

intro.block Feedback control system block diagrams

1 As we have already seen, a useful tool for designing control systems is the block diagram. The plant and the controller are represented as blocks. Usually a transfer function (or transfer function matrix) can describe the function of each block. A typical block diagram is shown in Fig. def.1.

2 In this configuration, a command function $R(s)$ is provided to the control system. The feedback $H(s)Y(s)$ is subtracted from $R(s)$ to give the error $E(s)$. This is fed to the controller $C(s)$. The output of the controller is the control effort $U(s)$, which is the input of the plant $G(s)$. The output $Y(s)$, after being fed back as $H(s)Y(s)$, is what the control system is attempting to make equal to the command $R(s)$, therefore, ideally $E(s) = 0$.

3 Block diagrams express algebraic relationships. (The blocks do not dynamically "load" each other.) In the case of Fig. def.2, the relationships are

$$\begin{aligned} E(s) &= R(s) - F(s) & (1a) \\ U(s) &= C(s)E(s) & (1b) \\ Y(s) &= G(s)U(s) & (1c) \\ F(s) &= H(s)Y(s). & (1d) \end{aligned}$$

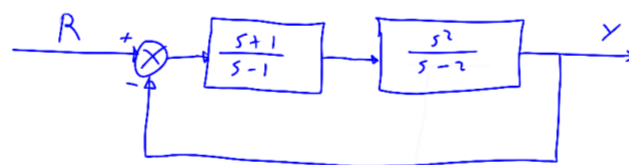
The closed-loop transfer function is defined as $Y(s)/R(s)$. This important transfer function shows how the system should respond to commands, of key importance for most performance criteria.

Example intro.block-1

Given the feedback block diagram of Fig. def.1 (left), solve for the closed loop transfer function $Y(s)/R(s)$.

re: Closed-loop transfer function

$$\begin{aligned} Y(s) &= G(s)U(s) \\ &= G(s)C(s)E(s) \\ &= G(s)C(s)(R(s) - F(s)) \\ &= G(s)C(s)(R(s) - H(s)Y(s)) \\ &= G(s)C(s)R(s) - G(s)C(s)H(s)Y(s) \\ Y(s) + G(s)C(s)H(s)Y(s) &= G(s)C(s)R(s) \\ Y(s)(1 + G(s)C(s)H(s)) &= G(s)C(s)R(s) \\ \frac{Y(s)}{R(s)} &= \frac{G(s)C(s)}{1 + G(s)C(s)H(s)} \end{aligned}$$



$$H(s) = 1$$

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

$$G(s) = \frac{s^2}{s-2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{Y(s)}{R(s)} &= \frac{G(s)C(s)}{1 + G(s)C(s)H(s)} = \frac{\frac{s^2}{s-2} \frac{s+1}{s-1}}{1 + \frac{s^2}{s-2} \frac{s+1}{s-1}} \cdot \frac{s-2}{s-2} \\ &= \frac{s^2 \frac{s+1}{s-1}}{(s-2) + \frac{s^2(s+1)}{s-1}} \cdot \frac{s-1}{s-1} \\ &= \frac{s^2(s+1)}{(s-2)(s-1) + s^2(s+1)} \\ &= \frac{s^3 + s^2}{s^2 - 2s - s + 2 + s^3 + s^2} \\ &= \frac{s^3 + s^2}{s^3 + 2s^2 - 3s + 2} \end{aligned}$$

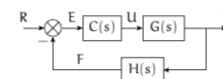


Figure block.1: a block diagram for a controller $C(s)$.



Figure block.2: a block diagram with the corresponding closed-loop transfer function block, derived in Example intro.block-1.