



UNIVERSITY *of* LIMERICK  
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

Faculty of Science and Engineering  
Department of Mathematics & Statistics

**END OF SEMESTER ASSESSMENT PAPER**

MODULE CODE: MS4328

SEMESTER: Spring 2013

MODULE TITLE: Mathematical Control Theory

DURATION OF EXAMINATION: 2 1/2 hours

LECTURER: Dr. M. Burke

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL MARKS: 80 %

EXTERNAL EXAMINER: Prof. T. Myers

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES: Full marks for correct answers to 5 questions.  
There are notes & formulae supplied.**

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Unless otherwise stated, the following notation is used throughout:  $\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  are the  $n \times 1$  state,  $r \times 1$  input and  $m \times 1$  output vectors respectively, whose components are real functions of time.  $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})$  and  $\mathbf{g}_i(\mathbf{x})$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, r$  are  $n \times 1$   $C^1$  vector fields.  $A$  is a  $n \times n$  state matrix,  $B$  a  $n \times r$  input matrix and  $C$  a  $m \times n$  output matrix, all of whose elements are real numbers. LTI is an acronym for linear time invariant.

1. (a) Define complete controllability and complete observability for the LTI continuous-time system

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = A\mathbf{x} + B\mathbf{u}, \quad \mathbf{y} = C\mathbf{x}.$$

3

- (b) By using the *Popov-Belevitch-Hautus* (PBH) tests determine whether the system with

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad C = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

is completely controllable and/or completely observable.

7

- (c) State the *Kalman* canonical structure theorem. Classify the modes of the system of part (b) according to the theorem.

3

- (d) Define stabilisability and detectability. Is the system of part (b) stabilisable, detectable?

3

2. (a) State *La Salle's* Invariance Principle and discuss how it may be used to establish asymptotic stability of the origin for the continuous-time system

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{0}).$$

3

- (b) Using the Invariance Principle or otherwise, determine whether the origin of

$$\dot{x}_1 = x_2, \quad \dot{x}_2 = -x_2^3 - x_1 \cos x_1$$

is an asymptotically stable fixed point. Is it globally asymptotically stable?

5

- (c) Can the control  $u$  be chosen to stabilise the uncertain system

$$\ddot{x} + \beta \dot{x}^3 + \alpha x^2 = u$$

where  $1 < \beta < 2$  and  $-3 < \alpha < 3$ ? If so, suggest a possible control; if not, prove it.

8

3. (a) State the pole placement problem for the LTI discrete-time system

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = A\mathbf{x}_k + B\mathbf{u}_k$$

with linear state feedback

$$\mathbf{u}_k = K\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{v}_k$$

and give a sufficient condition under which it can be solved.

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- (b) Find a linear state feedback controller that places the unstable pole(s) of the open loop system with

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -3/4 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

at  $\lambda = 0$  in the complex plane.

8

- (c) If the complete state variable is not available for measurement but only the output  $y = x_1 = (1 \ 0 \ 0) \mathbf{x}$ , prove that it is possible to design a *Luenberger* observer to estimate the state variables. What is the minimum possible order of such an observer?

4

4. (a) A square system is one in which the number of inputs equals the number of outputs. For the square LTI discrete-time system

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = A\mathbf{x}_k + B\mathbf{u}_k, \quad \mathbf{y}_k = C\mathbf{x}_k$$

define the decoupling indices and derive the conditions under which the system may be “delay-decoupled” by linear state feedback

$$\mathbf{u}_k = K\mathbf{x}_k + M\mathbf{v}_k$$

4

- (b) Can the system with

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad C = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

be delay-decoupled?

8

- (c) What is the remnant of an delay-decoupled system, and why is it important? Is delay-decoupling an appropriate design tool for the system of part (b)?

4

5. (a) For the affine control system

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^r \mathbf{g}_i(\mathbf{x})u_i, \quad \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{0}),$$

define what is meant by a *control-Lyapunov function*.

3

- (b) For what range of values of  $\alpha$  is

$$V(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2}x_1^2 + \alpha x_1 x_2 + x_2^2$$

a control-*Lyapunov* function for the system

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{pmatrix} \sin x_2 \\ x_1 + x_2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} u.$$

10

- (c) State *Artstein's* Theorem, and use the equivalent *Sontag's* formula to find a stabilising control for the system and *control-Lyapunov function* of part (b) using an admissible value for  $\alpha$ .

3

6. This question considers three design approaches to the control of the non-linear continuous-time system

$$\dot{x} = x^3 + u$$

- (a) Using the *Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman* equation, show that the stabilising feedback control that minimises the cost functional

$$J(u) = \int_0^\infty x^2 + (1/4)u^2 dt$$

for the system is given by

$$u = u^* \triangleq -x^3 - x\sqrt{x^4 + 4}.$$

8

- (b) For the system design a control by feedback linearisation (cancellation of nonlinearities) which (i) transforms the system to the linear system

$$\dot{z} = v$$

and then(ii) places the pole of this linear system at  $\lambda = -2$ .

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- (c) By solving the *Lyapunov* Equation for the linear system of part (b) [after feedback has been applied], find a quadratic *Lyapunov* function which can be used as a control- *Lyapunov* function for the original system. Derive a control based on *Sontag's* formula which will stabilise the system.

3

- (d) Comment on the designs and how they are related.

3

7. (a) State the conditions under which the single input affine control system

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})u, \quad \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{0})$$

can be transformed by *feedback linearisation* to

$$\dot{\mathbf{z}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{z} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} v.$$

2

- (b) Find the feedback linearisation scheme which transforms the system

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ x_1 + \sin x_2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} u$$

to the linear form of part (a).

10

- (c) Find the control  $u$  that will result in the linear transformed system of part (b) having the characteristic equation  $\lambda^2 + 2\lambda + 1 = 0$ .

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