

Nyquist Plots

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A Nyquist plot is an alternative way to represent the frequency response characteristics of a dynamic system. It uses the $\text{Im} [G(j\omega)]$ as ordinate and $\text{Re} [G(j\omega)]$ as abscissa. Figure 17.13 shows the form of a Nyquist plot.

The *Nyquist plot contains the same information as the pair of Bode plots for the same system*. Therefore, its construction is rather easy given the corresponding Bode plots. Let us now construct the Nyquist plots of some typical systems using their Bode plots developed in the preceding section.

A specific value of the frequency ω defines a point on this plot. Thus at point 1 (Figure 17.13) the frequency has a value ω_1 and we observe the following:

1. The distance of the point 1 from the origin (0, 0) is the amplitude ratio at the frequency ω_1 :

$$\text{distance} = \sqrt{[\text{Re} [G(j\omega_1)]]^2 + [\text{Im} [G(j\omega_1)]]^2} = |G(j\omega_1)| = \text{AR}$$

2. The angle ϕ with the real axis is the phase shift at the frequency ω_1 :

$$\phi = \tan^{-1} \frac{\text{Im} [G(j\omega_1)]}{\text{Re} [G(j\omega_1)]} = \arg G(j\omega_1) = \text{phase shift}$$

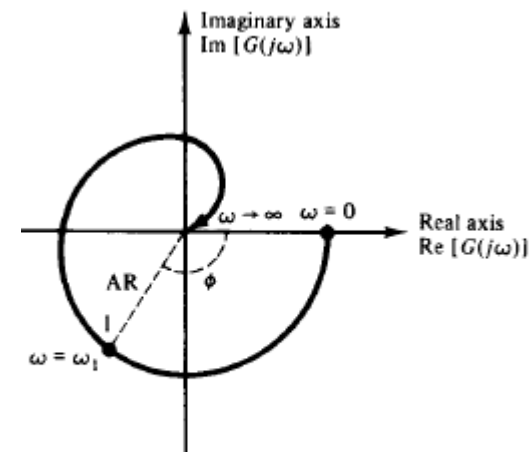


Figure 17.13 Form of a Nyquist plot.

Frequency Response of a Pure Capacitive Process

The transfer function is

$$G(s) = \frac{K_p}{s}$$

Put $s = j\omega$ and take

$$G(j\omega) = \frac{K_p}{j\omega} = \frac{K_p j\omega}{j\omega j\omega} = 0 - j \frac{K_p}{\omega}$$

Consequently, for the ultimate response:

1. The amplitude ratio is

$$AR = |G(j\omega)| = \frac{K_p}{\omega}$$

2. The phase shift is

$$\phi = \tan^{-1} -\infty = -90^\circ$$

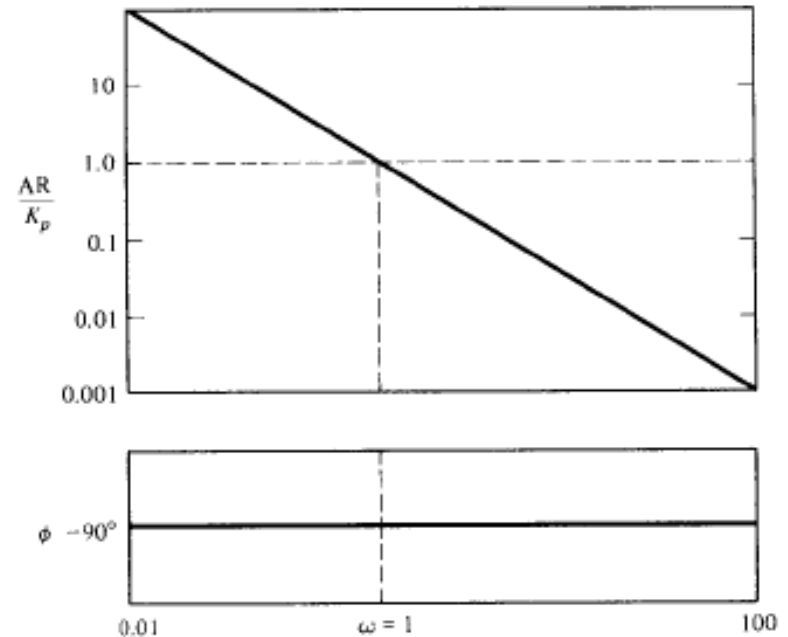
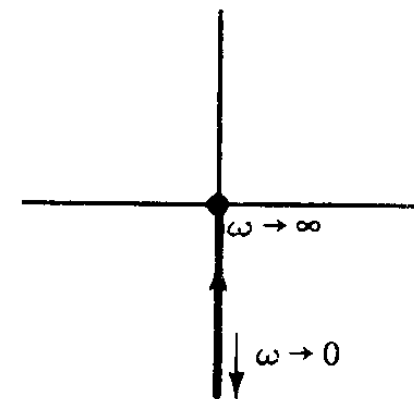


Figure 17.4 Bode plots for pure capacitive process.

that is, the ultimate sinusoidal response of the system *lags behind* the input wave by 90° .



(e)

Frequency Response of a Pure Dead-Time Process

The transfer function is

$$G(s) = e^{-\tau_d s}$$

Put $s = j\omega$ and take

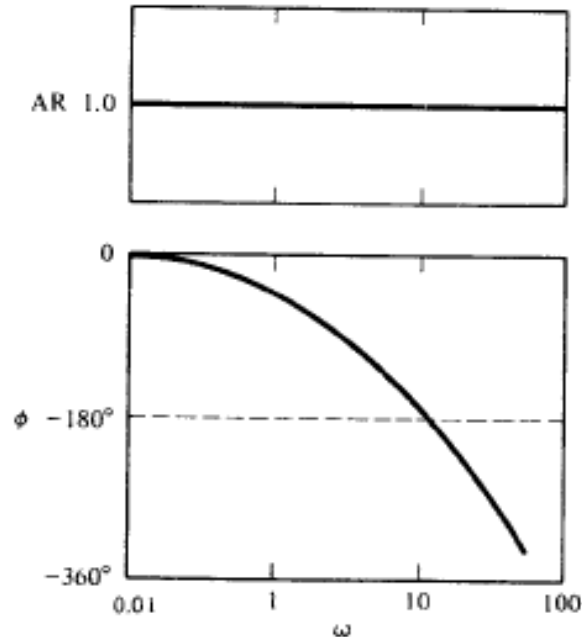
$$G(j\omega) = e^{-j\tau_d \omega}$$

Clearly:

amplitude ratio = $|G(j\omega)| = 1$

ϕ = phase shift = argument of $G(j\omega) = -\tau_d \omega$

that is, a phase lag, since $\phi < 0$.



Frequency Response of Feedback Controllers

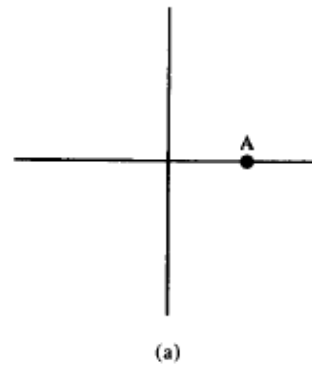
Let us now shift our attention to the various types of feedback controllers.

1. *Proportional controller:* The transfer function is

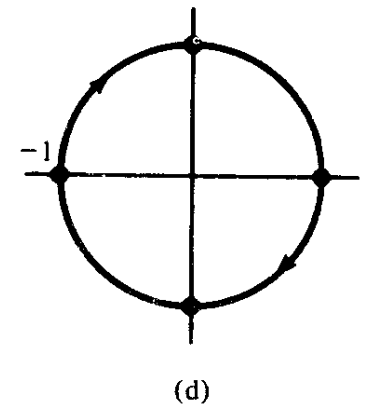
$$G_c(s) = K_c$$

Therefore,

$$AR = K_c \quad \text{and} \quad \phi = 0$$



Proportional controller



Pure dead time

2. *Proportional-integral controller:* The transfer function is

$$G_c(s) = K_c \left(1 + \frac{1}{\tau_I s} \right)$$

Therefore,

$$AR = |G_c(j\omega)| = K_c \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{(\omega\tau_I)^2}}$$

$$\phi = \arg G_c(j\omega) = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{-1}{\omega\tau_I} \right) < 0$$

3. *Proportional-derivative controller:* The transfer function is

$$G_c(s) = K_c(1 + \tau_D s)$$

Therefore,

$$AR = |G_c(j\omega)| = K_c \sqrt{1 + \tau_D^2 \omega^2}$$

$$\phi = \arg G_c(j\omega) = \tan^{-1} \tau_D \omega > 0$$

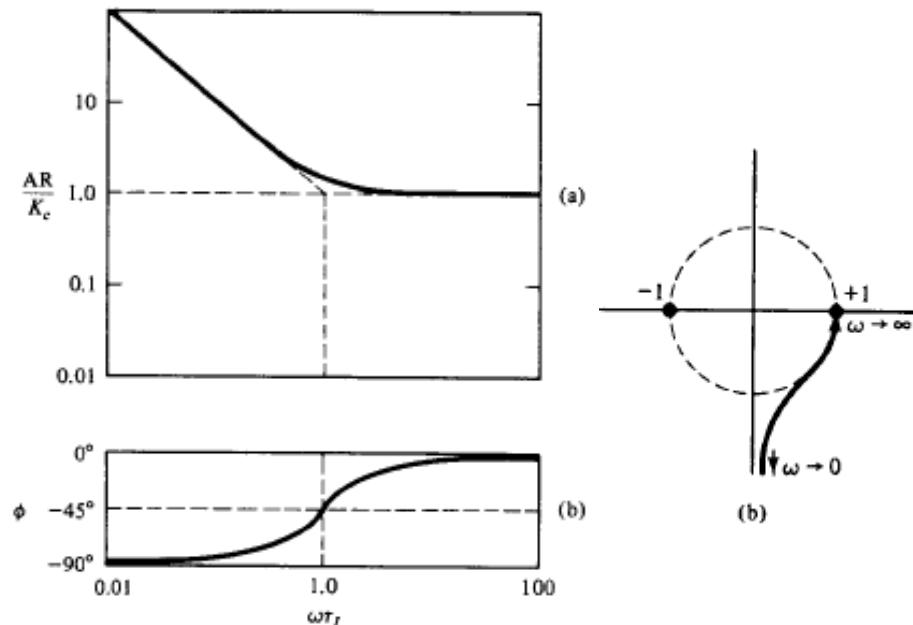
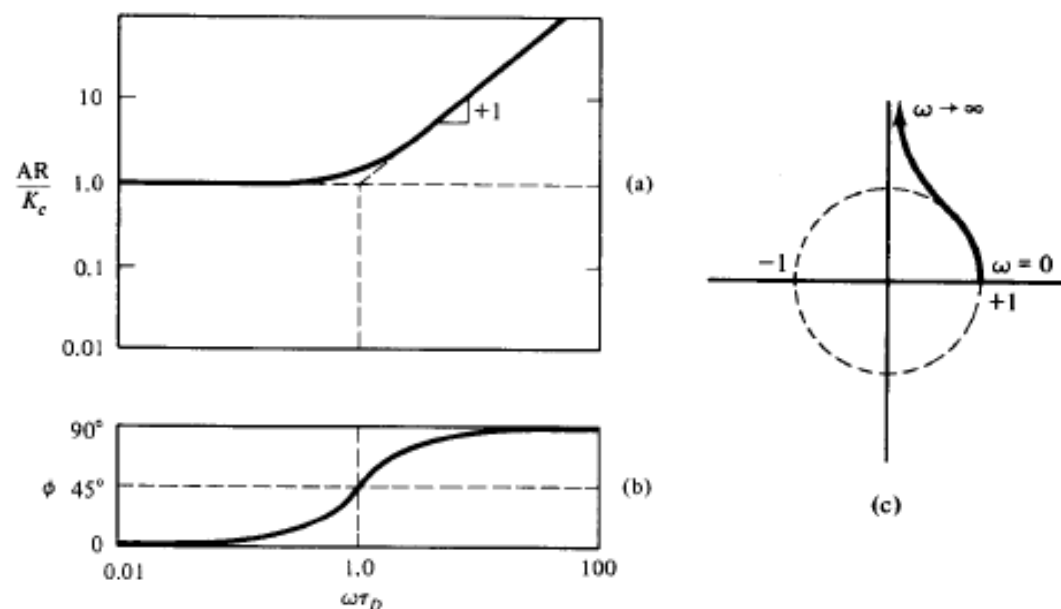


Figure 17.8 Bode plots for PI controller.



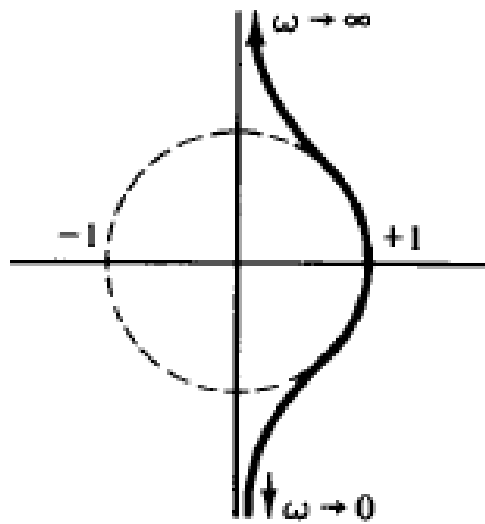
4. *Proportional-integral-derivative controller*: The transfer function is

$$G_c(s) = K_c \left(1 + \frac{1}{\tau_I s} + \tau_D s \right)$$

and it is easy to show that

$$AR = |G_c(j\omega)| = K_c \sqrt{\left(\tau_D \omega - \frac{1}{\tau_I \omega} \right)^2 + 1}$$

$$\phi = \tan^{-1} \left(\tau_D \omega - \frac{1}{\tau_I \omega} \right)$$



(d)

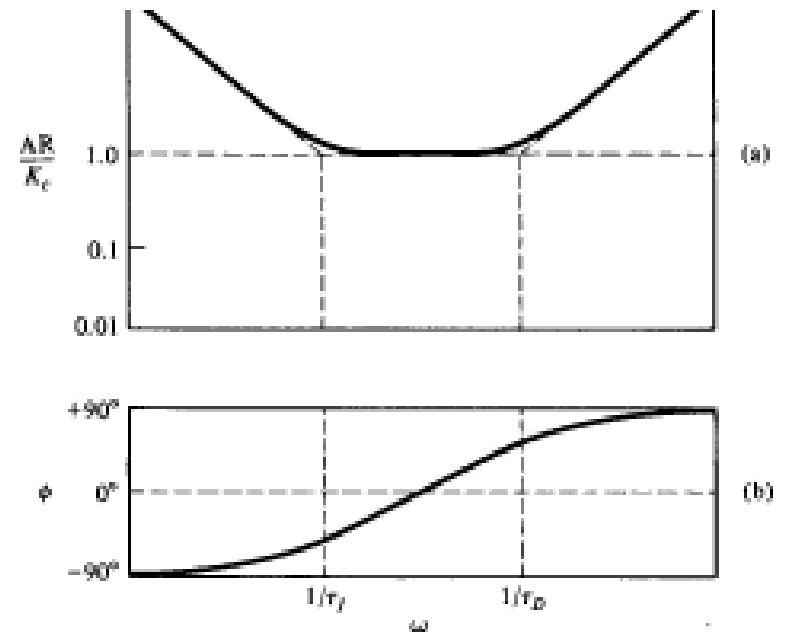


Figure 17.10 Bode plots for PID controller.

Nyquist Plots

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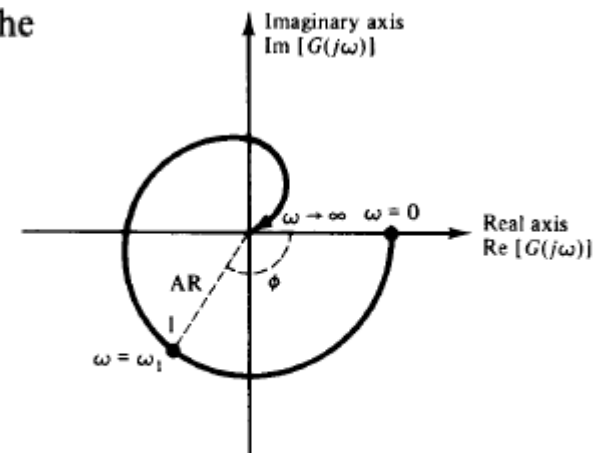


Figure 17.13 Form of a Nyquist plot.

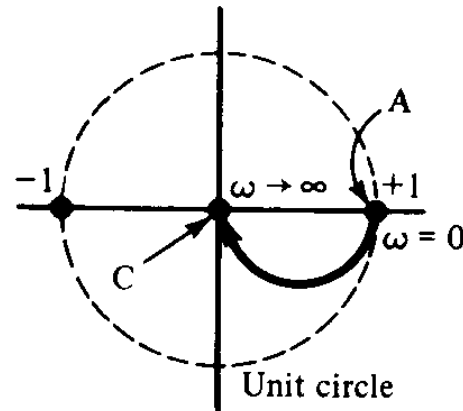
The shape and location of a Nyquist plot are characteristic for a particular system.

First-order system

1. When $\omega = 0$, then $AR = 1$ and $\phi = 0$. Therefore, the beginning of the Nyquist plot is on the real axis where $\phi = 0$ and at a distance from the origin $(0, 0)$ equal to 1 (see point A in Figure 17.14a).
2. When $\omega \rightarrow \infty$, then $AR \rightarrow 0$ and $\phi \rightarrow -90^\circ$. Therefore, the end of the Nyquist plot is at the origin where the distance from it is zero (point C in Figure 17.14a).
3. Since for every intermediate frequency

$$0 < AR < 1 \quad \text{and} \quad -90^\circ < \phi < 0$$

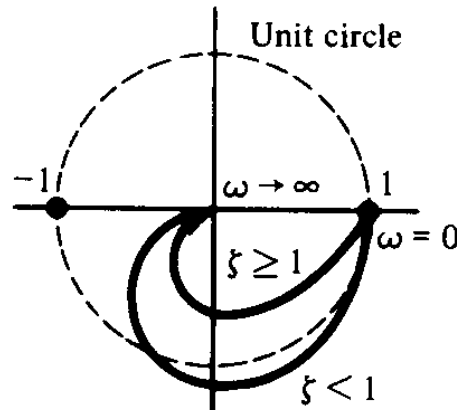
the Nyquist plot will be inside a unit circle and will never leave the first quadrant. Its complete shape and location are shown in Figure 17.14a.



(a)

Second-order system

1. When $\omega = 0$, then $AR = 1$ and $\phi = 0$. Thus the beginning of the Nyquist plot is on the real axis at a distance equal to 1 from the origin.
2. When $\omega \rightarrow \infty$, then $AR \rightarrow 0$ and $\phi \rightarrow -180^\circ$; that is, the Nyquist plot will end at the origin and will approach it from the second quadrant.
3. When $\zeta \geq 1$, then $AR \leq 1$ and the Nyquist plot stays within a unit circle. When $\zeta < 1$, then AR becomes larger than 1 for a range of frequencies. Thus the Nyquist plot goes outside the unit circle for a certain range of frequencies. Figure 17.14b shows the Nyquist plot for a second-order system.



(b)

Third-order system

The transfer function is

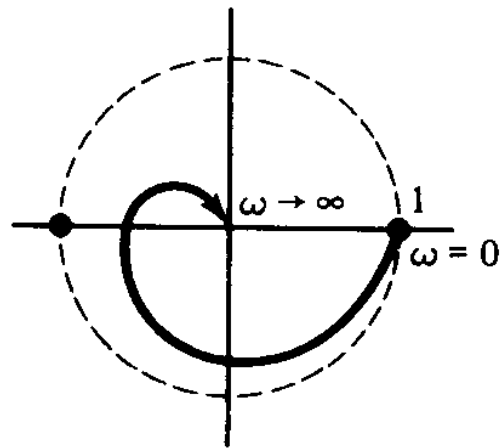
$$G(s) = \frac{1}{(\tau_1 s + 1)(\tau_2 s + 1)(\tau_3 s + 1)} \quad \text{with } \tau_1, \tau_2, \tau_3 \text{ real and positive}$$

It is easy to show that:

When $\omega = 0$, then $AR = 1$ and $\phi = 0$, while

When $\omega \rightarrow \infty$, then $AR = 0$ and $\phi \rightarrow -270^\circ$.

Therefore, the Nyquist plot starts from the real axis at a distance 1 from the origin and ends at the origin, going through the third quadrant (Figure 17.14c).

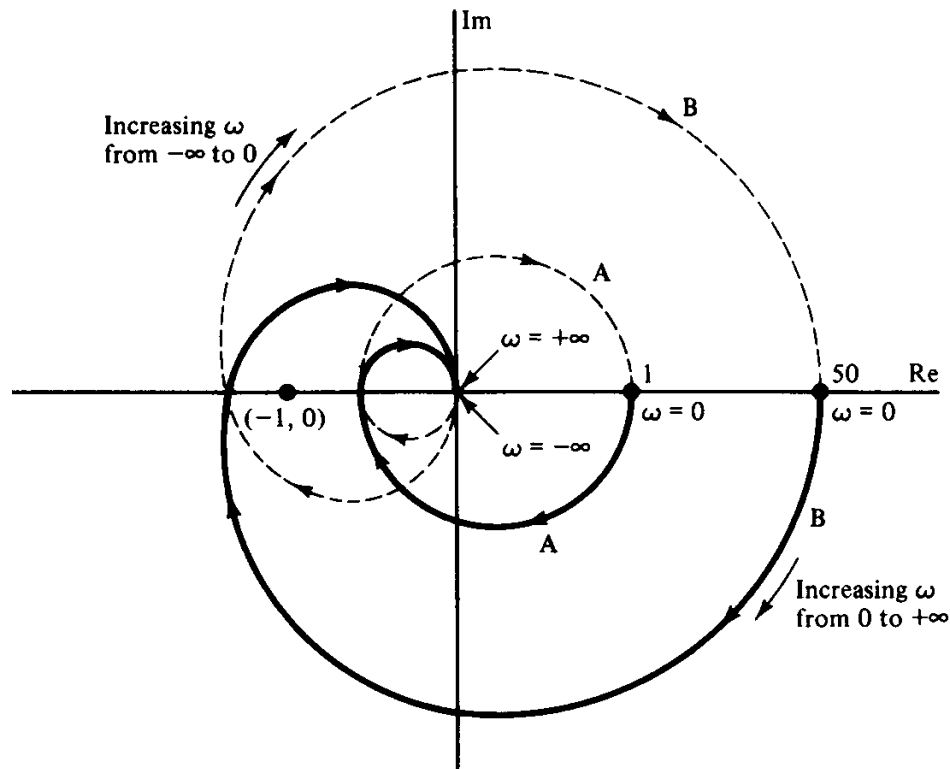


(c)

Nyquist Stability Criterion

The Nyquist stability criterion states that:

If the open-loop Nyquist plot of a feedback system **encircles** the point $(-1, 0)$ as the frequency ω takes any value from $-\infty$ to $+\infty$, the closed-loop response is **unstable**.



Consider the open-loop transfer function

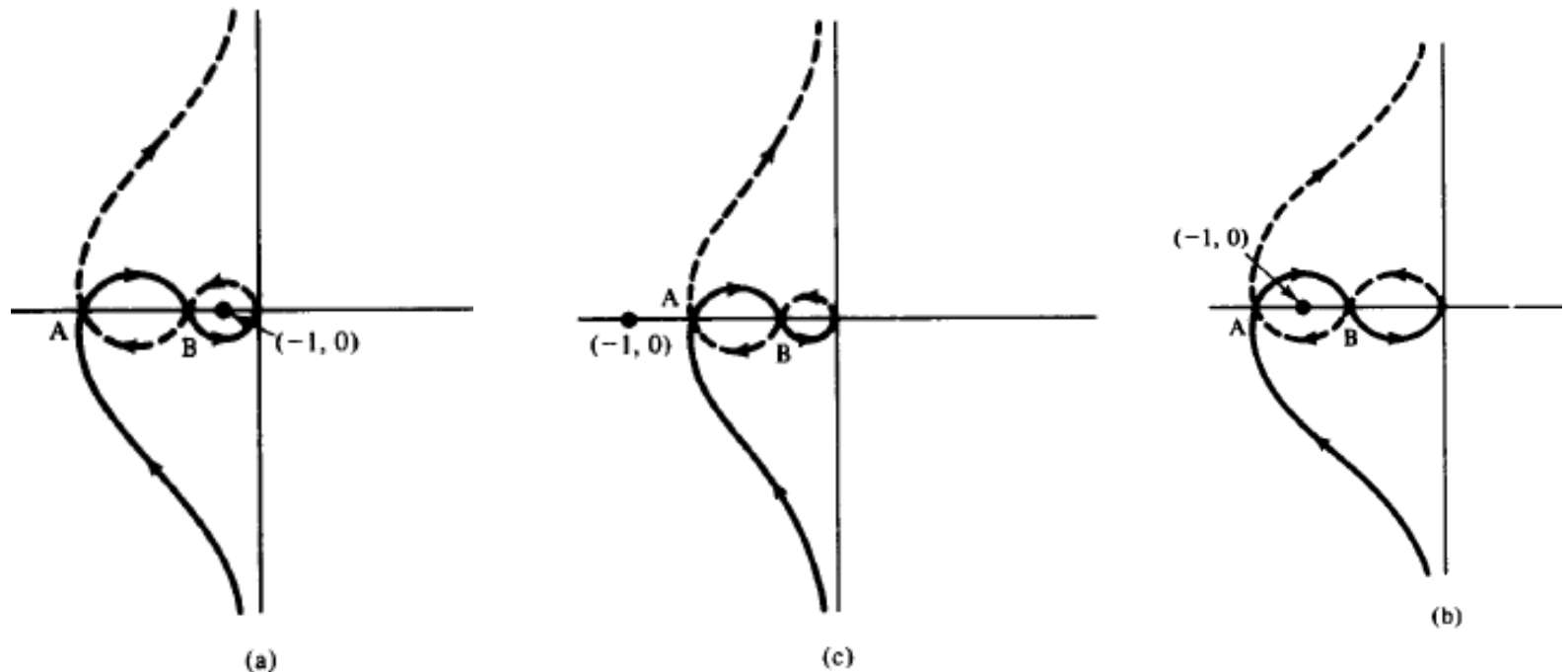
$$G_{OL} = \frac{K_c}{(s + 1)(2s + 1)(4s + 1)}$$

Nyquist plots for G_{OL} when $K_c = 1$ (curve A) and $K_c = 50$ (curve B). For each Nyquist plot the solid line covers the frequency range $0 \leq \omega < +\infty$, and the dashed part covers the frequencies from $-\infty$ to 0. The dashed segment of the Nyquist plot is the mirror image of the solid-line segment with respect to the real axis.

shows that curve A *does not encircle the point $(-1, 0)$* , whereas curve B does. Thus, according to the Nyquist criterion, the feedback system with open-loop Nyquist plot the curve A is stable, while curve B indicates an unstable closed-loop system. This in turn implies that for $K_c = 1$ the system is stable, whereas for $K_c = 50$ it is unstable.

Conditional Stability and the Nyquist Criterion

Consider the Nyquist plots shown in Figure 18.8a through c. All correspond to the same open-loop transfer function with different values for the proportional gain K_c . The plots in Figure 18.8a and c do not encircle the point $(-1, 0)$, whereas the Nyquist plot of Figure 18.8b does. Therefore,



Nyquist plots for Example 18.6: (a), (c) stable; (b) unstable.

the feedback systems corresponding to the first and third Nyquist plots have stable closed-loop responses, whereas that of the second is unstable.

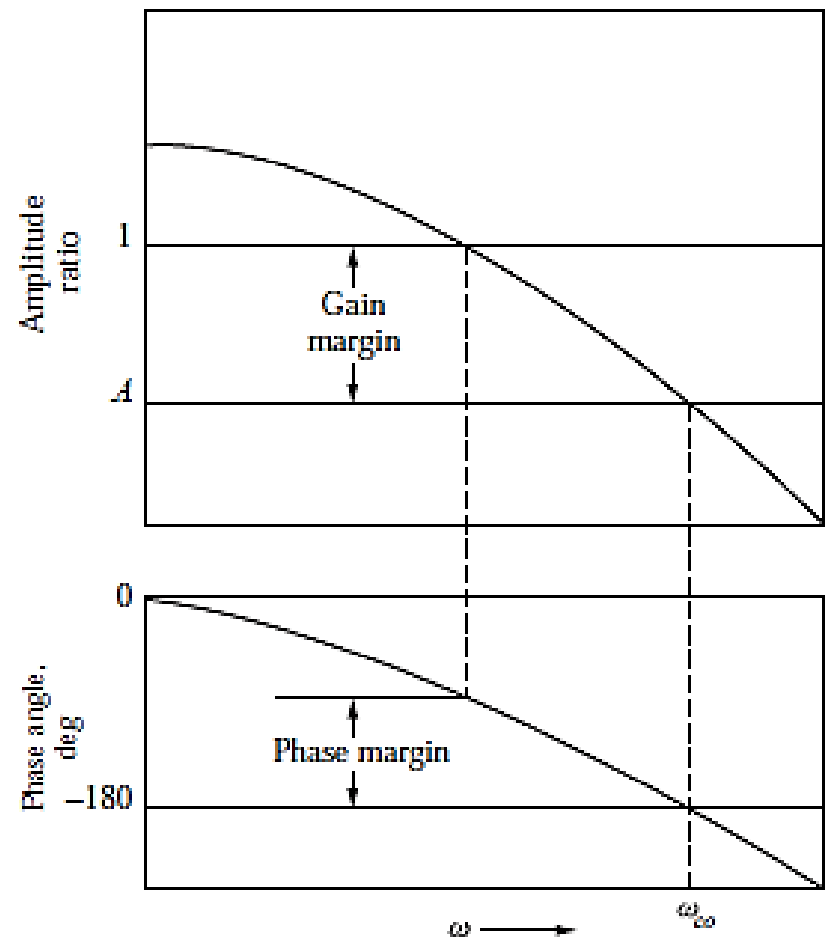
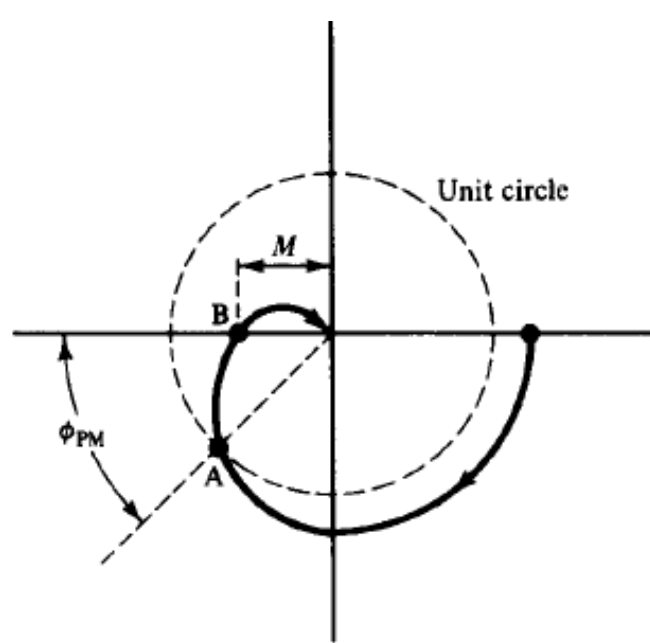
From the plots above it is clear that the closed-loop response becomes unstable for a range of values K_c such that the point $(-1, 0)$ is between A and B of the resulting Nyquist plot.

When point $(-1, 0)$ is to the left of A (Figure 18.8c) or to the right of B (Figure 18.8a), it is not encircled by the

Nyquist plot and the corresponding closed-loop response is stable.

Computing gain and phase margins from Nyquist plots.

The gain margin and phase margin of an open-loop response can also be computed from a Nyquist plot. This should be expected since Bode and Nyquist plots of a system contain exactly the same information.



At the frequency of point A

the Nyquist plot intersects the unit circle around the origin. Therefore, since the distance of point A from the origin is the amplitude ratio at this frequency, we conclude that the angle ϕ_{PM} represents the phase margin.

Furthermore, at the frequency of point B, the phase lag is equal to 180° . The amplitude ratio at this point is the distance between B and the origin, (i.e., $AR = M$). Consequently, the gain margin is easily found as $1/M$.

Purely capacitive or pure integrator process definition and it's transfer function

The transfer function of a firstorder process is given by;

$$G(s) = \frac{y(s)}{f(s)} = \frac{k_p}{\tau_p \cdot S + 1}$$

A first-order process with a transfer function given by above eqn. is also known as: first-order lag, linear lag, exponential transfer lag.

If on the other hand, $a_0 = 0$, then from eqn. we take

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{b}{a_1} * f(t) = k'_p \cdot f(t)$$

$$G(s) = \frac{y(s)}{f(s)} = \frac{k_p}{S}$$

In such case the process is called **purely capacitive or pure integrator**

A pure capacitive process will cause serious [control problems](#), because it cannot balance itself. In the tank of Example 10.3, we can adjust manually the speed of the [constant-displacement](#) pump, so as to balance the flow coming in and thus keep the level constant. But any small change in the [flow rate](#) of the [inlet stream](#) will make the tank flood or run dry (empty). This attribute is known as non-self-regulation. [\[Pg.457\]](#)

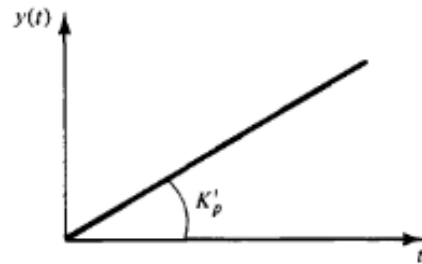


Figure 10.3 Unbounded response of pure capacitive process.

Such response, characteristic of a pure capacitive process, lends the name *pure integrator* because it behaves as if there were an integrator between its input and output.

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Processes with integrating action most commonly encountered in a chemical process are tanks with liquids, vessels with gases, inventory systems for raw materials or products, and so on.