



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI BERGAMO

Dipartimento  
di Ingegneria Gestionale,  
dell'Informazione e della Produzione

## Lesson 6.

# Movements, Equilibria, Stability of continuous-time systems

CONTROL AND MODELING OF  
BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

MASTER DEGREE IN  
MEDICAL ENGINEERING

TEACHER

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PLACE

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# Outline

1. Movements, equilibrium
2. LTI systems: movements, equilibrium
3. Stability



# State-Space Representation

The generic state-space representation of a time-invariant continuous time nonlinear dynamical system

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = f(\mathbf{x}(t), u(t)) & \longrightarrow \text{State Equation} \\ y(t) = g(\mathbf{x}(t), u(t)) & \longrightarrow \text{Output Equation} \end{cases} \quad \mathbf{x}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$$
$$\mathbf{x}(t_0) = \mathbf{x}_0 \quad \longrightarrow \text{Initial state}$$

State variables are internal variables ( $\mathbf{x}(t)$ ) of the system whose knowledge at the time  $t_0$  is the minimum amount of information needed to determine the output  $y(t)$  due to the **input**  $u(t)$ , for all  $t > t_0$

**SISO**  $\rightarrow$  Single Input Single Output

$u(t) \in \mathbb{R}$   
scalar

$y(t) \in \mathbb{R}$   
scalar

**MIMO**  $\rightarrow$  Multi Input Multi Output

$u(t) \in \mathbb{R}^m$   
array

$y(t) \in \mathbb{R}^p$   
array



# State-Space Representation

When there are no input variables, the system

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = f(\mathbf{x}(t))$$

Is defined as **autonomous**.

When the function  $f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$  is linear in  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  e  $\mathbf{u}(t)$ , the system is **linear time-invariant** (LTI):

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = A\mathbf{x}(t) + B\mathbf{u}(t) \\ \mathbf{y}(t) = C\mathbf{x}(t) + D\mathbf{u}(t) \end{cases}$$

with  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n,n}$ ,  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n,m}$ ,  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{p,n}$  e  $D \in \mathbb{R}^{p,m}$ .



# State and output movement

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}(t), u(t)) \\ \mathbf{y}(t) = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}(t), u(t)) \end{cases}$$

Given an input function  $\mathbf{u}(t) = \check{\mathbf{u}}(t)$  ( $t \geq 0$ ), and the initial condition  $\mathbf{x}_0$ , we can easily compute how state and output evolves throughout the time, for  $t > 0$ .

The functions  $\check{\mathbf{x}}(t)$  ( $t \geq 0$ ) and  $\check{\mathbf{y}}(t)$  ( $t \geq 0$ ) are respectively called **state movement** and **output movement**.

## State movement

If we integrate the first equation we obtain the state movement  $\check{\mathbf{x}}(t)$

## Output movement

Substituting the result in the second equation, we get the output movement  $\check{\mathbf{y}}(t)$



# Example: SIR model

$$\dot{S}(t) = - \frac{\beta S(t) I(t)}{N}$$

Infections rate

$$\dot{I}(t) = \frac{\beta S(t) I(t)}{N} - \gamma I(t)$$

Recovered/death rate

$$\dot{R}(t) = \gamma I(t)$$

$$R_0 = \frac{\beta}{\gamma}$$

**Basic reproduction number:** the spread of an infectious disease starts if  $>1$

$$\dot{S} = \frac{dS}{dt}, \quad \dot{I} = \frac{dI}{dt}, \quad \dot{R} = \frac{dR}{dt}$$

# Example: SIR model

$$\beta = 0.4, \quad \gamma = 0.05$$

## %% SIR MODEL simulation

```
S0=997;  
I0=3;  
R0=0;  
N=1000;
```

## % SIR

```
beta=0.4;  
gamma=0.05;  
Rt=beta/gamma
```

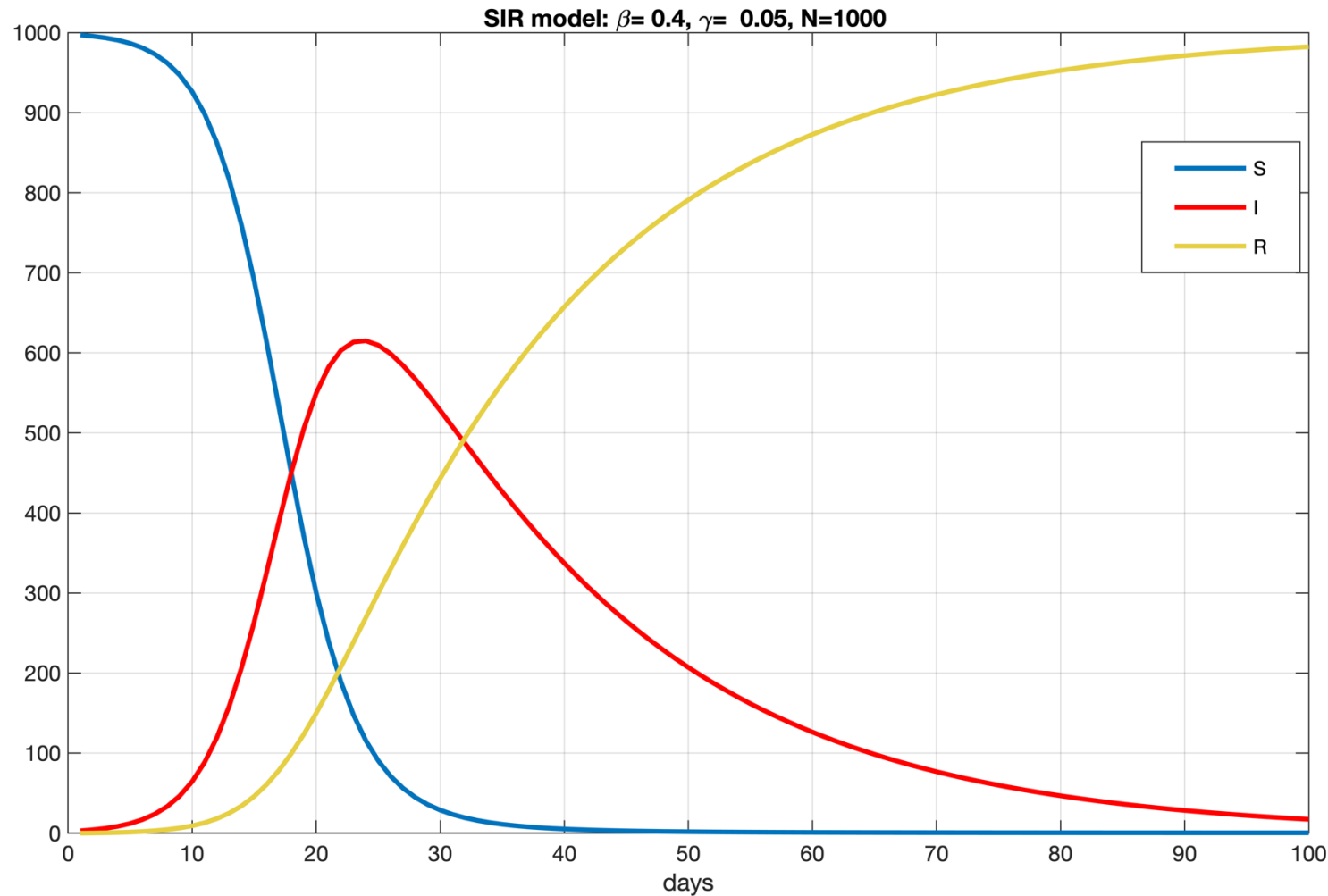
```
T_sim=100;
```

```
f=@(t,X)[-beta*(X(1)*X(2))/N;  
         beta*(X(1)*X(2))/N-(gamma*X(2));  
         gamma*X(2)];
```

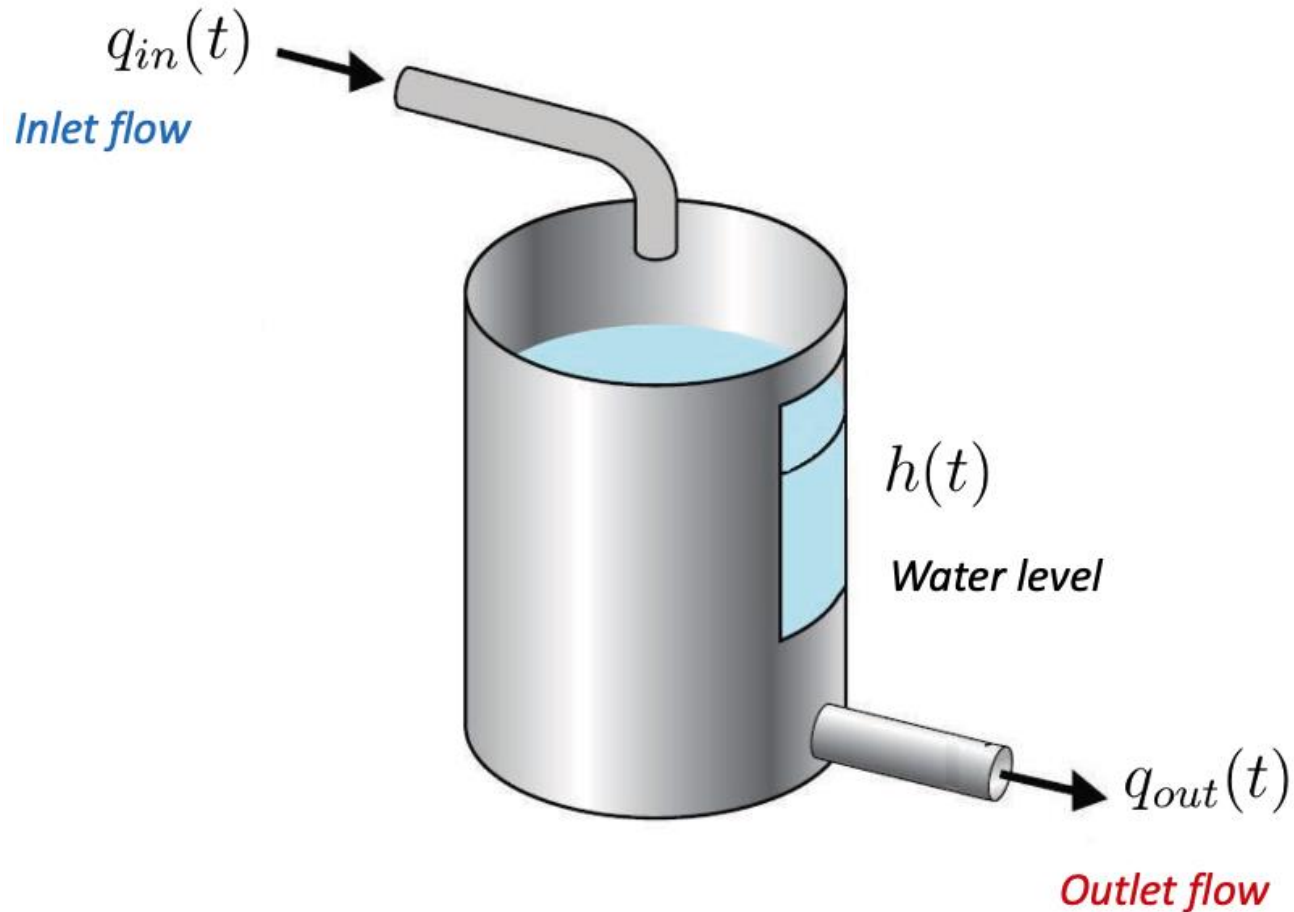
```
x0=[S0;I0;R0];
```

```
[ts,xs]=ode45(f,[0,T_sim],x0);
```

```
figure  
hold on  
plot(ts,xs(:,1))  
plot(ts,xs(:,2))  
plot(ts,xs(:,3))
```



# Example: water tank



$$q_{in}(t) - q_{out}(t) = A \frac{dh(t)}{dt}$$
$$q_{out}(t) = \kappa \sqrt{h(t)}$$

$$\frac{dh(t)}{dt} = -\frac{\kappa \sqrt{h(t)}}{A} + \frac{q_{in}(t)}{A}$$

$h(t)$  is the solution of the differential equation

# Equilibrium

If we enter constant inputs  $u(t) = \bar{u}$  we obtain movements of the state and output that are also constant over time.

These movements are called **equilibrium states and outputs**. Equilibrium states must satisfy the equation  $\dot{x}(t) = 0$

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), u(t)) \\ y(t) = g(x(t), u(t)) \end{cases}$$

$$u(t) = \bar{u}, t \geq t_0$$

$$f(\bar{x}, \bar{u}) = \mathbf{0}$$

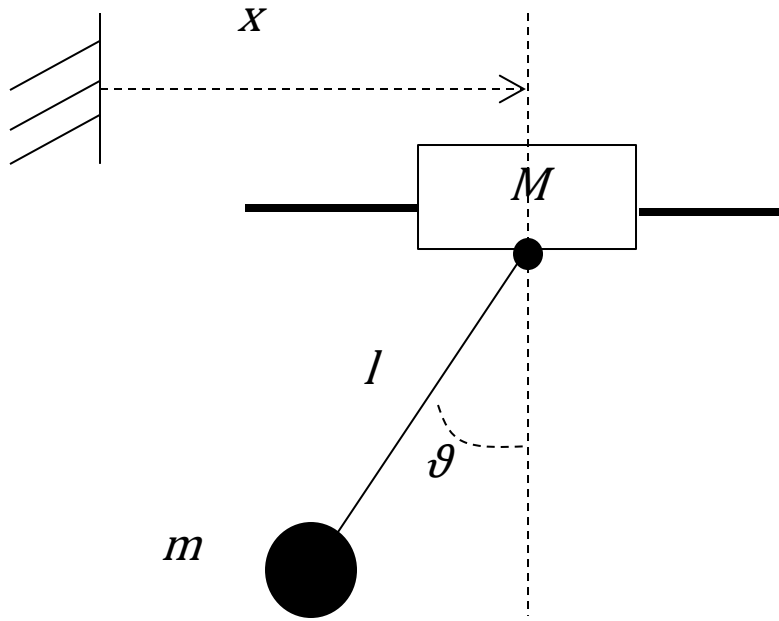
## State of Equilibrium

Movement of the states  $x(t) = \bar{x}$  constant over time with  $u(t) = \bar{u}$

## Equilibrium output

Movement of the output  $y(t) = \bar{y}$  constant over time with  $u(t) = \bar{u}$

# Example



$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1(t) = x_2(t) \\ \dot{x}_2(t) = -\left(\frac{u(t)}{l} \cos x_1(t) + \frac{g}{l} \sin x_1(t) + \frac{b}{ml^2} x_2(t)\right) \\ y(t) = x_1(t) \end{cases}$$

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \theta \\ \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{f}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \bar{\mathbf{u}}) = \mathbf{0} \quad \bar{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\begin{cases} 0 = \bar{x}_2 \\ 0 = -\left(\frac{\bar{u}}{l} \cos \bar{x}_1 + \frac{g}{l} \sin \bar{x}_1 + \frac{b}{ml^2} \bar{x}_2\right) \\ \bar{y} = \bar{x}_1 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \bar{x}_2 = 0 \\ 0 = -\left(\frac{g}{l} \sin \bar{x}_1\right) \\ \bar{y} = \bar{x}_1 \end{cases}$$

**Equilibria:**

$$\bar{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} k\pi \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Outline

1. Movements, equilibrium
2. LTI systems: movements, equilibrium
3. Stability



# LTI system

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t)) \\ \mathbf{y}(t) = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t)) \end{cases}$$

In LTI systems, functions  $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$  and  $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$  are linear functions of  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  e  $\mathbf{u}(t)$ , that in compact form can be written as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}(t) \\ \mathbf{y}(t) = \mathbf{C}\mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{D}\mathbf{u}(t) \end{cases}$$

with  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n,n}$ ,  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{n,m}$ ,  $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{p,n}$  e  $\mathbf{D} \in \mathbb{R}^{p,m}$ .

This system is a **linear time-invariant** (LTI) continuous time system.



# Movements

The state movement of a continuous-time LTI system can be computed using the Lagrange formula.

Given  $\mathbf{u}(t) \forall t \geq 0$  and  $\mathbf{x}(0)$

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \underbrace{e^{At}\mathbf{x}(0)}_{\text{Free movement}} + \underbrace{\int_0^t e^{A(t-\tau)} B\mathbf{u}(\tau) d\tau}_{\text{Forced movement}}$$

where 
$$e^{At} = I + At + A^2 \frac{t^2}{2!} + A^3 \frac{t^3}{3!} + \dots$$

# Movements

$$x(t) = \boxed{e^{At} x(0)} + \int_0^t e^{A(t-\tau)} B u(\tau) d\tau$$

Free movement

Forced movement

- The **free movement** only depends on the initial condition
- The **forced movement** is forced by the input applied to the system.

# Output Movement

It is easy to see that

$$y(t) = Ce^{At}x(0) + C \int_0^t e^{A(t-\tau)} Bu(\tau) d\tau + Du(t)$$

Output  
Free movement

Output  
Forced movement

- The **output free movement** only depends on the initial condition
- The **output forced movement** depends only on the input applied to the system.

# Equilibrium of LTI systems

Let's assess the presence of equilibrium in continuous time LTI systems

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + Bu(t) \\ y(t) = Cx(t) + Du(t) \end{cases}$$

Let's say  $\dot{x}(t) = 0$  at  $u(t) = \bar{u}$

$$0 = A\bar{x} + B\bar{u} \quad \Rightarrow \quad A\bar{x} = -B\bar{u} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \bar{x} = -A^{-1}B\bar{u}$$

$$\det(A) \neq 0$$

The equilibria are:  $A\bar{x} = -B\bar{u}$

$$\det(A) = 0$$

The system  $A\bar{x} = -B\bar{u}$  can have

- infinite solutions
- No solution

# Outline

1. Movements, equilibrium
2. LTI systems: movements, equilibrium, stability
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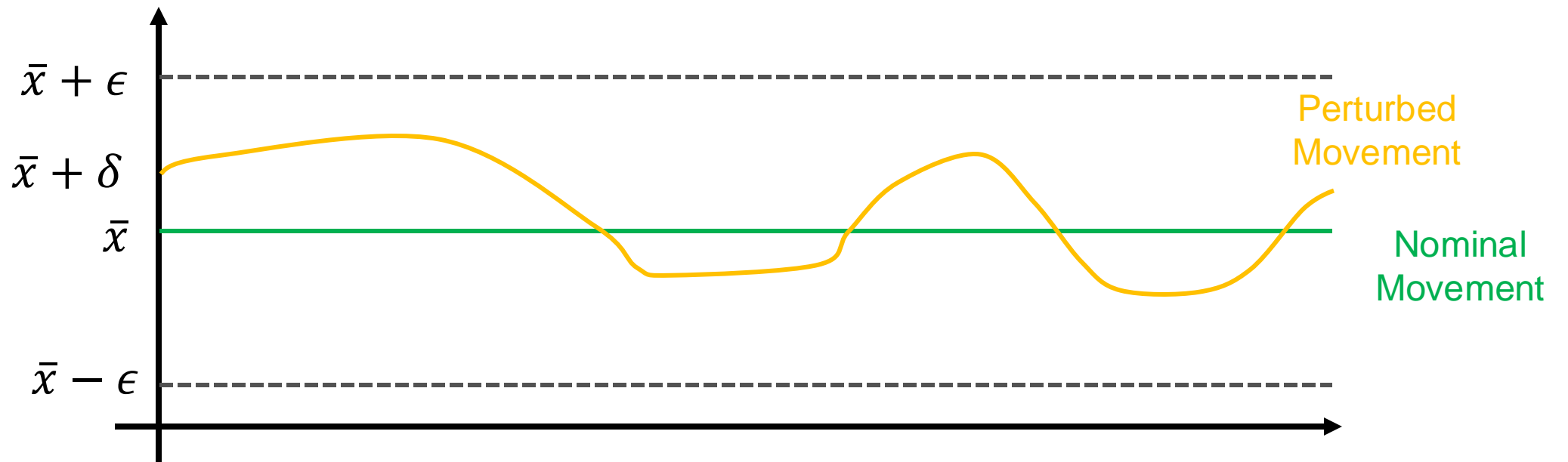
# Stability

An equilibrium  $\bar{x}$  is said to be stable if, for each  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that for each initial state  $x_0$  that satisfies:

$$\|x_0 - \bar{x}\| \leq \delta$$

It results

$$\|x(t) - \bar{x}\| \leq \epsilon \quad t \geq 0$$



# Stability

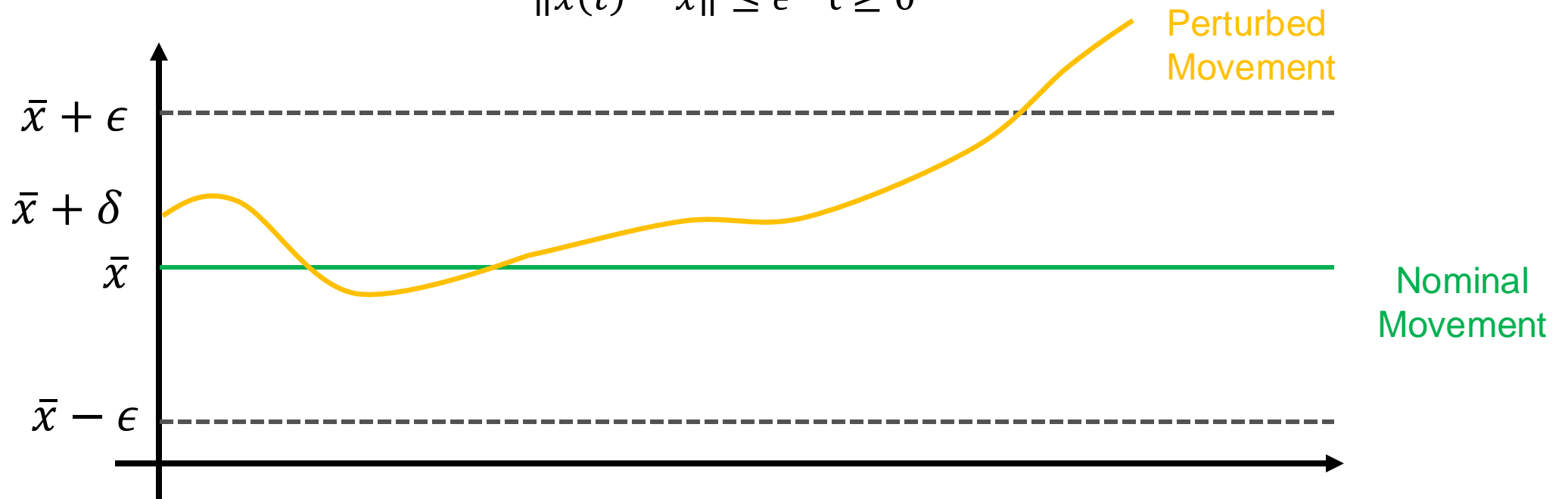
An equilibrium  $\bar{x}$  It is said to be **unstable** if it is not stable.

For each  $\epsilon > 0$  **does not exist**  $\delta > 0$  such that for each initial state  $x_0$  that satisfies:

$$\|x_0 - \bar{x}\| \leq \delta$$

It results

$$\|x(t) - \bar{x}\| \leq \epsilon \quad t \geq 0$$



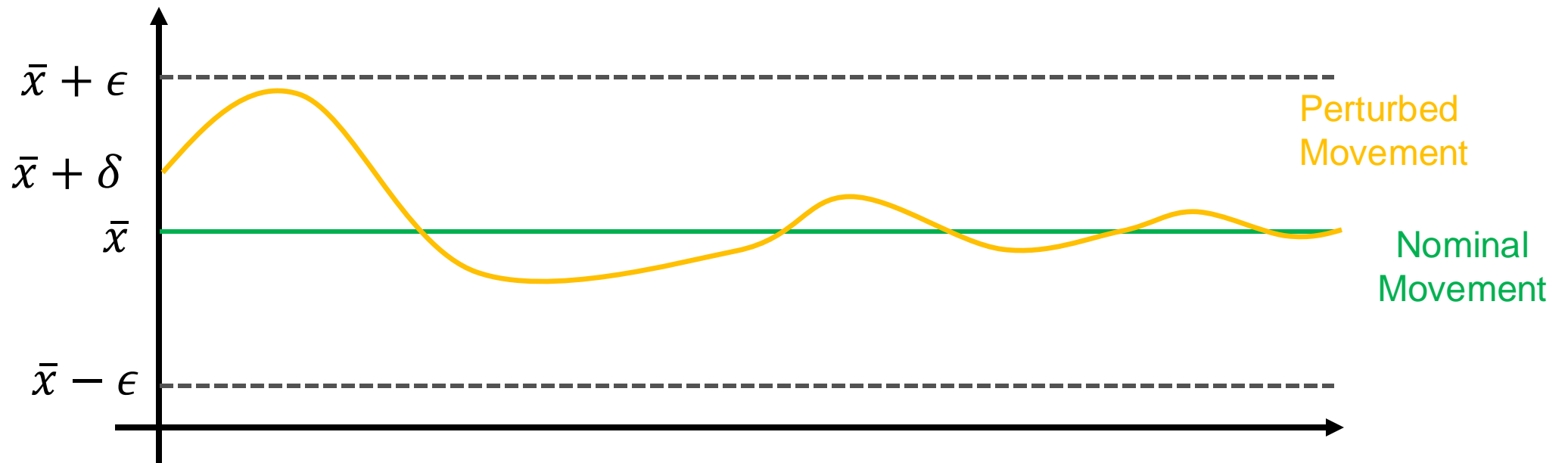
# Stability

An equilibrium  $\bar{x}$  is said to be **asymptotically stable** if, for each  $\epsilon > 0$  exists  $\delta > 0$  such that for all initial states  $x_0$  that satisfy:

$$\|x_0 - \bar{x}\| \leq \delta$$

It results

$$\|x(t) - \bar{x}\| \leq \epsilon \quad t \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|x(t) - \bar{x}\| = 0$$



# Stability of LTI systems

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + Bu(t) \\ y(t) = Cx(t) + Du(t) \end{cases}$$

The nominal movement of an LTI system is given by the Lagrange's formula:

$$x(t) = e^{At}x_{t_0} + \int_0^t e^{A(t-\tau)}Bu(\tau) d\tau$$

Assuming a perturbation of the initial condition  $x_{t_0} = \bar{x} + \delta_{\bar{x}}$  we get the perturbed movement:

$$\tilde{x}(t) = e^{At}\bar{x} + \int_0^t e^{A(t-\tau)}Bu(\tau) d\tau + e^{At}\delta_{\bar{x}}$$

# Stability of LTI systems

$$\tilde{x}(t) = e^{At}\bar{x} + \int_0^t e^{A(t-\tau)}Bu(\tau) d\tau + e^{At}\delta_{\bar{x}}$$

The perturbed movement differs from the nominal movement only in that  $\delta x(t) = e^{At}\delta_{\bar{x}}$ .

We can therefore deduce that, for an LTI system:

- The perturbed movement does not depend on the particular state of equilibrium. We can therefore speak of the stability of the system (→ **global property**)
- The difference between the nominal and the perturbed movement depends on the values assumed by the matrix A

# Stability of LTI systems

$$\tilde{x}(t) - \bar{x} = e^{At} \delta_{\bar{x}}$$

We can deduce that:

- **Asymptotically stable system**
- **Unstable system**
- **Stable System**

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{At} = 0$$

$e^{At}$  diverges with  $t \rightarrow \infty$

$e^{At}$  bounded  $\forall t$



# Stability of LTI systems

$$\tilde{x}(t) - \bar{x} = e^{At} \delta_{\bar{x}}$$

For a first order system  $A = a \in \mathbb{R}$ :

- **Asymptotically stable system**  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{at} = 0 \Rightarrow a < 0$
- **Unstable system**  $e^{at}$  diverges with  $t \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow a > 0$
- **Stable System**  $e^{at}$  bounded  $\forall t \Rightarrow a = 0$

What for a  $n$  order system, that is  $A \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ?



# Exponential of a square matrix

- Given a square matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , we define its **exponential** as

$$e^A = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i!} \cdot (A)^i = I + A + \frac{1}{2} \cdot A^2 + \dots$$

Now suppose that  $A$  is a diagonal matrix,  $A = \text{diag}\{a_{11}, a_{22}, \dots, a_{nn}\}$ , it is possible to demonstrate that

$$e^A = \begin{bmatrix} e^{a_{11}} & & & \\ & e^{a_{22}} & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & e^{a_{nn}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$e^A = \text{diag}\{e^{a_{11}}, e^{a_{22}}, \dots, e^{a_{nn}}\}$$

# Exponential of a square matrix

- Instead of imposing  $A$  diagonal, we could only suppose  $A$  to be diagonalizable. That is,  $A$  can be factorized as

$$A = T_D \cdot A_D \cdot T_D^{-1}$$

$$A_D = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Let us substitute this expression inside  $e^A$

$$\begin{aligned} e^A &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i!} \cdot (A)^i = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i!} \cdot (T_D \cdot A_D \cdot T_D^{-1})^i \\ &= I + T_D \cdot A_D \cdot T_D^{-1} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot (T_D \cdot A_D \cdot T_D^{-1}) \cdot \underbrace{(T_D \cdot A_D \cdot T_D^{-1})}_{T_D^{-1} \cdot T_D = I} + \dots \\ &= I + T_D \cdot A_D \cdot T_D^{-1} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot T_D \cdot A_D^2 \cdot T_D^{-1} + \dots \\ &= T_D \cdot \left( I + A_D + \frac{1}{2} A_D^2 + \dots \right) \cdot T_D^{-1} = T_D \cdot e^{A_D} \cdot T_D^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

Stability depends on the sign of the eigenvalues of  $A$

$$e^A = T_D \cdot \text{diag}\{e^{\lambda_1}, e^{\lambda_2}, \dots, e^{\lambda_n}\} \cdot T_D^{-1}$$

exponential of a diagonal matrix!

# Stability theorem of LTI systems

1. A (continuous time) LTI system is **asymptotically stable** if and only if all eigenvalues of matrix A have **negative real part**

$$Re(s_i) < 0, \quad \forall i$$

2. An LTI system is **unstable** if matrix A has at least **one eigenvalue with positive real part**

$$\exists i^* : Re(s_{i^*}) > 0$$

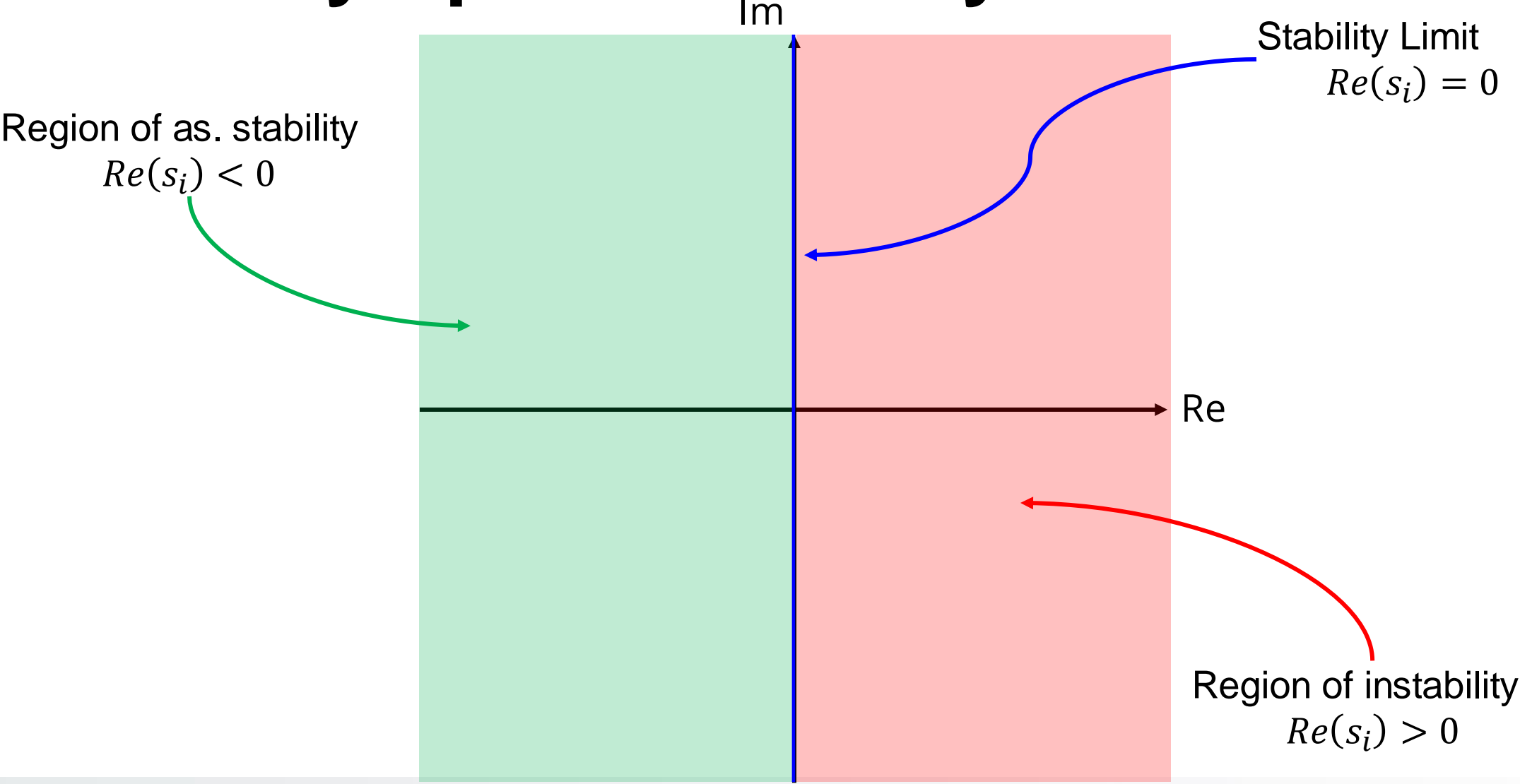
3. An LTI system is **stable** if matrix A has **all eigenvalues with negative real part and one null**

$$Re(s_i) < 0, \quad \forall i$$

$$\exists ! i^* : Re(s_{i^*}) = 0$$



# Area of asymptotic stability



# Properties of LTI systems

1. An as. Stable LTI system, if perturbed, tends to return to equilibrium before the perturbation.
2. At any constant input  $\bar{u}$  is associated **one and only one** state of equilibrium  $\bar{x}$
3. **An as. stable system is not affected by the initial conditions** (the movement of the state depends only on  $u(t)$ )

Proof:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{At} x(0) + \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^t e^{A(t-\tau)} B u(\tau) d\tau = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^t e^{A(t-\tau)} B u(\tau) d\tau$$




Goes to 0

# Properties of LTI systems

4. With zero input, the movement of the state tends asymptotically to zero.

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = \boxed{\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{At} x(0)} + \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^t e^{A(t-\tau)} B \boxed{u(\tau)} d\tau = 0$$



5. With  $u(t) = \bar{u}$  the output of an as. stable system tends to the stationary value  $\bar{y}$ .
6. **If the input is bounded, the output of an as. Stable LTI system will also be bounded**



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