(s^*) = C(s^*I - A)^{-1}B$   
$$\eta_0(s^*) = C\Pi^*$$
$$A\Pi + B = \Pi s^*$$



## Moments: from transfer functions to state space

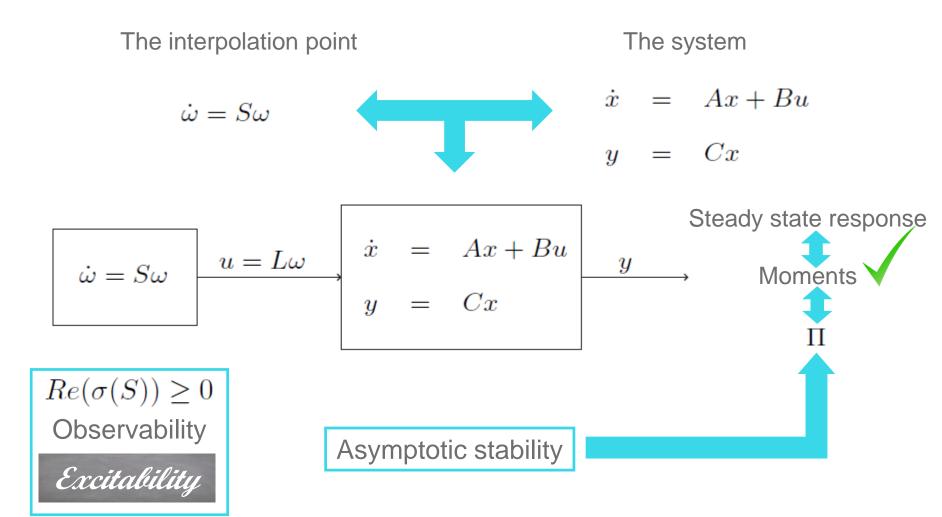
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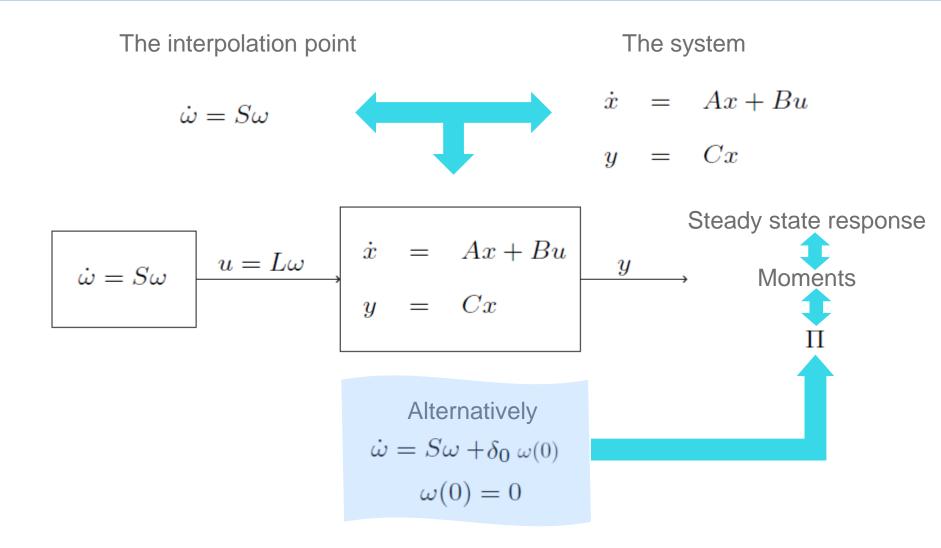






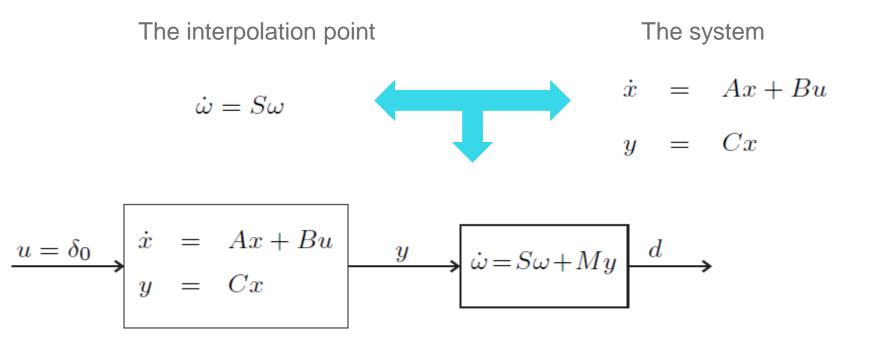




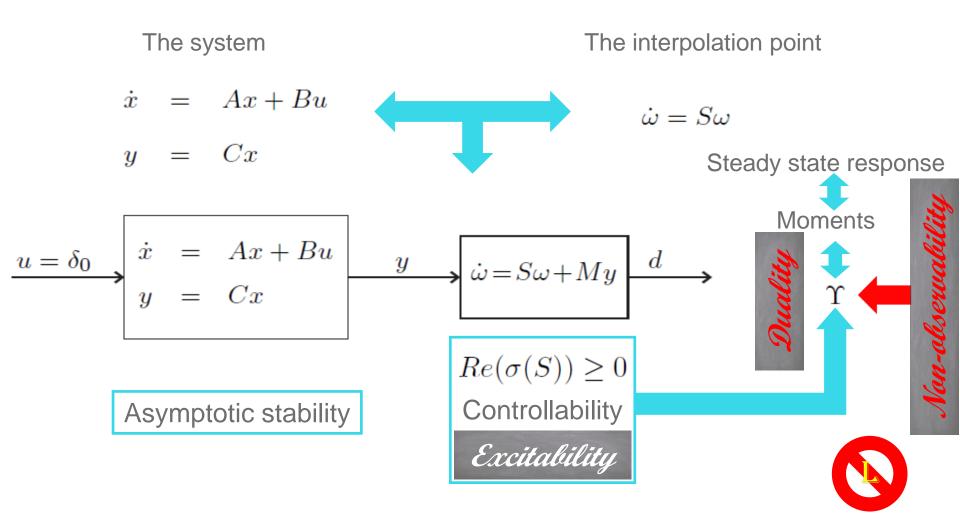




## The notion of moment – Linear systems – *Swapped*



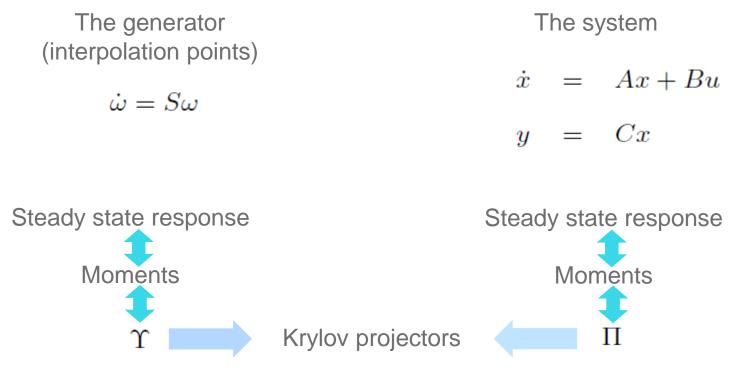








## The notion of moment – Linear systems – Summary



 $S\Upsilon = \Upsilon A + MC$ 

 $A\Pi + BL = \Pi S$ 

A. N. Krylov, On the numerical solution of the equation by which, in technical questions, frequencies of small oscillations of material systems are determined, Izv. Akad. Nauk SSSR, ser. fis.-mat., 1931



## The notion of moment – Linear systems – Questions

Is the interconnection approach adequate to extend the notion of moment to nonlinear systems?

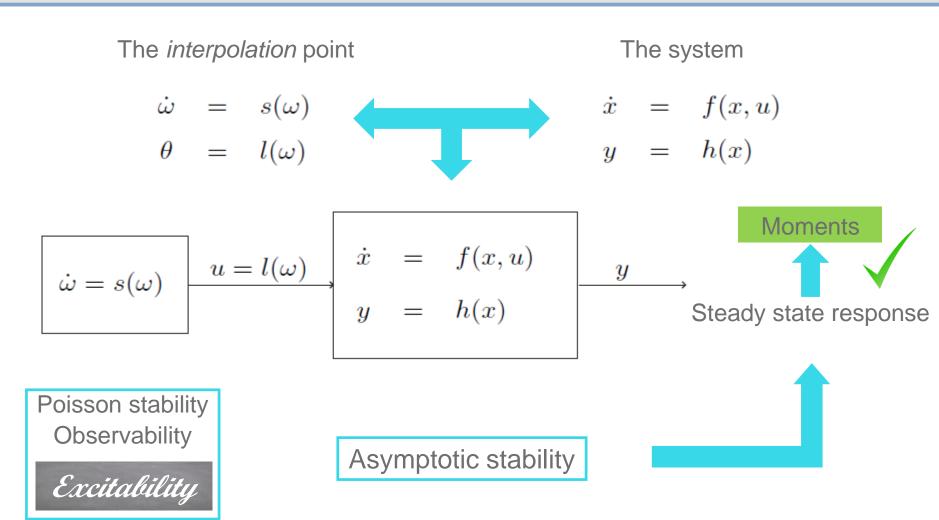
How do we interpret the non-observability condition?

Can we provide an intrinsic interpretation of the swapped interconnection without using duality?

Can we simultaneously interconnect generators left and right?

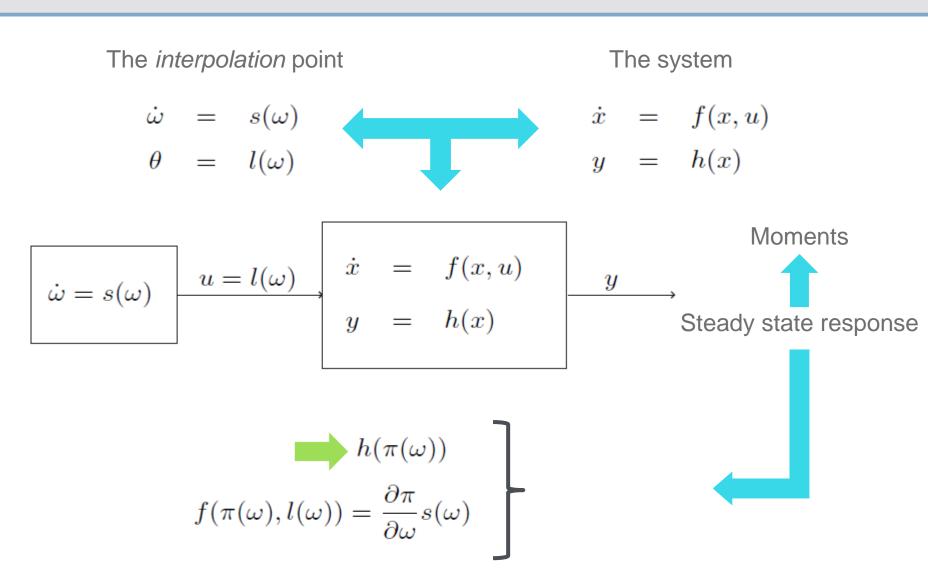
How do we interpret the excitability condition?







## The notion of moment – Nonlinear systems





## The notion of moment – Nonlinear systems

The interpolation point

The system

$$\begin{split} \dot{\omega} &= s(\omega) & \dot{x} &= f(x,u) \\ \theta &= l(\omega) & y &= h(x) \end{split}$$

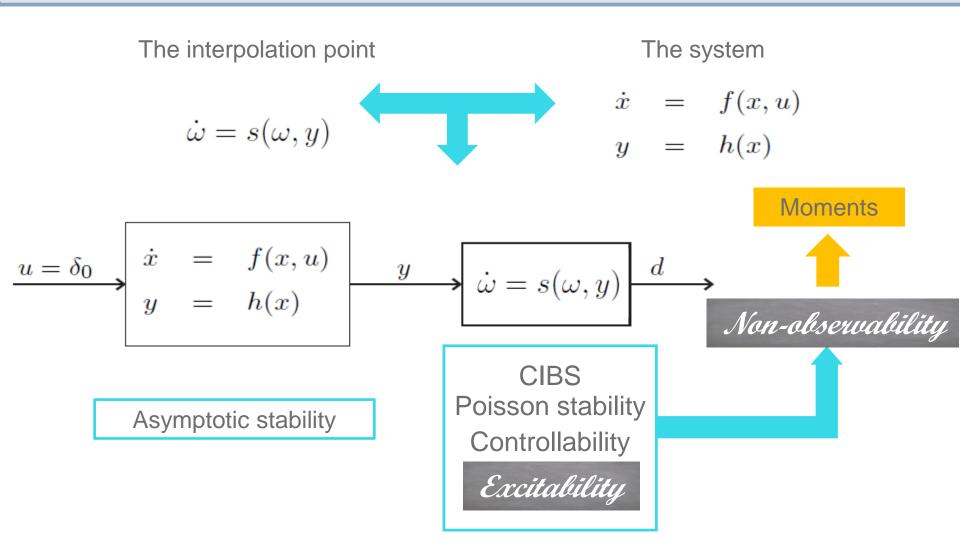
The signal generator captures the requirement that one is interested in studying the behaviour of the system only in specific *circumstances* 

The interconnected system possesses an invariant manifold and the dynamics restricted to the manifold are a copy of the dynamics of the *signal generator* 

 $h(\pi(\omega))$  is by definition the moment of the nonlinear system at  $s(\omega)$ 

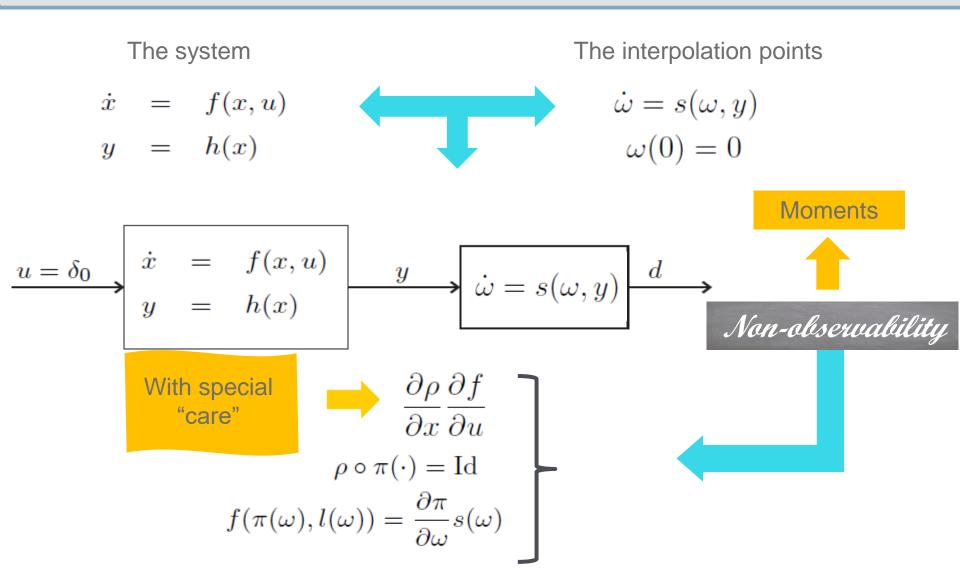


## The notion of moment – Nonlinear systems – *Swapped*





## The notion of moment – Nonlinear systems – *Swapped*





## The notion of moment – Linear systems – Questions

Is the interconnection approach adequate to extend the notion of moment to nonlinear systems?

How do we interpret the non-observability condition?

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Can we simultaneously interconnect generators left and right?

How do we interpret the excitability condition?

Before answering these questions we take a detour into circuits theory



## **Phasor transform and moments**

The phasor transform *coincides* with the Sylvester equation defining the moment (at the phasor angular frequency)

The component of the matrix  $\Pi$  are the phasors of the currents and of the integrals of the currents

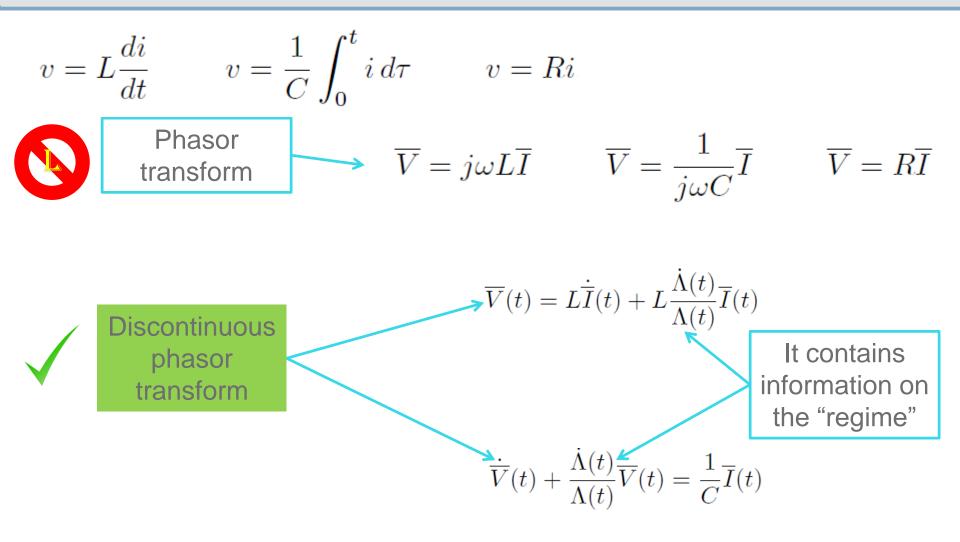
The phasor of the output response is the moment of the system (at the phasor angular frequency)

A link between the phasor transform and moments: to be used for *nonlinear* circuits and switched mode electronics

K.A.R. Steinmetz & E. J. Berg, "Complex Quantities and Their Use in Electrical Engineering". Proceedings of the International Electrical Congress, Chicago, American Institute of Electrical Engineers. 1893



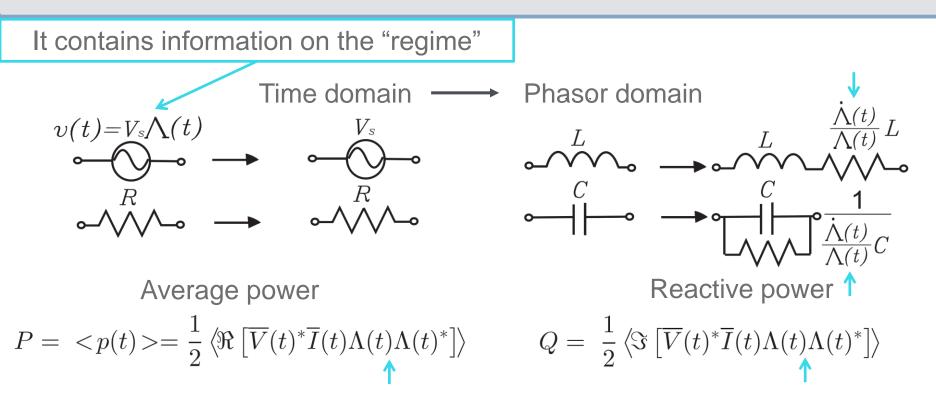
## **Phasor transform and basic circuit elements**



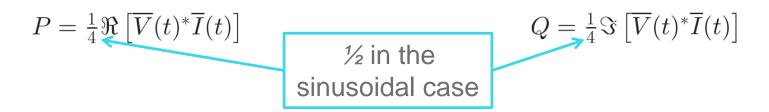
## **Phasor transform and circuit elements/properties**

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Switched mode operation with 50% duty cycle



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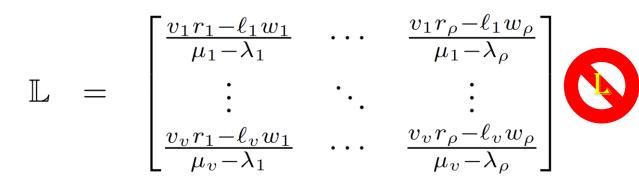
## ... back to the plan ...

- 1. Moments and phasors
- 2. The Loewner functions
- 3. **Persistence** of excitation
- 4. Adaptive control
- 5. Optimal control



## The notion of moment – Double-sided interconnection

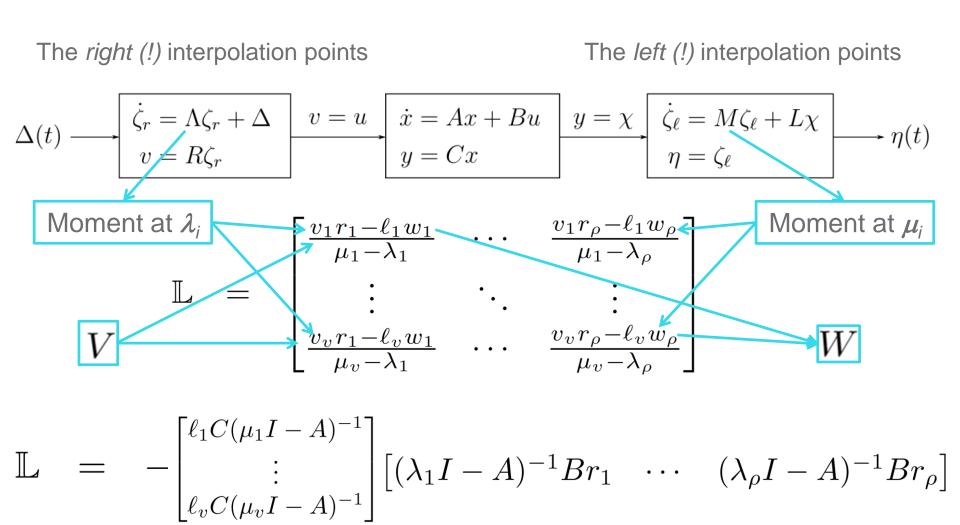
$$\Delta(t) \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\zeta}_r = \Lambda \zeta_r + \Delta \\ v = R\zeta_r \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{v = u} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} = Ax + Bu \\ y = Cx \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{y = \chi} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\zeta}_\ell = M\zeta_\ell + L\chi \\ \eta = \zeta_\ell \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \eta(t)$$



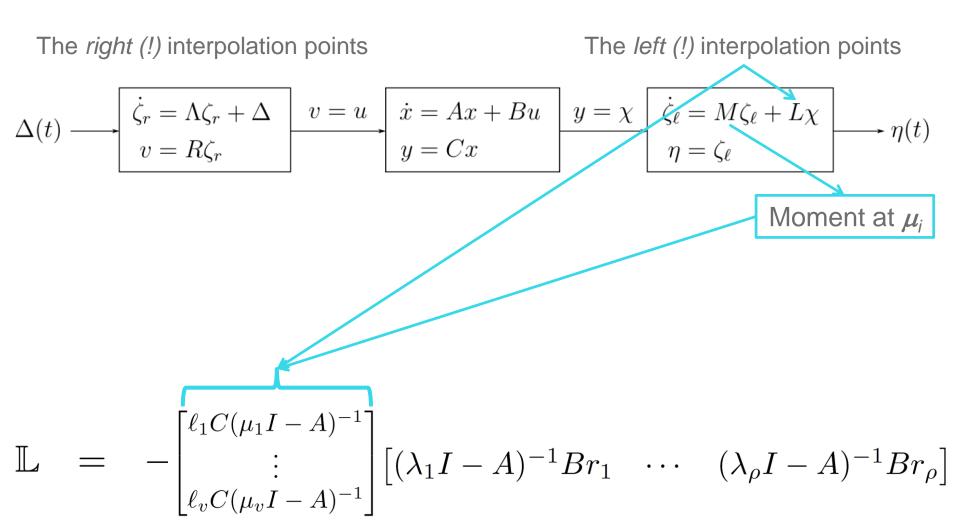
The Loewner (divided difference) matrix

T. Loewner, Über monotone Matrixfunktionen, Mathematische Zeitschrift, 1938.

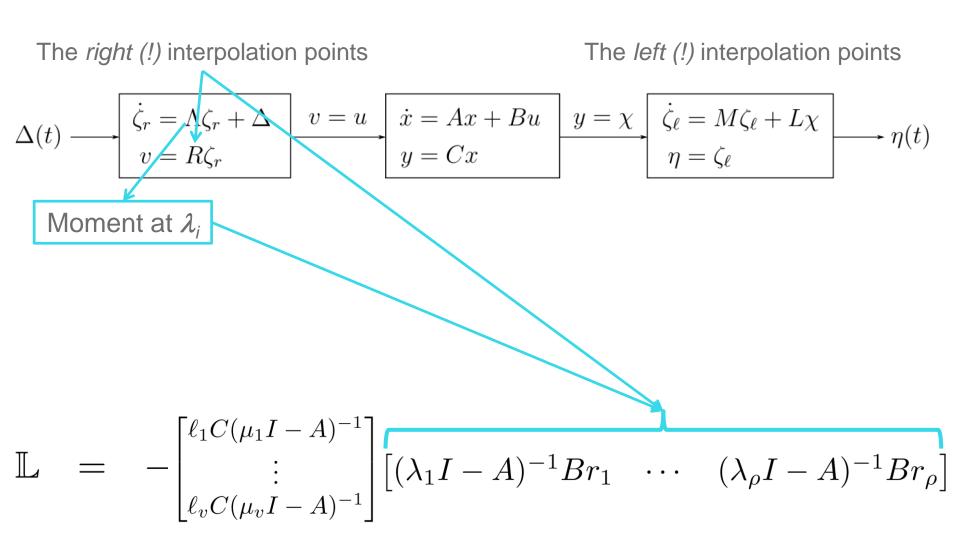




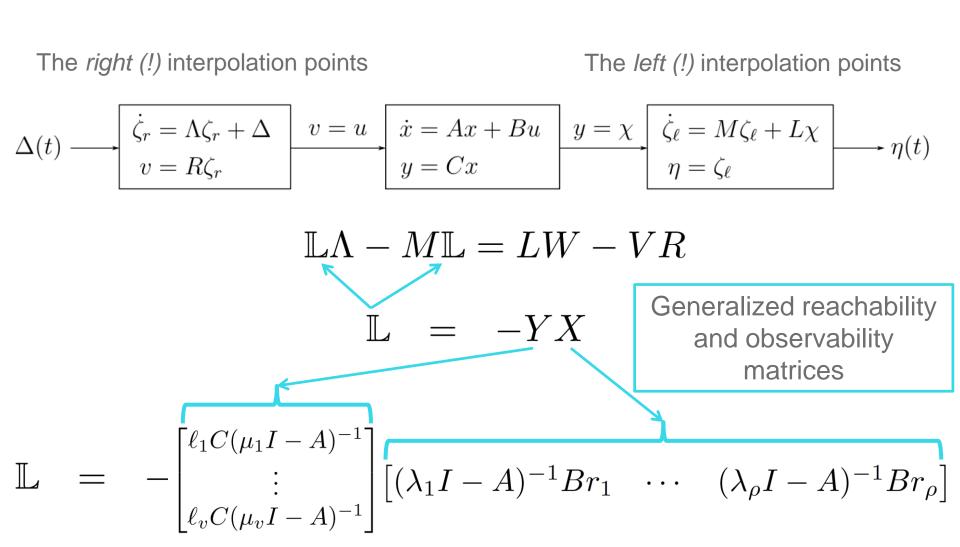














## The notion of moment – Double-sided interconnection

The Loewner matrix allows double-sided interpolation, but heavily relies on the transfer function and on linearity

The associated Sylvester equation is not related to any invariance condition

 $\mathbb{L}\Lambda - M\mathbb{L} = LW - VR$ 

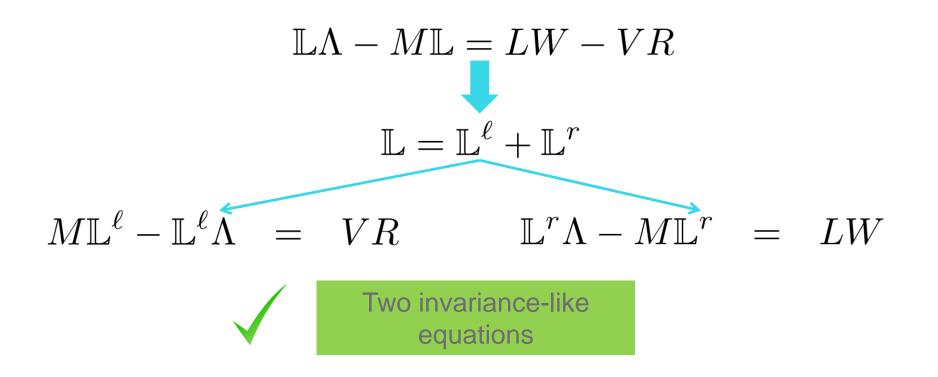




## The notion of moment – Double-sided interconnection

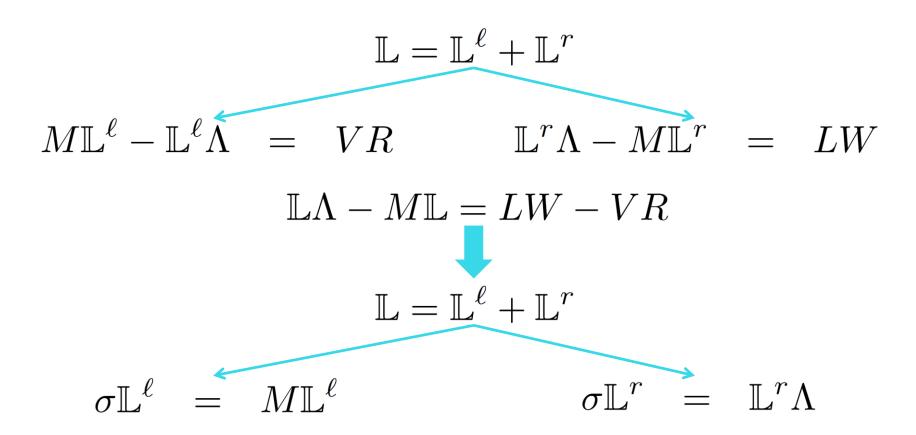
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## The notion of moment – Double-sided interconnection



The shifted left and shifted right Loewner matrices as Lie derivatives "along the interpolation points"





## The notion of moment – Double-sided interconnection

$$\Delta(t) \xrightarrow{\dot{\zeta}_r = \Lambda \zeta_r + \Delta} v = u \quad \dot{x} = Ax + Bu \quad y = \chi \quad \dot{\zeta}_\ell = M \zeta_\ell + L \chi \\ v = R \zeta_r \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ \mathbb{L} = \mathbb{L}^\ell + \mathbb{L}^r \\ \mathbb{L} = \mathbb{L}^\ell = M \mathbb{L}^\ell \quad \sigma \mathbb{L}^r = \mathbb{L}^r \Lambda$$

The Loewner matrices define the interpolating system

$$\dot{r} = \mathbb{L}^{-1} \sigma \mathbb{L}r - \mathbb{L}^{-1} V u_r$$

$$y_r = Wr$$
Moment at  $\lambda_i$ 



## The notion of moment – Double-sided interconnection

The Loewner matrices define the interpolating system

$$\dot{r} = \mathbb{L}^{-1} \sigma \mathbb{L} r - \mathbb{L}^{-1} V u_r$$

$$y_r = Wr$$

The autonomous behaviour of the interpolating system is such that the *shift* and the *time differentiation* commute



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## The notion of moment – Double-sided interconnection

$$\Delta(t) \xrightarrow{\dot{\zeta}_r = \Lambda\zeta_r + \Delta} v = u \quad \dot{x} = Ax + Bu \quad y = \chi \quad \dot{\zeta}_\ell = M\zeta_\ell + L\chi \\ v = R\zeta_r \quad \psi = Cx \quad \eta = \zeta_\ell \quad \eta(t)$$
$$\mathbb{L} = \mathbb{L}^\ell + \mathbb{L}^r$$
$$\sigma \mathbb{L}^\ell = M\mathbb{L}^\ell \quad \sigma \mathbb{L}^r = \mathbb{L}^r \Lambda$$

The shifted left and shifted right Loewner matrices define the interpolating system

$$\dot{r} = \mathbb{L}(t)^{-1} \Big( \sigma \mathbb{L}(t) - \frac{d\mathbb{L}^{\ell}}{dt} \Big) r - \mathbb{L}(t)^{-1} V(t) u_r$$
$$y_r = W(t) r.$$

The autonomous behaviour of the interpolating system is such that the *shift* and the *time differentiation* commute with some correction





## The notion of moment – Double-sided interconnection

Two (?) invariance-like equations

The left- and right- Loewner "functions" transform the cascade into a parallel interconnection

The shifted left and shifted right Loewner "functions" are Lie derivatives "along the interpolation points"

The autonomous behaviour of the interpolating system is such that the *shift* and the *time differentiation* commute with some *correction* 



## The notion of moment – Double-sided interconnection

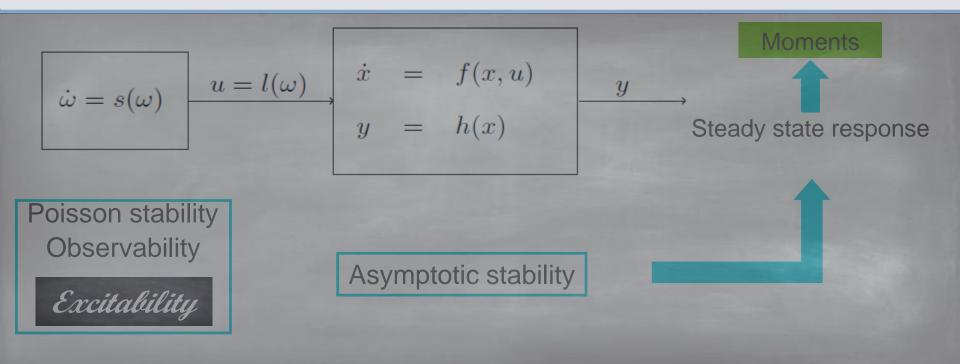


## ... making progress ...

- 1. Moments and phasors
- 2. The Loewner functions
- 3. **Persistence** of excitation
- 4. Adaptive control
- 5. Optimal control

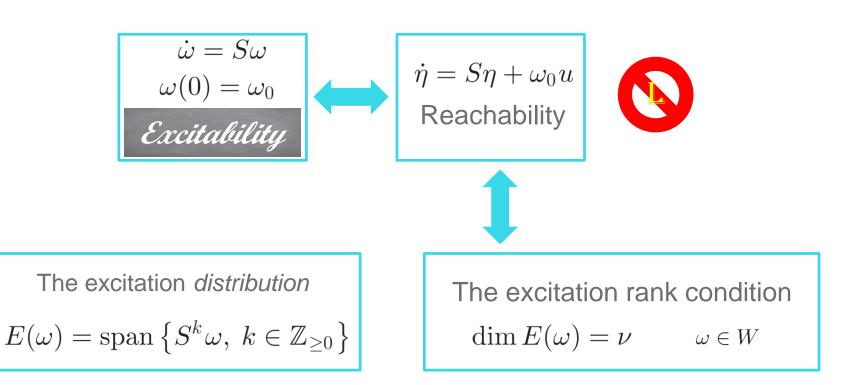
### **Excitability**







## Excitability – Linear systems



The excitation distribution and the excitation rank condition do not rely on linear concepts (such as the Cayley-Hamilton theorem)



## Excitability – Nonlinear systems

The excitation distribution  

$$\theta_{k+1}: W \to W, \ \omega \mapsto \frac{\partial \theta_k}{\partial \omega}(\omega) s(\omega), \quad k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$$
  
 $E(\omega) = \operatorname{span} \{ \theta_k(\omega), \ k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \}$ 

Excitation distribution *≠* Strong accessibility distribution



## Excitability – Nonlinear systems

The excitation distribution  

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 $E(\omega) = \operatorname{span} \{ \theta_k(\omega), \ k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \}$ 

The excitation rank condition

$$\dim E(\omega) = \nu \qquad \omega \in W$$

Excitation rank condition *≠* Strong accessibility rank condition



## **Excitability – A geometric characterization**

$$\dot{\omega} = s(\omega)$$
  
 $\omega(0) = \omega_0$ 

Suppose solutions are analytic

Solution  
is *PE* 
$$\mathcal{W}_{[t,t+T]} = \int_{t}^{t+T} \omega(\tau)\omega(\tau)^{\top}d\tau$$
  
PD for all *t* and some *T*  $\mathcal{W}_{[t,t+T]} = \int_{t}^{t+T} \omega(\tau)\omega(\tau)^{\top}d\tau$ 



## **Excitability – A geometric characterization**

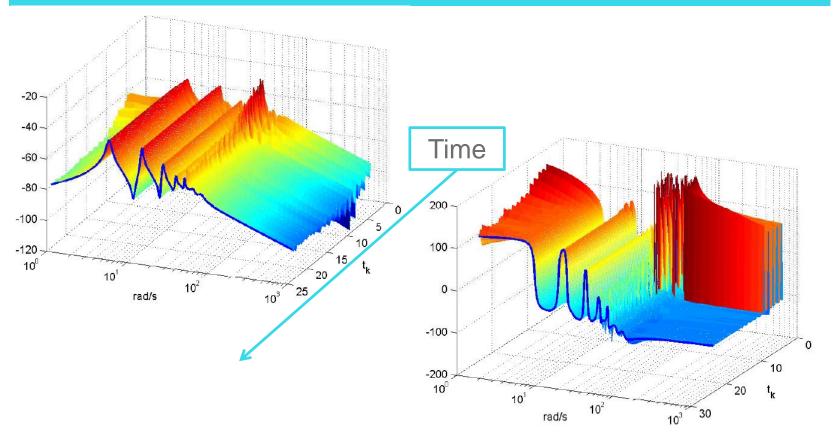
$$\dot{\omega} = s(\omega)$$
  
 $\omega(0) = \omega_0$ 

Suppose solutions are analytic and  $\omega_0$  is almost periodic



## **Excitability – Applications**

## The excitability rank condition plays a fundamental role in model reduction problems from data





## **Excitability – Applications**

The excitability rank condition, hence the PE condition, plays a fundamental role stability analysis of *skew-symmetric* systems

$$\dot{x} = -\varphi\varphi^{\top}x \qquad \dot{x} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B\varphi^{\top} \\ -\varphi C & 0 \end{bmatrix} x$$
$$\dot{\omega} = s(\omega) \qquad \varphi = \omega \qquad \dot{x} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B\varphi^{\top} \\ -\varphi C & 0 \end{bmatrix} x$$
$$\dot{w}(0) = \omega_0 \qquad \dot{x} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B\varphi^{\top} \\ -\varphi C & 0 \end{bmatrix} x$$

Almost-periodicity, excitability rank condition, minimality imply uniformly globally exponential stability

A. Tayley, "Sur les determinants gauches", Trelle's Journal, 1847.



### ... more progress ...

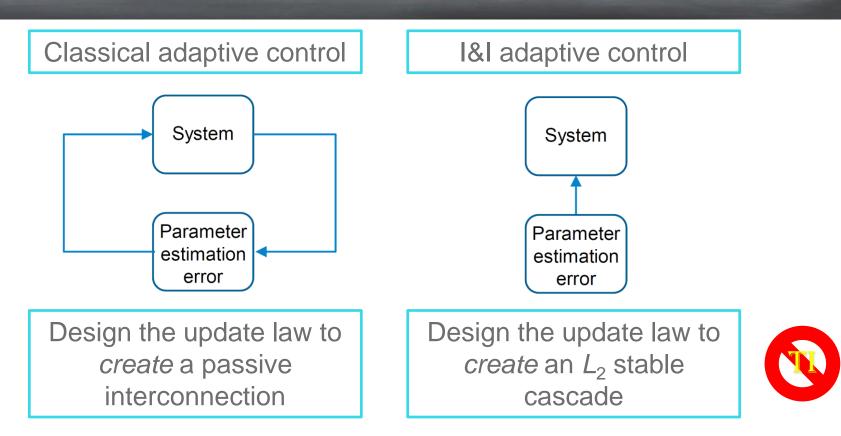
- 1. Moments and phasors
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## **Adaptive control**



Excitability and PE naturally lead to adaptive control

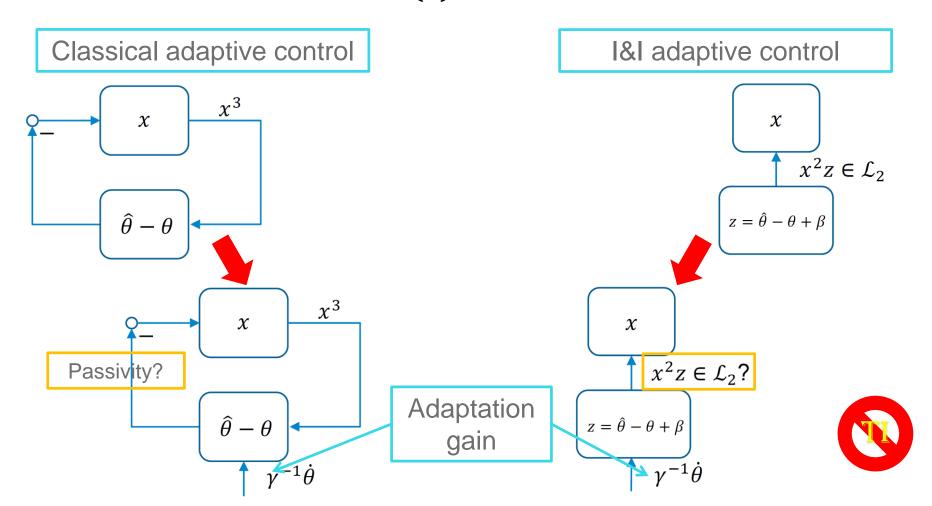
Where is the curse of linearity/time-invariance in adaptive control?



**Adaptive control** 

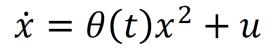
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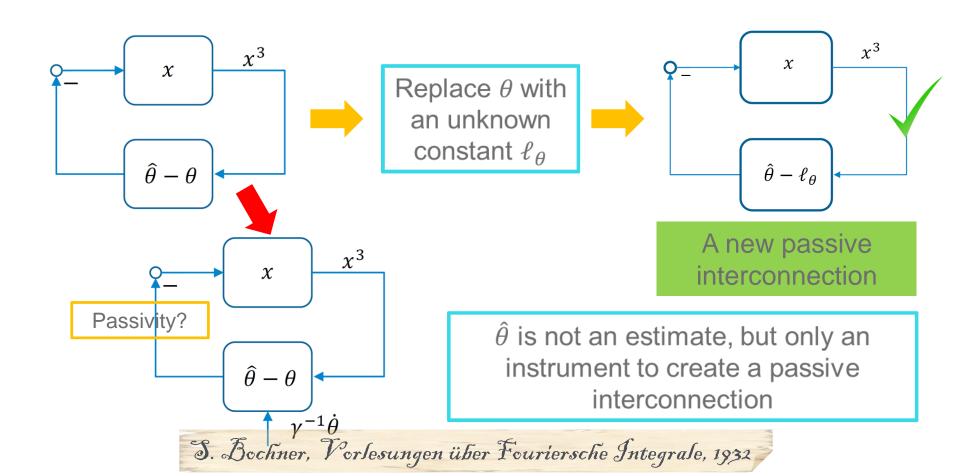
## $\dot{x} = \theta(t)x^2 + u$



## Adaptive control – Congelation of variables

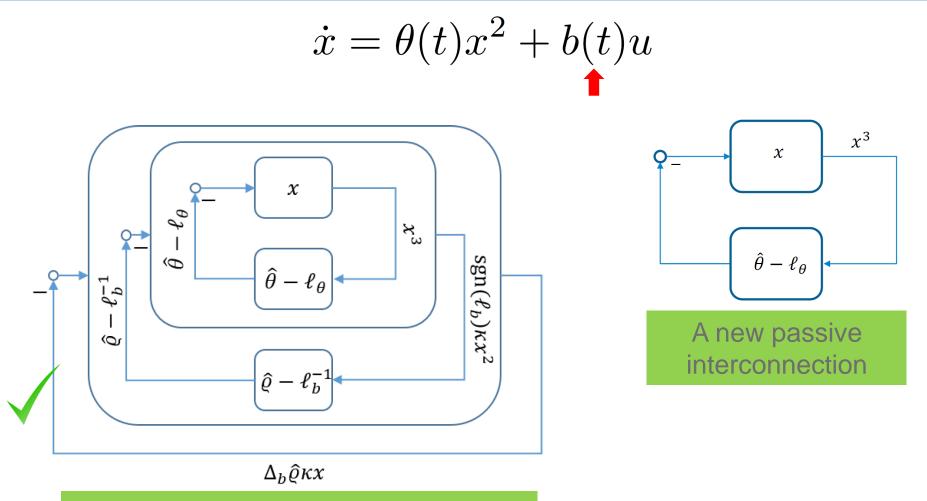








## Adaptive control – Congelation of variables



A new passive interconnection



## Adaptive control – Congelation of variables

The congelation of variables allows to recover, in simple cases, passive interconnections.

How do we extend this idea to more general systems?

Is time-invariance exploited in other steps of classical adaptive design?

$$\dot{x}_{1} = x_{2} + \phi_{0,1}(y) + \sum_{j=1}^{q} \phi_{1,j}(y)a_{j}(t)$$
$$\dot{x}_{\rho} = x_{\rho+1} + \phi_{0,\rho}(y) + \sum_{j=1}^{q} \phi_{\rho,j}(y)a_{j}(t) + b_{m}(t)g(y)u$$
$$\dot{x}_{n} = \phi_{0,n}(y) + \sum_{j=1}^{q} \phi_{n,j}(y)a_{j}(t) + b_{0}(t)g(y)u$$
$$y = x_{1}$$



## Adaptive control – Congelation of variables

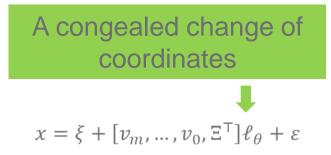
$$\dot{x}_1 = x_2 + \phi_{0,1}(y) + \sum_{j=1}^q \phi_{1,j}(y)a_j(t)$$

$$\dot{x}_\rho = x_{\rho+1} + \phi_{0,\rho}(y) + \sum_{j=1}^q \phi_{\rho,j}(y)a_j(t) + b_m(t)g(y)u$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Input} \\ \text{filter} \\ \text{filter} \\ \text{Reparameterized} \\ \text{system} \\ y = x_1 \end{array}$$

Kreisselmeier filters (input, output, regressor)

$$\dot{\varepsilon} = A_k \varepsilon + \Phi^{\top}(y) \Delta_a + \begin{bmatrix} 0_{(\rho-1)\times 1} \\ \Delta_b \end{bmatrix} g(y) u$$





## Adaptive control – Congelation of variables

#### The re-parameterized system

$$\dot{y} = \omega_0 + \overline{\omega}\ell_{\theta} + \varepsilon_2 + \ell_{b_m}v_{m,2}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\dot{v}_{m,i} = -k_iv_{m,1} + v_{m,i+1}$$

$$\vdots$$

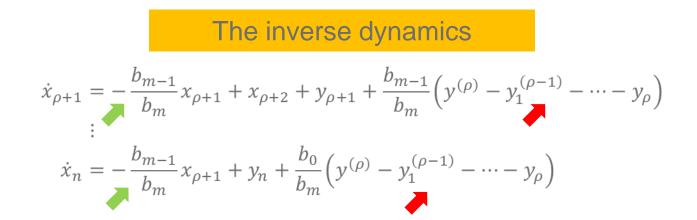
$$v_{m,\rho} = -k_\rho v_{m,1} + v_{m,\rho+1} + g(y)u$$

#### The inverse dynamics

$$\dot{x}_{\rho+1} = -\frac{b_{m-1}}{b_m} x_{\rho+1} + x_{\rho+2} + y_{\rho+1} + \frac{b_{m-1}}{b_m} \left( y^{(\rho)} - y_1^{(\rho-1)} - \dots - y_{\rho} \right)$$
  
$$\vdots$$
  
$$\dot{x}_n = -\frac{b_{m-1}}{b_m} x_{\rho+1} + y_n + \frac{b_0}{b_m} \left( y^{(\rho)} - y_1^{(\rho-1)} - \dots - y_{\rho} \right)$$



## Adaptive control – Congelation of variables



A change of coordinates, the chain rule and standard backstepping ...

$$\bar{x}_n = x_n - \sum_{j=0}^{\rho-1} (-1)^j \left(\frac{b_0}{b_m}\right)^{(\rho-1-j)} + \sum_{i=1}^{\rho-1} \sum_{j=0}^{\rho-i-1} (-1)^j \left(\frac{b_0}{b_m}\right)^{(\rho-i-1-j)}$$

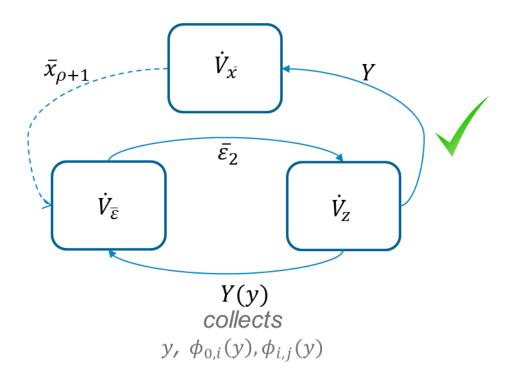
$$s_1 s_2^{(i)} = (-1)^i s_1^{(i)} s_2 + \left(\sum_{j=0}^{i-1} (-1)^j s_1^{(j)} s_2^{(i-1-j)}\right)^{(1)}$$

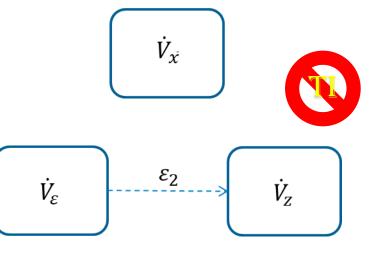


## Adaptive control – Congelation of variables

The congelation of variables allows constructing a new interconnection

The time-invariant case does not reveal all interconnections



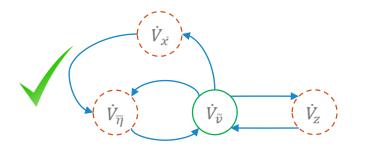


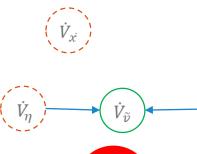
The interconnections are however present whenever parameters vary



## Adaptive control – Congelation of variables

I&I adaptive control

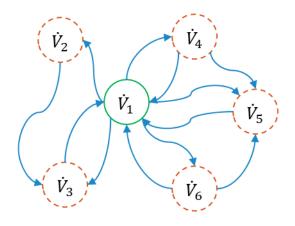






 $\dot{V}_{z}$ 

A general stabilization result



 $\hat{\sum_i V_i} \leq 0$  can be achieved by damping and scaling if there is at least one green node in every loop





## ... and to conclude

- 1. Moments and phasors
- 2. The Loewner functions
- 3. **Persistence** of excitation
- 4. Adaptive control
- 5. Optimal control

## **Optimal control**



Optimal control problems can be solved using dynamic programming or Fontryagin's minimum principle

Combining both approaches may yield a new perspective and new optimality conditions

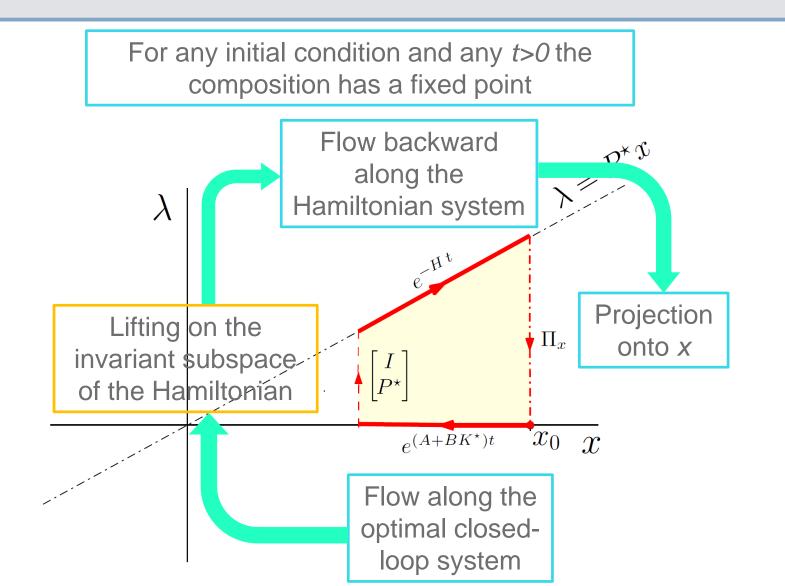
The basic *linear* ingredients

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu \qquad J_{x_0}(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty (x(t)^\top Q x(t) + u(t)^\top R u(t)) dt$$
$$0 = Q + A^\top P + PA - PBR^{-1}B^\top P \qquad H = \begin{bmatrix} A & -BR^{-1}B^\top \\ -Q & -A^\top \end{bmatrix}$$

Timaeus of Taormina, " Queen Dido and the isoperimetric problem", c. 345 BT - c. 250 BT

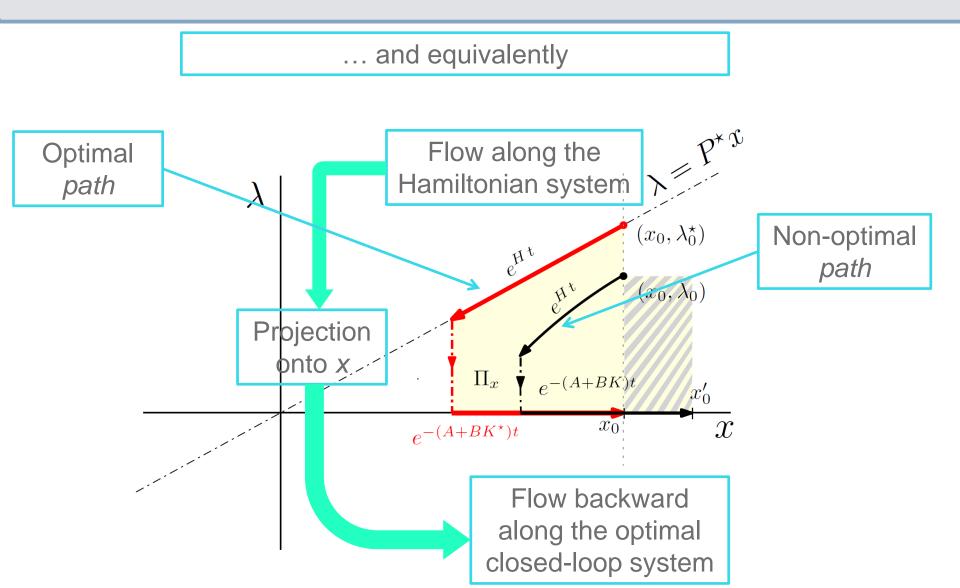


## **Optimal control – A graphical interpretation**





## **Optimal control – A graphical interpretation**







## **Optimal control – A graphical interpretation**

The optimal feedback gain and the solution of the Riccati equation are such that

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(A + BK^{\star}) \subset \mathbb{C}^{-} & \text{Stability} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Upsilon_{P^{\star},K^{\star}}(t,x_{0}) = x_{0} & \text{Fixed point} \end{aligned}$$

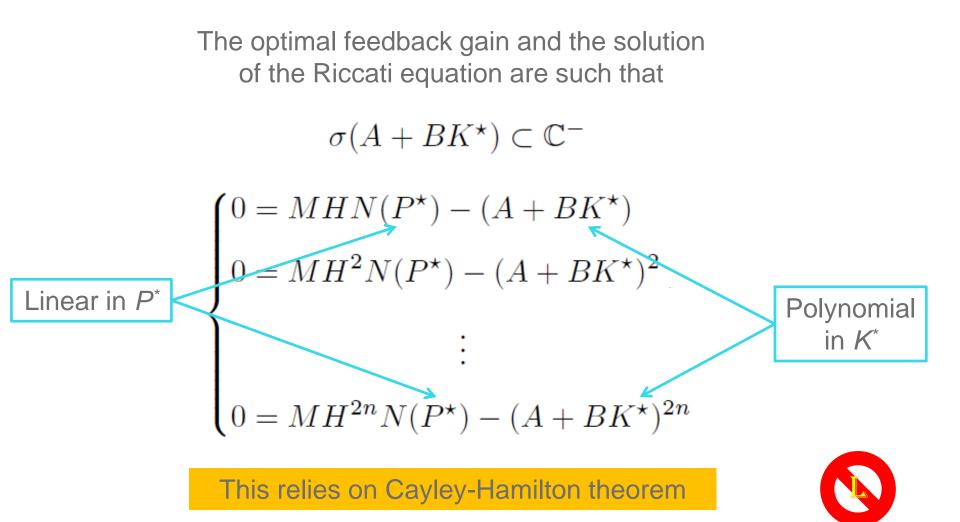
$$\Upsilon_{P,K}(t,x_{0}) \triangleq \Pi_{x} \left( e^{-Ht} \begin{bmatrix} I_{n} \\ P \end{bmatrix} e^{(A+BK)t} x_{0} \right)$$

$$\Pi_{x} \circ \Phi_{H}(-t;\cdot) \circ \varphi_{(A+BK)x}(t;x_{0}) \end{aligned}$$





## **Optimal control – Linear systems**







## **Optimal control – Linear systems**

The optimal feedback gain and the solution of the Riccati equation are such that

 $\sigma(A + BK^{\star}) \subset \mathbb{C}^-$ 

$$0 = W(K^{\star}) + (Y - J_2(K^{\star}))^{\top} P^{\star} + P^{\star}(Y - J_2(K^{\star})) + P^{\star}_{\checkmark} X P^{\star}$$

Positive semi-definite

Positive semi-definite, also for robust control problems

This is amenable to the use of optimization algorithms on the manifold of positive definite matrices with cost

$$J = tr(W + (Y - J_2)^{\top}P + P(Y - J_2) + PXP)^2$$



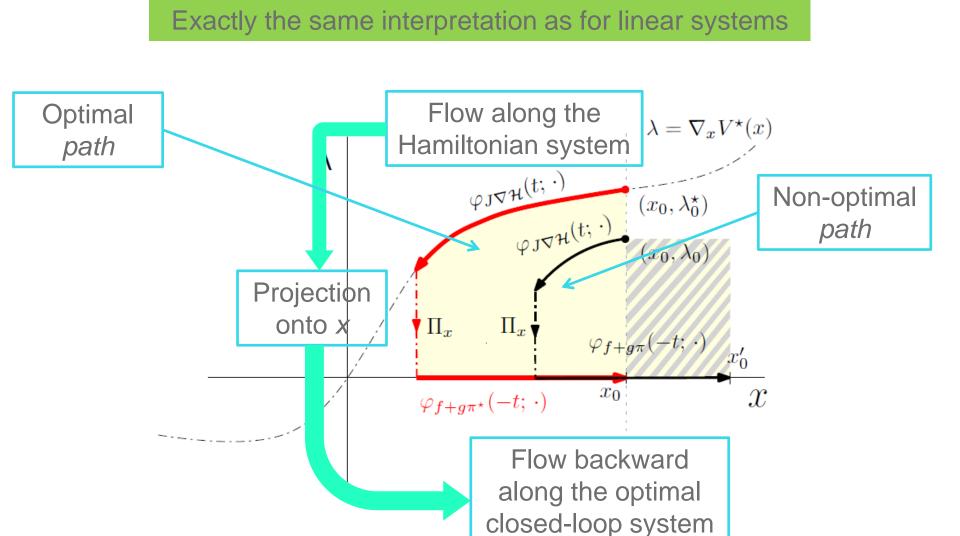
## **Optimal control – Nonlinear systems**

The basic *nonlinear* ingredients

$$\begin{split} \dot{x} &= f(x) + g(x)u \qquad \min_{u} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \int_{0}^{\infty} (q(x(t)) + \|u(t)\|^{2}) dt \right\} \\ 0 &= \frac{1}{2} q(x) + \frac{\partial V}{\partial x}(x) f(x) - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial V}{\partial x}(x) g(x) g(x)^{\top} \frac{\partial V}{\partial x}(x)^{\top} \\ \mathcal{H}(x,\lambda) &= \frac{1}{2} q(x) + \lambda^{\top} f(x) - \frac{1}{2} \lambda^{\top} g(x) g(x)^{\top} \lambda \\ \left[ \begin{array}{c} \dot{x} \\ \dot{\lambda} \end{array} \right] &= J \nabla \mathcal{H}(x,\lambda) \\ \end{split}$$
 Skew-symmetric



## **Optimal control – A graphical interpretation**





## **Optimal control – A graphical interpretation**

The optimal feedback gain and the solution of the optimal costate equation are such that

Stability

Fixed point

$$\varphi_{f+g\pi}(-t;\Pi_x\circ\varphi_{J\nabla\mathcal{H}}(t;x_0,\lambda_0))-x_0=0$$

$$0 = M\mathcal{D}_i(J
abla \mathcal{H})(x_0,\lambda_0) - \mathcal{D}_i(f+g\pi)(x_0)$$

 $\mathcal{D}_i(f) = (\nabla \mathcal{D}_{i-1}(f))\mathcal{D}_0(f)$ 

This is amenable to compute arbitrarily accurate approximations of the optimal control law without solving any PDE

## **Summary**



- 1. Moments and phasors
- 2. The Loewner functions
- 3. **Persistence of excitation**
- 4. Adaptive control
- 5. Optimal control



Analysis



## Some take-away messages

- 1. Linearity and time-invariance provide a very powerful structure which may be misleading
- 2. A careful study of linear, time-invariant systems with abstract tools allows
  - developing nonlinear/time-varying enhancement of analysis and design tools
  - improving our understanding of essential features and interactions
  - • • •
  - breaking the curse of linearity and time-invariance

Imperial College London Thanks!					
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## The curse of linearity and time-invariance

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