



the
abdu salam
international centre for theoretical physics

SMR1327/22

Summer School on Mathematical Control Theory (3 - 28 September 2001)

Modelling and control of mass balance systems

Georges Bastin
CESAME
Center for Systems Engineering and Applied Mechanics
Bâtiment Euler
4, Avenue G. Lemaitre
B-1348 Louvain
Belgium

These are preliminary lecture notes, intended only for distribution to participants

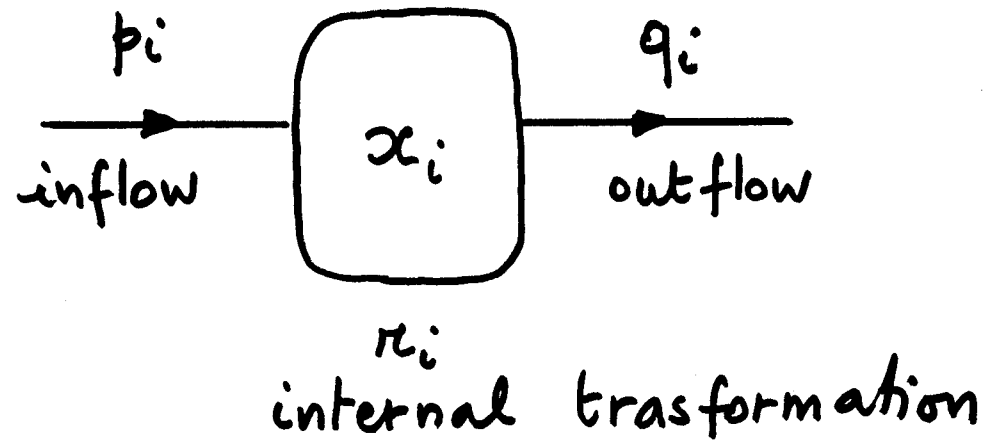
MODELLING AND CONTROL OF MASS BALANCE SYSTEMS

G. Bastin

1. Mass Balance Systems
2. Positivity condition
3. Law of mass conservation
4. Representations : Hamiltonian, Compartmental, stoichiometric
5. Examples
6. Open loop stability
7. Inflow controlled systems
8. A robust control design problem
9. stabilisation of the total mass
10. Mass balance systems in stirred tanks.

Mass balance systems

state variable $x_i = \text{amount of material}$



$$i = 1, \dots, n$$

mass balance $\dot{x}_i = r_i - q_i + p_i$

mass balance equations

≡

state space model

≡

natural behav. model

$$\dot{x} = r(x, u) - q(x, u) + p(x, u)$$

↓
transformations

↓
outflows

↓
inflows

Physical

grinding

with drawal

raw material

Chemical

reaction

excretion

reactants, nutrient

Biological

predation

mortality

immigration, birth

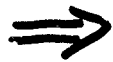
$$\dot{x} = r(x, u) - q(x, u) + p(x, u)$$

control

input $u(t)$ = manipulation of the rates
by an external operator

$$u(t) \geq 0$$

Physical
meaning



- Positivity conditions
- Law of mass conservation

$$\dot{x} = r(x, u) - q(x, u) + p(x, u)$$

Positivity condition

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} x(0) \geq 0 \\ u(t) \geq 0 \quad \forall t \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow x(t) \geq 0 \quad \forall t$$

$$1) \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} r(x, u) \\ q(x, u) \\ p(x, u) \end{array} \right\} : \mathbb{R}_+^n \times \mathbb{R}_+^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+^n, \text{ differentiable} \\ \text{(non negative orthant)}$$

$$2) \text{ If } x_i = 0, \text{ then } r_i(x, u) \geq 0$$

$$3) \text{ If } x_i = 0, \text{ then } q_i(x, u) = 0$$

$$\dot{x} = r(x, u) - q(x, u) + p(x, u)$$

Law of mass conservation

Total mass in the system : $M(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$

Closed system = no inflows/outflows

$$\dot{x} = r(x, u)$$

Mass Conservation $\Rightarrow \frac{dM(x)}{dt} = 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^n r_i(x, u) = 0$

$$\dot{x} = r(x, u) (-q(x, u) + p(x, u))$$

Mass conservation condition

$$\sum_{i=1}^n r_i(x, u) = 0$$

\Rightarrow

$$r_i(x, u) = \sum_{j \neq i} r_{ji}(x, u) - \sum_{j \neq i} r_{ij}(x, u)$$

r_{ij} : non negative and differentiable

\Downarrow

Total mass

$$M(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$$

\Rightarrow

$$r(x, u) = F(x, u) \frac{\partial M}{\partial x}$$

Hamiltonian representation

antisymmetric $F(x, u) = -F^T(x, u)$

$$f_{ij}(x, u) = r_{ji}(x, u) - r_{ij}(x, u)$$

$$\dot{x} = \kappa(x, u) - q(x, u) + p(x, u)$$

Another structural property

Positivity condition

\Rightarrow

$$\kappa(x, u) - q(x, u) = G(x, u) x$$

$$q_i(x, u) = x_i \tilde{q}_i(x, u)$$

$$\kappa_{ij}(x, u) = x_i \tilde{\kappa}_{ij}(x, u)$$

$$g_{ii}(x, u) = -\tilde{q}_i(x, u) - \sum_{j \neq i} \tilde{\kappa}_{ij}(x, u) \leq 0$$

$$g_{ij}(x, u) = \tilde{\kappa}_{ji}(x, u) \geq 0$$

$G(x, u)$ is a compartmental matrix

- Metzler matrix ($g_{ij} \geq 0 \quad \forall j \neq i$)
- $g_{ii} \leq 0$
- diagonally dominant

$$\dot{x} = r(x, u) - q(x, u) + p(x, u)$$

Mass conservation \Rightarrow

$$\text{Total mass } M(x) = \sum_i x_i$$

$$r(x, u) - q(x, u) \equiv [F(x, u) - D(x, u)] \frac{\partial M}{\partial x}$$

antisymmetric

$$F(x, u) = -F^T(x, u)$$

diagonal

(dissipation)

Hamiltonian Representation

Positivity \Rightarrow

$$r(x, u) - q(x, u) \equiv G(x, u) x$$

compartmental matrix

- Metzler $g_{ij} \geq 0 \quad \forall j \neq i$
- $g_{ii} \leq 0$
- diagonally dominant

$$\dot{x} = r(x, u) (-q(x, u) + p(x, u))$$

Stoichiometric representation

$$r_i(x, u) = \sum_{j=1}^s c_{ij} \underbrace{\rho_j(x, u)}_{\text{positive and differentiable}} \quad s < n$$

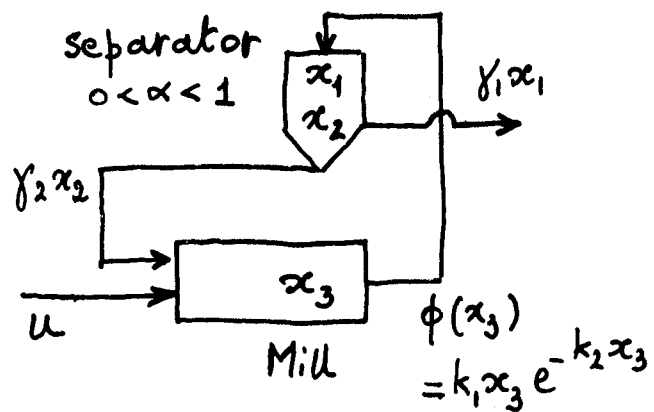
$$\boxed{r(x, u) = C \rho(x, u)}$$

$$C = [c_{ij}] = \text{stoichiometric matrix}$$
$$\rho(x, u) = (\rho_1(x, u), \dots, \rho_s(x, u))$$

Property :

$$\sum_{i=1}^n c_{ij} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \sum_i r_i(x, u) = 0 \quad \text{Mass conservation}$$

Example 1. A grinding process



$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \\ \dot{x}_3 \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} (1-\alpha)\phi(x_3) \\ \alpha\phi(x_3) - \gamma_2 x_2 \\ \gamma_2 x_2 - \phi(x_3) \end{pmatrix}}_{r(x,u)} - \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \gamma_1 x_1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{q(x,u)} + \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ u \end{pmatrix}}_{p(x,u)}$$

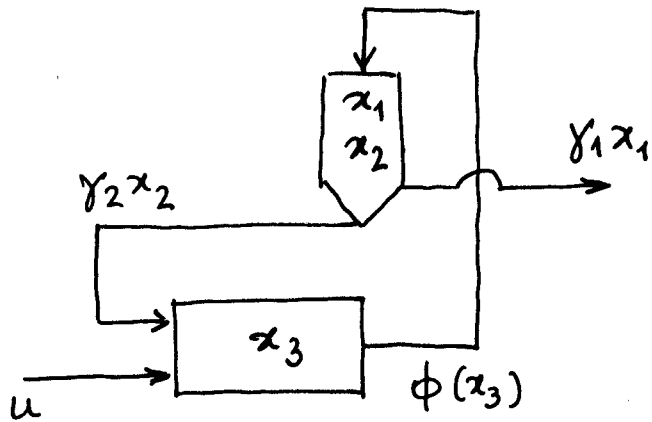
Hamiltonian

$$F(x,u) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & (1-\alpha)\phi(x_3) \\ 0 & 0 & -\gamma_2 x_2 + \alpha\phi(x_3) \\ -(1-\alpha)\phi(x_3) & \gamma_2 x_2 - \alpha\phi(x_3) & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

antisymmetric

$$G(x,u) = \begin{pmatrix} -\gamma_1 & 0 & (1-\alpha)k_1 e^{-k_2 x_3} \\ 0 & -\gamma_2 & \alpha k_1 e^{-k_2 x_3} \\ 0 & \gamma_2 & -k_1 e^{-k_2 x_3} \end{pmatrix}$$

compartmental

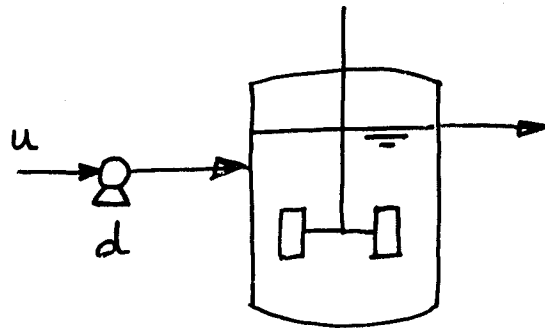


$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \\ \dot{x}_3 \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1-\alpha & 0 \\ +\alpha & -1 \\ -1 & +1 \end{pmatrix}}_{\text{Stoichiometric matrix}} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \phi(x_3) \\ y_2 x_2 \end{pmatrix}}_{\rho(x)} - \begin{pmatrix} y_1 x_1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ u \end{pmatrix}$$

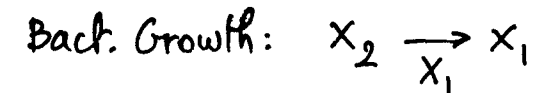
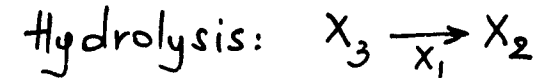
Stoichiometric
matrix

$$\sum_i c_{ij} = 0 !$$

Example 2. A depollution process



x_1 = biomass
 x_2 = degraded org. matter
 x_3 = organic pollutant
 u = influent pollut. conc.
 d = volumetric flow rate



(mass action kinetics)

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \\ \dot{x}_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mu_1 x_1 x_2 \\ -\mu_1 x_1 x_2 + \mu_2 x_1 x_3 \\ -\mu_2 x_1 x_3 \end{pmatrix} - \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} dx_1 \\ dx_2 \\ dx_3 \end{pmatrix}}_{q(x,u)} + \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ du \end{pmatrix}}_{p(x,u)}$$

Hamiltonian

$$F(x,u) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mu_1 x_1 x_2 & 0 \\ -\mu_1 x_1 x_2 & 0 & \mu_2 x_1 x_3 \\ 0 & -\mu_2 x_1 x_3 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

antisymmetric

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & +1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mu_1 x_1 x_2 \\ \mu_2 x_1 x_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

stoichiometric

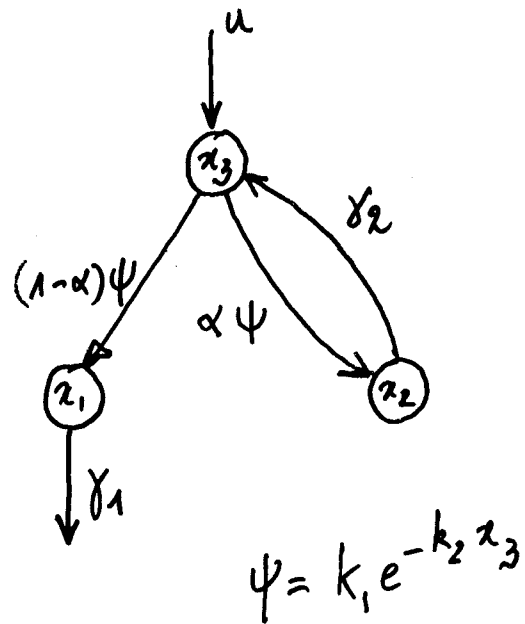
$$G(x,u) = \begin{pmatrix} -d & \mu_1 x_1 & 0 \\ 0 & -d - \mu_1 x_1 & \mu_2 x_1 \\ 0 & 0 & -d - \mu_2 x_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

compartmental

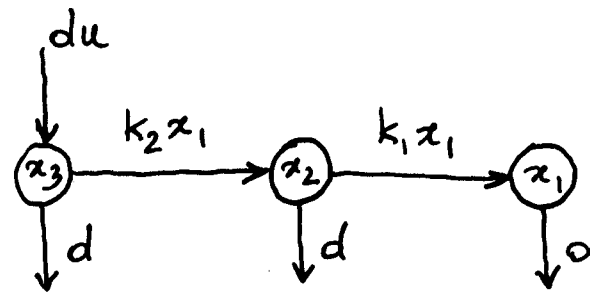
Why compartmental ?

Network of conceptual reservoirs called compartments

Labels of arcs = entries of $G(x)$



Grinding process



Depollution process.

$$\dot{x} = r(x, u) - q(x, u) + p(x, u)$$

Special case : linear inflows/outflows

outflows

$$q(x, u) = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 x_1 \\ a_2 x_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_n x_n \end{pmatrix}$$

inflows

$$p(x, u) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ u \end{pmatrix}$$

single input

$$\dot{x} = r(x) - Ax + bu$$

diag $\{a_i\}$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

o.k for
both
examples

Open loop stability

$$\underline{u(t) = \bar{u} = \text{constant} > 0}$$

- Equilibrium in the positive orthant \bar{x} ?
- Globally asymptotically stable?

1) state affine mass balance systems

$$\dot{x} = \underbrace{G(\bar{u})}_{\substack{\text{compartmental} \\ \text{matrix}}} x + b\bar{u}$$

$G(\bar{u})$ Hurwitz

(= fully "outflow connected")

\Rightarrow single GAS equilibrium

$$\dot{x} = h(x) - Ax + bu$$

2) Conservative Lotka-Volterra systems

$$\dot{x}_i = \left(-a_i + \sum_j p_{ij} x_j \right) x_i \quad i=1, \dots, n-1$$

$$\dot{x}_n = \left(-a_n + \sum_j p_{nj} x_j \right) x_n + \bar{u}$$

$$h(x) = F(x) \frac{\partial M}{\partial x} \quad \text{Hamiltonian representation}$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$f_{ij}(x) = p_{ij} x_i x_j \quad P = [p_{ij}] \text{ antisymmetric}$$

Lyapunov function

$$V(x) = \sum_i x_i - \bar{x}_i \ln x_i$$

$$\dot{V}(x) = \underbrace{(x - \bar{x})^T P (x - \bar{x})}_{=0} - \frac{\bar{u} \bar{x}_n}{x_n} \left(1 - \frac{x_n}{\bar{x}_n} \right)^2$$

\Rightarrow single GAS equilibrium

$$\dot{x} = r(x) - Ax + bu$$

3) Simplified Rosenbrock's Theorem (Automatica 1962)

- $(\frac{\partial r}{\partial x} - A)$ is a compartmental matrix in the pos. orthant.
- bounded state
- Lyapunov function $V = \sum_i |\bar{x}_i|$

4) Gouzé's Theorem (Ecc 97)

- Hamiltonian viewpoint $r_i(x) = \sum_j [r_{ji} - r_{ij}] \quad r_{ij}(x_i) \equiv$
- $[r_{ij}(x_i) - r_{ij}(\bar{x}_i)](x_i - \bar{x}_i) \geq 0 \quad \forall x_i \geq 0$
- Lyapunov function $V = \sum_i |x_i - \bar{x}_i|$

\Rightarrow single GAS equilibrium

$$\dot{x} = r(x) - Ax + B\bar{u}$$

Open loop stability analysis : $u(t) = \bar{u} = \text{constant} > 0$

- Single equilibrium, globally asymptotically stable in the positive orthant $\bar{x} > 0$?

- Lotka-Volterra conservative systems

Hamiltonian matrix
 $F(x)$ bilinear

$$V = \sum_i (x_i - \bar{x}_i \ln x_i)$$

- Rosenbrock (1962)

$\left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial x} - A\right)$ Jacobian compartmental matrix

$$V = \sum_i |x_i|$$

- Gouzé (Ecc 97)

$r_{ij}(x_i)$ \equiv non monotonic

$$V = \sum_i |x_i - \bar{x}_i|$$

System without inflows

$$\dot{x} = r(x) - Ax + \cancel{bu}$$

Assumption

$$r(x) - Ax = G(x)x$$

↓

The compartmental matrix $G(x)$ is
"fully outflow connected"

⇒ $x=0$ is the single GAS equilibrium
of the unforced system $\dot{x} = r(x) - Ax$

Lyap. f.

↑

Physical meaning: without inflows, the total mass $M(x)$
decreases $\rightarrow 0$ = dissipativity = natural wash-out

o.k. for both examples

$$\dot{x} = r(x) - Ax + bu$$

Bounded input / Bounded state

State bounded \iff Total mass bounded

$$0 \leq u(t) \leq u^{\max}$$

$$\frac{dM}{dt} = - \sum_i a_i x_i + \left(\sum_i b_i \right) u$$

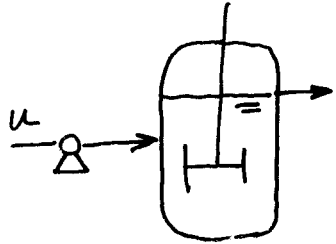
- if $a_i > 0 \quad \forall i$

- then 1) bounded state

2) simplex $\Delta = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}_+^n : M(x) \leq \frac{(\sum_i b_i) u^{\max}}{\min_i (a_i)} \right\}$ invariant

Open loop stability : Multiple equilibria.

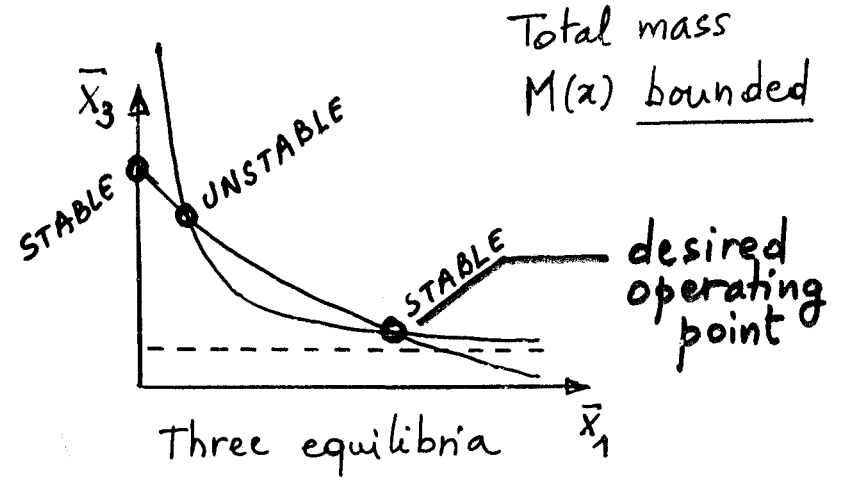
Depollution process BIBS



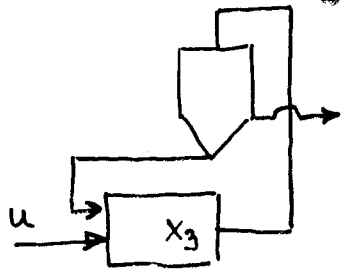
$$\dot{x}_1 = \mu_1 x_1 x_2 - d x_1$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = -\mu_1 x_1 x_2 + \mu_2 x_1 x_3 - d x_2$$

$$\dot{x}_3 = -\mu_2 x_1 x_3 - d x_3 + \bar{u}$$



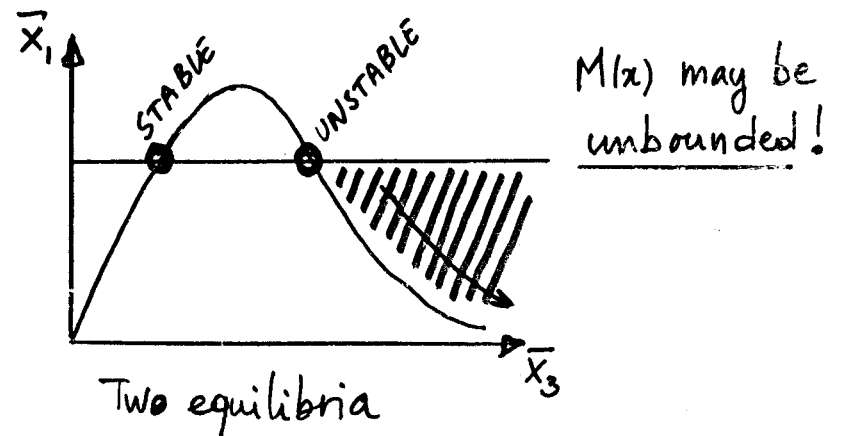
Grinding process BIUS



$$\dot{x}_1 = (1-\alpha) \phi(x_3) - \gamma_1 x_1$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = \alpha \phi(x_3) - \gamma_2 x_2$$

$$\dot{x}_3 = \gamma_2 x_2 - \phi(x_3) + \bar{u}$$



Plugging!

Grinding process : the instability set

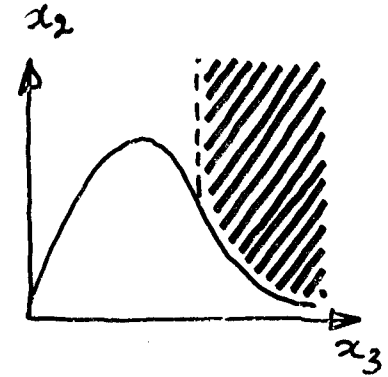
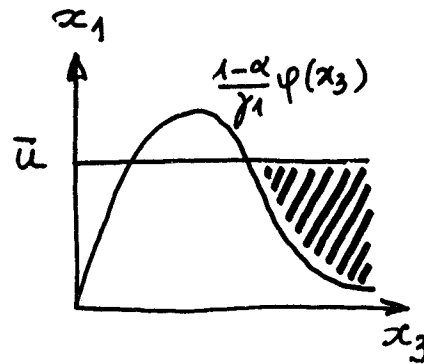
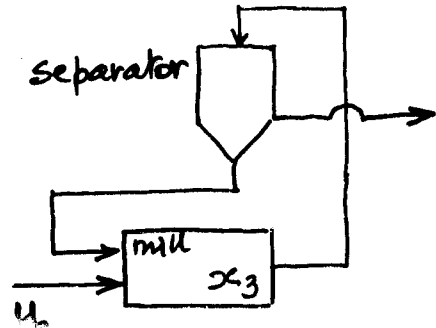
$$(1-\alpha) \phi(x_3) < \gamma_1 x_1 < \bar{u}$$

$$\alpha \phi(x_3) < \gamma_2 x_2$$

$$\partial \phi / \partial x_3 < 0$$

Example: Instability of industrial grinding process.

"Plugging Phenomenon"

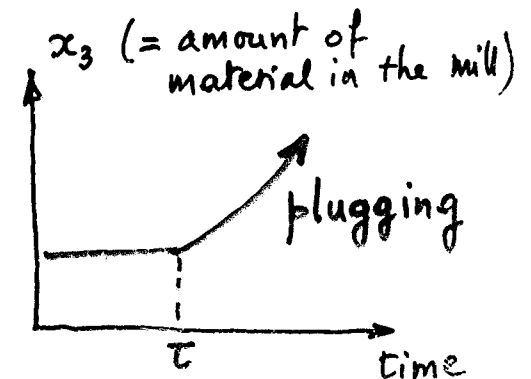
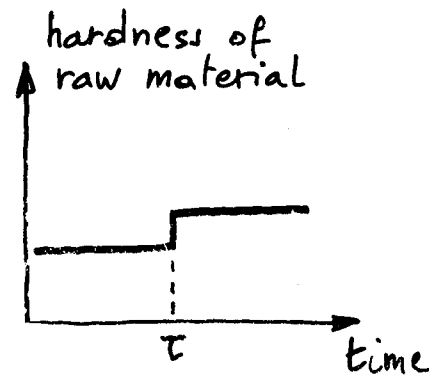
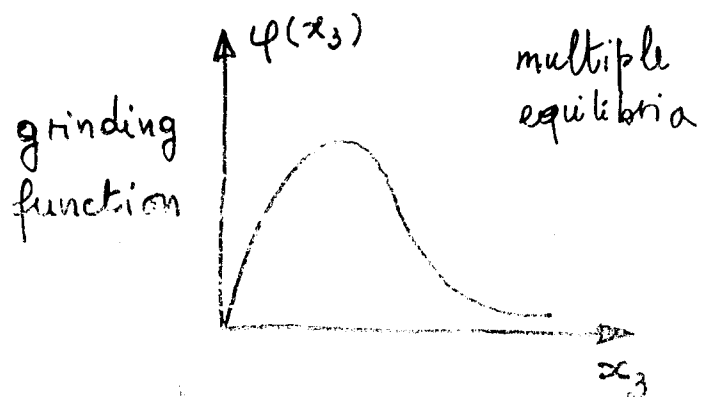


$$\dot{x}_1 = -\gamma_1 x_1 + (1-\alpha)\varphi(x_3)$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = -\gamma_2 x_2 + \alpha\varphi(x_3)$$

$$\dot{x}_3 = \gamma_2 x_2 - \varphi(x_3) + u$$

The instability invariant set



The unstable behaviour

Engineering problem

Intermittent disturbances } may induce



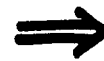
Toxic matter in the depollution process

Change of hardness of raw material in the grinding proc.

undesirable behaviour



convergence to wash out equilibrium



plugging = unbounded accumulation of material in the mill

$$\dot{x} = r(x) - Ax + bu$$

(multiple equilibria)

To prevent the process from undesirable behaviour

→ Feedback control?

- positive and bounded $0 \leq u \leq u_{\max}$
- single GAS equilibrium (= the "good" operating point)
- robust against uncertainty $r(x)$

CASE I : BIUS Robust stabilisation of the total mass

CASE II : BIBS output regulation of an initial compartment

$$\dot{x} = r(x) - Ax + bu$$

CASE I : BIVS systems

Problem : risk of unbounded accumulation of material in the system (Plugging)

Solution : stabilise (by state feedback)
the total mass $M(x)$ at a set point M^*

Robust Control law

$$\tilde{u}(x) = \sum_i a_i x_i + \lambda [M^* - M(x)]$$

$$u(x) = \max(0, \tilde{u}(x)) \geq 0$$

system fully outflow

connected

\Rightarrow bounded state and $M(x) \longrightarrow M^*$

Application to the grinding process

$$\dot{x}_1 = (1 - \alpha) \phi(x_3) - \gamma_1 x_1$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = \alpha \phi(x_3) - \gamma_2 x_2$$

$$\dot{x}_3 = \gamma_2 x_2 - \phi(x_3) + u$$

Control law

$$u(x) = \max \left[0, \lambda M^* + (\gamma_1 - \lambda) x_1 - \lambda x_2 - \lambda x_3 \right]$$

closed loop analysis

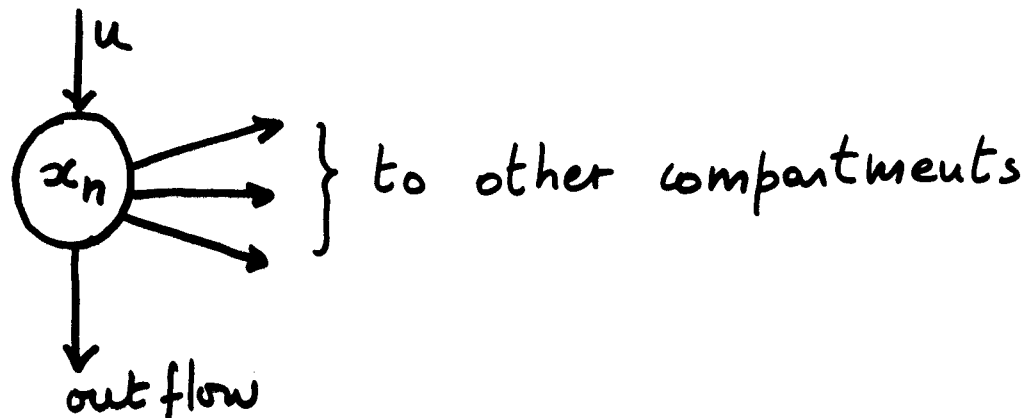
closed loop system has a single GAS equilibrium in the positive orthant if:

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_3} > - \frac{\gamma_1 \gamma_2}{\alpha \gamma_1 + (1 - \alpha) \gamma_2}$$

The proposed controller achieves the control objective.

CASE II . BIBS Systems

- Problem : avoid undesirable attracting equilibria
- Solution : Regulate some output at a set point y^* which uniquely assigns the equilibrium
- Special case : output $y = x_n =$ "initial" compartment



$$\dot{x}_1 = \kappa_1(z) - a_1 x_1$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = \kappa_2(z) - a_2 x_2$$

⋮

$$\dot{x}_{n-1} = \kappa_{n-1}(z) - a_{n-1} x_{n-1}$$

$$\dot{x}_n = \kappa_n(z) - a_n x_n + u$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \dot{x}_1 = \kappa_1(z) - a_1 x_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 = \kappa_2(z) - a_2 x_2 \\ \vdots \\ \dot{x}_{n-1} = \kappa_{n-1}(z) - a_{n-1} x_{n-1} \end{array} \right\} \dot{z} = \psi(z, y) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Compartmental} \\ \text{system with} \\ \text{input } y \\ \text{zero dynamics} \end{array} \right.$$

$$\rightarrow \dot{y} = -(\underbrace{\phi(z, y) + a_n}_{>0}) y + u$$

A control law

$$u = \underbrace{(\phi(z, y) + a_n)}_{>0} \left[(1-\lambda) y + \lambda y^* \right] \text{ positive!}$$

$0 < \lambda < 1$

↖ set point

closed loop

$$\dot{z} = \psi(z, y)$$

$$\dot{y} = -(\phi(z, y) + a_n) \lambda (y^* - y)$$

$$y \rightarrow y^*$$

Mass balance systems in stirred tanks.

Special case : single control $u =$ volumetric flow rate

$$\dot{x} = r(x, u) - q(x, u) + p(x, u)$$

independent
of u
 $r_i(x)$

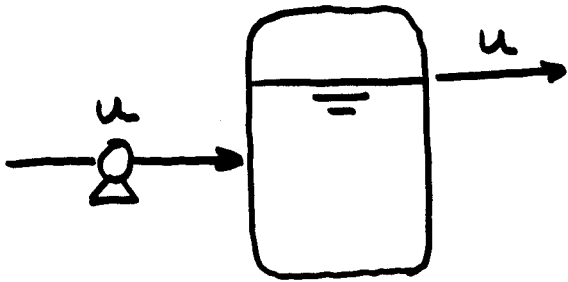
bilinear
 $q_i = u x_i$

linear
 $p_i = u b_i$

General form : $\dot{x} = r(x) + u(b - x)$

Stoichiometric form : $\dot{x} = C p(x) + u(b - x)$

Example : Depollution process



Exchange : $d \rightarrow u$
 $u \rightarrow b$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \\ \dot{x}_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mu_1 x_1 x_2 \\ \mu_2 x_1 x_3 \end{pmatrix} + u \begin{pmatrix} -x_1 \\ -x_2 \\ b - x_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

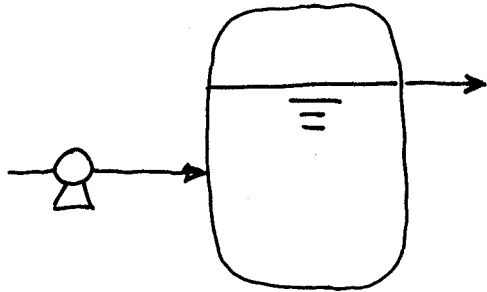
Obviously : exactly the same open loop equilibria !

State boundedness.

$$\dot{x} = r(x) + u(b-x) \quad u(t) \geq 0$$

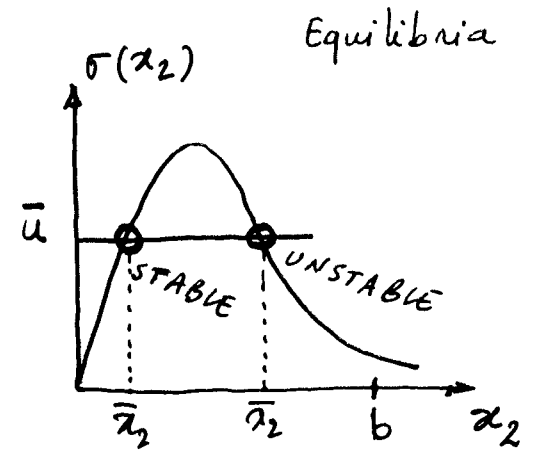
- Dynamics of the total mass: $\frac{d}{dt} M(x) = u(\sum_i b_i - M(x))$
- $M(x)$ bounded $\Rightarrow x$ bounded independently of u !
- The simplex $\Delta = \{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^n : \sum_i x_i \leq \sum_i b_i\}$ is forward invariant (also $\text{int } \Delta$)
- If $u(t) \geq \varepsilon > 0 \forall t$, then $M(x) \rightarrow \sum_i b_i$

A simple example of Lyapunov control design



$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = x_1 \sigma(x_2) - u x_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 = -x_1 \sigma(x_2) + u(b - x_2) \end{cases}$$

Stabilization set point x_1^*



$$\bar{x}_1 = b - \bar{x}_2$$

Control law $u = \sigma(x_2) (1 - \lambda x_1^* + \lambda x_1)$

$$0 < \lambda x_1^* < 1 \Rightarrow u \text{ positive!}$$

Lyapunov function $V = \frac{1}{2} (x_1^* - x_1)^2 + \frac{1}{2} (b - (x_1 + x_2))^2$

$$\Rightarrow \dot{V} = -\lambda \sigma(x_2) (x_1^* - x_1)^2 - \sigma(x_2) (1 - \lambda x_1^* + \lambda x_1) \cancel{(x_1^* - x_1)} (b - (x_1 + x_2))^2$$

< 0 along the trajectories

Conclusions.

- Positivity and mass conservation conditions are explicitly used
 - in control design
 - in stability analysis
- Dissipativity of the unforced system may also be critical in inflow controlled systems - otherwise no hope to stabilise the total mass at an arbitrary set point