

# Lyapunov Stability Theory: Nonautonomous Systems

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## Outline

- Equilibrium of nonlinear system  $\dot{x} = f(x, t)$ .
- Stability definitions.
- Stability theorems.

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## Equilibrium Point

- Consider nonautonomous systems.

$$\dot{x} = f(x, t), f: D \times \mathcal{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathcal{R}^n$$

$D$  = open connected subset of  $\mathcal{R}^n$

$f$  locally Lipschitz in  $x$ , continuous in  $t$  on  $D \times \mathcal{R}^+$

Equilibrium point at  $t_0$

$$f(0, t) = 0, \forall t \geq t_0$$

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## Equilibrium at the Origin

- W.l.o.g., assume  $x_e = 0$  equilibrium point at  $t_0$  of  $\dot{x} = f(x, t)$
- If  $x_e \neq 0$  is an equilibrium point at  $t_0$ , translate the axes.
- Translation of a nonzero trajectory  $\bar{x}(t)$

$$z = x(t) - \bar{x}(t)$$

$$\dot{z} = \dot{x} - \dot{\bar{x}}$$

$$= f(z + \bar{x}(t), t) - f(\bar{x}(t), t) = 0, z = 0, \forall t \geq t_0$$

$$\dot{z} = \bar{f}(z, t), z_e = 0$$

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## Stability Definitions

The equilibrium  $x_e = \mathbf{0}$  at  $t_0$  of  $\dot{x} = f(x, t)$  is

- Stable if  $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists \delta(\epsilon, t_0) > 0$  such that  
 $\|x(t_0)\| < \delta(\epsilon, t_0) \Rightarrow \|x(t)\| < \epsilon, \forall t \geq t_0 > 0$

Otherwise,  $x_e$  is unstable.

- Convergent at  $t_0$  if  $\exists \delta_1(t_0) > 0$  s.t.

$$\|x(t_0)\| < \delta_1(t_0) \Rightarrow \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = \mathbf{0} \text{ (or)}$$

$$\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists T(\epsilon, t_0) \text{ s.t. } \|x(t_0)\| < \delta_1 \Rightarrow \|x(t)\| < \epsilon, \\ \forall t \geq t_0 + T(\epsilon, t_0)$$

Asymptotically stable if it is both stable & convergent.

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## Uniform Stability Definitions

The equilibrium  $x_e = \mathbf{0}$  at  $t_0$  of  $\dot{x} = f(x, t)$  is

- Uniformly stable if  $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists \delta(\epsilon) > 0$  s.t.  
 $\|x(t_0)\| < \delta(\epsilon) \Rightarrow \|x(t)\| < \epsilon, \forall t \geq t_0 > 0$

- Uniformly convergent if  $\exists \delta_1 > 0$  s.t.

$$\|x(t_0)\| < \delta_1 \Rightarrow \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = \mathbf{0} \text{ (or)}$$

$$\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists T(\epsilon) \text{ s.t. } \|x(t_0)\| < \delta_1 \Rightarrow \|x(t)\| < \epsilon, \\ \forall t \geq t_0 + T(\epsilon)$$

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## Uniform Asymptotic Stability

The equilibrium  $x_e = \mathbf{0}$  of  $\dot{x} = f(x, t)$  is

- Uniformly asymptotically stable if it is both uniformly stable & uniformly convergent.
- Globally uniformly asymptotically stable if it is uniformly asymptotically stable and every motion converges to the origin.

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## Exponential Stability

The equilibrium  $x_e = \mathbf{0}$  is exponentially stable if  $\exists \alpha, \lambda > 0$  s.t.

$$\|x(t)\| \leq \alpha \|x(t_0)\| e^{-\lambda t}$$

$$\forall t \geq t_0, \forall \|x(t_0)\| < \delta$$

The equilibrium  $x_e = \mathbf{0}$  is globally exponentially stable if the condition holds  $\forall x \in \mathcal{R}^n$

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## Positive Semidefinite Functions

$$W(x, t), \quad W: D \times \mathcal{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathcal{R}, \mathbf{0} \in D$$

- $W(x, t)$  continuously differentiable w.r.t. all its arguments.
- $W(x, t)$  Positive semidefinite in  $D$ 
  - $W(\mathbf{0}, t) = 0, \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+$
  - $W(x, t) \geq 0, \forall x \in D, x \neq \mathbf{0}, \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+$

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## Positive Definite Functions

$$W(x, t), \quad W: D \times \mathcal{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathcal{R}, \mathbf{0} \in D$$

- $W(x, t)$  continuously differentiable w.r.t. all its arguments.
- $W(x, t)$  Positive definite in  $D$ :
  - $W(\mathbf{0}, t) = 0, \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+$
  - $V(x) \leq W(x, t), \forall x \in D, x \neq \mathbf{0}, \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+, V(x)$  positive definite.

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## Decrescent Functions

$$W(x, t), \quad W: D \times \mathcal{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathcal{R}, \mathbf{0} \in D$$

- $W(x, t)$  continuously differentiable w.r.t. all its arguments.
- $W(x, t)$  decrescent in  $D$  if
$$|W(x, t)| \leq V(x), \forall x \in D, \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+$$
$$V(x) \text{ positive definite}$$
- Decay of  $W(x, t)$  a function of  $x$  only, not  $t$

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## Radially Unbounded Functions

$$W(x, t), \quad W: \mathcal{R}^n \times \mathcal{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$$

Radially Unbounded if

$$W(x, t) \rightarrow \infty \text{ as } \|x\| \rightarrow \infty$$

uniformly on  $t$

Or

$$\forall M > 0, \exists N > 0 \text{ s.t for all } t$$
$$\|x\| > N \Rightarrow W(x, t) > M$$

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## Functions of Class $K, KL$

**Class  $K$ :** continuous function  $\alpha: [0, a] \rightarrow \mathcal{R}^+$  with (i)  $\alpha(0) = 0$ , (ii)  $\alpha(\cdot)$  strictly increasing.

**Class  $KL$ :** Continuous function  $\beta: [0, a] \times \mathcal{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathcal{R}^+$  s.t.

- i. For fixed  $s$ ,  $\beta(r, s)$  is in class  $K$  w.r.t.  $r$ .
- ii. For fixed  $r$ ,  $\beta(r, s)$  is strictly decreasing w.r.t.  $s$ .
- iii.  $\beta(r, s) \rightarrow 0$  as  $s \rightarrow \infty$

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## In Terms of Class $K$ Functions

- Positive Definite

$$\alpha_1(\|x\|) \leq V(x) \leq W(x, t), \forall x \in B_r \subset D, \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+$$

- Decrescent

$$|W(x, t)| \leq V(x) \leq \alpha_2(\|x\|), \forall x \in B_r \subset D, \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+$$

- Positive Definite & Decrescent

$$\alpha_1(\|x\|) \leq W(x, t) \leq \alpha_2(\|x\|) \forall x \in B_r \subset D, \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+$$

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## Lemmas: Functions of Class $K$

$x_e = \mathbf{0}$  equilibrium point at  $t_0$  of  $\dot{x} = f(x, t)$  is

- **Uniformly stable** if and only if  $\exists$  a class  $K$  function  $\alpha(\cdot)$  and a constant  $c$  s.t.  
 $\|x(t_0)\| < c \Rightarrow \|x(t)\| < \alpha(\|x(t_0)\|), \forall t \geq t_0$
- **Uniformly asymptotically stable** if and only if  $\exists$  a class  $KL$  function  $\beta(\cdot, \cdot)$  & a constant  $c$  s.t.  
 $\|x(t_0)\| < c \Rightarrow \|x(t)\| < \beta(\|x(t_0)\|, t - t_0) \forall t \geq t_0$

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## Examples

$$W(x, t) = (x_1^2 + x_2^2)e^{-\alpha t}, \alpha > 0$$

$$W(\mathbf{0}, t) = 0, e^{-\alpha t} = 0, \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+$$

$$W(x, t) \geq 0, \forall x \neq \mathbf{0}, \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} W(x, t) = 0, \forall x$$

- $W(x, t)$  does not satisfy  $\alpha_1(\|x\|) \leq W(x, t), \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+$
- $W(x, t)$  is positive semidefinite but not positive definite.

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## Example

$$W(\mathbf{x}, t) = (t^2 + 1)(x_1^2 + x_2^2)/(x_1^2 + 2)$$

$$V_2(\mathbf{x}) = (x_1^2 + x_2^2)/(x_1^2 + 2) \leq W(\mathbf{x}, t), \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^n, \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+, \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$$

- No  $V(\mathbf{x})$  s.t.

$$|W(\mathbf{x}, t)| \leq V(\mathbf{x}), \forall \mathbf{x} \in D, \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+$$

$$W(\mathbf{x}, t) \rightarrow (t^2 + 1) \text{ as } x_1 \rightarrow \infty, \text{ not } \infty \forall t$$

- $W(\mathbf{x}, t)$  positive definite, not decrescent, not radially unbounded.

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## Example

$$W(\mathbf{x}, t) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} (t^2 + 1)$$

$$V_3(\mathbf{x}) = \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \leq W(\mathbf{x}, t), \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^n, \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}, \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+$$

- $W(\mathbf{x}, t)$  positive definite and radially unbounded.

- We cannot find  $V(\mathbf{x})$  s.t.

$$|W(\mathbf{x}, t)| \leq V(\mathbf{x}), \forall \mathbf{x} \in D, \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+$$

$W(\mathbf{x}, t)$  is not decrescent

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## Example

$$W(\mathbf{x}, t) = (x_1^2 + x_2^2)/(x_1^2 + 2)$$

$$V_2(\mathbf{x}) = (x_1^2 + x_2^2)/(x_1^2 + 2) \leq W(\mathbf{x}, t), \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^2, \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}, \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+$$

$$|W(\mathbf{x}, t)| \leq V_3(\mathbf{x}) = \|\mathbf{x}\|^2, \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^2, \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+$$

$$W(\mathbf{x}, t) \rightarrow 1 \text{ as } x_1 \rightarrow \infty, \text{ not } \infty \forall t$$

- $W(\mathbf{x}, t)$  positive definite, decrescent, not radially unbounded.

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## Example

$$W(\mathbf{x}, t) = \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 (t^2 + 1)/(t^2 + 2)$$

$$\alpha V_3(\mathbf{x}) = \alpha \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \leq W(\mathbf{x}, t),$$

$$\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^n, \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}, \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+, \alpha < 1/2$$

- $W(\mathbf{x}, t)$  positive definite and radially unbounded.

$$|W(\mathbf{x}, t)| \leq V_3(\mathbf{x}), \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^n, \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+$$

$W(\mathbf{x}, t)$  is decrescent

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## Derivative

- Along the trajectories of the system

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

$$\dot{W}(x, t) = \frac{\partial W}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial W}{\partial x} \cdot \dot{x}$$

$$\dot{W}(x, t) = \frac{\partial W}{\partial t} + \nabla W \cdot f(x, t)$$

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## Theorem: Stability

The equilibrium  $x_e = \mathbf{0}$  at  $t_0$  of  $\dot{x} = f(x, t)$  is

- Stable** if  $\exists$  a continuously differentiable **positive definite**  $W(x, t)$ ,  $W: D \times \mathcal{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$ ,  $\mathbf{0} \in D$ , s. t.  $\dot{W}(x, t)$  is negative semidefinite in  $D$
- Uniformly stable** if  $\exists$  a continuously differentiable **positive definite decrescent**  $W(x, t)$ ,  $W: D \times \mathcal{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$ ,  $\mathbf{0} \in D$ , s. t.  $\dot{W}(x, t)$  is negative semidefinite in  $D$

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## Theorem: Uniform Asymptotic Stability

The equilibrium  $x_e = \mathbf{0}$  at  $t_0$  of  $\dot{x} = f(x, t)$  is **uniformly asymptotically stable** if  $\exists$  a continuously differentiable **positive definite decrescent**  $W(x, t)$ ,  $W: D \times \mathcal{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$ ,  $\mathbf{0} \in D$ , s. t.  $\dot{W}(x, t)$  is negative definite in  $D$

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## Theorem: Global Uniform Asymptotic Stability

The equilibrium  $x_e = \mathbf{0}$  at  $t_0$  of  $\dot{x} = f(x, t)$  is **globally uniformly asymptotically stable** if  $\exists$  a continuously differentiable **positive definite, decrescent, & radially unbounded**  $W(x, t)$ ,  $W: \mathcal{R}^n \times \mathcal{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$ , s. t.  $\dot{W}(x, t)$  is negative definite  $\forall x \in \mathcal{R}^n$

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## Summary of Stability Theorems

$W(x, t)$	$\dot{W}(x, t)$	Conclusion
Pos. definite	Neg. semi-definite	Stable
Pos. definite decreascent	Neg. semi-definite	Uniformly stable
Pos. definite decreascent	Neg. definite	Uniformly asymptot. stable
Globally pos. definite decreascent Rad.unbounded	Globally neg. definite	Globally, uniformly asymptot. stable

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## Theorem: Exponential Stability

The equilibrium at  $t_0$   $x_e = \mathbf{0}$  of  $\dot{x} = f(x, t)$  is exponentially stable if  $\exists K_1, K_2, K_3 > 0$  s. t.  
 $\forall t \geq t_0$

$$K_1 \|x(t)\|^p \leq W(x, t) \leq K_2 \|x(t)\|^p$$

$$\dot{W}(x, t) \leq -K_3 \|x(t)\|^p$$

- If the conditions hold globally,  $x_e = \mathbf{0}$  is globally exponentially stable.
- Proof: similar to autonomous case.

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## Example

$$\dot{x}_1 = -x_1 - x_2 e^{-2t}$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = x_1 - x_2$$

Equilibrium:  $x_e = \mathbf{0}$  ( $f(\mathbf{0}, t) = \mathbf{0}, \forall t \geq t_0, \forall t_0$ )

$$W(x, t) = x_1^2 + (1 + e^{-2t})x_2^2$$

$$V_1(x) = \|x\|^2 \leq W(x, t) \leq x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 = V_2(x)$$

$$\forall x \in \mathcal{R}^2, \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+$$

- Positive definite, decreascent, radially unbounded

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## Derivative

$$\dot{W}(x, t) = \frac{\partial W}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial W}{\partial x} \cdot \dot{x}$$

$$= -2x_2^2 e^{-2t} + 2[x_1 \quad x_2(1 + e^{-2t})] \begin{bmatrix} -x_1 - x_2 e^{-2t} \\ x_1 - x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= -2[x_1^2 - x_1 x_2 + x_2^2(1 + 2e^{-2t})]$$

$$\leq -2[x_1^2 - x_1 x_2 + 3x_2^2] = -x^T Q x < 0$$

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} > 0$$

$\dot{W}(x, t)$  globally negative definite

$x_e = \mathbf{0}$  is globally exponentially stable.

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## Linear Time-varying Systems

$$\dot{x} = A(t)x$$

$$A(t) = [a_{ij}(t)] \in \mathcal{R}^n \times \mathcal{R}^n$$

$$a_{ij}(\cdot): \mathcal{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathcal{R}, i, j = 1, \dots, n$$

- Continuous functions  $\forall t \in \mathcal{R}^+$
- State-transition matrix:  $\Phi(\cdot, \cdot)$

$$x(t) = \Phi(t, t_0)x(t_0)$$

$$\|\Phi(t, t_0)\| = \max_{\|x\|=1} \|\Phi(t, t_0)x\|$$

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## Theorem: Exponential Stability

The equilibrium  $x_e = \mathbf{0}$  of  $\dot{x} = A(t)x$  is exponentially stable if and only if  $\exists K_1, K_2 > 0$  s. t.

$$\|\Phi(t, t_0)\| \leq K_1 e^{-K_2(t-t_0)}$$

$$\forall t \geq t_0, \forall t_0 \geq 0$$

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## Proof (Sufficiency)

- Assume  $\exists K_1, K_2 > 0$  s. t.  

$$\|\Phi(t, t_0)\| \leq K_1 e^{-K_2(t-t_0)}$$

$$\forall t \geq t_0, \forall t_0 \geq 0$$

$$\|x(t)\| = \|\Phi(t, t_0)x(t_0)\|$$

$$\|x(t)\| \leq \|\Phi(t, t_0)\| \|x(t_0)\|$$

$$\leq \|x(t_0)\| K_1 e^{-K_2(t-t_0)}$$

$$\forall t \geq t_0, \forall t_0 \geq 0$$

i. e. exponential stability

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## Proof (Necessity)

- Assume exponential stability  

$$\|x(t)\| = \|\Phi(t, t_0)x(t_0)\| \leq c e^{-\lambda(t-t_0)}$$

$$\forall x(t_0) \in \mathcal{R}^n, \forall t \geq t_0, \forall t_0 \geq 0$$
- Assume w.l.o.g.  $\|x(t_0)\| = 1$   

$$\|\Phi(t, t_0)\| = \max_{\|x\|=1} \|\Phi(t, t_0)x\|$$

$$\leq K_1 e^{-K_2(t-t_0)}, \forall t \geq t_0, \forall t_0 \geq 0$$

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## Lyapunov Function

$$W(\mathbf{x}, t) = \mathbf{x}^T P(t) \mathbf{x}$$

$P(t)$  continuously differentiable, symmetric, bounded, and positive definite.

$\exists K_1, K_2 > 0$  s. t.

$$K_1 \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \leq W(\mathbf{x}, t) \leq K_2 \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \\ \forall t \geq t_0, \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^n$$

$W(\mathbf{x}, t)$  positive definite, decrescent, radially unbounded

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## Derivative

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{W}(\mathbf{x}, t) &= \dot{\mathbf{x}}^T P(t) \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{x}^T P(t) \dot{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{x}^T \dot{P}(t) \mathbf{x} \\ &= \mathbf{x}^T [A^T(t) P(t) + P(t) A(t) + \dot{P}(t)] \mathbf{x} \\ &= -\mathbf{x}^T Q(t) \mathbf{x} \end{aligned}$$

$Q(t)$  symmetric by construction

- If  $Q(t)$  uniformly positive definite,  $\dot{W}(\mathbf{x}, t) < 0$   
 $\mathbf{x}_e = \mathbf{0}$  is uniformly asymptotically stable

**C.T. Chen, 1984, p.404:** Equilibrium  $\mathbf{x}_e = \mathbf{0}$  of  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = A(t)\mathbf{x}$  is uniformly asymptotically stable iff it is exponentially stable.

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## Theorem: Exponential Stability

The equilibrium  $\mathbf{x}_e = \mathbf{0}$  of  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = A(t)\mathbf{x}$

is exponentially stable iff  $\forall Q(t)$  continuous, symmetric, bounded, and positive definite

$$A^T(t)P(t) + P(t)A(t) + \dot{P}(t) = -Q(t)$$

$\exists P(t)$  continuously differentiable, symmetric, bounded, and positive definite.

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## Asymptotic Stability of $A(t)$

- The LTV system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = A(t)\mathbf{x}$  is exponentially stable if there exists  $\lambda > 0$  s.t.  $\forall i$  and  $\forall t \geq 0$

$$\lambda_i \{A(t) + A^T(t)\} \leq -\lambda$$

- Proof:  $V(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(\mathbf{x}) &= \mathbf{x}^T \{A(t) + A^T(t)\} \mathbf{x} \leq -\lambda \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} \\ &= -\lambda V \end{aligned}$$

$$V(t) \leq V(0)e^{-\lambda t}$$

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## Asymptotic Stability of $A(t)$

- The LTV system  $\dot{x} = A(t)x$  is exponentially stable if there exists  $\lambda > 0$  s.t.  $\forall i$  and  $\forall t \geq 0$

i.  $\text{Re}\{\lambda_i[A(t) + A^T(t)]\} \leq -\lambda$

ii.  $\int_0^\infty \{A^T(t)A(t)\}dt < \infty$

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## Linearization Principle

- Linearize nonlinear  $\dot{x} = f(x, t)$  system in vicinity of equilibrium  $x_e = 0, f(0, t) = 0$

$$\dot{x} = \left. \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x} \right|_{x_e=0} x + g(x, t)$$

$$\approx A(t)x$$

$$A(t) = \left. \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x} \right|_{x_e=0}$$

$$g(x, t) = f(x, t) - A(t)x$$

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## Theorem: Linearization

- The equilibrium  $x_e = 0$  of

$$\dot{x} = \left. \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x} \right|_{x_e=0} x + g(x, t)$$

is uniformly asymptotically stable if

- i.  $\dot{x} = A(t)x$  is exponentially stable.

ii.  $\lim_{\|x\| \rightarrow 0} \frac{\|g(x, t)\|}{\|x\|} = 0$

uniformly w.r.t.  $t$ .

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## Converse Theorems

- If the equilibrium  $x_e = \mathbf{0}$  of  $\dot{x} = f(x, t)$  is uniformly stable, then a Lyapunov function that satisfies the conditions for the uniform stability theorem exists.
- Similarly for uniform asymptotic stability, global uniform asymptotic stability.
- The theorems show that the search for  $W(x, t)$  may be worth it but do not tell us how to find the Lyapunov function: not useful in practice.