ME451: Control Systems

Lecture 10
Routh-Hurwitz stability criterion

Dr. Jongeun Choi
Department of Mechanical Engineering
Michigan State University

Course roadmap

Modeling
✓ Laplace transform
✓ Transfer function
✓ Models for systems
electrical
mechanical
electromechanical
✓ Linearization

Analysis
Time response
• Transient
• Steady state
Frequency response
• Bode plot
Stability
• Routh-Hurwitz
• Nyquist

Design
Design specs
Root locus
Frequency domain
PID & Lead-lag
Design examples

(Matlab simulations & laboratories)
Stability summary (review)

Let $s_i$ be poles of rational $G$. Then, $G$ is ...

- **(BIBO, asymptotically) stable** if $\text{Re}(s_i)<0$ for all $i$.
- **marginally stable** if
  - $\text{Re}(s_i)\leq0$ for all $i$, and
  - simple root for $\text{Re}(s_i)=0$
- **unstable** if
  - it is neither stable nor marginally stable.

Routh-Hurwitz criterion

- This is for LTI systems with a *polynomial* denominator (without sin, cos, exponential etc.)
- It determines if all the roots of a polynomial
  - lie in the open LHP (left half-plane),
  - or equivalently, have negative real parts.
- It also determines the number of roots of a polynomial in the open RHP (right half-plane).
- It does **NOT** explicitly compute the roots.
- No proof is provided in any control textbook.
Polynomial and an assumption

- Consider a polynomial
  \[ Q(s) = a_ns^n + a_{n-1}s^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1s + a_0 \]

- Assume \( a_0 \neq 0 \)
  - If this assumption does not hold, \( Q \) can be factored as
    \[ Q(s) = s^m \left( \tilde{a}_{n-m}s^{n-m} + \cdots + \tilde{a}_1s + \tilde{a}_0 \right) \]
    where \( \tilde{a}_0 \neq 0 \)
  - The following method applies to the polynomial \( \tilde{Q}(s) \)

---

Routh array

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
 s^n & a_n & a_{n-2} & a_{n-4} & a_{n-6} & \cdots \\
 s^{n-1} & a_{n-1} & a_{n-3} & a_{n-5} & a_{n-7} & \cdots \\
 s^{n-2} & b_1 & b_2 & b_3 & b_4 & \cdots \\
 s^{n-3} & c_1 & c_2 & c_3 & c_4 & \cdots \\
 \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \\
 s^2 & k_1 & k_2 & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\
 s^1 & l_1 & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \\
 s^0 & m_1 & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \\
\end{array}
\]

From the given polynomial
### Routh array

**How to compute the third row**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$s^n$</th>
<th>$a_n$</th>
<th>$a_{n-2}$</th>
<th>$a_{n-4}$</th>
<th>$a_{n-6}$</th>
<th>$\ldots$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$s^{n-1}$</td>
<td>$a_{n-1}$</td>
<td>$a_{n-3}$</td>
<td>$a_{n-5}$</td>
<td>$a_{n-7}$</td>
<td>$\ldots$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$s^{n-2}$</td>
<td>$b_1$</td>
<td>$b_2$</td>
<td>$b_3$</td>
<td>$b_4$</td>
<td>$\ldots$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$s^{n-3}$</td>
<td>$c_1$</td>
<td>$c_2$</td>
<td>$c_3$</td>
<td>$c_4$</td>
<td>$\ldots$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$s^2$</td>
<td>$k_1$</td>
<td>$k_2$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$s^1$</td>
<td>$l_1$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$s^0$</td>
<td>$m_1$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[
b_1 = \frac{a_{n-2}a_{n-1}-a_na_{n-3}}{a_{n-1}}
\]

\[
b_2 = \frac{a_{n-4}a_{n-1}-a_na_{n-5}}{a_{n-1}}
\]

\[\vdots\]

### Routh array

**How to compute the fourth row**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$s^n$</th>
<th>$a_n$</th>
<th>$a_{n-2}$</th>
<th>$a_{n-4}$</th>
<th>$a_{n-6}$</th>
<th>$\ldots$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$s^{n-1}$</td>
<td>$a_{n-1}$</td>
<td>$a_{n-3}$</td>
<td>$a_{n-5}$</td>
<td>$a_{n-7}$</td>
<td>$\ldots$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$s^{n-2}$</td>
<td>$b_1$</td>
<td>$b_2$</td>
<td>$b_3$</td>
<td>$b_4$</td>
<td>$\ldots$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$s^{n-3}$</td>
<td>$c_1$</td>
<td>$c_2$</td>
<td>$c_3$</td>
<td>$c_4$</td>
<td>$\ldots$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$s^2$</td>
<td>$k_1$</td>
<td>$k_2$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$s^1$</td>
<td>$l_1$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$s^0$</td>
<td>$m_1$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[
c_1 = \frac{a_{n-3}b_1-a_{n-1}b_2}{b_1}
\]

\[
c_2 = \frac{a_{n-5}b_1-a_{n-1}b_3}{b_1}
\]

\[\vdots\]
Routh-Hurwitz criterion

\[
\begin{array}{c|cccc}
  s^n & a_n & a_{n-2} & a_{n-4} & a_{n-6} \\
  s^{n-1} & a_{n-1} & a_{n-3} & a_{n-5} & a_{n-7} \\
  s^{n-2} & b_1 & b_2 & b_3 & b_4 \\
  s^{n-3} & b_1 & b_2 & b_3 & b_4 \\
  \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\
  s^2 & k_1 & k_2 \\
  s^1 & l_1 \\
  s^0 & m_1 \\
\end{array}
\]

The number of roots in the open right half-plane is equal to the number of sign changes in the first column of Routh array.

Example 1

\[Q(s) = s^3 + s^2 + 2s + 8 = (s+2)(s^2-s+4)\]

Routh array

\[
\begin{array}{c|c}
  s^3 & \text{Two sign changes in the first column} \\
  s^2 & 1 \rightarrow -6 \rightarrow 8 \\
  s^1 & \frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{j\sqrt{15}}{2} \\
  s^0 & \text{Two roots in RHP} \\
\end{array}
\]
Example 2

\[ Q(s) = s^5 + 2s^4 + 2s^3 + 4s^2 + 11s + 10 \]

Routh array

If 0 appears in the first column of a nonzero row in Routh array, replace it with a small positive number. In this case, \( Q \) has some roots in RHP.

Two sign changes in the first column \( \rightarrow \) Two roots in RHP

\[ \varepsilon \rightarrow \frac{4\varepsilon - 12}{\varepsilon} \rightarrow 6 \]

\( \varepsilon < 0 \)

Example 3

\[ Q(s) = s^4 + s^3 + 3s^2 + 2s + 2 \]

Routh array

If zero row appears in Routh array, \( Q \) has roots either on the imaginary axis or in RHP.

No sign changes in the first column \( \rightarrow \) No roots in RHP

But some roots are on imag. axis.

Take derivative of an auxiliary polynomial (which is a factor of \( Q(s) \)) \[ s^2 + 2 \]
Example 4

\[ Q(s) = s^3 + 3Ks^2 + (K + 2)s + 4 \]

Find the range of \( K \) s.t. \( Q(s) \) has all roots in the left half plane. (Here, \( K \) is a design parameter.)

Routh array

\[
\begin{array}{c|c}
  s^3 & 3K \\
  s^2 & 3K(K + 2) - 4 \\
  s^1 & 0 \\
  s^0 & K > -1 + \frac{\sqrt{21}}{3} \\
\end{array}
\]

Simple & important criteria for stability

- **1st order polynomial** \( Q(s) = a_1s + a_0 \)
  
  All roots are in LHP \( \iff \) \( a_1 \) and \( a_0 \) have the same sign

- **2nd order polynomial** \( Q(s) = a_2s^2 + a_1s + a_0 \)
  
  All roots are in LHP \( \iff \) \( a_2, a_1 \) and \( a_0 \) have the same sign

- **Higher order polynomial** \( Q(s) = a_n s^n + a_{n-1} s^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 s + a_0 \)
  
  All roots are in LHP \( \iff \) All \( a_k \) have the same sign
Examples

\[
\begin{array}{c|c}
Q(s) & \text{All roots in open LHP?} \\
\hline
3s + 5 & \text{Yes / No} \\
-2s^2 - 5s - 100 & \text{Yes / No} \\
523s^2 - 57s + 189 & \text{Yes / No} \\
(s^2 + s - 1)(s^2 + s + 1) & \text{Yes / No} \\
s^3 + 5s^2 + 10s - 3 & \text{Yes / No}
\end{array}
\]

Summary and Exercises

- Routh-Hurwitz stability criterion
  - Routh array
  - Routh-Hurwitz criterion is applicable to only polynomials (so, it is not possible to deal with exponential, sin, cos etc.).

- Next,
  - Routh-Hurwitz criterion in control examples

- Exercises
  - Read Section 6.
  - Do Examples and Problems 6-2.