

Root Locus & Pole Assignment L. Lanari

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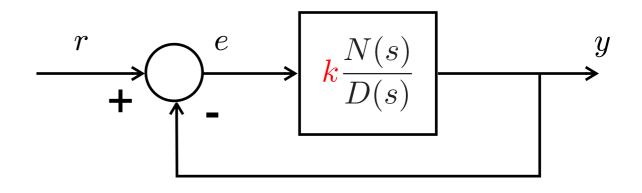


Outline

- root locus definition
- main rules for hand plotting
- root locus as a design tool
- other use of the root locus
- pole assignment

Root locus

Question: how do the closed-loop poles vary when a (real) gain in the open loop changes?



- Hypothesis on N(s) and D(s)
- monic polynomials
- coprime
- m < n (excess of the number of poles w.r.t. zeros in the loop function L(s))

loop function
$$L(s) = k \frac{N(s)}{D(s)} = k \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{m} (s - z_i)}{\prod_{j=1}^{n} (s - p_j)}$$
 zero/pole representation

zeros = zeros of open loop (if we consider the complementary sensitivity) poles of the closed-loop system are the roots of the closed loop characteristic polynomial

root locus = location of the closed-loop poles in the *s*-plane as *k* varies from - ∞ to + ∞

Lanari: CS - Root Locus

closed-loop system

Root locus

Considering, for example, the complementary sensitivity function T(s)

$$T(s) = \frac{y(s)}{r(s)} = \frac{L(s)}{1 + L(s)} = \frac{k \frac{N(s)}{D(s)}}{1 + k \frac{N(s)}{D(s)}}$$

 \Box the **poles** of the closed-loop system are the roots of 1 + L(s) = 0 which can be rewritten as

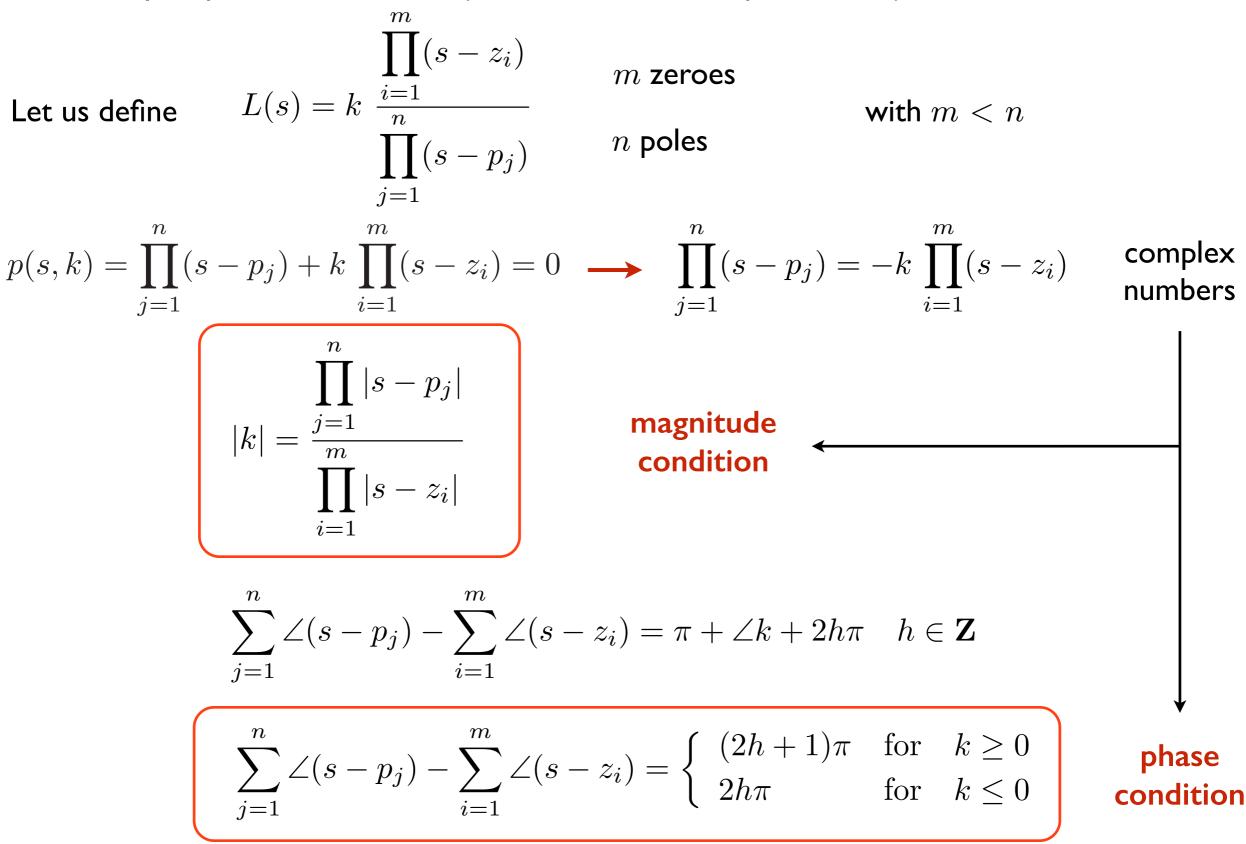
$$1 + k \frac{N(s)}{D(s)} = 0 \qquad \Leftrightarrow \qquad \begin{array}{c} D(s) + kN(s) = 0 \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} \text{root locus} \\ \text{equation} \end{array}$$
$$(\text{if } k \neq 0) \quad \frac{N(s)}{D(s)} = -\frac{1}{k} \qquad \Leftrightarrow \qquad N(s) + \frac{1}{k}D(s) = 0 \end{array}$$

the root locus equation D(s) + kN(s) = 0 is usually denoted as p(s,k) = 0

- since N(s) and D(s) are coprime, any closed loop transfer function will have the poles given by the root locus equation
- since the root locus equation p(s,k) = 0 is a polynomial of the same order than D(s) then the closed-loop system will have as many poles as the open-loop one, that is n.

 \Box the **zeros** of the closed-loop system T(s) coincide with those of the open loop L(s)

Formal way to plot the root locus (we will use some simplified rules)



phase condition

positive locus (k **positive)** k

$$k \angle \left(\frac{N(s)}{D(s)}\right) = \angle (-1) = (2h+1)\pi$$

from
$$1 + k \frac{N(s)}{D(s)} = 0$$

negative locus (k negative)

$$|k| \angle \left(\frac{N(s)}{D(s)}\right) = \angle (1) = 2h\pi$$

the phase condition is used to draw the locus of the roots: we do not need to solve for the high-order polynomial roots, we just need to verify if a given point of the complex plane satisfies the phase condition and therefore corresponds to a root of $1 + \frac{kN(s)}{D(s)} = 0$ for some real value of k (this value is found by using the magnitude condition)

there are however some guidelines for drawing rapidly, by hand, a sketch of the root locus

Since the closed-loop system has the same number n of poles as the open-loop, each of n the closed-loop poles will move along a **branch** of the root locus as k varies from 0 to $+\infty$ (similarly for the negative locus as k varies from $-\infty$ to 0)

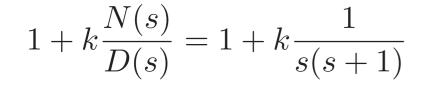
 \rightarrow the positive root locus has *n* branches (same for negative locus)

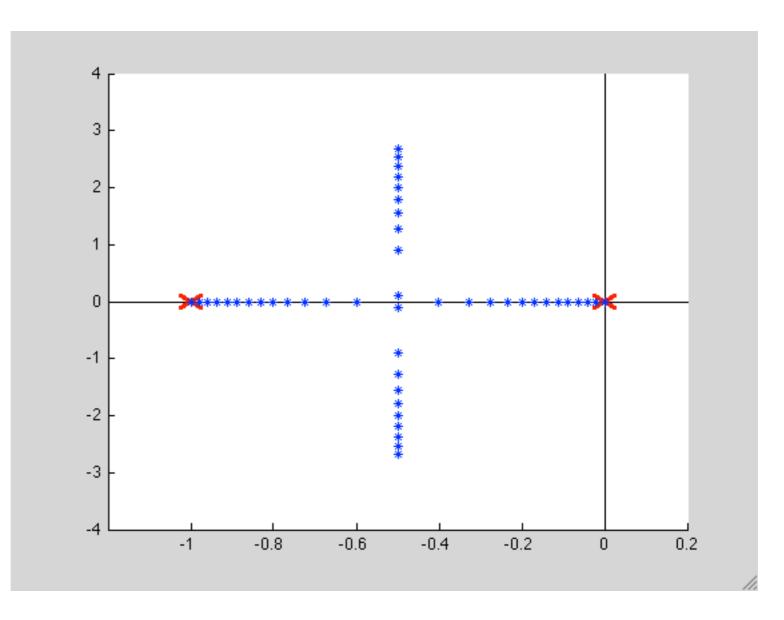
The coefficients of the root locus equation are real

the root locus is symmetric w.r.t. the real axis

we have to learn to visualize how all the poles move simultaneously in the complex plane as k increases

see the animation (not available in the PDF file) for the positive root locus of



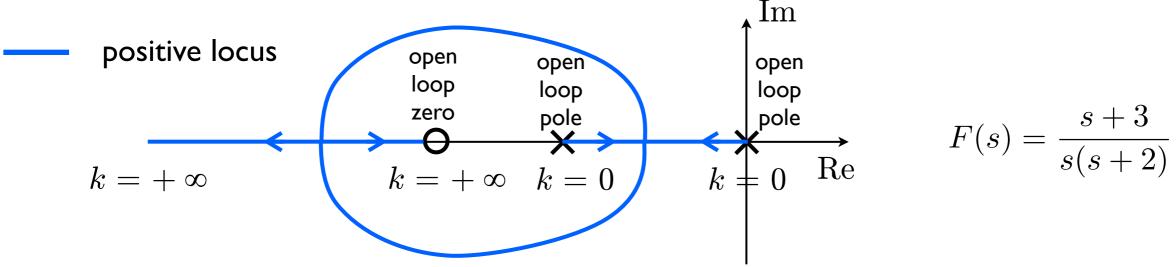


a point s^* belongs to the root locus p(s,k) = 0 (or equivalently s^* is a pole of the closed-loop system for some value of $k = k^*$) if and only if there exists a **real** value k^* such that

$$p\left(s^{st},\!k^{st}
ight) =0$$

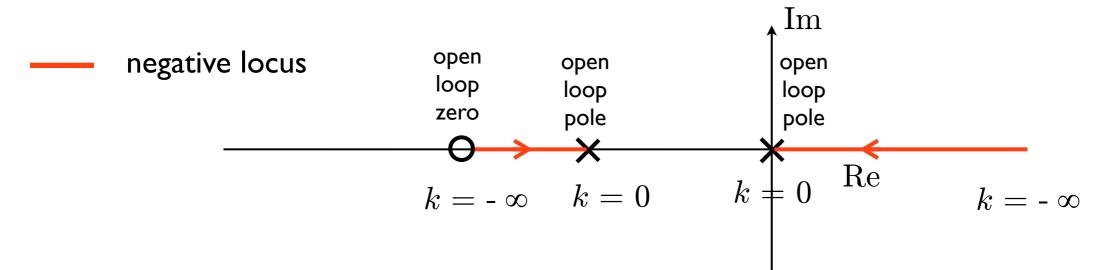
Rule 1 (positive locus)

The *n* branches of the positive locus start at the open-loop poles and, when *k* tends to $+\infty$, *m* branches tend to the finite *m* open-loop zeros while (n - m) tend to infinity along (n - m) asymptotes



Rule 1bis (negative locus)

For the *n* branches of the negative locus, as *k* varies from $-\infty$ to 0, *m* branches start from the *m* finite open-loop zeros while the other (n - m) branches come from infinity along (n - m) asymptotes. All branches end, for k = 0 in the open-loop poles

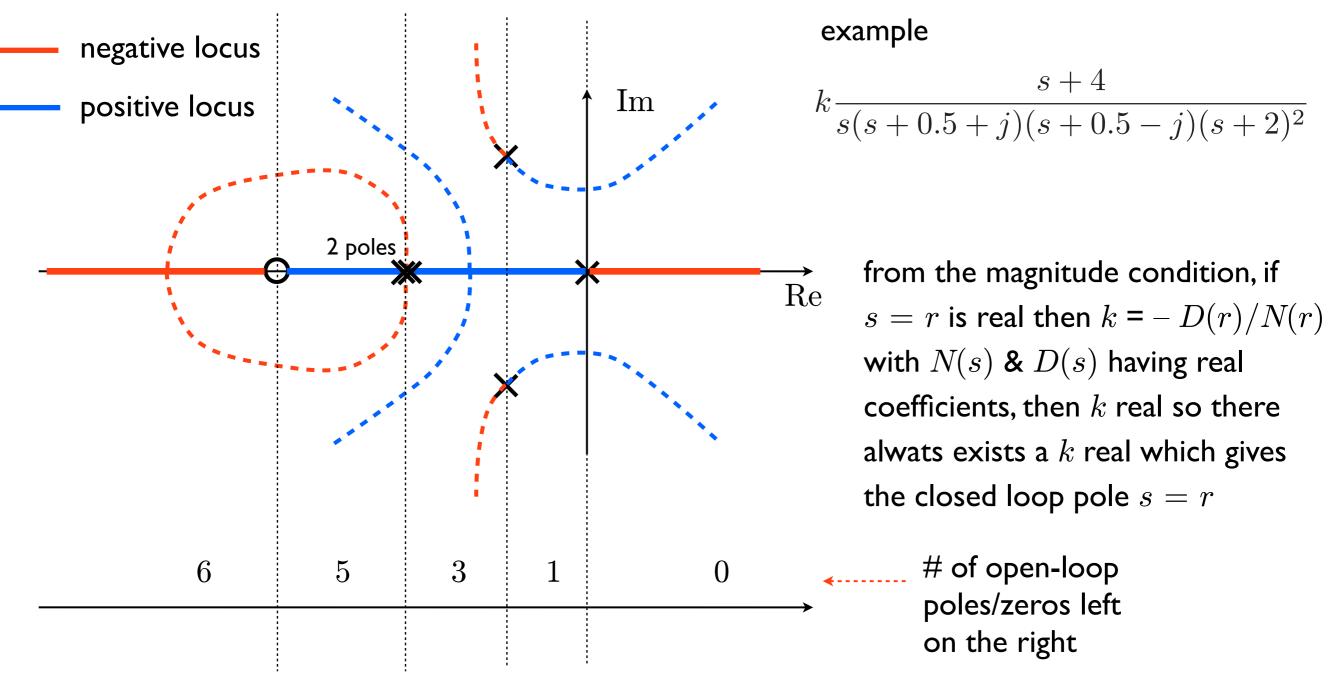


Rule 2

Every point on the real axis belongs to either the positive or negative locus.

A point on the real axis that leaves on its **right** an **odd** number of poles and zeros counted with their multiplicity belongs to the **positive locus**.

All the other points belong to the negative locus.



Rule 3

The (n - m) asymptotes are centered in a center of asymptotes

$$s_0 = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{n} p_j - \sum_{i=1}^{m} z_i}{n - m}$$

center of asymptotes

and form angles of

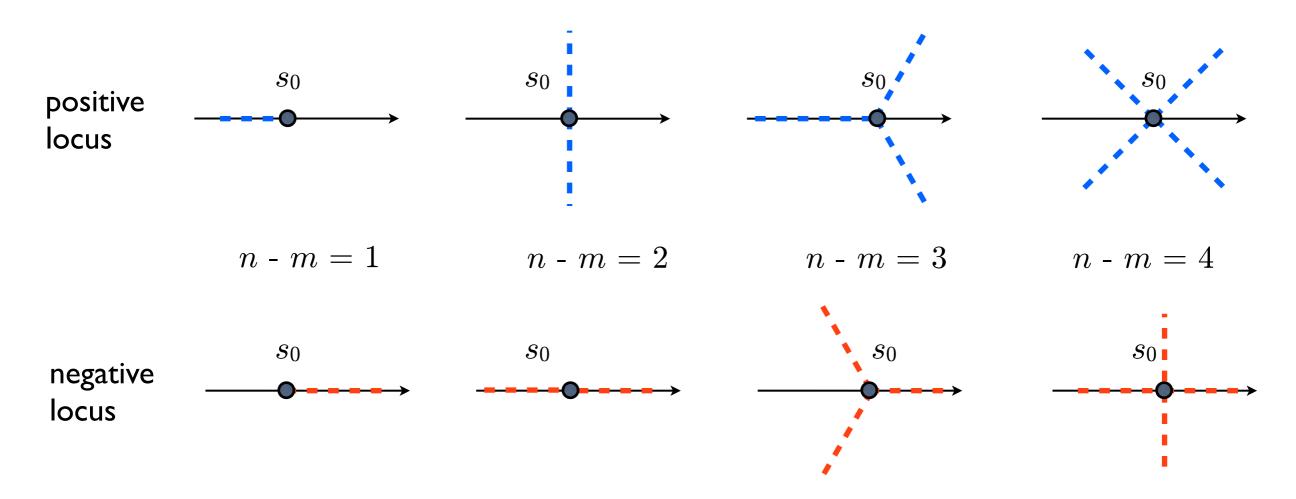
$$\begin{cases} \frac{(2h+1)\pi}{n-m} & \text{for positive locus} \\ \frac{2h\pi}{n-m} & \text{for negative locus} \end{cases} \quad h = 1, 2, ..., n - m \end{cases}$$

example

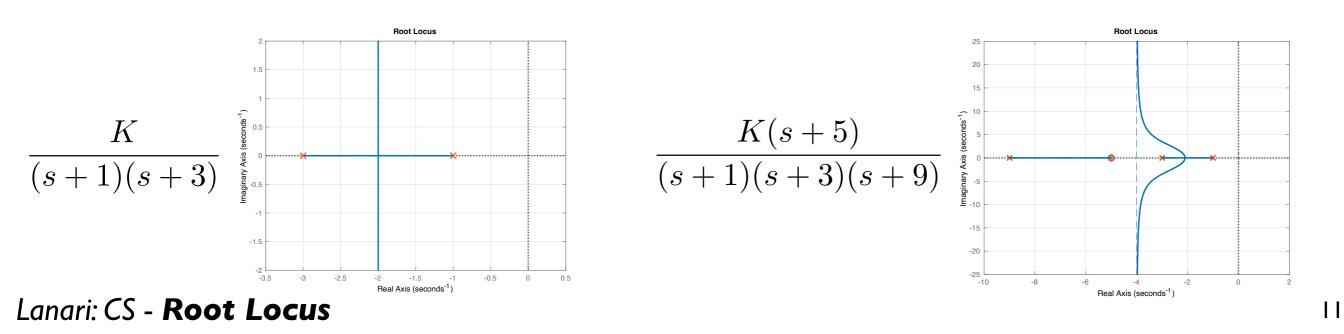
$$n - m = 3$$

 $h = 1$
 $h = 1$
 $h = 3$
 $h = 3$
 $h = 3$
 $h = 1$
 $h = 3$
 $h = 2$
 $h = 3$
 $7\pi/3$
 $6\pi/3$

we have the following cases



N.B. the asymptotes are not necessarily branches of the root locus



the points of the locus are either

- regular points (solutions of p(s,k) = 0) or
- singular points (or breakaway/break-in points) solutions of

$$\begin{cases} p(s,k) = 0\\ \frac{\partial p(s,k)}{\partial s} = 0 \end{cases} \longleftrightarrow \begin{cases} \prod_{j=1}^{n} (s-p_j) + k \prod_{i=1}^{m} (s-z_i) = 0\\ \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \prod_{j=1}^{n} (s-p_j) + k \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \prod_{i=1}^{m} (s-z_i) = 0 \end{cases}$$

being $k = -\frac{\prod_{i=1}^{n} (s-p_j)}{\prod_{i=1}^{m} (s-z_i)}$ from locus equation, substituted in the second gives

$$\prod_{i=1}^{m} (s-z_i) \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \prod_{j=1}^{n} (s-p_j) - \prod_{j=1}^{n} (s-p_j) \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \prod_{i=1}^{m} (s-z_i) = 0$$

equation of order n + m - 1 for the candidates singular points (we may have solutions corresponding to complex k which are therefore not points of the root locus)

a candidate singular s^* point is a true singular point if the corresponding value k^* is real

$$k^* = -\frac{\prod_{j=1}^{n} (s^* - p_j)}{\prod_{i=1}^{m} (s^* - z_i)}$$

clearly candidate singular points which are real valued are for sure singular point

the singular point s^* will be a solution of the locus equation $p\left(s^*,k^*\right)=0$ with multiplicity μ greater equal to 2

$$p(s,k^*) = (s-s^*)^{\mu} p'(s,k^*) \qquad \mu \ge 2$$

There are some situations where finding singular points is easier

every open-loop pole/zero with multiplicity greater than 1 is a singular point of the root locus

Proof: from the candidate singular points equation

Rule 4

Let s^* be a singular point with multiplicity μ , then:

- 2μ branches merge in the singular point and are alternatively convergent and divergent.
- these branches divide the plane in equal parts.
- if the singular point is a multiple pole or zero of the open-loop system, then the branches also alternate as positive and negative branches.

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

$$r \rightarrow e$$

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

$$F(s) \rightarrow kF(s)$$

$$F(s) \rightarrow kF(s)$$

$$F(s) \rightarrow kF(s)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial s}p(s,k) = 2s + (2+k)$$

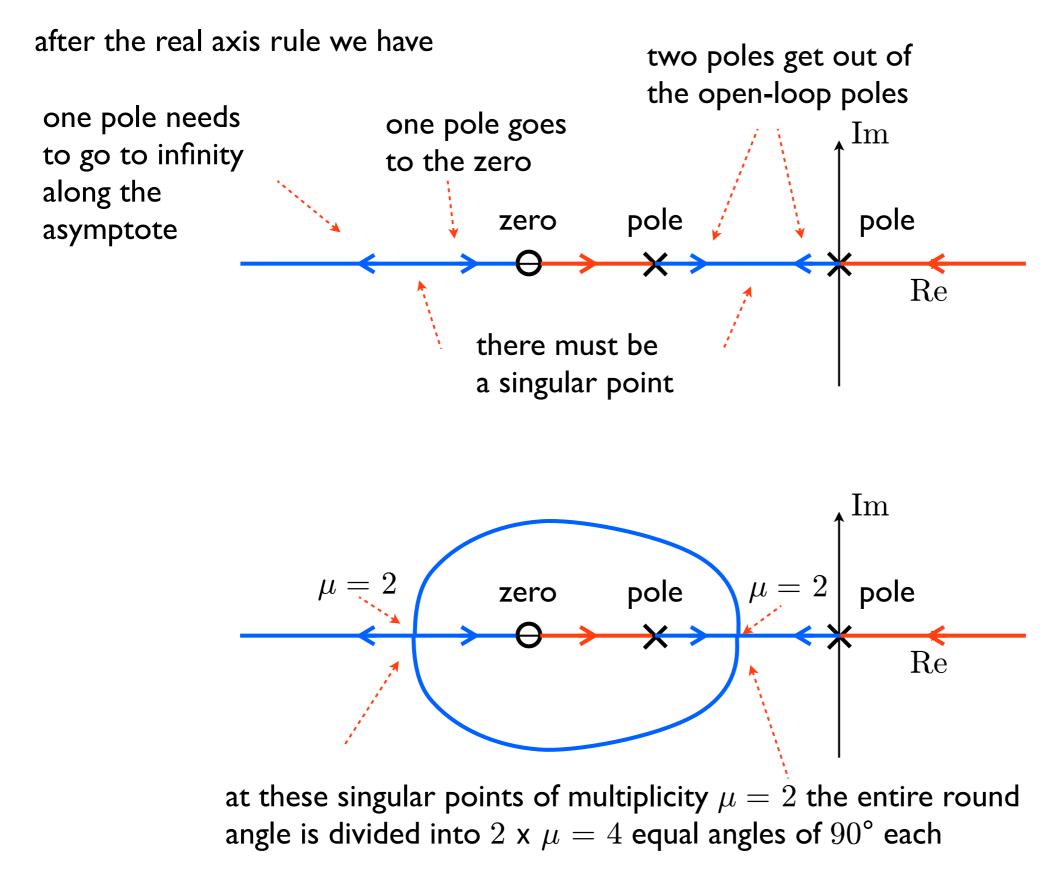
candidates

$$(s+3)\frac{\partial}{\partial s}s(s+2) - s(s+2)\frac{\partial}{\partial s}(s+3) = s^2 + 6s + 6$$

$$s_1^* = -4.73$$

 $s_2^* = -1.27$ real values \longrightarrow real values of $k^* \longrightarrow$ singular points

was it necessary to compute the singular points?



alternative formula to determine the candidates breakaway/break-in (singular) points

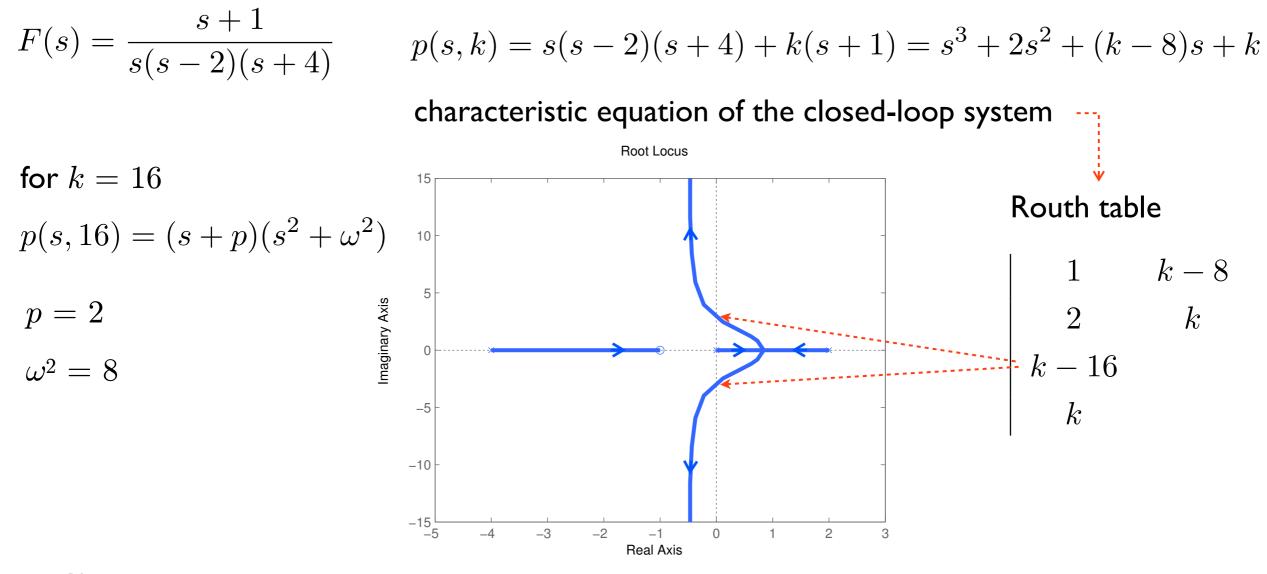
$$\sum_{j=1}^{n} \frac{1}{s - p_j} - \sum_{i=1}^{m} \frac{1}{s - z_i} = 0$$

- this formula will not give us the singular points corresponding to repeated poles or zeros of the open-loop (obvious singular points)
- repeated poles and zeros in this formula need to be taken into account in the sum with their multiplicity

example
$$F(s) = \frac{(s+1)^2}{(s+2)^4}$$

 $\frac{4}{s+2} - \frac{2}{s+1} = \frac{2s}{(s+2)(s+1)}$
 $s^* = 0$
since it belongs to the
real axis it is for sure
a singular point
Lanari: CS - Root Locus

In order to determine **stability** (all the poles should be, for the same interval of values of k, in the open left half plane) it may be important to establish for which values of k some branches cross the imaginary axis. This can be achieved by determining for which values of k the elements of the first column of the Routh table become 0 since this is when a first column term changes sign and therefore a pole crosses the imaginary axis (remember that, when the table can be built from the basic definition, the number of sign changes in the first column is equal to the number of roots with positive real part).



RL as a design tool

the basic idea is based on the **positive root locus** behavior for high values of the gain k

- (n m) branches tend at infinity along (n m) asymptotes
- the remaining m branches tend to the m open loop zeros

therefore if the zeros are in the open left half-plane (i.e. have negative real part) and the asymptotes (for the positive root locus) always stay to the left of the imaginary axis then for sufficiently high values of the gain all the poles will be to the left of the imaginary axis that is a high gain will stabilize the system

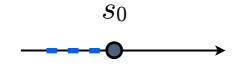
the asymptotes and the open-loop zeros attract the positive branches

A system with

- all its zeros, if any, in the open left half-plane or equivalently
- having no zeros with positive or null real part

is said to be **minimum phase**

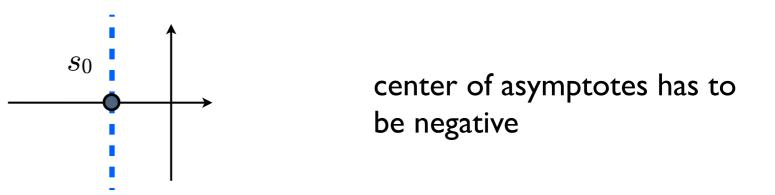
• we can have either n - m = 1 asymptote (positive locus)



center of asymptotes is not important since we look at the high-gain behavior

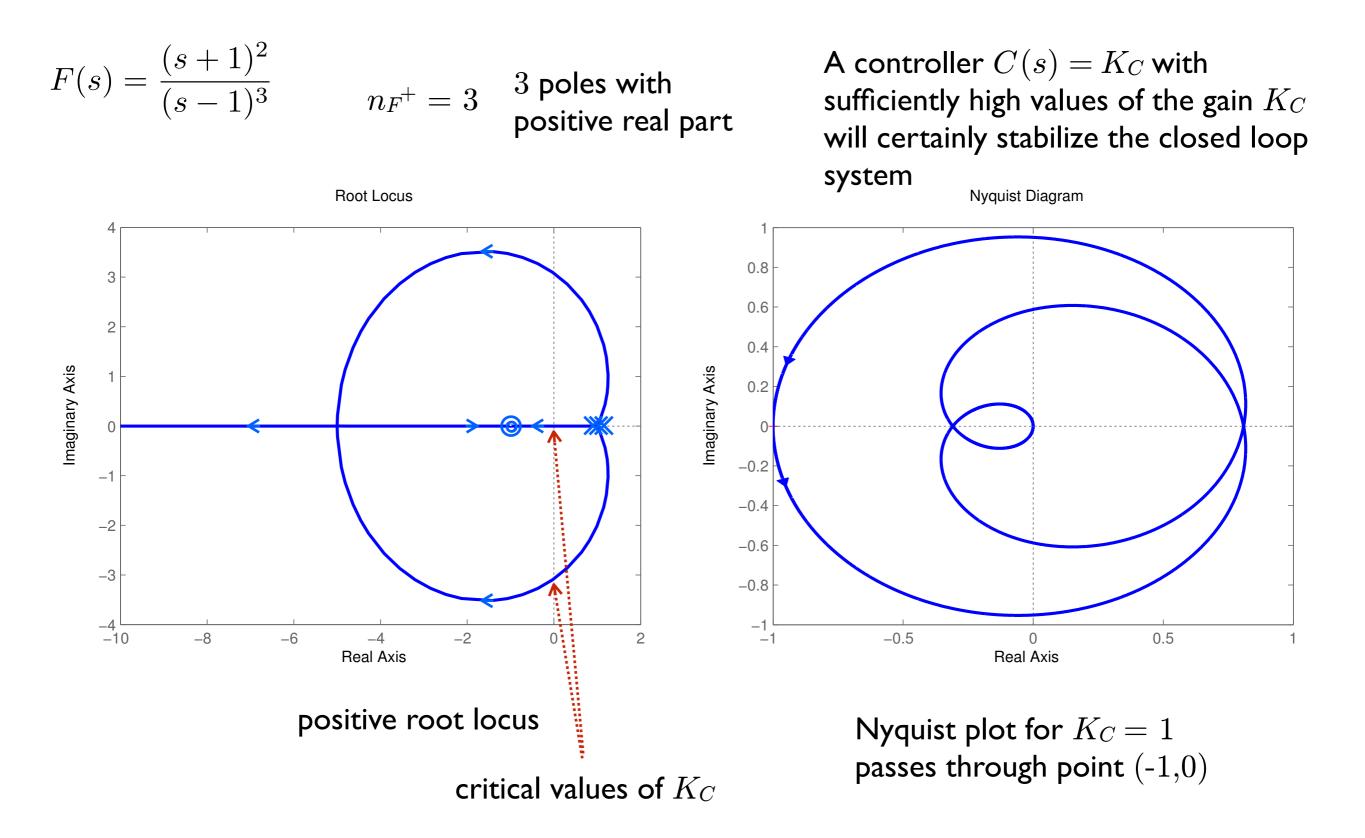
 \rightarrow if the open-loop system is minimum phase and has (relative degree) n - m = 1 then for sufficiently high values of k the closed-loop system is for sure asymptotically stable

• or n - m = 2 asymptotes (positive locus)



 \longrightarrow if the open-loop system is minimum phase and has (relative degree) n - m = 2 with a negative center of asymptotes then in the positive locus for sufficiently high values of k positive the closed-loop system is for sure asymptotically stable

example



example (cont'd)

 $K_CF(s)$ will give in closed loop the pole polynomial $p(s, K_C)$ $p(s, K_C) = (s-1)^3 + K_C(s+1)^2 = s^3 + s^2(K_C - 3) + s(2K_C + 3) + K_C - 1$

the necessary condition leads to $K_C > 1$ while the Routh table

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2K_C + 3 \\ K_C - 3 & K_C - 1 \\ \frac{2(K_C^2 - 2K_C - 4)}{K_C - 3} \\ K_C - 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

gives the necessary & sufficient condition

-4

-4

-3

-2

-1

 $K_C > 3.2361$

for $K_C > 3.2361$ we have $N_{cc} = n_F^+ = 3$

Real Axis

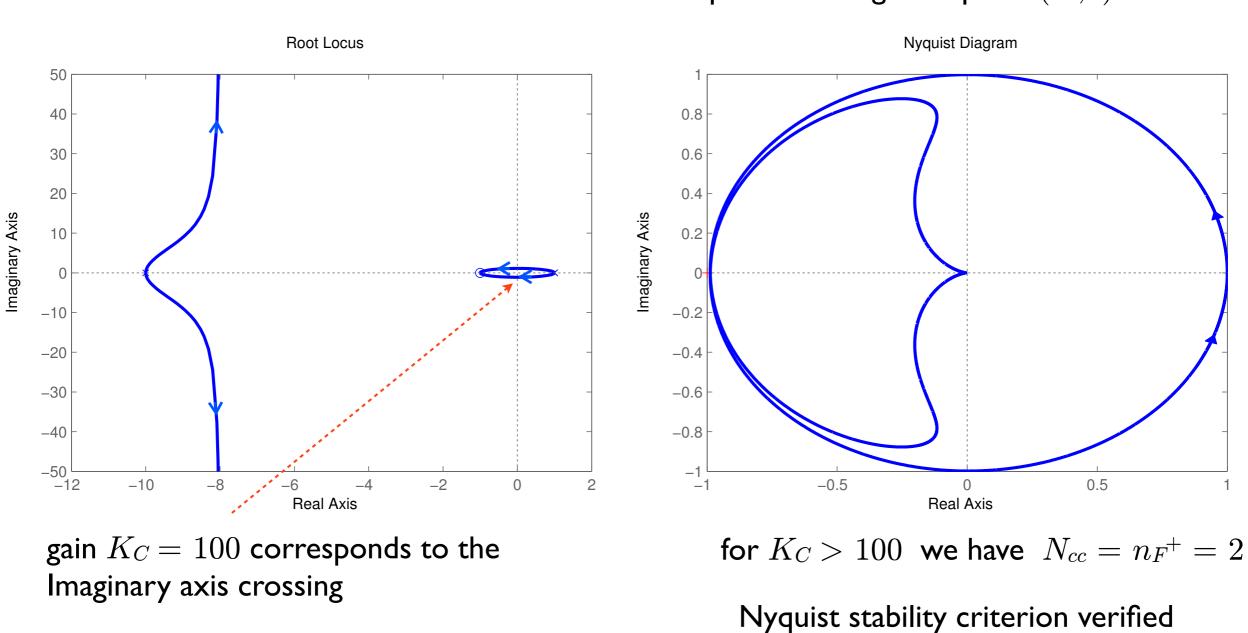
2

3

Nyquist stability criterion verified (here $K_C = 4$)

example

$$F(s) = \frac{(s+1)^2}{(s-1)^2(s+10)^2}$$



Nyquist plot of 100 F(s)passes through the point (-1,0)

what if n - m = 2 but the center of asymptotes is non-negative?

Let us assume we have F(s) with n - m = 2 and center of asymptotes s_0 (non-negative) and see the effect of adding a zero/pole pair (z_a, p_a) both negative

 $F(s) \frac{s - z_a}{s - p_a} \qquad \text{the new center of asymptotes is given by (with } n - m = 2)$ $z_a < 0$ $p_a < 0 \qquad s'_0 = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n p_j + p_a - \sum_{i=1}^m z_i - z_a}{n - m} = s_0 + \underbrace{p_a - z_a}_{n - m} \text{ center of asymptotes of asymptotes of asymptotes of asymptotes of asymptotes of asymptotes variation}$

- → we cannot just add a zero to obtain n m = 1 since the controller would be improper; moreover a positive zero is not allowed to exploit this technique
- \rightarrow since n m remains 2, we can choose the additional negative pole p_a and zero z_a such that the new center of asymptotes becomes negative
 - once we have made the center of asymptotes negative with the addition of a pole and a zero, everything we said before applies

NB for the variation to be negative the pole needs to be to the left of the zero

note that

$$rac{s-z_a}{s-p_a} \quad ext{with} \ p_a < z_a < 0$$

can be rewritten as -

$$\frac{s - z_a}{s - p_a} = \frac{z_a - s}{p_a - s} = \frac{z_a}{p_a} \frac{(1 - s/z_a)}{(1 - s/p_a)} \qquad \qquad 0 < \frac{z_a}{p_a} < 1$$

and therefore, being the cut-off frequency of the zero smaller than the one of the pole, the particular pole/zero pair is equivalent to

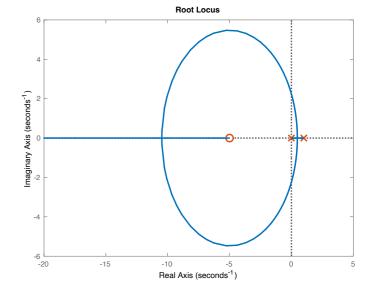
a positive gain	x	a lead
smaller than 1	Χ	compensator

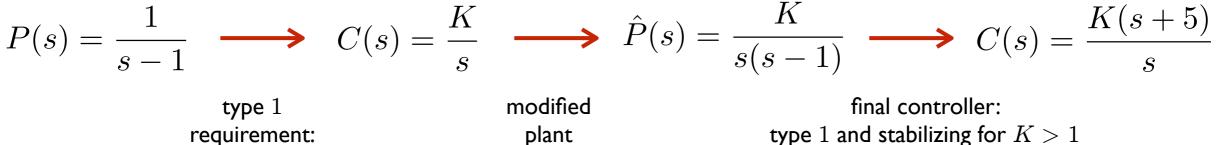
but the final controller will require also the choice of a sufficiently high gain $k^* > k_{crit}$ so the controller will be

C(s) = Gain x Lead compensator

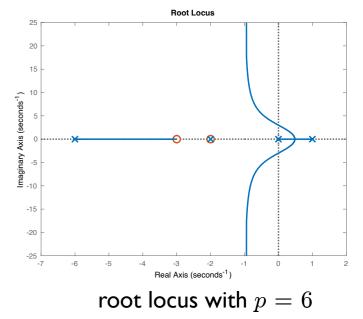
case n - m = 2 : variations

the controller has already some poles (for example in s = 0) deriving from some steady-state specification and the modified plant has n - m = 2. Then we can add a negative zero and move from the case n - m = 2 to 1 and the corresponding considerations apply.
example:





 when adding a zero/pole (i.e. maintaining n - m = 2), one may choose to place the zero so to cancel a stable pole of the plant. This is possible if there are no further restrictions on the closed-loop eigenvalues (e.g., belonging to some specific region), however note that canceling a negative pole makes the center of asymptote increase (or even become positive).



example:
$$P(s) = \frac{s+3}{s(s-1)(s+2)}$$
 $C(s) = K \frac{s+2}{s+p}$ makes the center of asymptotes negative for $p > 4$

what if n - m > 2 and the system is minimum phase?

The idea is:

- turn the n m > 2 case into a n m = 2 one by adding zeros $(s z_k)$ to the controller
- solve the stabilization problem: if necessary move the center of asymptotes and choose K
- if necessary introduce high frequency dynamics (1 + τ_hs) to make the controller at least proper (note that we get back to the n m > 2 case but now the gain has been chosen). The following result guarantees that, if properly chosen, these dynamics do not alter the closed-loop stability

Th.

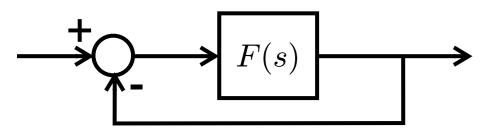
Consider an open-loop system F(s) which results in an asymptotically stable unit feedback closed-loop system. Then there exists a sufficiently small $\tau_h > 0$ such that the closed-loop system having as open-loop

$$\left(\frac{1}{1+\tau_h s}\right)F(s)$$

remains asymptotically stable.

The previous theorem states that:

if the closed-loop system



is asymptotically stable

note that $1/(1 + \tau_h s)$

1

informal

proof:

- does not change the gain of the open-loop
- represents some high-frequency dynamics

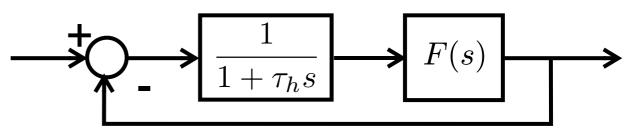
alters the

 $1 + \tau_h s$ only at high

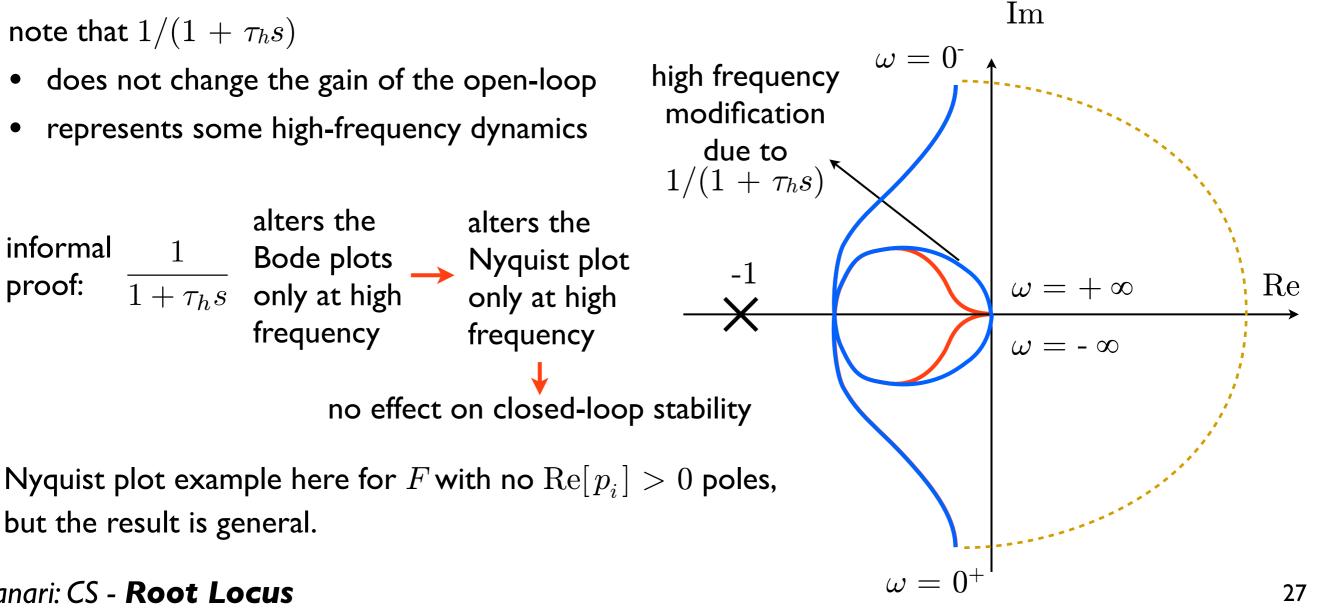
Bode plots

frequency

then the closed-loop system



is also asymptotically stable provided $\tau_h > 0$ is sufficiently small



Lanari: CS - Root Locus

but the result is general.

Case n - m = 3 & minimum-phase system: possible algorithm

1) add a negative zero $(s - z_k)$ so to obtain n - m = 2.

a) if $s_0 < 0$ then choose $k^* > k_{crit}$ to guarantee asymptotic stability of the closedloop system. Go to point 2)

b) if $s_0 > 0$ then choose a pole/zero pair $p_a < z_a < 0$ to make the new center of the asymptotes s_0 ' negative. Go to case a)

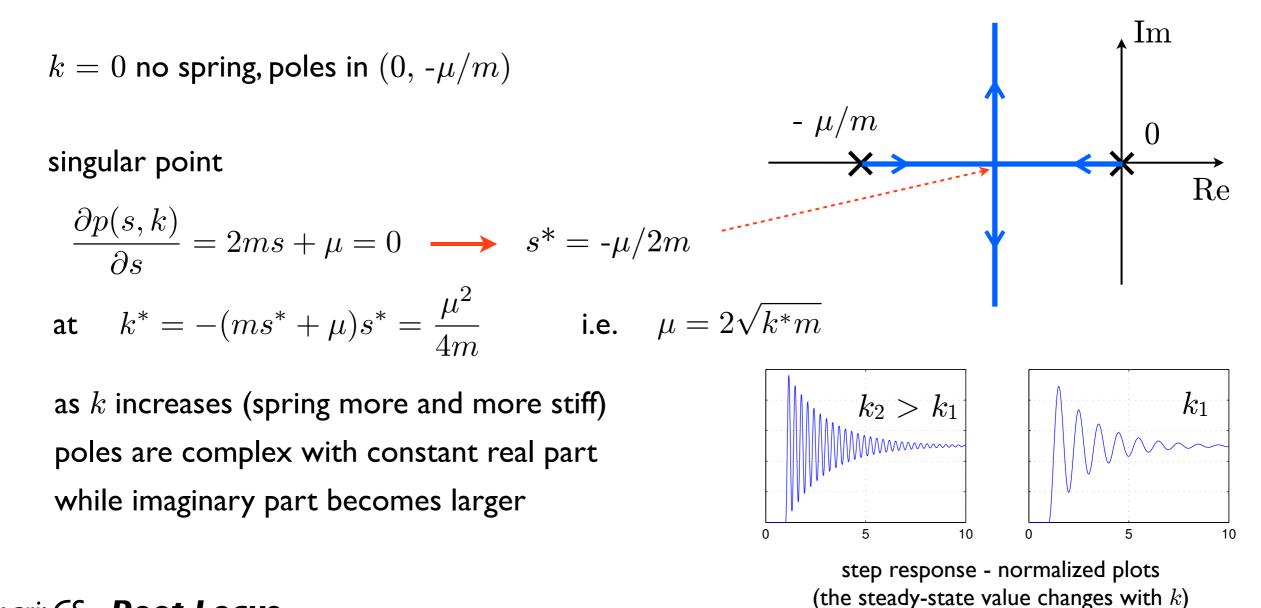
2) if the resulting controller is improper, add a high-frequency dynamics term $(1 + \tau_h s)$ where the time constant τ_h can be chosen applying the Routh criterion in order to guarantee that the overall closed-loop system is asymptotically stable

Note that step 2) may not be necessary since we may apply this result once the static specifications have been met, i.e., we may just need to stabilize the extended plant $\hat{P}(s)$ and therefore the controller may already have an excess of poles w.r.t. the number of zeros so that adding the extra zero $(s - z_k)$ would not make the controller improper

other use of the RL

The root locus can be applied to any polynomial with a single parameter k entering linearly Example Mass-Spring-Damper: we want to explore the influence of some parameters on the system's dynamics represented by the following characteristic polynomial $ms^2 + \mu s + k$

• varying the spring stiffness $k \in [0, +\infty)$ $p(s, k) = (ms + \mu)s + k = D(s) + kN(s)$



• varying the damping $\mu \in [0, +\infty)$ $p(s, \mu) = ms^2 + k + \mu s = D(s) + \mu N(s)$

the MSD poles move, as μ increases, as the positive root locus of \longrightarrow

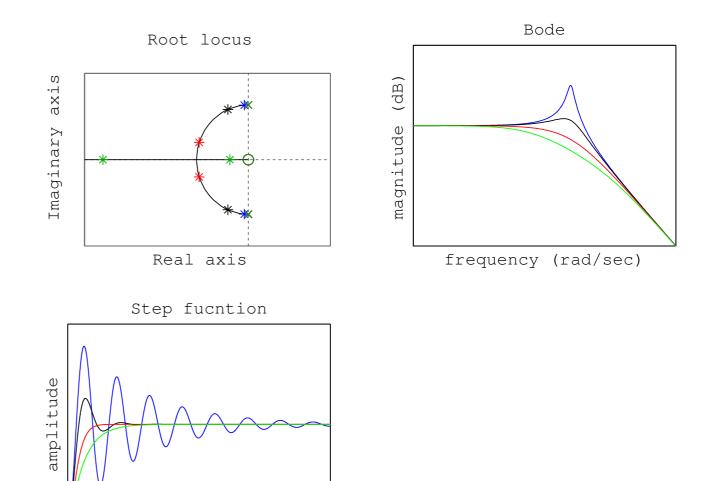
$$\mu \frac{N(s)}{D(s)} = \mu \frac{s}{ms^2 + k}$$

time

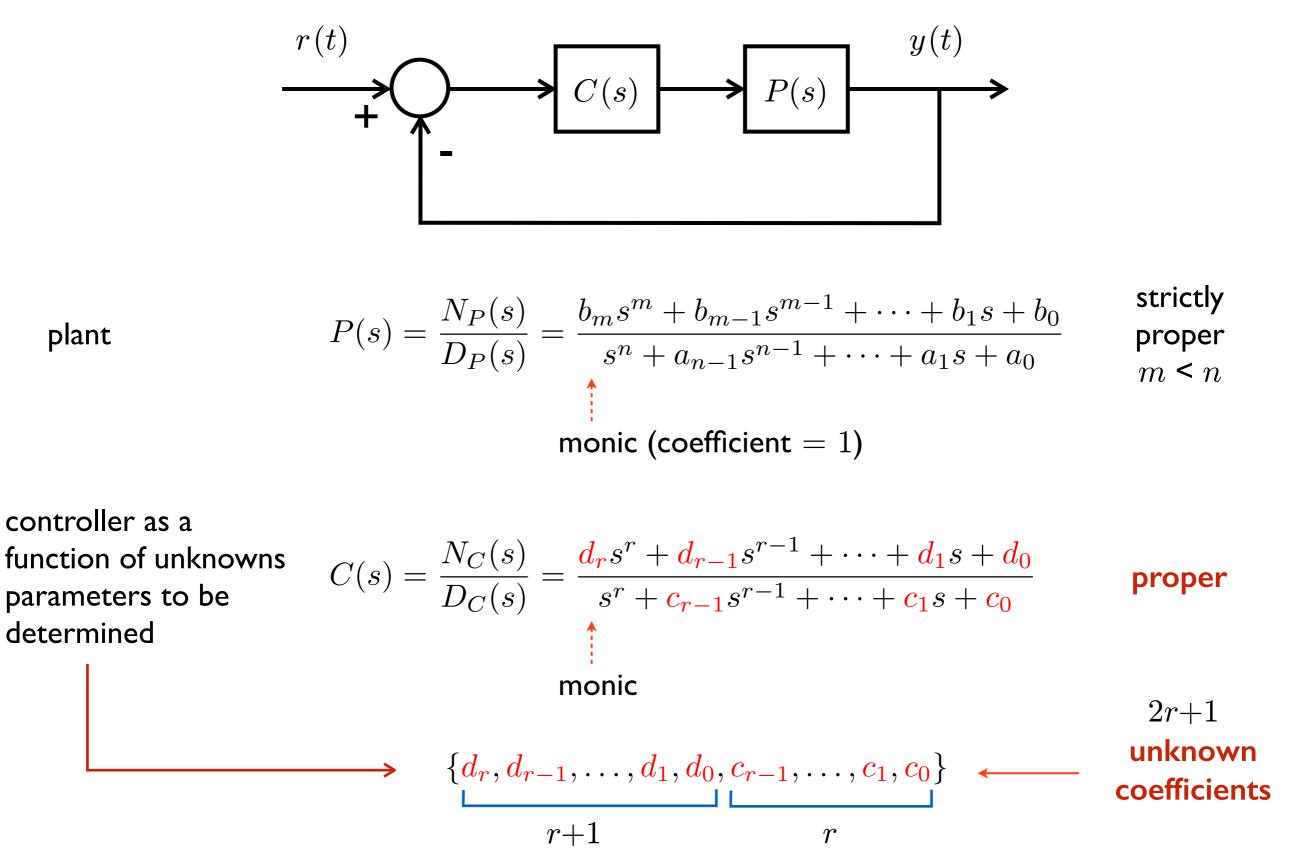
 $\mu=0$ no damper, pure imaginary poles

same singular point as before

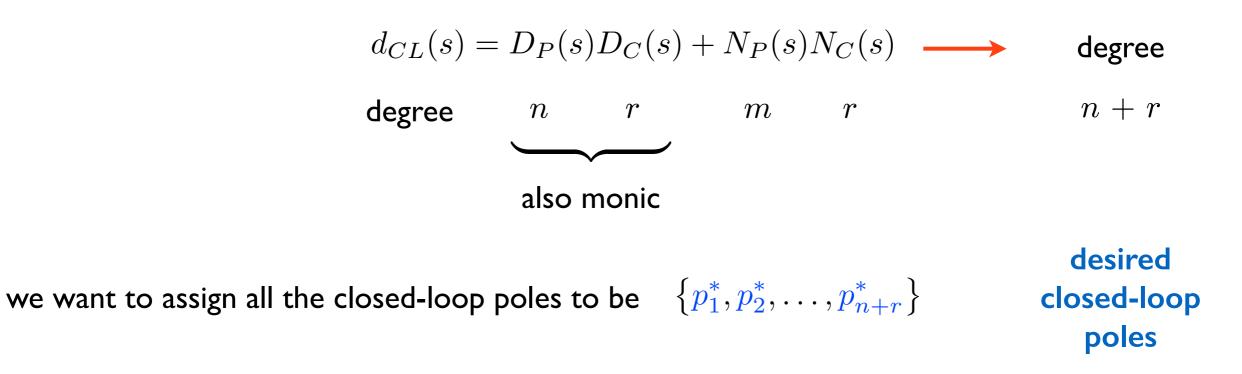
note how, as μ increases and the poles become real, how a dominant (slow) dynamics arises



Pole assignment



closed-loop characteristic polynomial



which can be seen as the solutions of an n + r order polynomial

$$d_{CL}^*(s) = (s - p_1^*)(s - p_2^*) \dots (s - p_{n+r}^*)$$

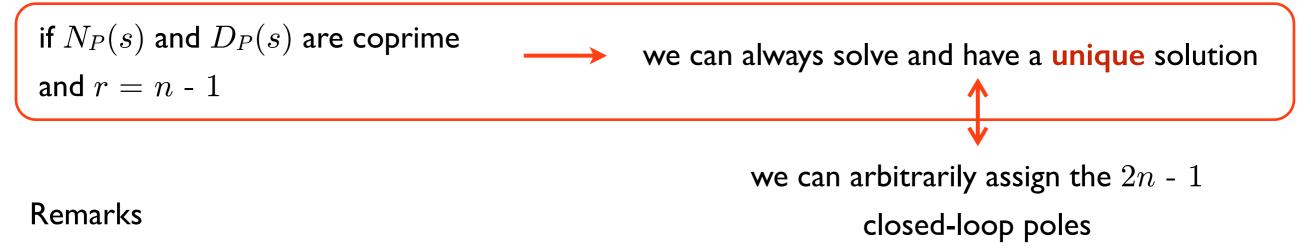
The problem can be stated as:

we need to determine the 2r + 1 unknowns c_i and d_j (i = 1, ..., r + 1; j = 1, ..., r) such that

$$D_P(s)D_C(s) + N_P(s)N_C(s) = d^*_{CL}(s)$$

Diophantine equation

Result



closed-loop system zeros:

- the zeros depend upon where we consider the input entering in the control system and which output we decide to monitor. For example in a unit feedback system, the output disturbance to controlled output transfer function S(s) and the reference to controlled output one T(s) will have the same poles (if there are no hidden dynamics in the open-loop system) but different zeros
- the closed-loop zeros of T(s) coincide with the open-loop ones when the open-loop system has no hidden dynamics

$$T(s) = \frac{N_T(s)}{D_T(s)} = \frac{F(s)}{1 + F(s)} = \frac{N_F(s)}{D_F(s) + N_F(s)}$$
$$N_F(s) = N_C(s)N_P(s)$$

- since the choice of the controller C(s) is uniquely determined by the previous algorithm, the controller zeros are a consequence of the pole assignment technique and so are the closed-loop zeros
- note that if we choose as desired closed-loop poles some open loop zeros (necessarily of the plant since the controller has not been chosen yet) then at closed loop we have a cancellation (being the closed loop zeros equal to the open loop ones). Moreover a closed loop cancellation (for finite values of the open loop gain) can be originated only by an open loop cancellation, which being $N_P(s)$ and $D_P(s)$ coprime, is generated by the series interconnection plant/controller. Therefore if we choose as desired closed loop poles some open loop zeros, these will necessarily be also poles of the controller
- from the above comment it is clear that we are **not** going to choose a desired closed-loop pole coincident with a non-minimum phase zero of the open-loop.

example

plant
$$P(s) = \frac{(s-1)}{s(s-2)}$$
 $n = 2$ \longrightarrow $C(s) = \frac{as+b}{s+c}$

 $d_{CL}^*(s) = (s+1)^3 = s^3 + 3s^2 + 3s + 1 \quad \longleftarrow \quad \text{desired closed-loop poles: } 3 \text{ in } -1$ $d_{CL}(s) = s(s-2)(s+c) + (s-1)(as+b) = s^3 + (c-2+a)s^2 + (b-a-2c)s - b$

equating

$$\begin{cases} a+c-2 = 3 \\ -a+b-2c = 3 \\ -b = 1 \end{cases} \longrightarrow \begin{cases} a = 14 \\ b = -1 \\ c = -9 \end{cases}$$

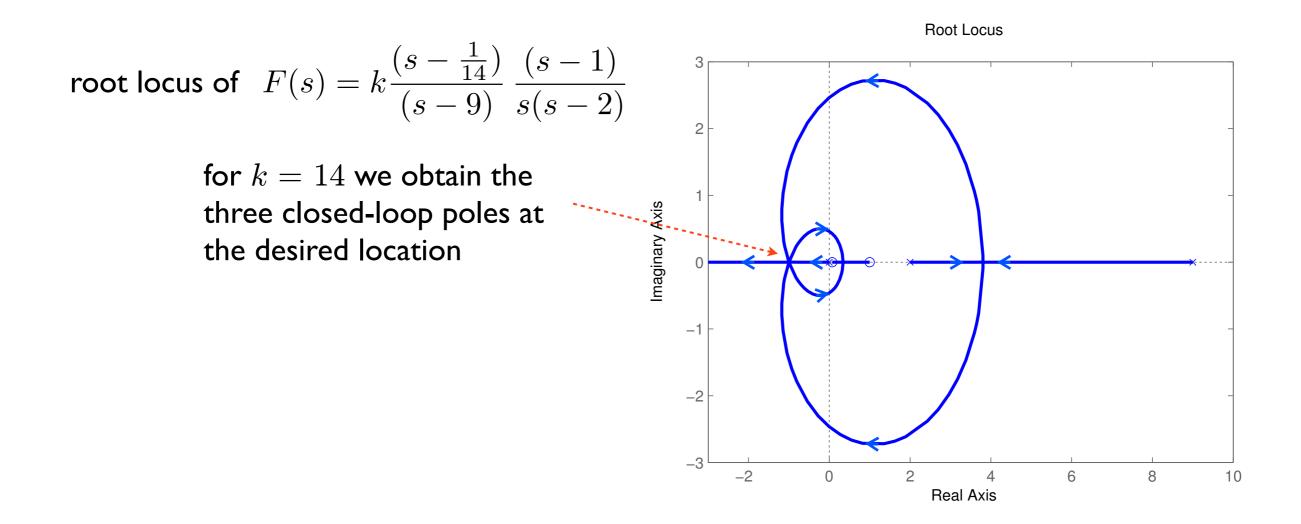
$$C(s) = \frac{14s - 1}{s - 9} = 14\frac{(s - \frac{1}{14})}{(s - 9)}$$

closed-loop complementary sensitivity

$$T(s) = \frac{C(s)P(s)}{1 + C(s)P(s)} = \frac{14(s-1)(s-\frac{1}{14})}{(s+1)^3}$$

note that

- the plant has a real positive pole so the open-loop loop shaping technique cannot be used
- the plant has a real positive zero (so it is non-minimum phase) and therefore the high-gain principle seen in the root locus cannot be applied
- the resulting controller, in this example, is unstable and non-minimum phase: we have no control over the final structure of the fixed dimensional (r = n 1) controller



note that using the basic tracing rules we can also have the following compatible positive root locus $$\mathrm{Im}$$

Im

not compatible, however, with the extra knowledge that the closedloop system is asymptotically stable

closed-loop system stable for some values of the gain but not compatible with the extra knowledge that the closed loop system has all three poles in -1 for some value of k

Lanari: CS - **Root Locus**

Re

Re

Vocabulary

English	Italiano
root locus	luogo delle radici
singular point (breakaway/break-in)	punto singolare
locus branch	ramo del luogo
minimum phase	a fase minima
center of asymptotes	centro degli asintoti