

# Control Systems

## Nyquist stability criterion

**L. Lanari**

DIPARTIMENTO DI INGEGNERIA INFORMATICA  
AUTOMATICA E GESTIONALE ANTONIO RUBERTI

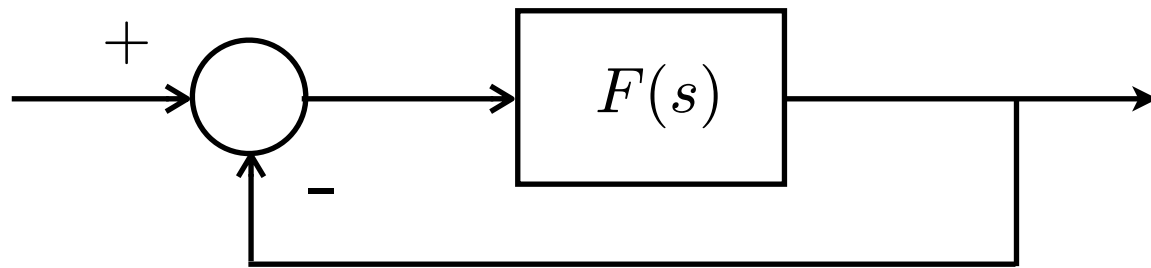


**SAPIENZA**  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

# Outline

- polar plots when  $F(j\omega)$  has no poles on the imaginary axis
- Nyquist stability criterion
- what happens when  $F(j\omega)$  has poles on the imaginary axis
- general feedback system
- stability margins (gain and phase margin)
- Bode stability criterion
- effect of a delay in a feedback loop

# Unit negative feedback



closed-loop system

$$W(s)$$

we have seen that

- in a unit feedback system, the **closed-loop** system has **hidden modes** if and only if the open-loop has them
- the open-loop hidden modes are inherited **unchanged** by the closed-loop

therefore we make the hypothesis that there exists

**no open-loop hidden mode with non negative real part**

(since this would be inherited by the closed-loop system)

→ stability of the closed-loop is only determined by the closed-loop poles

We are going to determine the

**stability of the closed-loop** system **from** the **open-loop system** features  
(i.e. the graphical representation of the open-loop frequency response  $F(j\omega)$ )

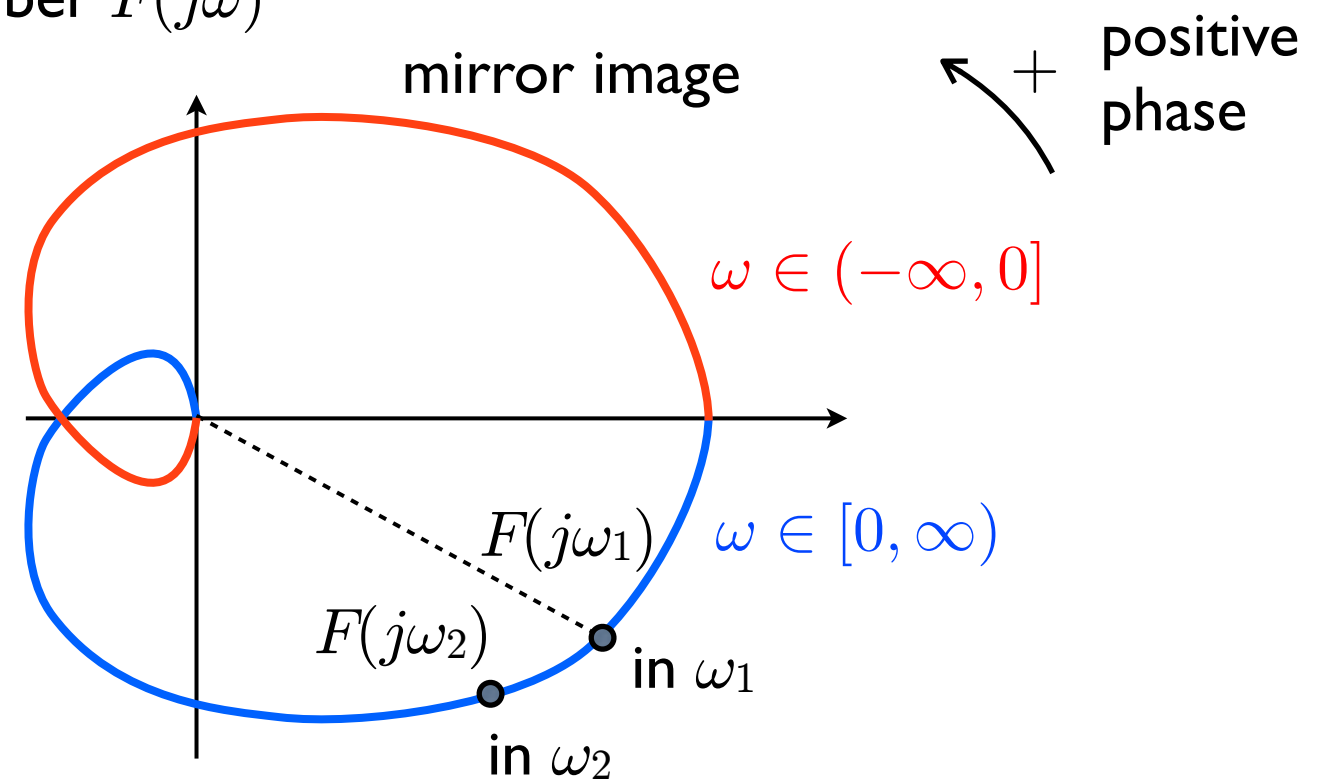
**Nyquist diagram:** (closed) polar plot of  $F(j\omega)$  with  $\omega \in (-\infty, \infty)$

we plot the magnitude and phase on the same plot using the frequency as a parameter, that is we use the polar form for the complex number  $F(j\omega)$

being  $F(s)$  a rational fraction

$$F(-j\omega) = F^*(j\omega)$$

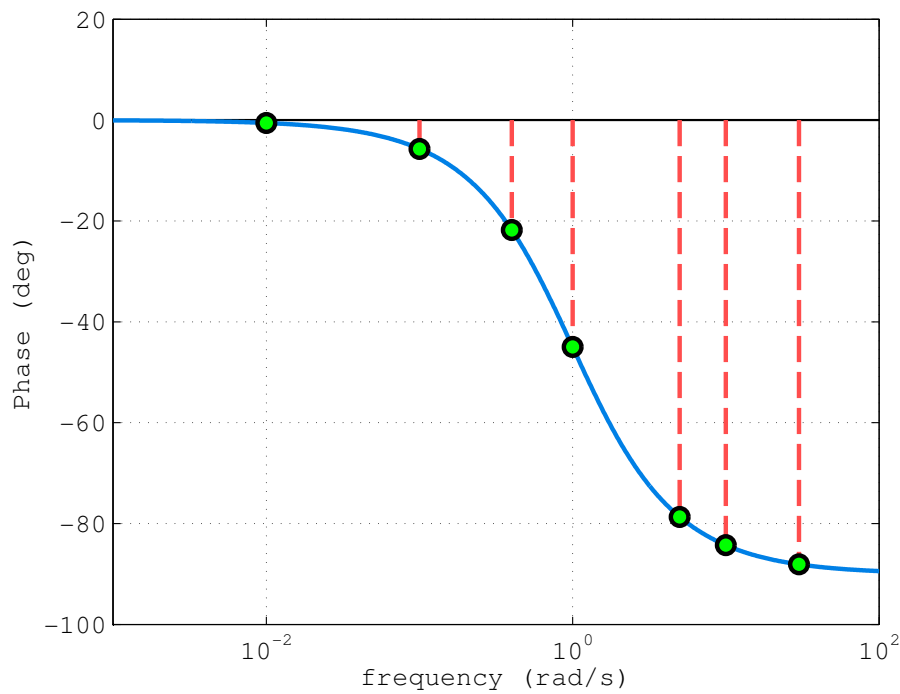
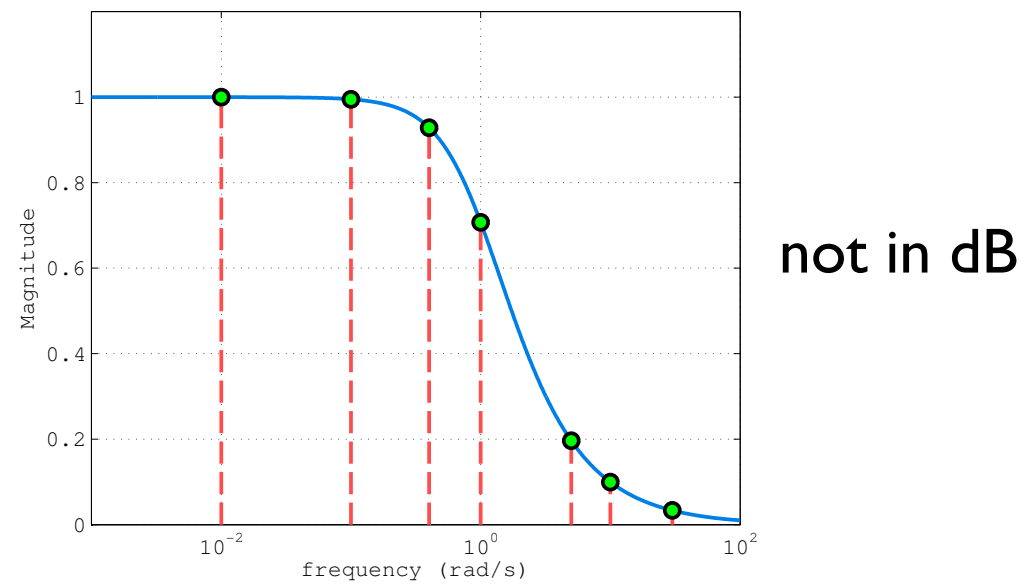
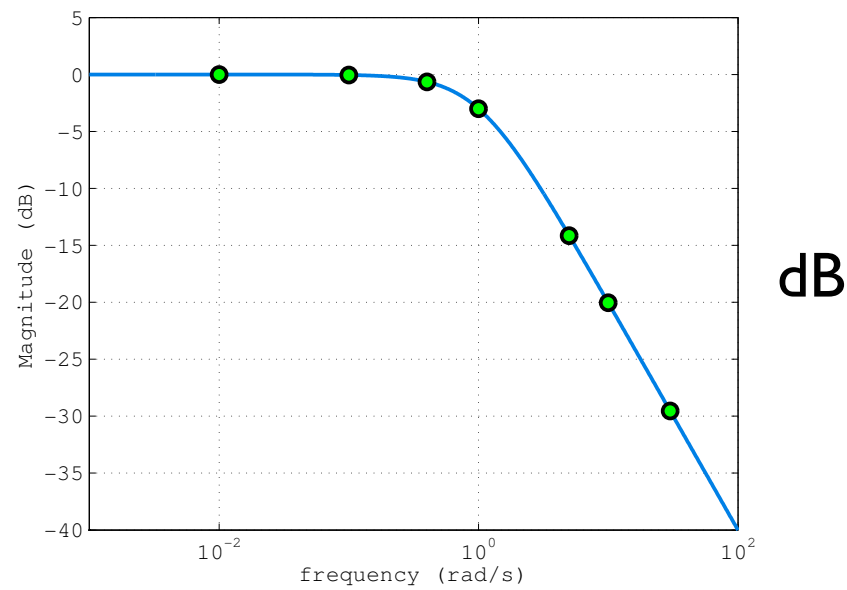
and therefore the plot for negative angular frequencies  $\omega$  is the **symmetric** wrt the real axis of the one obtained for positive  $\omega$



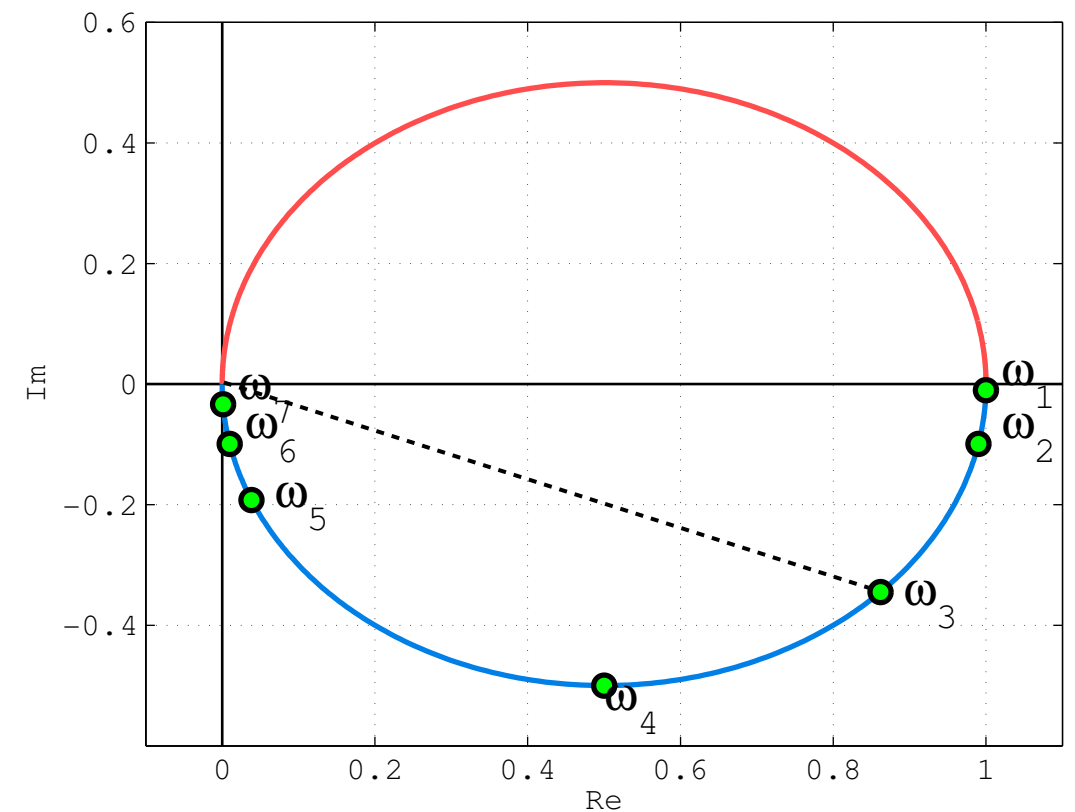
some **polar plots**

**Hyp.** no open-loop poles on the imaginary axis (i.e. with  $\text{Re}[\cdot] = 0$ )

polar plot of  $F(j\omega)$  can be obtained from the Bode diagrams (magnitude and phase information)



$$F(s) = \frac{1}{s + 1}$$



## fact I

The closed-loop system  $W(s)$  has poles with  $\text{Re}[\cdot] = 0$   
if and only if  
the Nyquist plot of  $F(j\omega)$  passes through the critical point  $(-1,0)$

Proof.

Nyquist plot intersects the real axis in -1 therefore  $\exists \bar{\omega}$  such that  $F(j\bar{\omega}) = -1$

that is  $F(j\bar{\omega}) + 1 = 0$  Being the closed-loop transfer function given by

$$W(s) = \frac{F(s)}{1 + F(s)} \quad \text{this shows that } s = j\bar{\omega} \text{ is a pole of } W(s)$$

(and vice versa).

**fact II**      **Hyp.** no open-loop poles on the imaginary axis (i.e. with  $\text{Re}[\cdot] = 0$ )

let us define

- $n_F^+$  the number of open-loop poles with positive real part
- $n_W^+$  the number of closed-loop poles with positive real part
- $N_{cc}$  the number of encirclements the Nyquist plot of  $F(j\omega)$  makes around the point  $(-1, 0)$  counted positive if counter-clockwise

a direct application of Cauchy's principle of argument gives

$$N_{cc} = n_F^+ - n_W^+$$

Obviously if the encirclements are defined positive clockwise, let them be  $N_c$ , the relationship changes sign and becomes  $N_c = n_W^+ - n_F^+$

**Hyp.** no open-loop poles on the imaginary axis (i.e. with  $\text{Re}[\cdot] = 0$ )

(this hypothesis guarantees that, if  $F(s)$  is strictly proper, the polar plot of  $F(j\omega)$  is a closed contour and therefore we can determine the number of encirclements)

In order to guarantee closed-loop stability, we need  $n_{W^+} = 0$  (no closed-loop poles with positive real part) and no poles with null real part (which we saw being equivalent to asking that the Nyquist plot of  $F(j\omega)$  does not go through the point  $(-1, 0)$ )

If the open-loop system has no poles on the imaginary axis, the unit negative feedback system is **asymptotically stable**

if and only if

i) the Nyquist plot does not pass through the point  $(-1, 0)$

ii) the number of encirclements around the point  $(-1, 0)$  counted positive if counter-clockwise is equal to the number of open-loop poles with positive real part, i.e.

$$N_{cc} = n_{F^+}$$

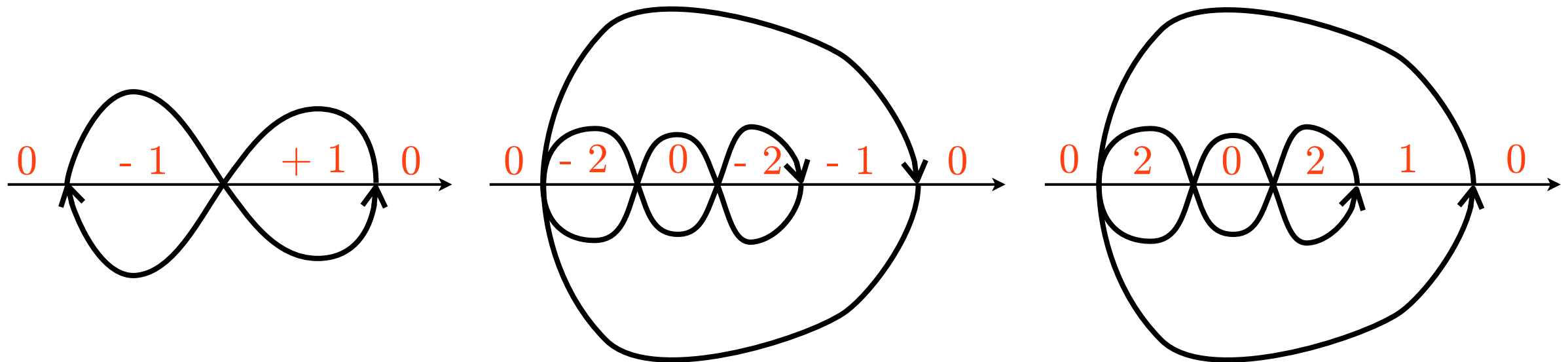
## Nyquist stability criterion



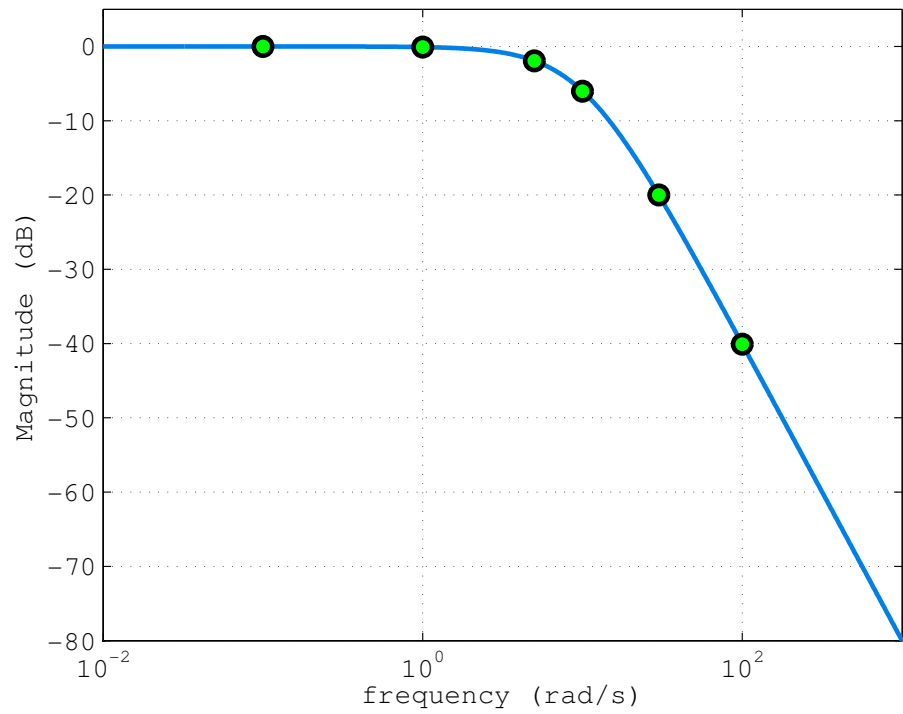
## Remarks

- if the open-loop system has no positive real part poles then we obtain the simple N&S condition  $N_{cc} = 0$  which requires the Nyquist plot not to encircle  $(-1, 0)$
- if the stability condition is not satisfied then we have an unstable closed-loop system with  $n_{W^+} = n_{F^+} - N_{cc}$  positive real part poles
- condition i), which ensures that the closed-loop system does not have poles with null part, could be omitted by noting that if the Nyquist plot goes through the critical point  $(-1, 0)$  then the number of encirclements is not well defined

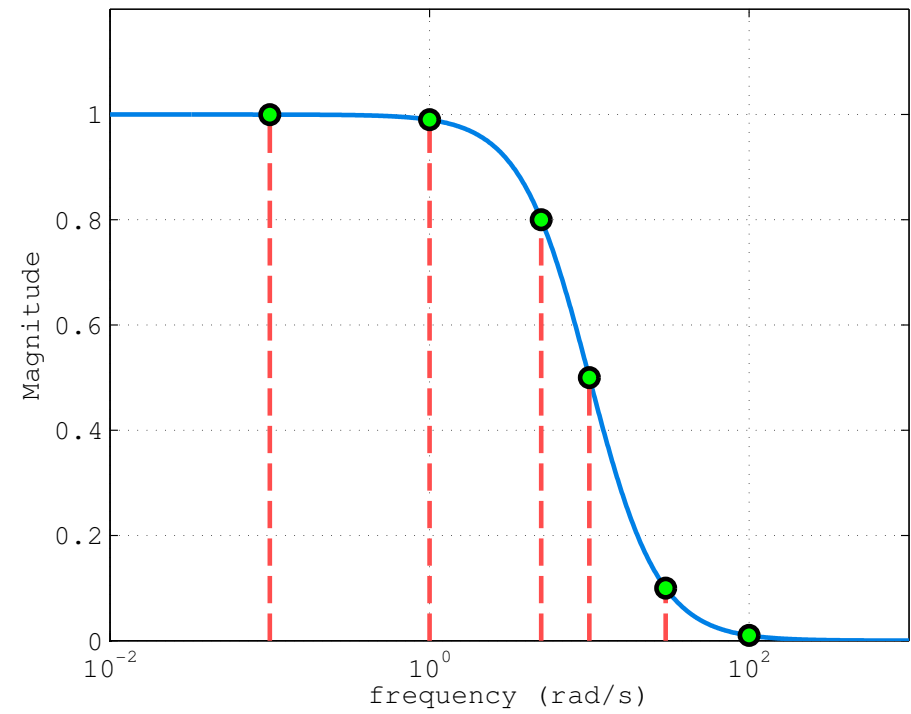
examples on the number of encirclements depending on where is the critical point



in dB

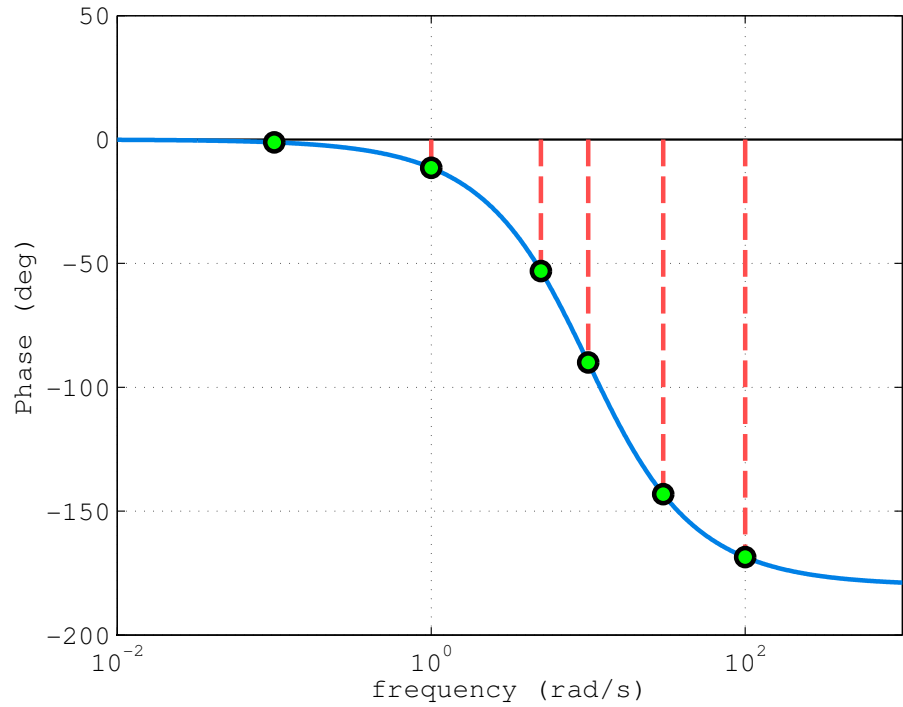


not in dB

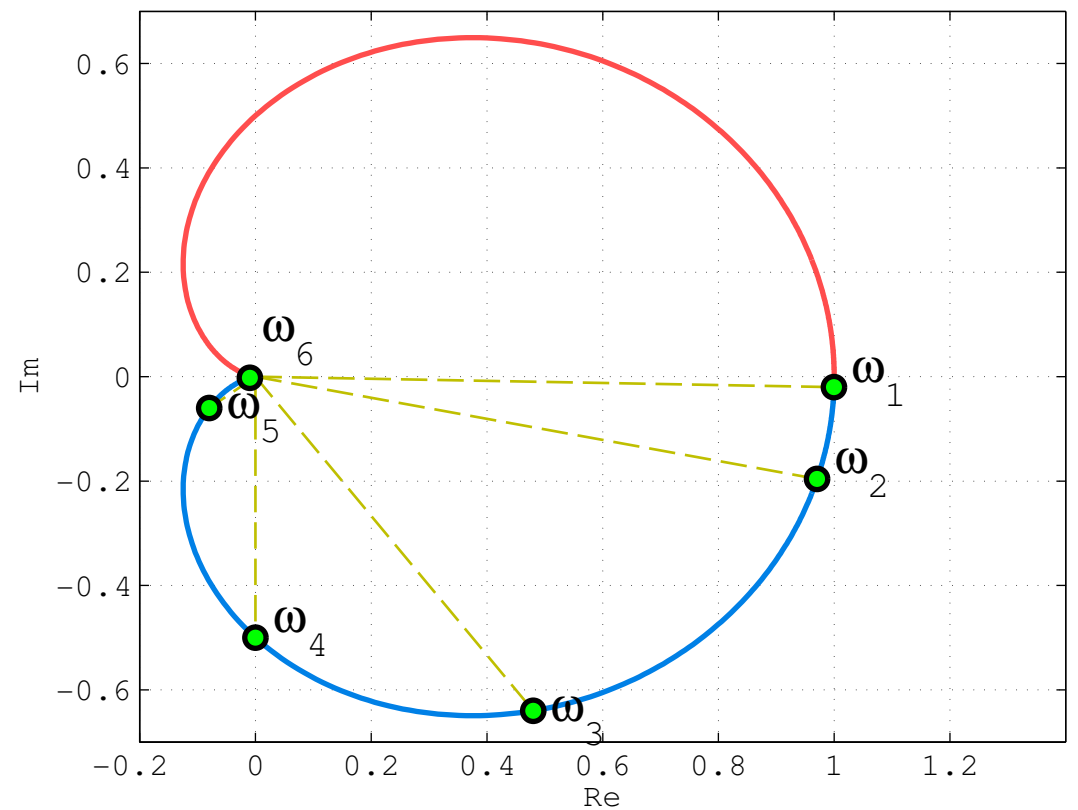


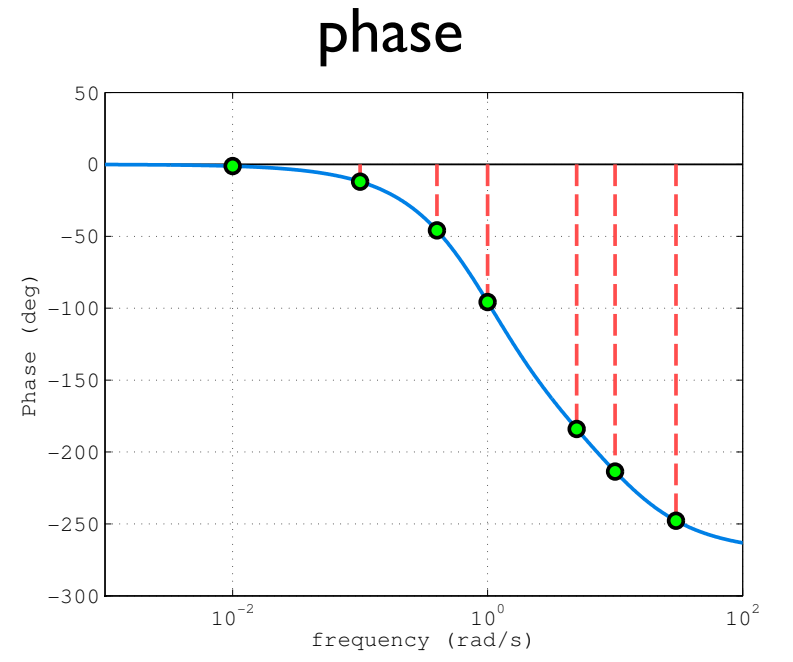
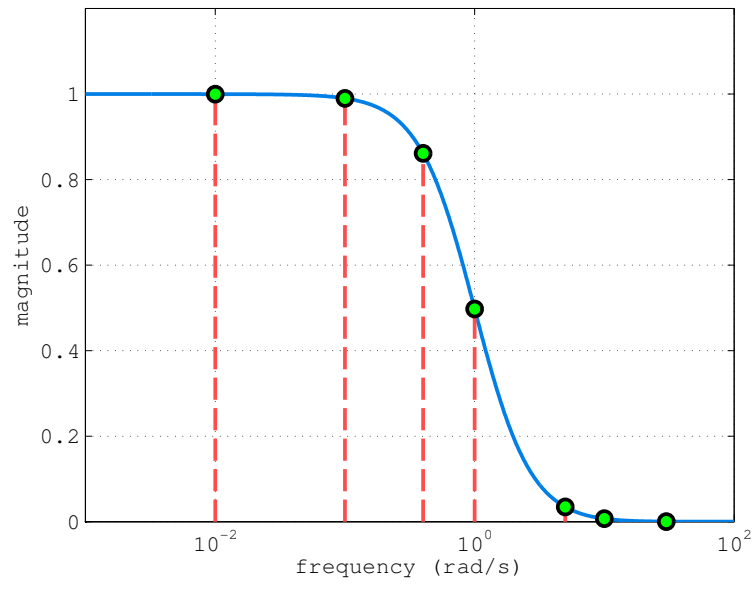
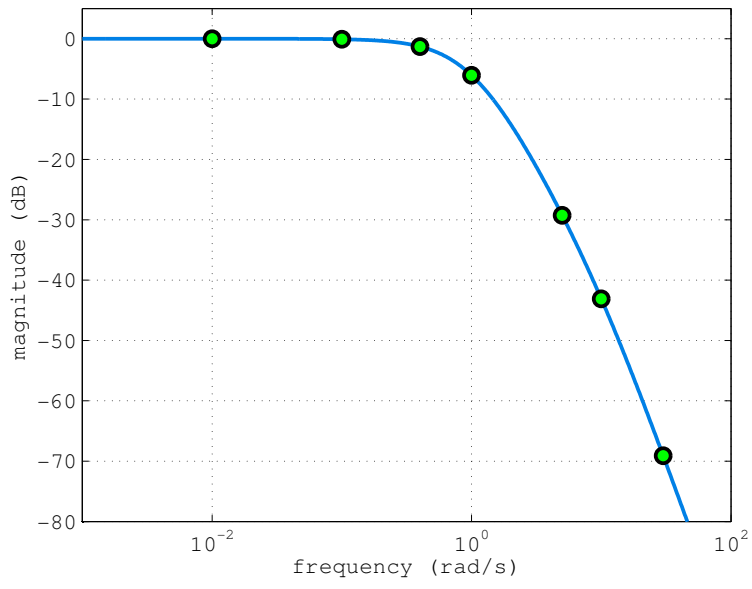
$$F(s) = \frac{100}{(s + 10)^2}$$

phase

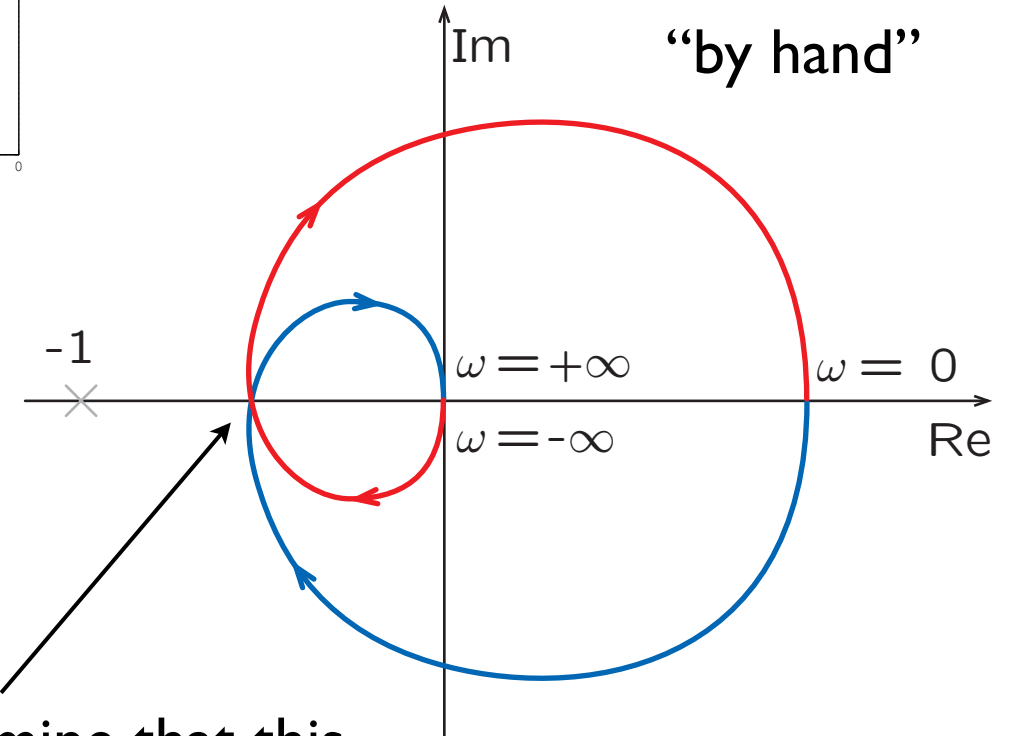
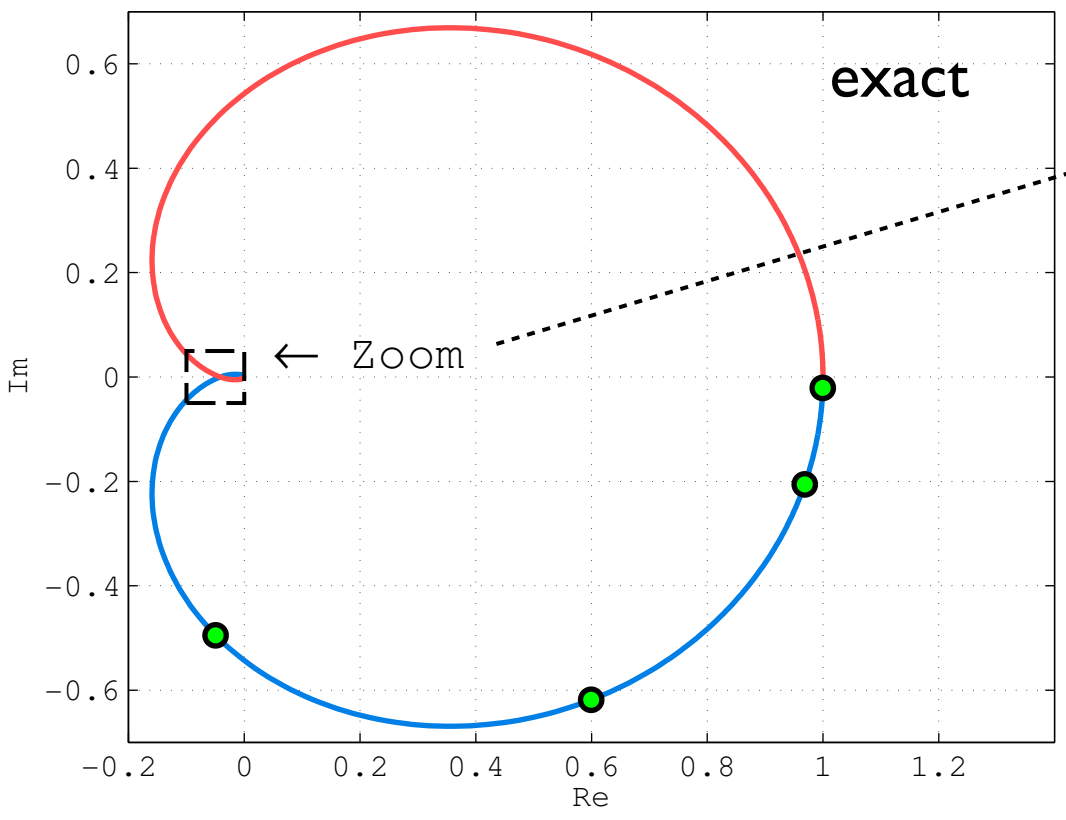
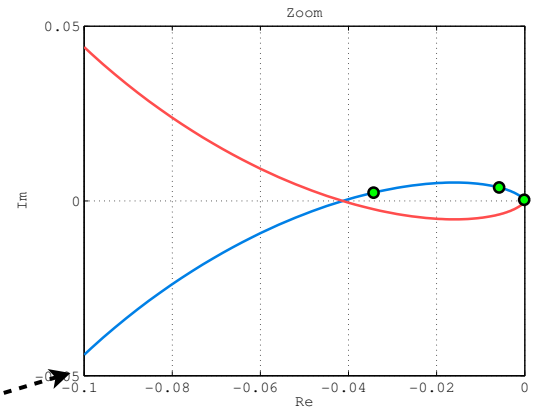


$$N_{cc} = n_{F^+} = 0$$

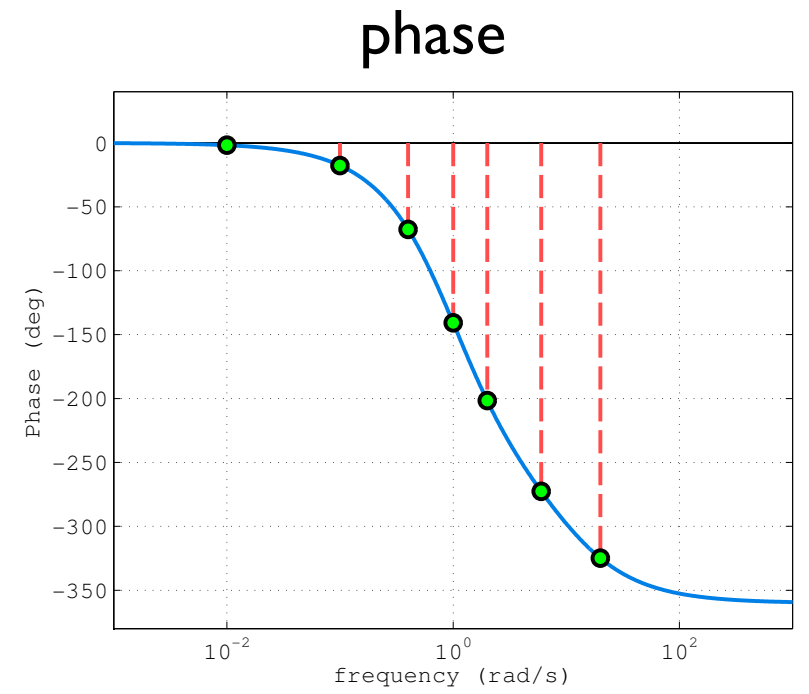
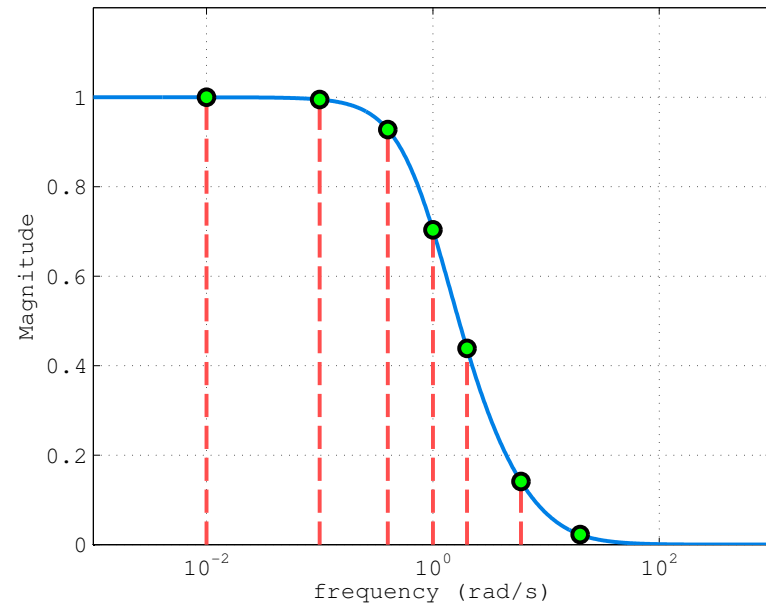
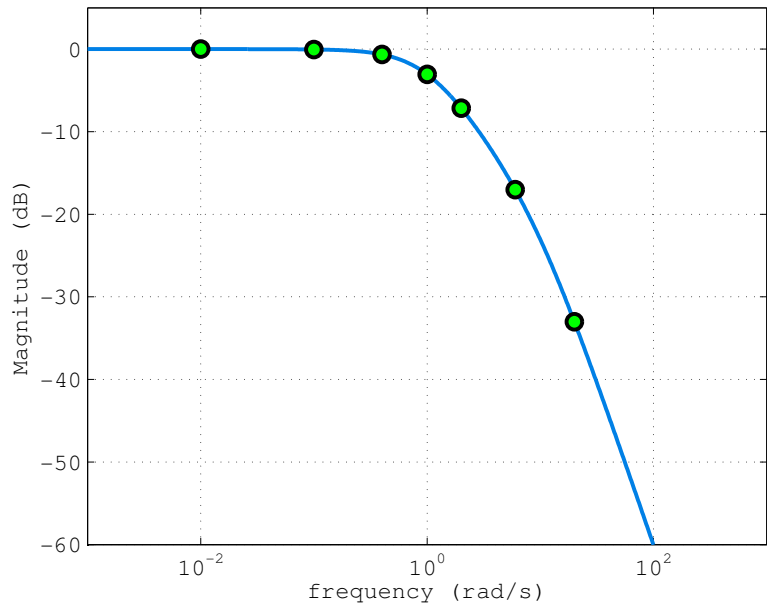




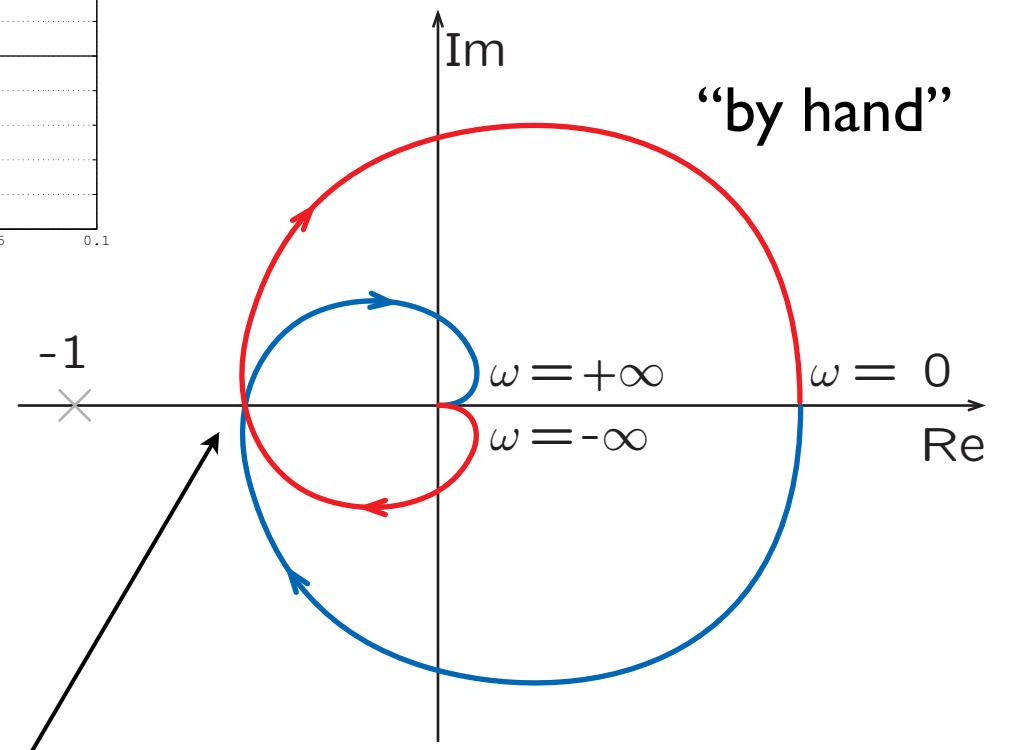
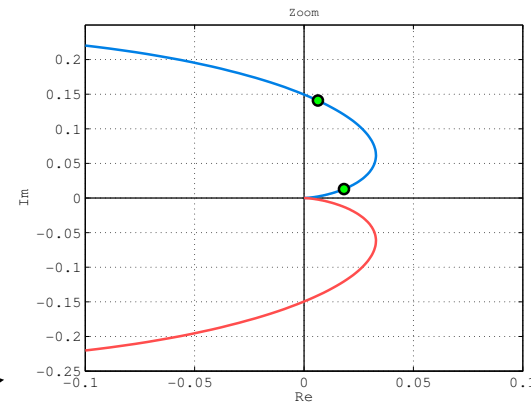
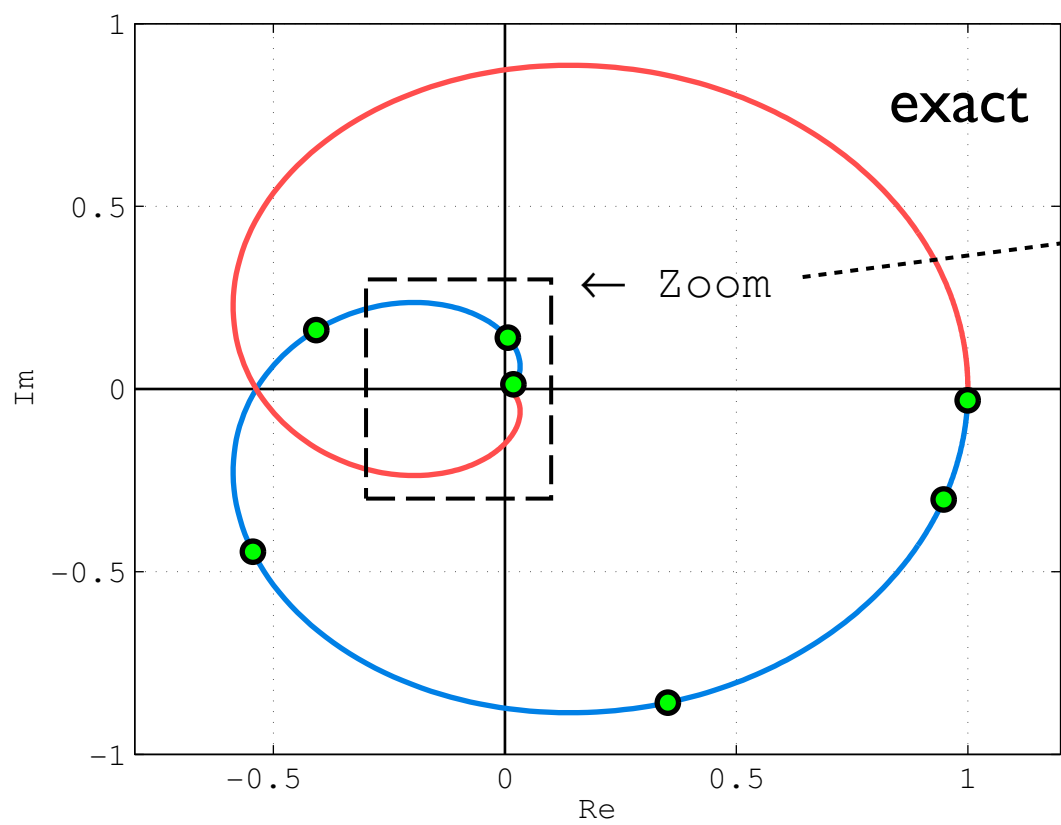
$$F(s) = \frac{10}{(s + 1)^2(s + 10)}$$



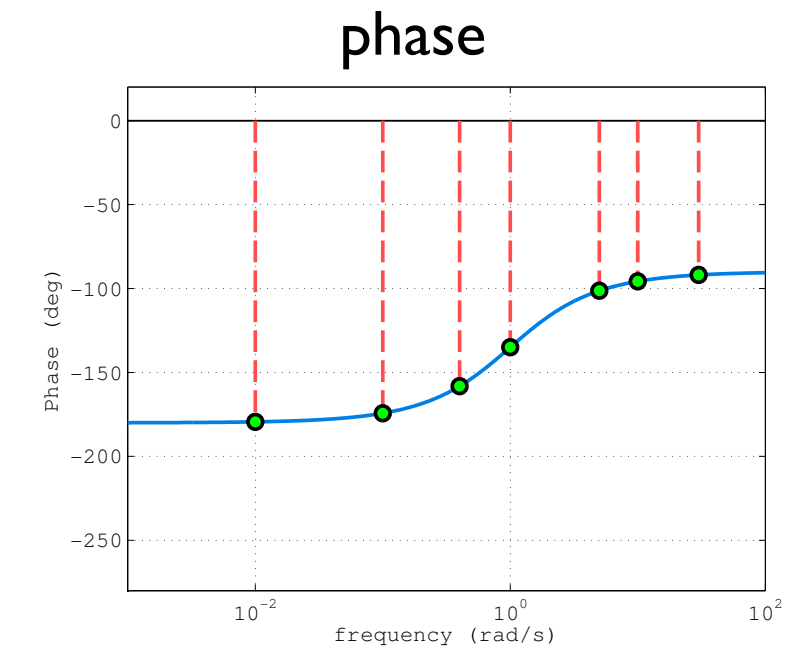
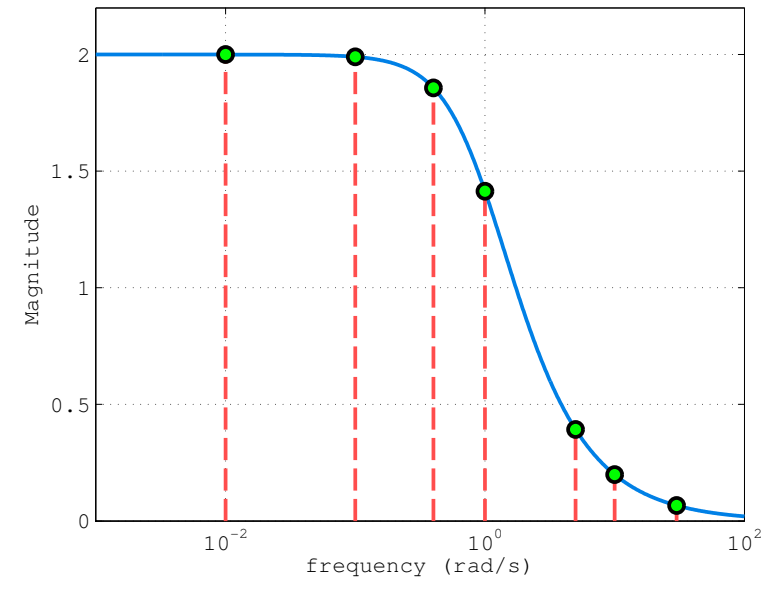
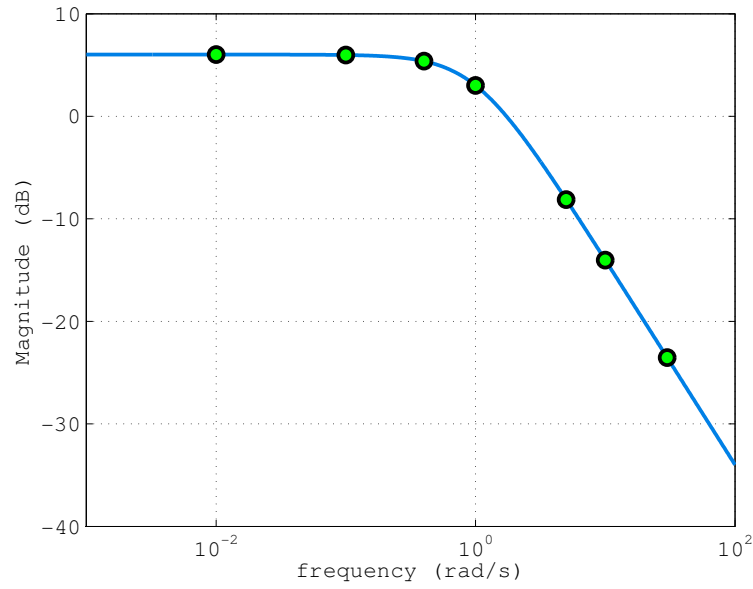
important to determine that this intersection is on the right of -1



$$F(s) = \frac{-10(s - 1)}{(s + 1)^2(s + 10)}$$



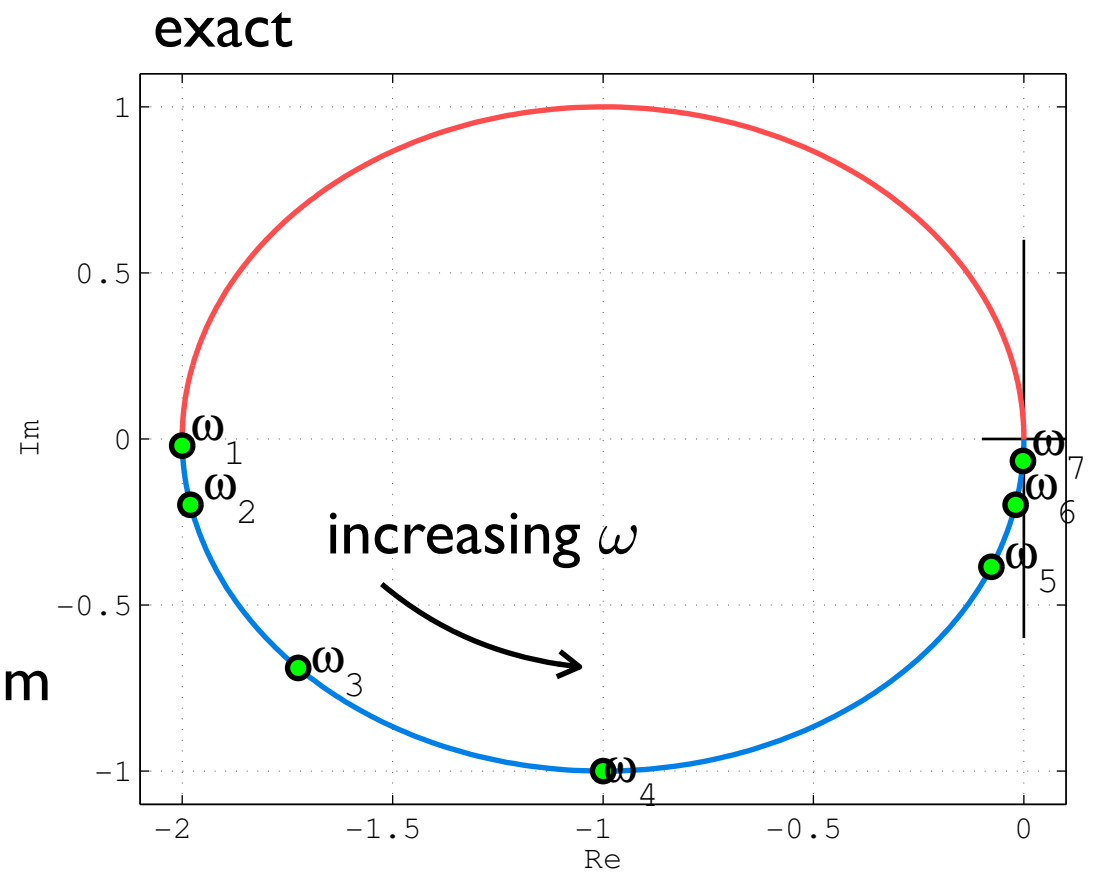
important to determine that this intersection is on the right of -1



$$F(s) = \frac{2}{s-1}$$
 unstable open-loop system

$$N_{cc} = n_{F^+} = 1$$

Nyquist criterion is verified: closed-loop system is asymptotically stable



Let's remove the hypothesis of no open-loop poles on the imaginary axis (i.e. with  $\text{Re}[\cdot] = 0$ )

open-loop poles on the imaginary axis (i.e. with  $\text{Re}[\cdot] = 0$ ) come from:

- one or more integrators (pole in  $s = 0$ )
- resonance (imaginary poles in  $s = +/- j\omega_n$ )

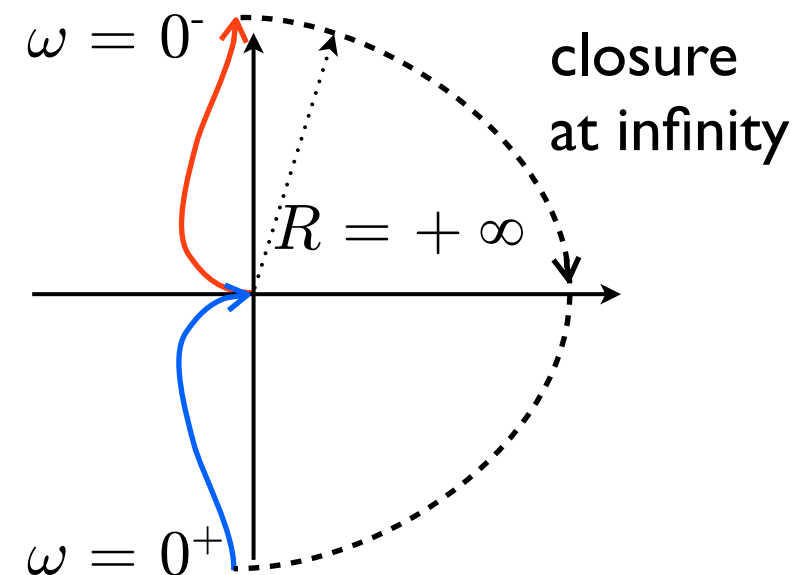
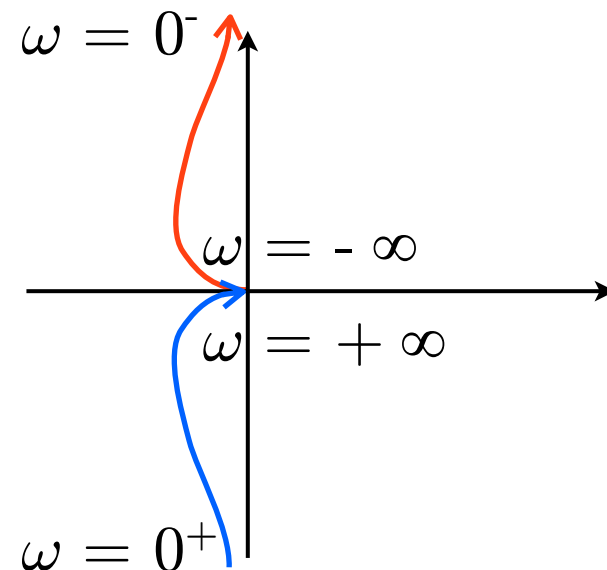
and give a discontinuity in the phase

- passing from  $\pi/2$  to  $-\pi/2$  when  $\omega$  switches from  $0^-$  to  $0^+$
- or from  $0$  to  $\pi$  when  $\omega$  switches from  $\omega_n^-$  to  $\omega_n^+$

while the magnitude is at infinity

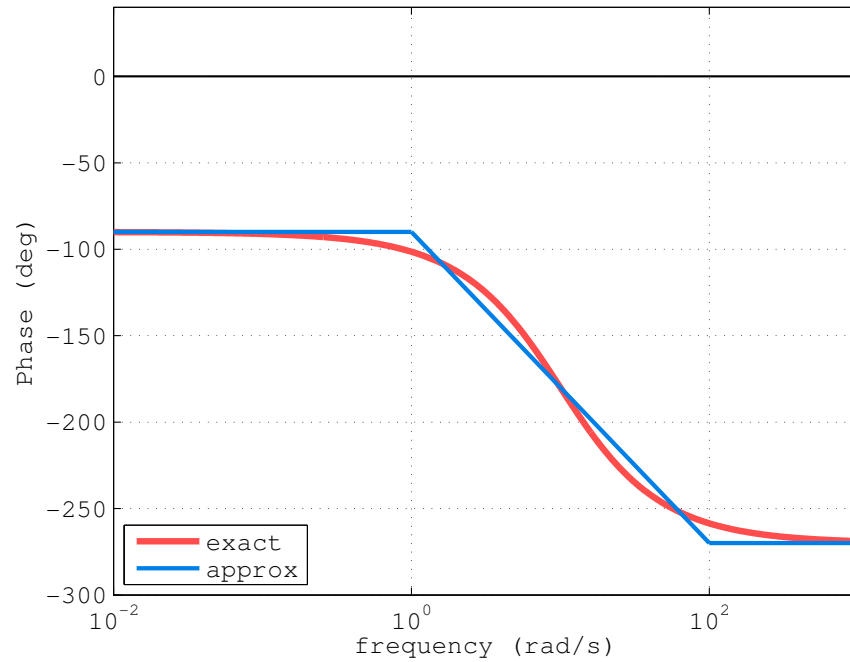
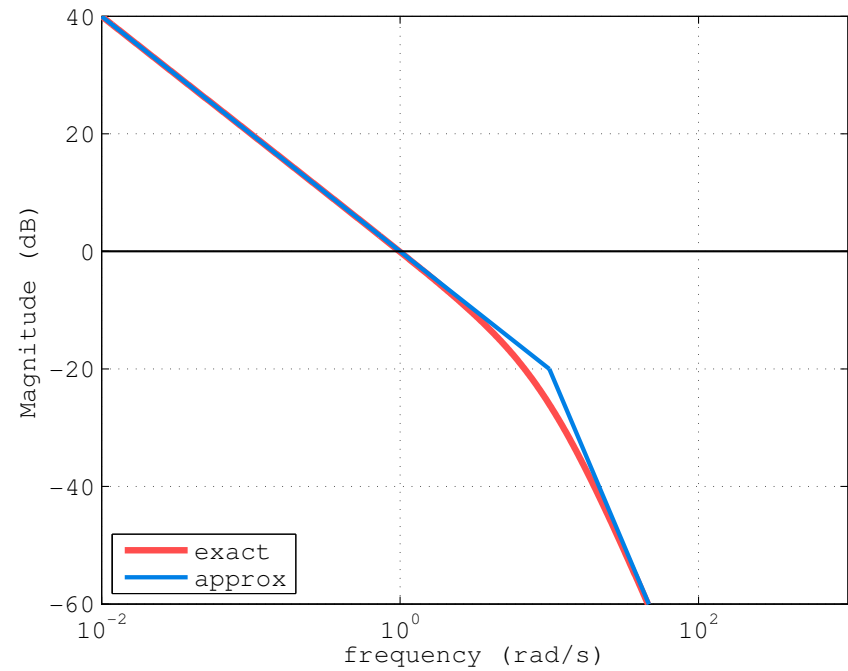
In order to obtain a closed polar plot, we introduce **closures at infinity** which consists in rotating of  $\pi$  clockwise with an infinite radius (for every pole with  $\text{Re}[\cdot] = 0$ ) for growing frequencies, at those values of the frequency corresponding to singularities of the transfer function  $F(s)$  lying on the imaginary axis (poles of the open-loop system with  $\text{Re}[\cdot] = 0$ )

$$F(s) = \frac{1}{s(s+1)}$$



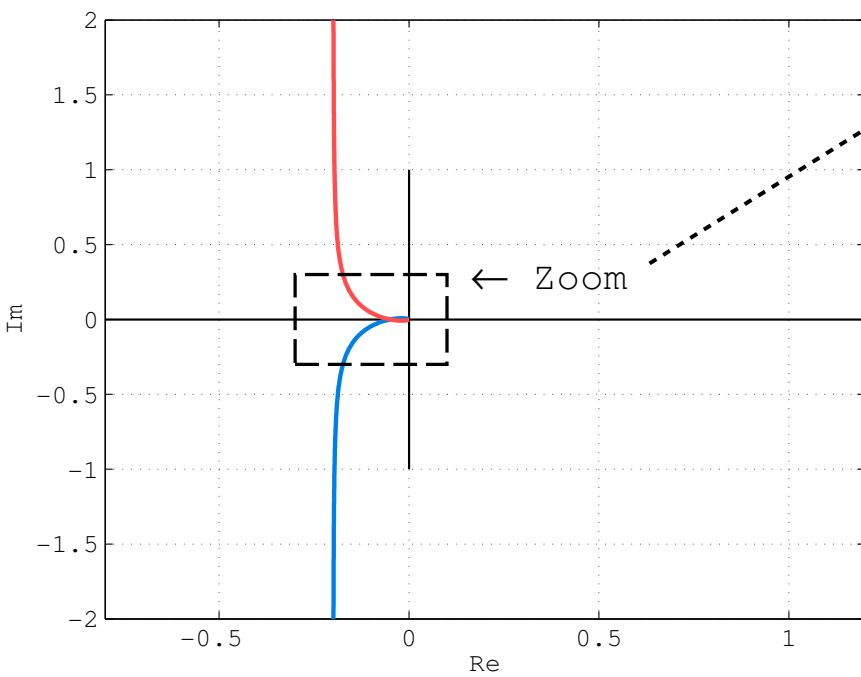
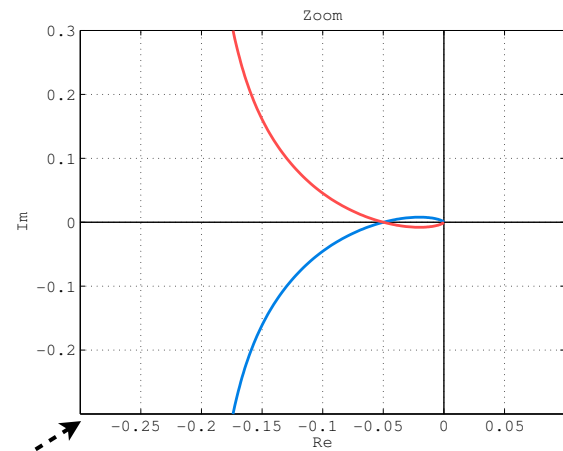
# closures at infinity

$F(s) = \frac{K}{s(1 + \tau_1 s)}$	$\pi$ clockwise at infinity from $\omega = 0^-$ to $\omega = 0^+$
$F(s) = \frac{K}{s^2(1 + \tau_1 s)}$	$2\pi$ clockwise at infinity from $\omega = 0^-$ to $\omega = 0^+$
$F(s) = \frac{K(1 + \tau_2 s)}{s^3(1 + \tau_1 s)}$	$3\pi$ clockwise at infinity from $\omega = 0^-$ to $\omega = 0^+$
$F(s) = \frac{K}{(s^2 + \omega_1^2)(1 + \tau_1 s)}$	$\pi$ clockwise at infinity from $\omega = -\omega_1^-$ to $\omega = -\omega_1^+$ $\pi$ clockwise at infinity from $\omega = \omega_1^-$ to $\omega = \omega_1^+$
$F(s) = \frac{K}{(s^2 + \omega_1^2)^2(1 + \tau_1 s)}$	$2\pi$ clockwise at infinity from $\omega = -\omega_1^-$ to $\omega = -\omega_1^+$ $2\pi$ clockwise at infinity from $\omega = \omega_1^-$ to $\omega = \omega_1^+$
$F(s) = \frac{K(1 + \tau_2 s)}{s^2(s^2 + \omega_1^2)(1 + \tau_1 s)}$	$\pi$ clockwise at infinity from $\omega = -\omega_1^-$ to $\omega = -\omega_1^+$ $2\pi$ clockwise at infinity from $\omega = 0^-$ to $\omega = 0^+$ $\pi$ clockwise at infinity from $\omega = \omega_1^-$ to $\omega = \omega_1^+$



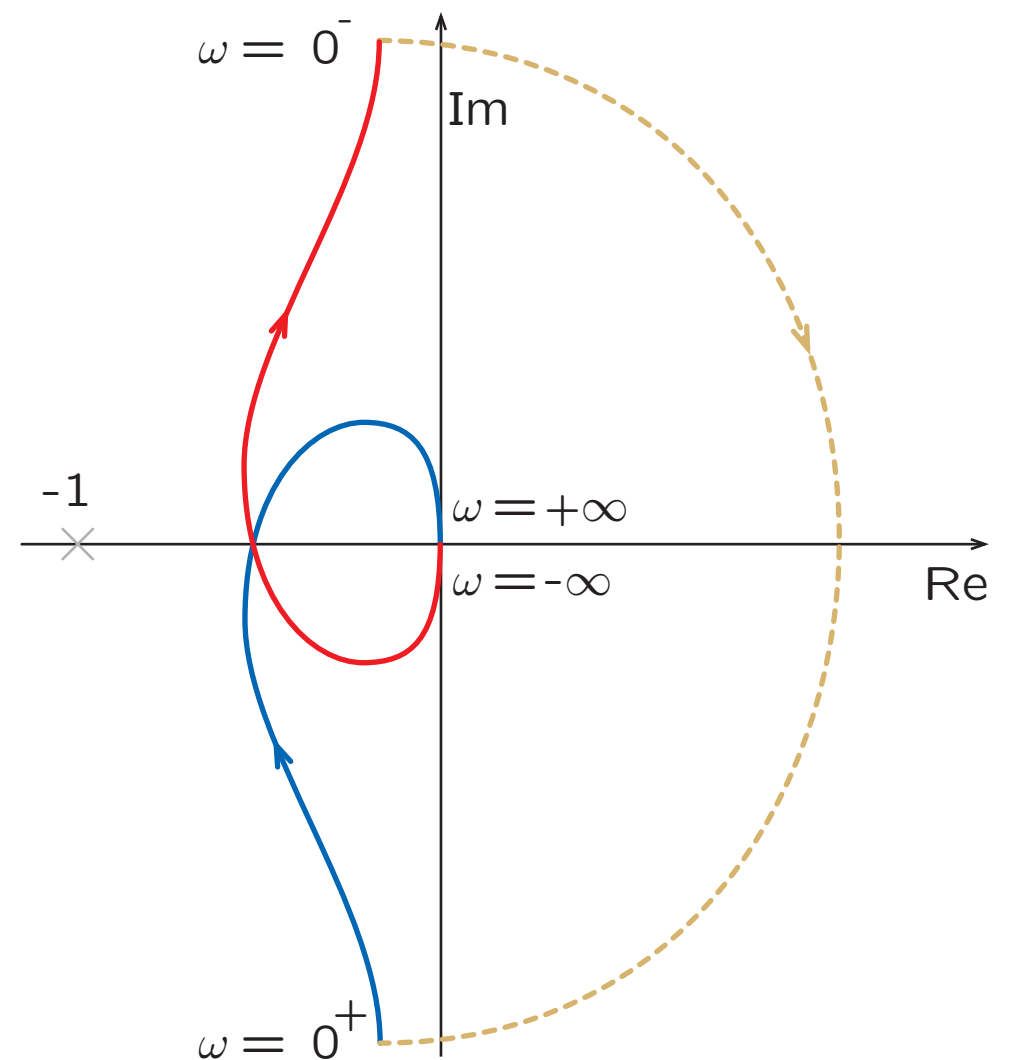
$$F(s) = \frac{100}{s(s+10)^2}$$

the zoom is just to show that the phase goes to  $-3\pi/2$

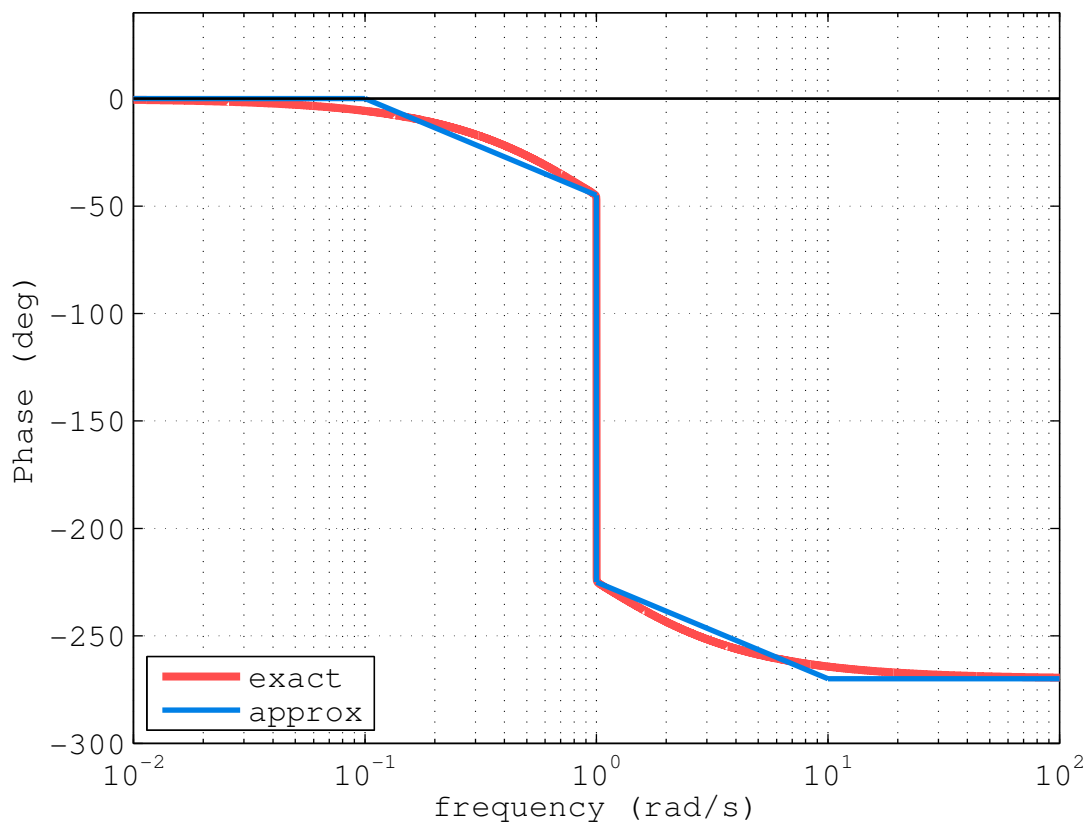
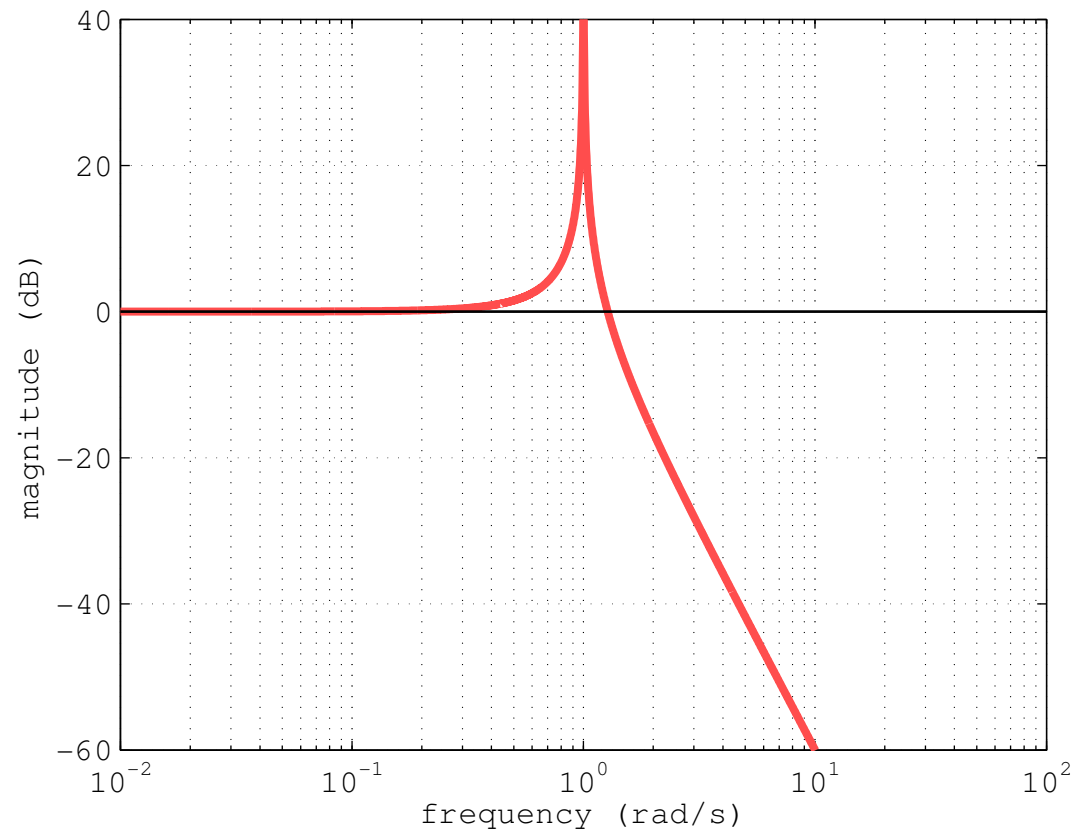


$$N_{cc} = n_{F^+} = 0$$

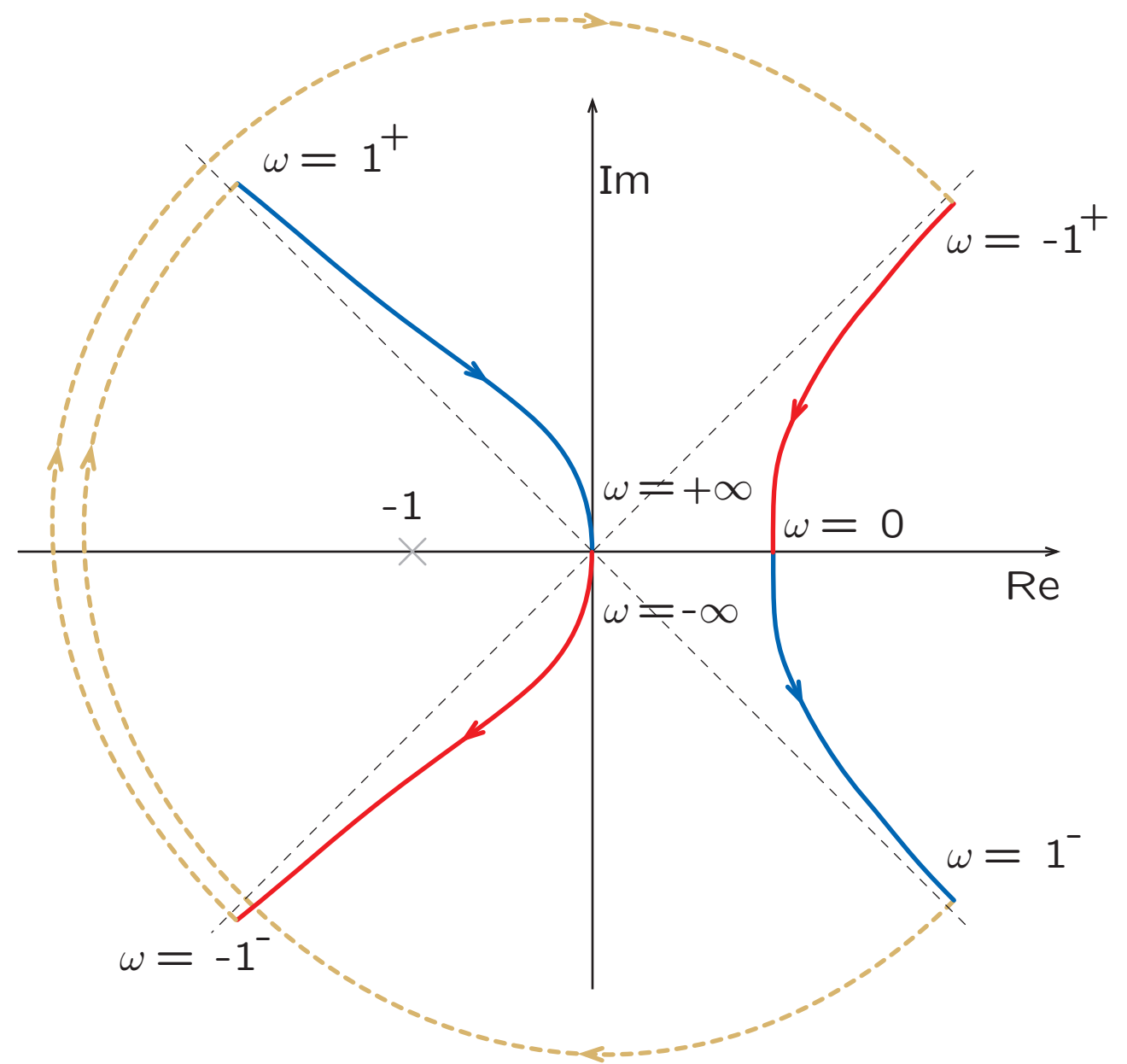
$\pi$  clockwise with infinite radius from  $0^-$  to  $0^+$



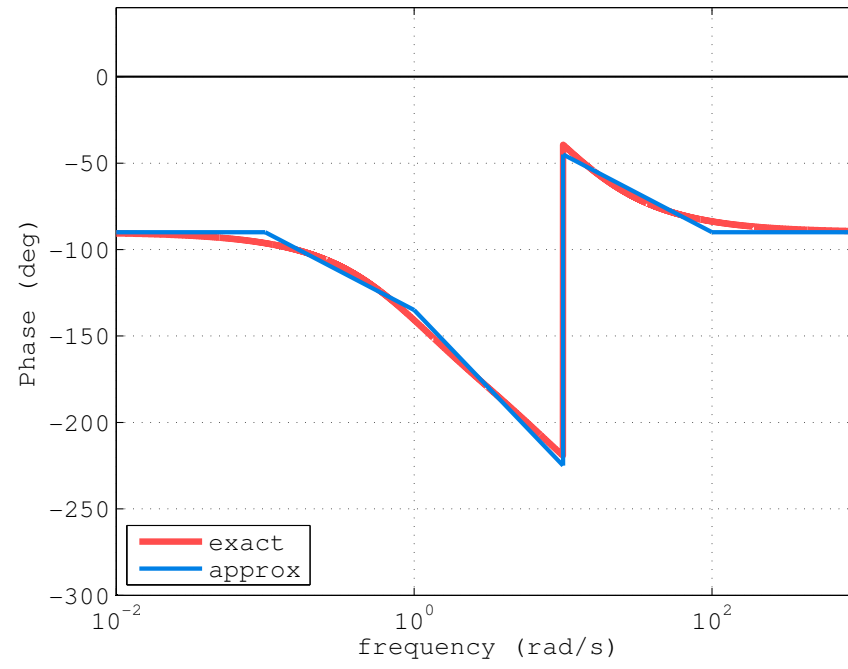
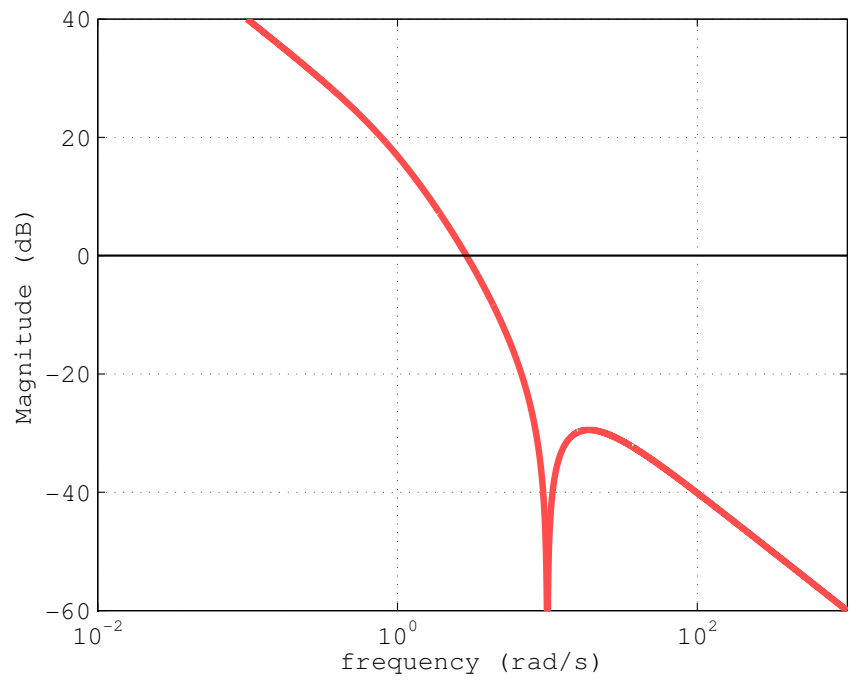




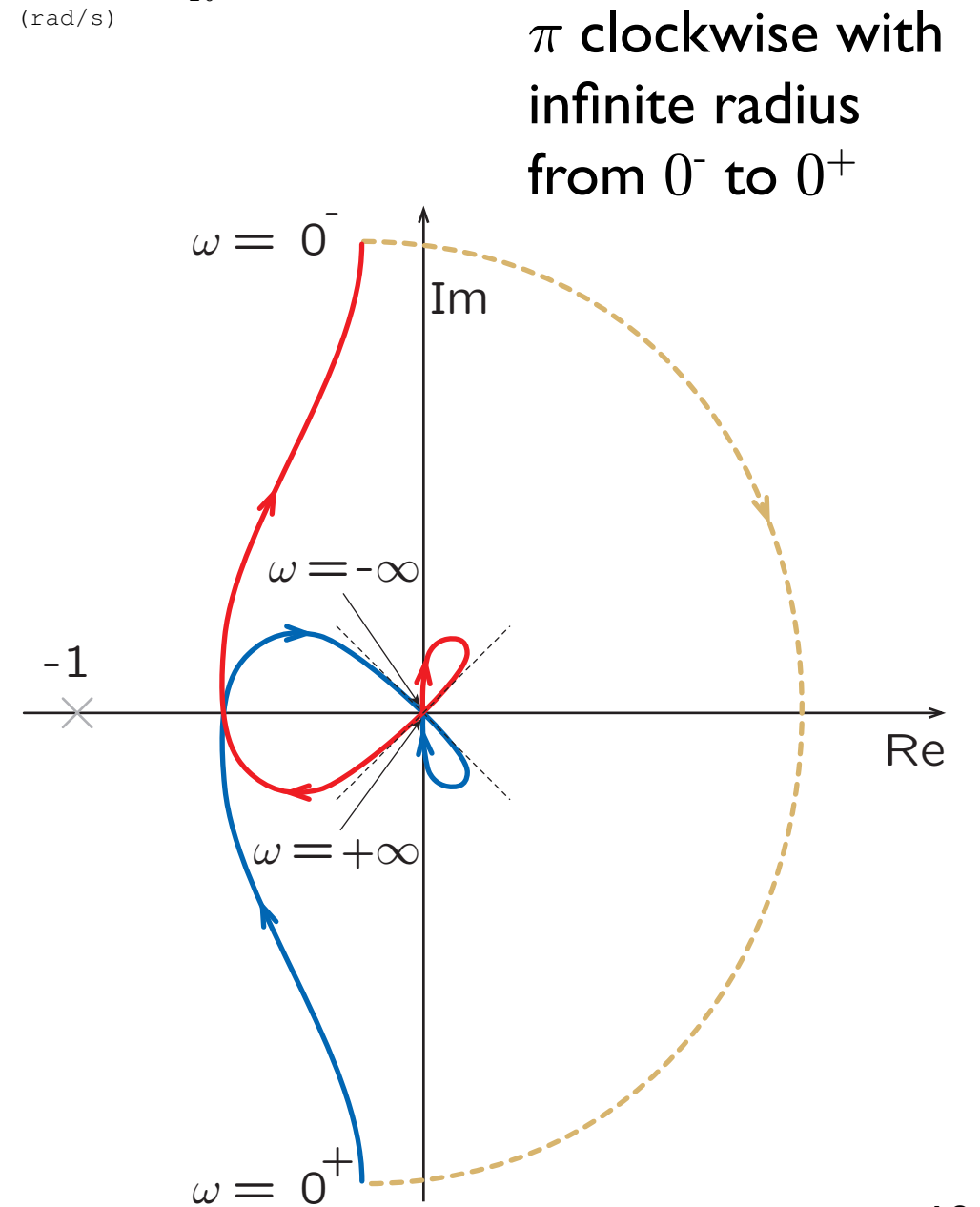
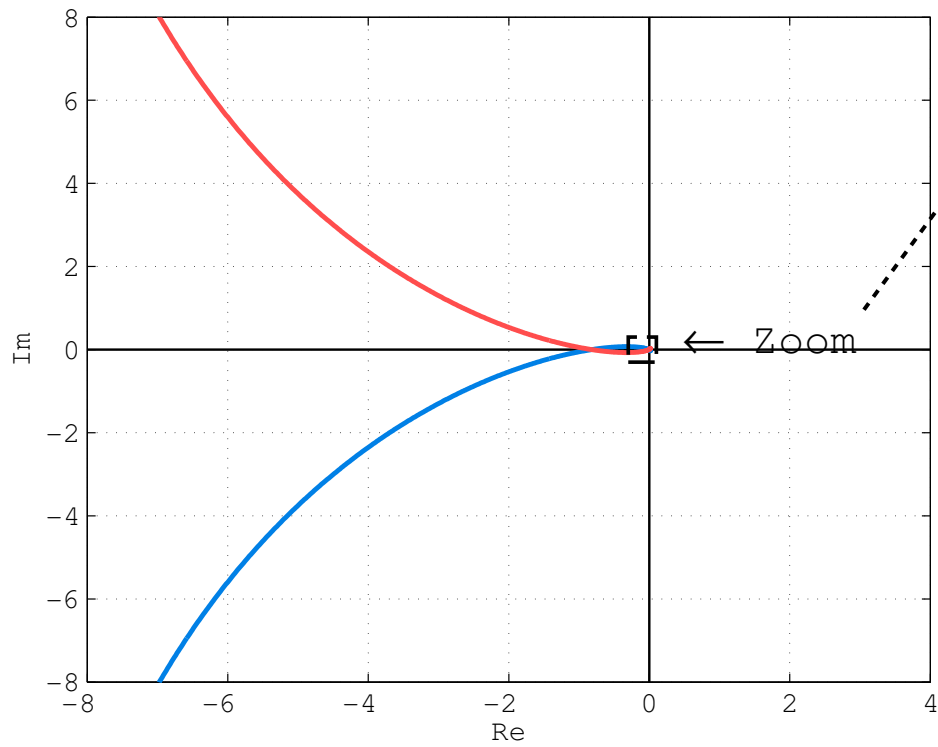
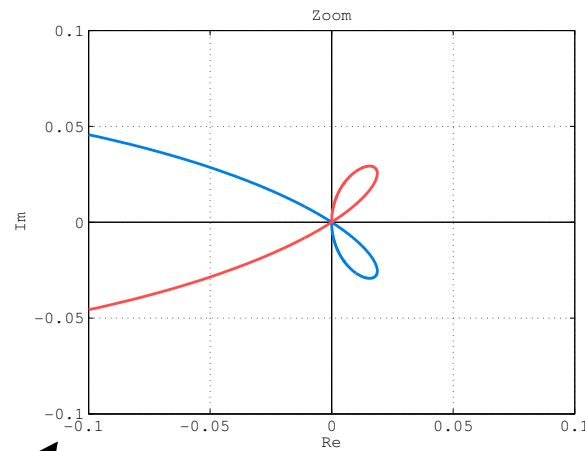
$$F(s) = \frac{1}{(s+1)(s^2+1)} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{one pole in } +j \\ \text{one pole in } -j \end{array}$$



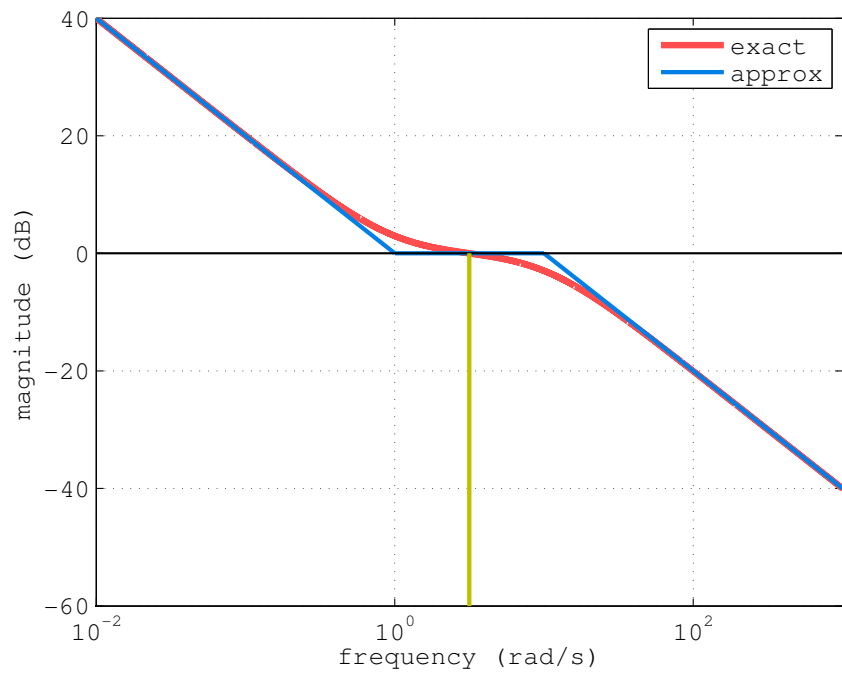
$\pi$  clockwise with infinite radius from  $-1^-$  to  $-1^+$   
 $\pi$  clockwise with infinite radius from  $1^-$  to  $1^+$



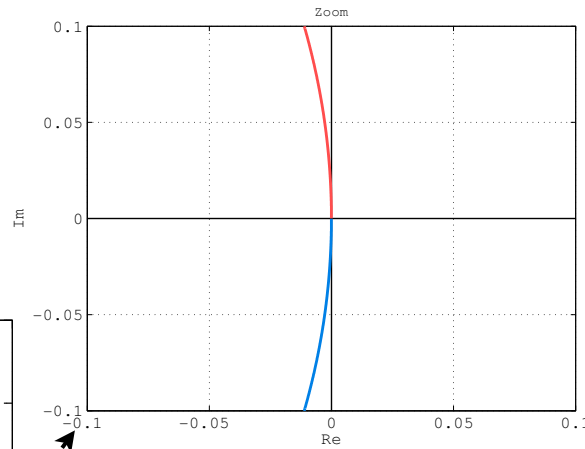
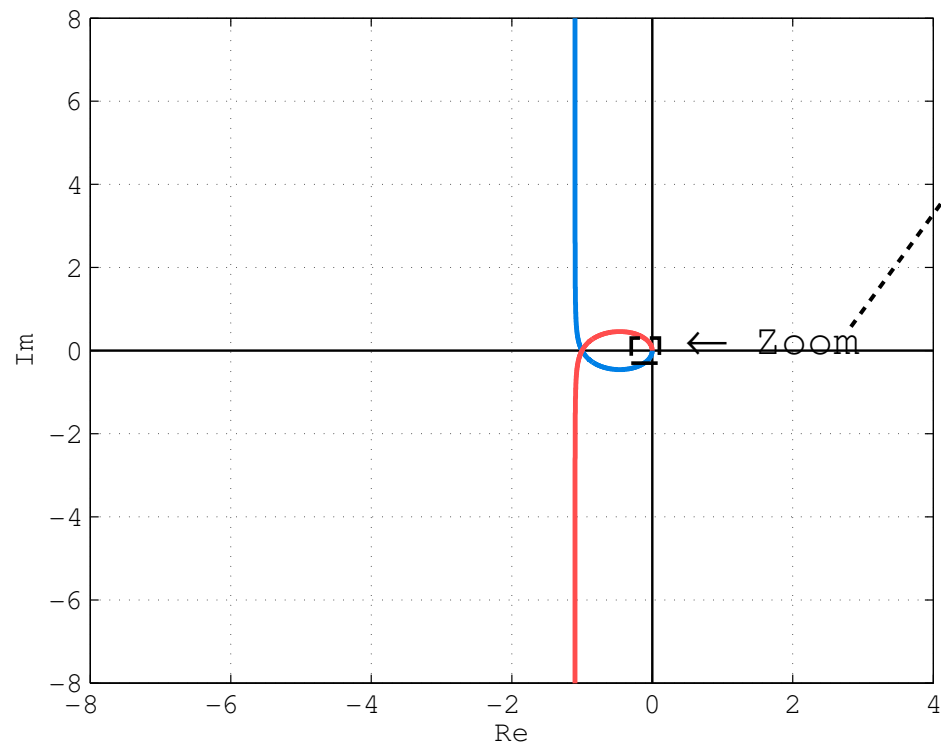
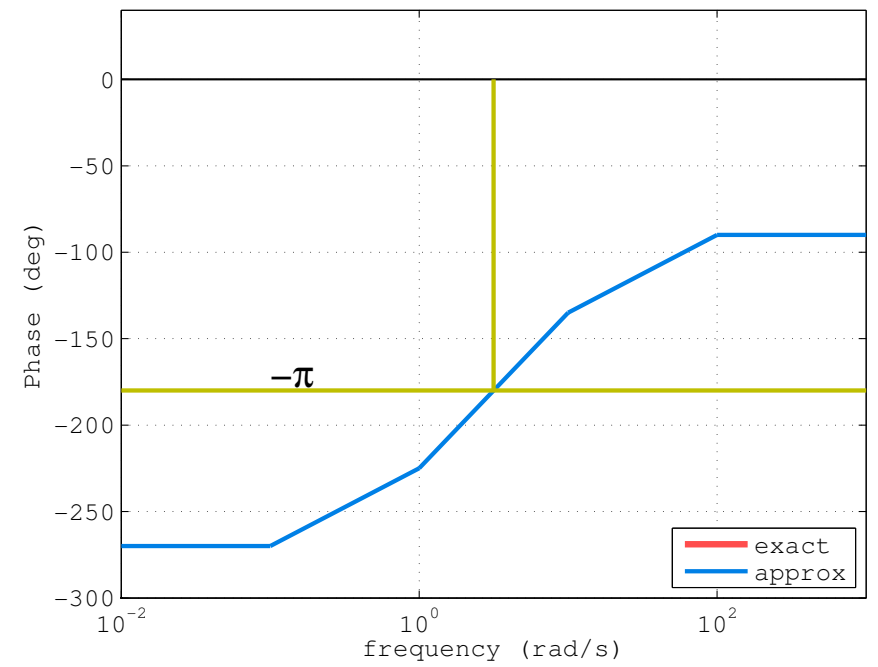
$$F(s) = \frac{s^2 + 100}{s(s + 1)(s + 10)}$$



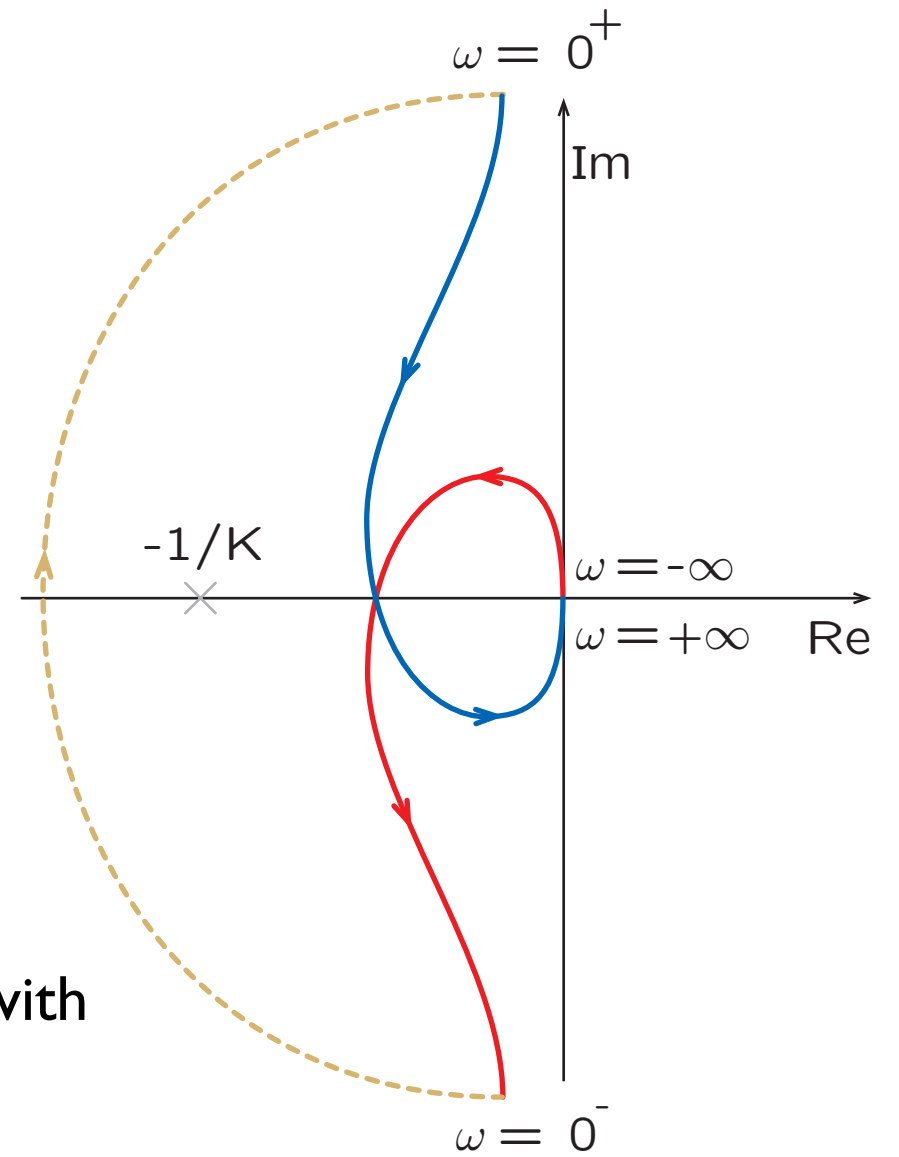
$\pi$  clockwise with infinite radius from  $0^-$  to  $0^+$



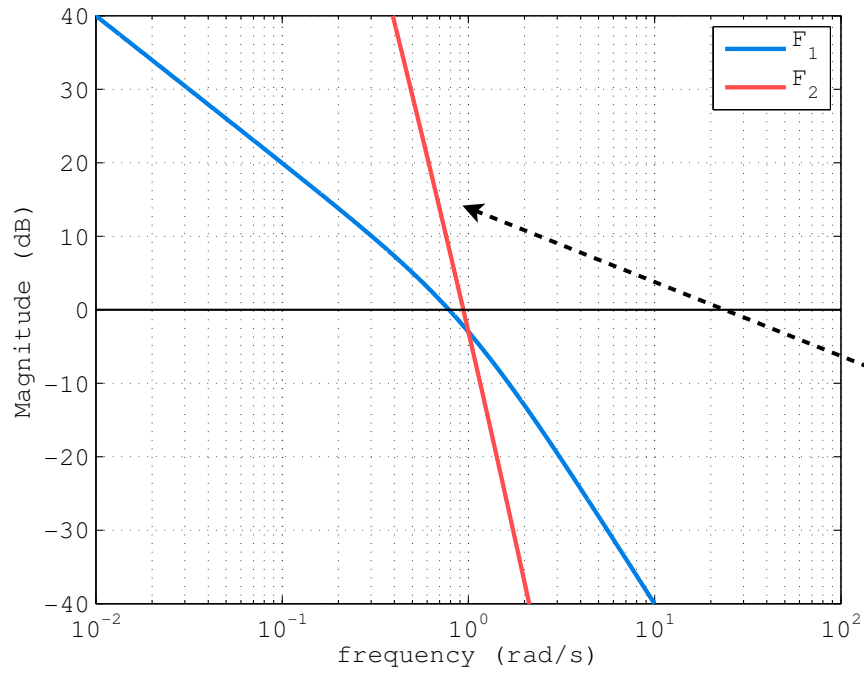
for  $K = 1$  plot crosses  $(-1, 0)$



$$F(s) = \frac{K(s+1)}{s(s/10-1)}$$

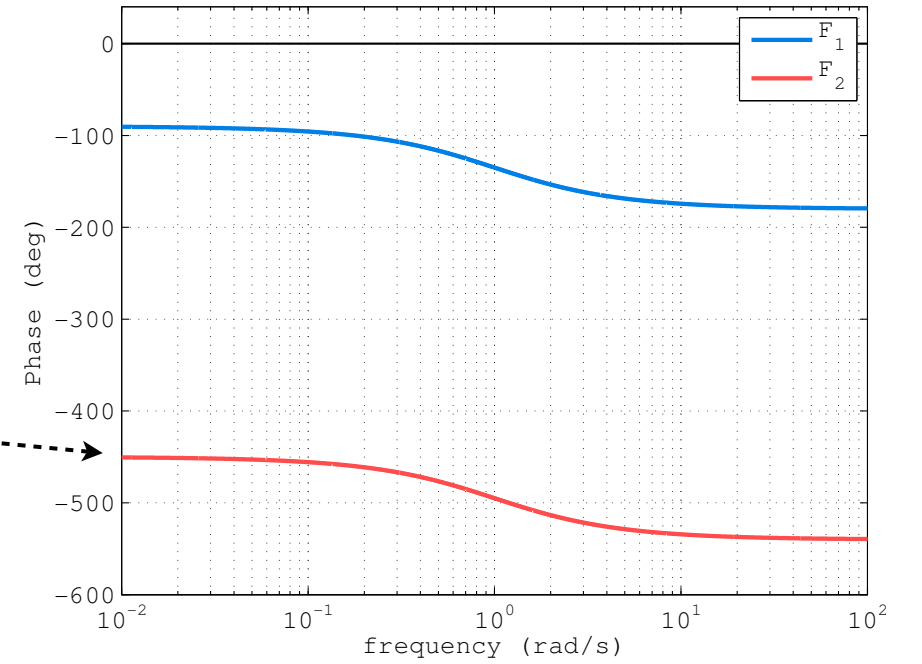


$\pi$  clockwise with infinite radius from  $0^-$  to  $0^+$

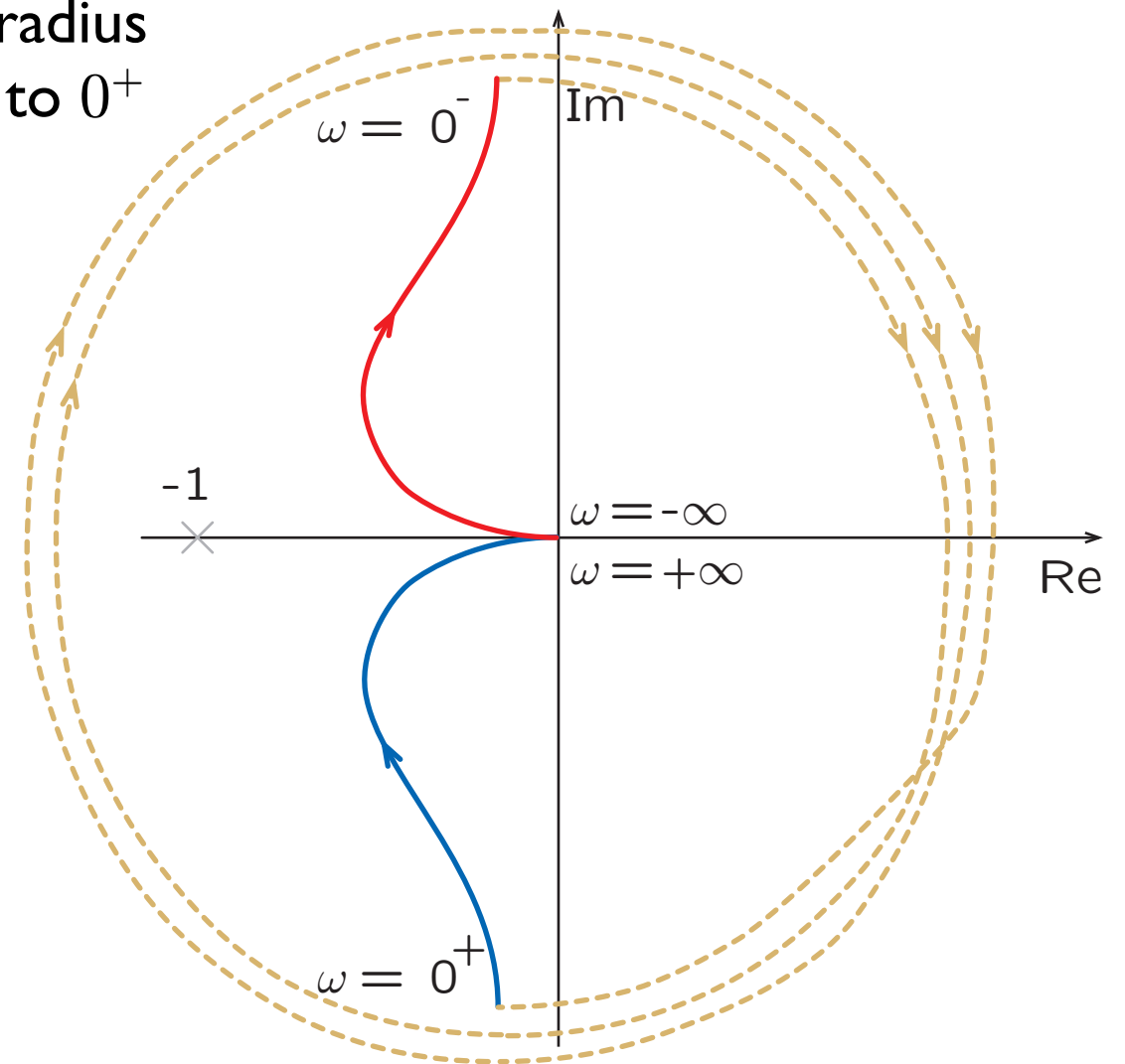
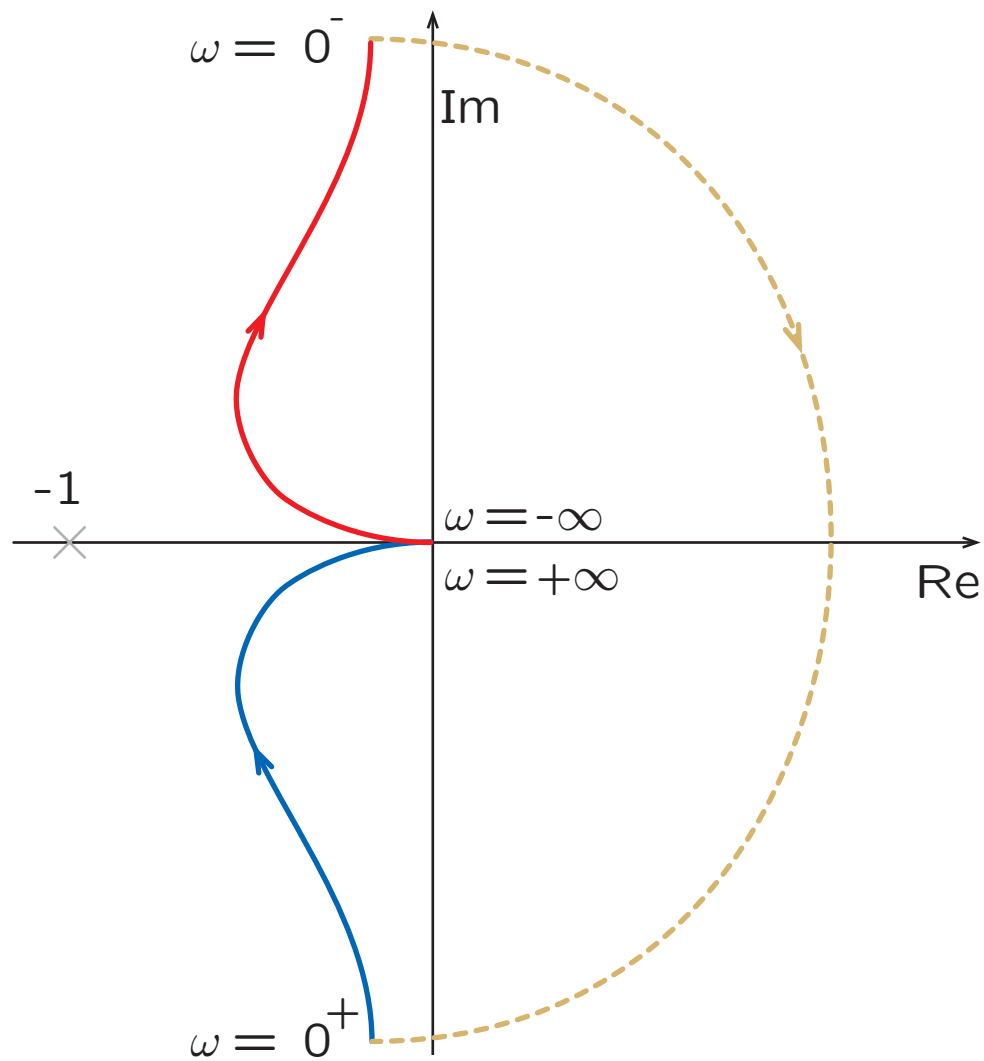


$$F_1(s) = \frac{1}{s(s+1)}$$

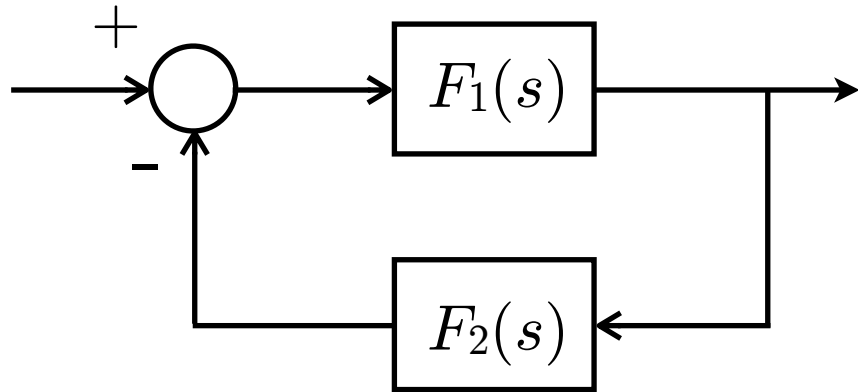
$$F_2(s) = \frac{1}{s^5(s+1)}$$



5 times  $\pi$  clockwise with infinite radius from  $0^-$  to  $0^+$



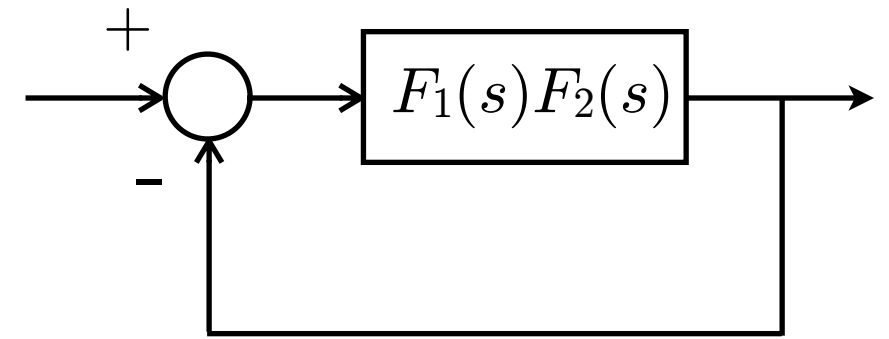
# general negative feedback



for stability these two schemes are equivalent

$$F_1(s) = N_1(s)/D_1(s)$$

$$F_2(s) = N_2(s)/D_2(s)$$



$$W_1(s) = \frac{F_1(s)}{1 + F_1(s)F_2(s)}$$

$$= \frac{N_1(s)D_2(s)}{\underbrace{D_2(s)D_1(s) + N_1(s)N_2(s)}}_{}$$

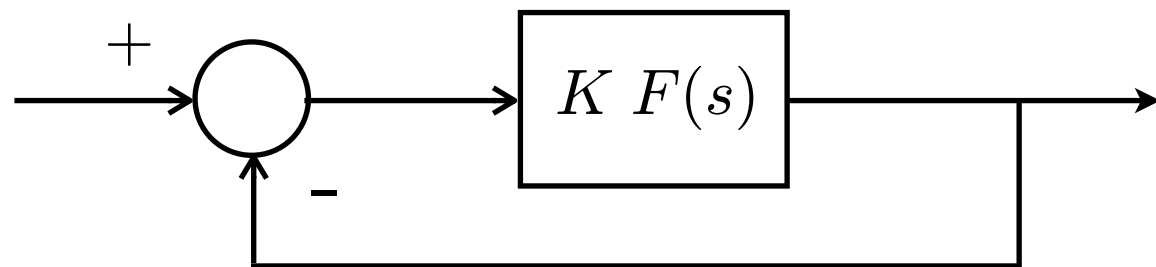
$$W_2(s) = \frac{F_1(s)F_2(s)}{1 + F_1(s)F_2(s)}$$

$$= \frac{N_1(s)N_2(s)}{\underbrace{D_2(s)D_1(s) + N_1(s)N_2(s)}}_{}$$

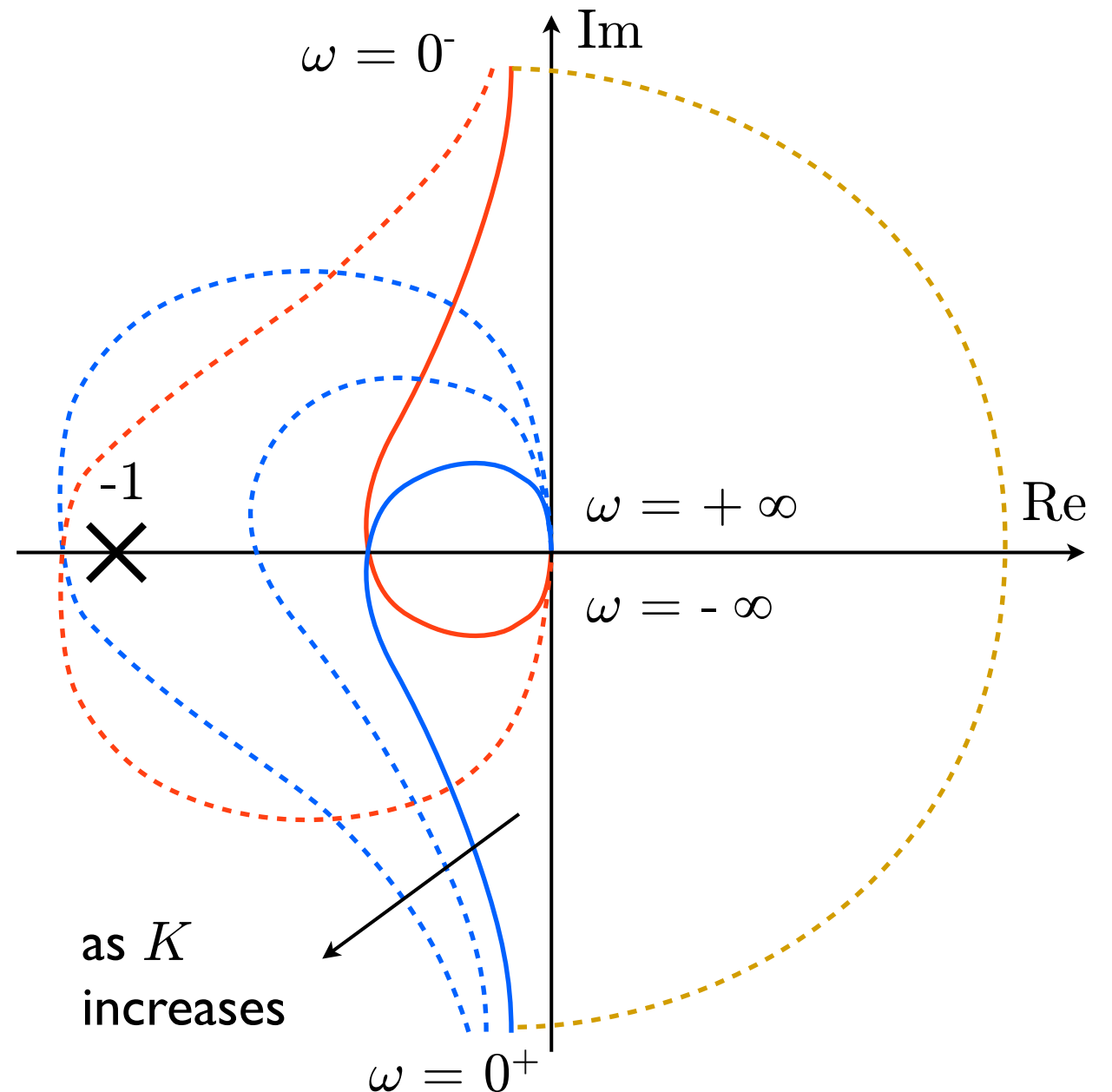
same denominator  
same poles  
same stability properties

Typical pattern for a control system:

open-loop system with no positive real part poles  $n_{F^+} = 0$ , therefore the closed-loop system will be asymptotically stable if and only if the Nyquist plot makes no encirclements around the point  $(-1, 0)$ . We want to explore how the closed-loop stability varies as a gain  $K$  in the open-loop system increases.



As  $K$  increases over a critical value the closed-loop system goes from asymptotically stable to unstable



In this context, the proximity to the critical point  $(-1, 0)$  is an indicator of the proximity of the closed-loop system to instability.

We can define two quantities:

**gain margin**  $k_{GM}$

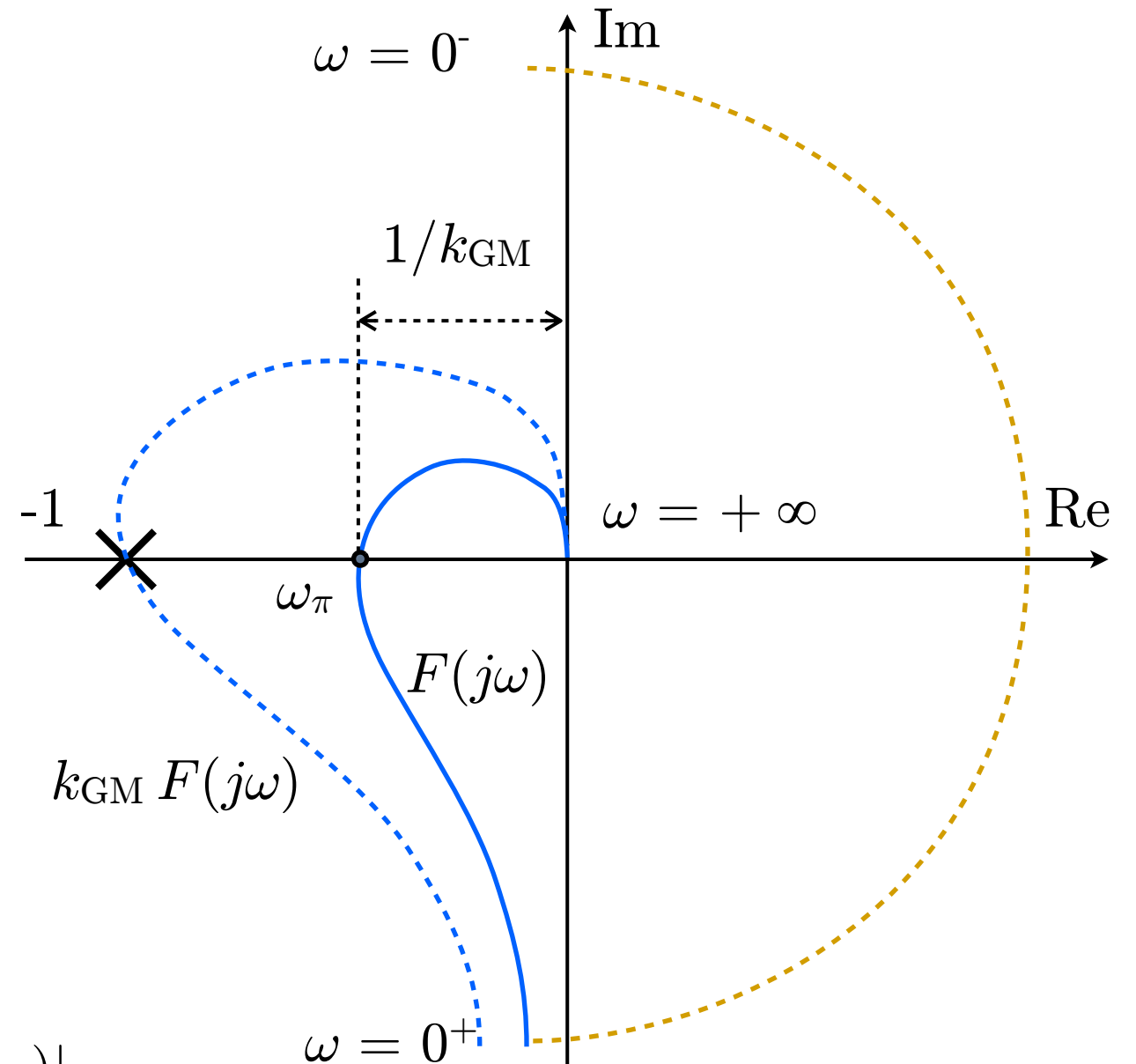
If we multiply  $F(j\omega)$  by the quantity  $k_{GM}$  the Nyquist diagram will pass through the critical point

the gain margin  $k_{GM}$  is the smallest amount that the closed-loop system can tolerate (strictly) before it becomes unstable

$$\omega_\pi : \angle F(j\omega_\pi) = -\pi$$

$$k_{GM} = \frac{1}{|F(j\omega_\pi)|}$$

$$k_{GM}|_{dB} = -|F(j\omega_\pi)|_{dB}$$



only positive angular frequencies are shown

## phase margin $PM$

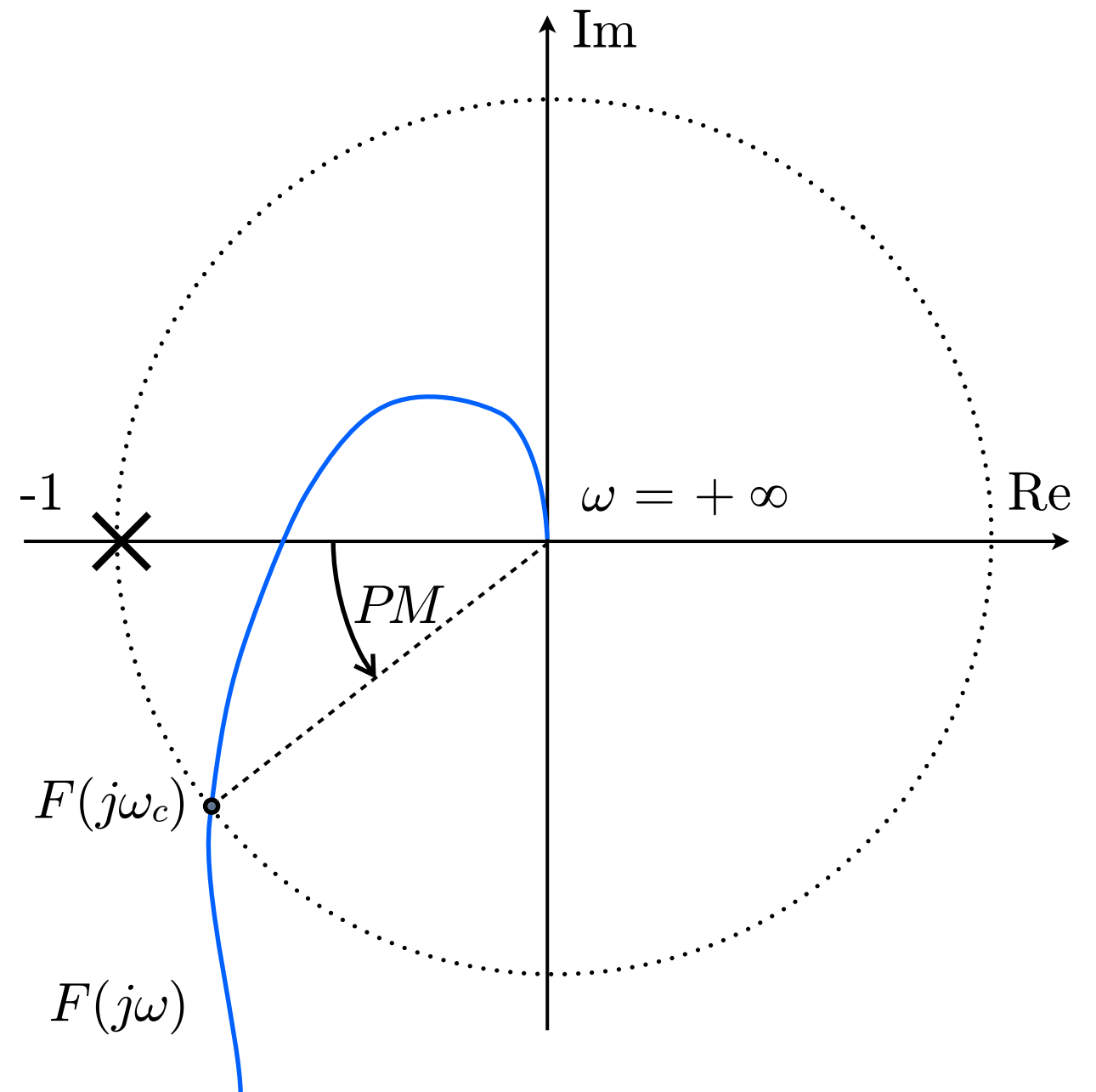
the phase margin  $PM$  is the amount of lag the closed-loop system can tolerate (strictly) before it becomes unstable

$\omega_c$  angular frequency at which the gain is unity is defined as **crossover frequency** (or gain crossover frequency)

$$\omega_c : |F(j\omega_c)| = 1$$

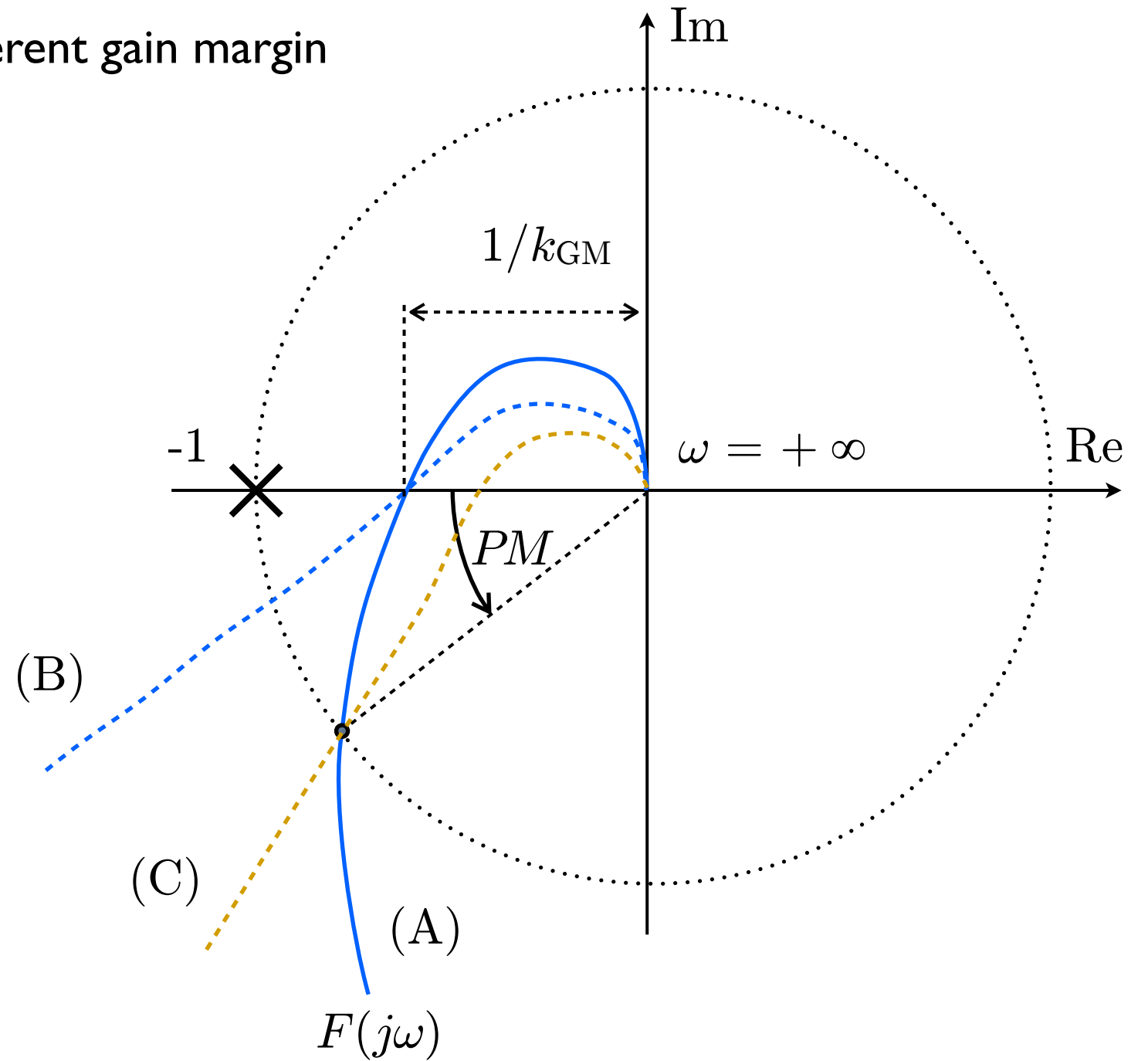
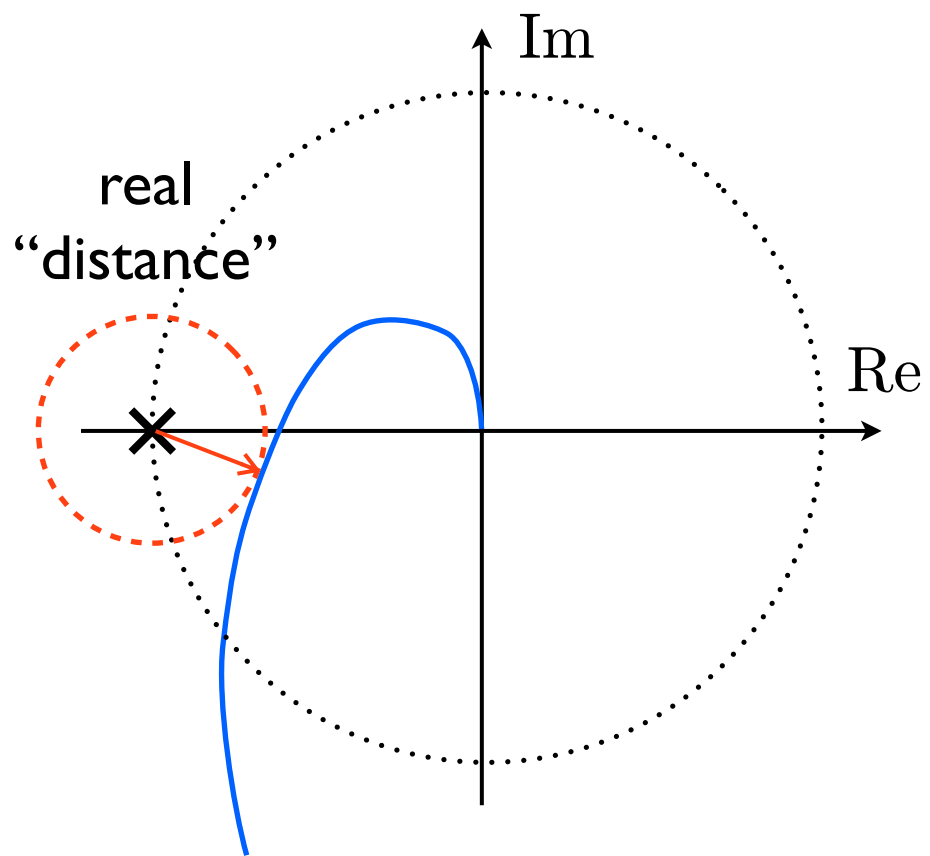
$$\omega_c : |F(j\omega_c)|_{dB} = 0 \text{ dB}$$

$$PM = \pi + \angle F(j\omega_c)$$

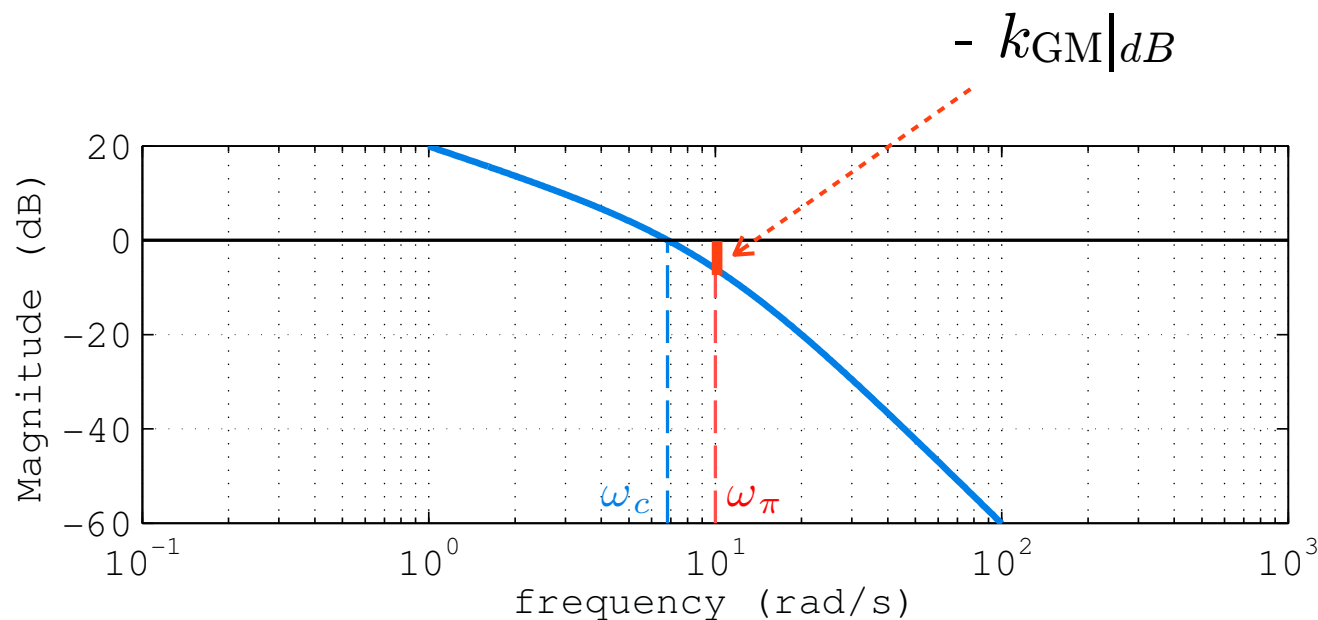




- (B) same gain margin as (A) but different phase margin
- (C) same phase margin as (A) but different gain margin



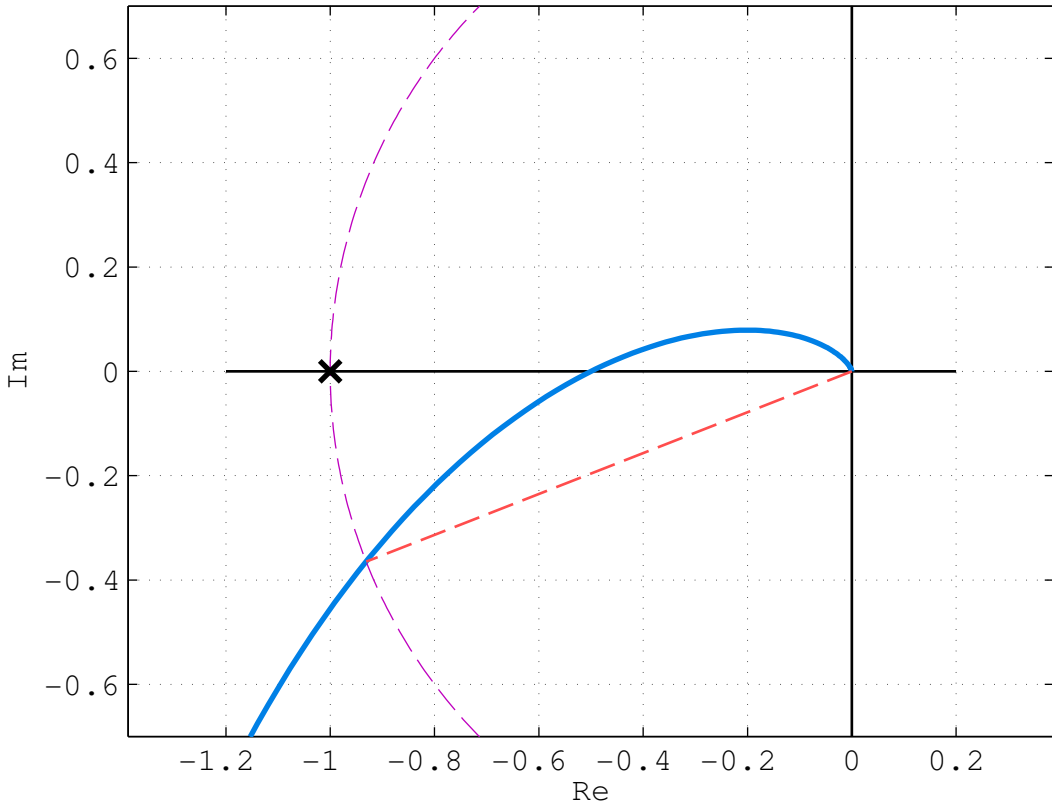
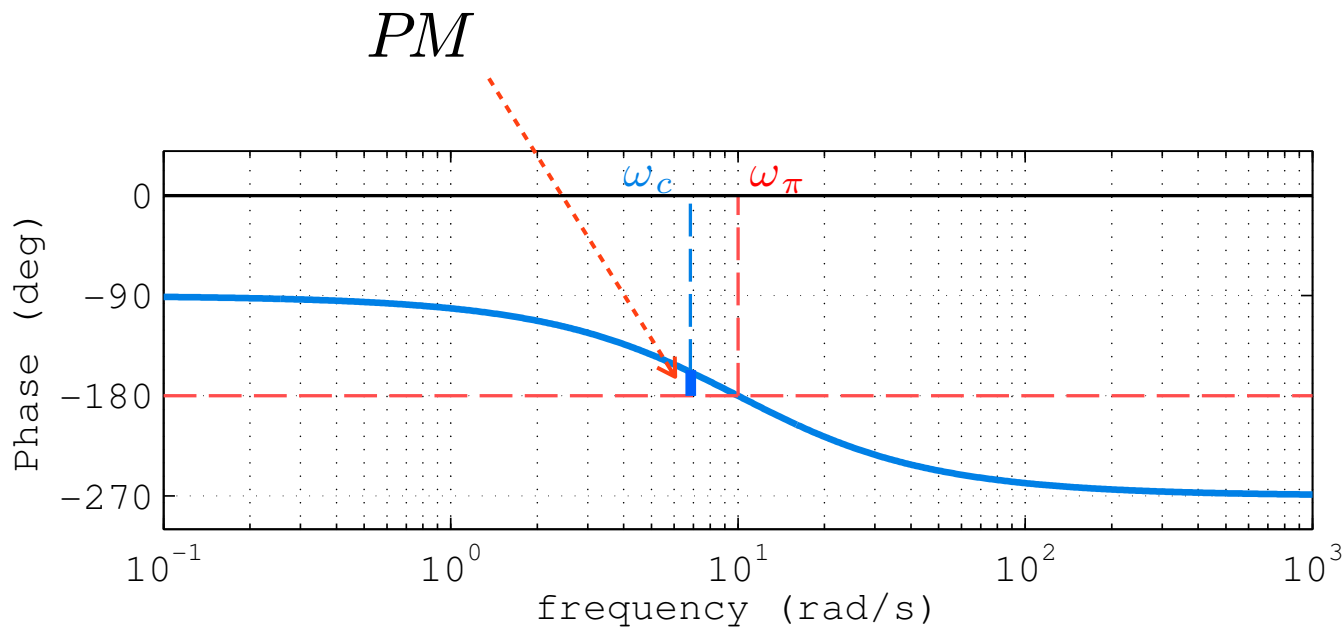
# stability margins on Bode

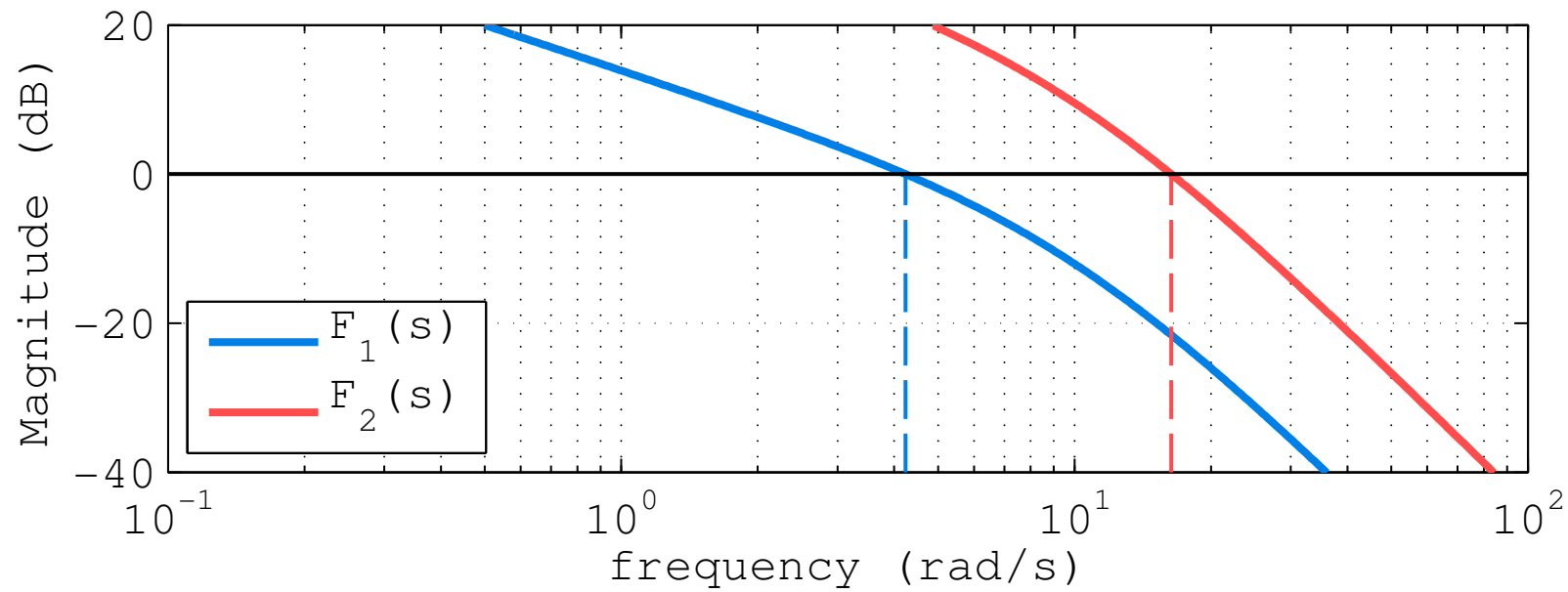


$$k_{GM}|_{dB} = -|F(j\omega_\pi)|_{dB}$$

$$PM = \pi + \angle F(j\omega_c)$$

$$F(s) = \frac{1000}{s(s+10)^2}$$

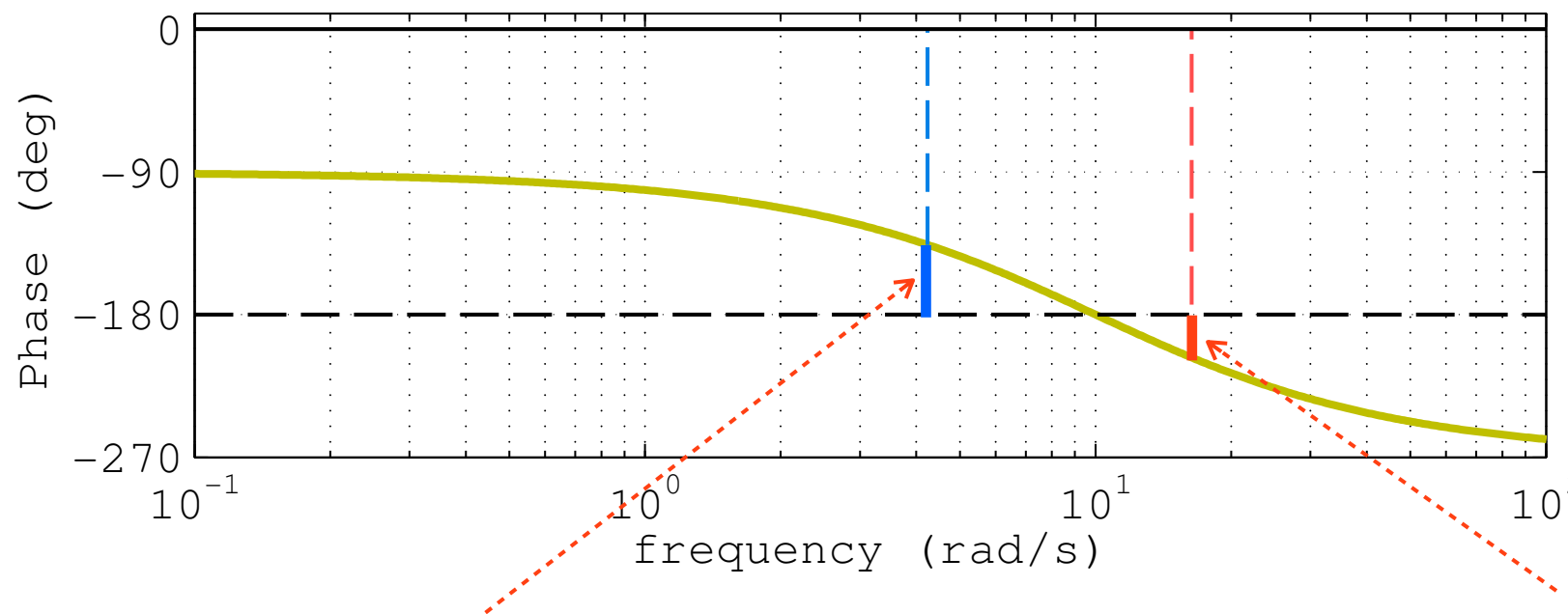




$$F_1(s) = \frac{500}{s(s+10)^2}$$

$$F_2(s) = \frac{6000}{s(s+10)^2}$$

these are scaled (by 0.5 and 6)  
wrt the previous system



both have same phase  
but different crossover  
frequencies and therefore  
different phase margins

positive phase margin  
(and thus for this example  $N_{cc} = 0$ )

negative phase margin  
(and thus for this example a non-zero  $N_{cc}$ )

asymptotically stable  
closed-loop system

both systems with  $n_{F^+} = 0$

unstable  
closed-loop system

(suggested exercise: check with Routh)

# Bode stability theorem

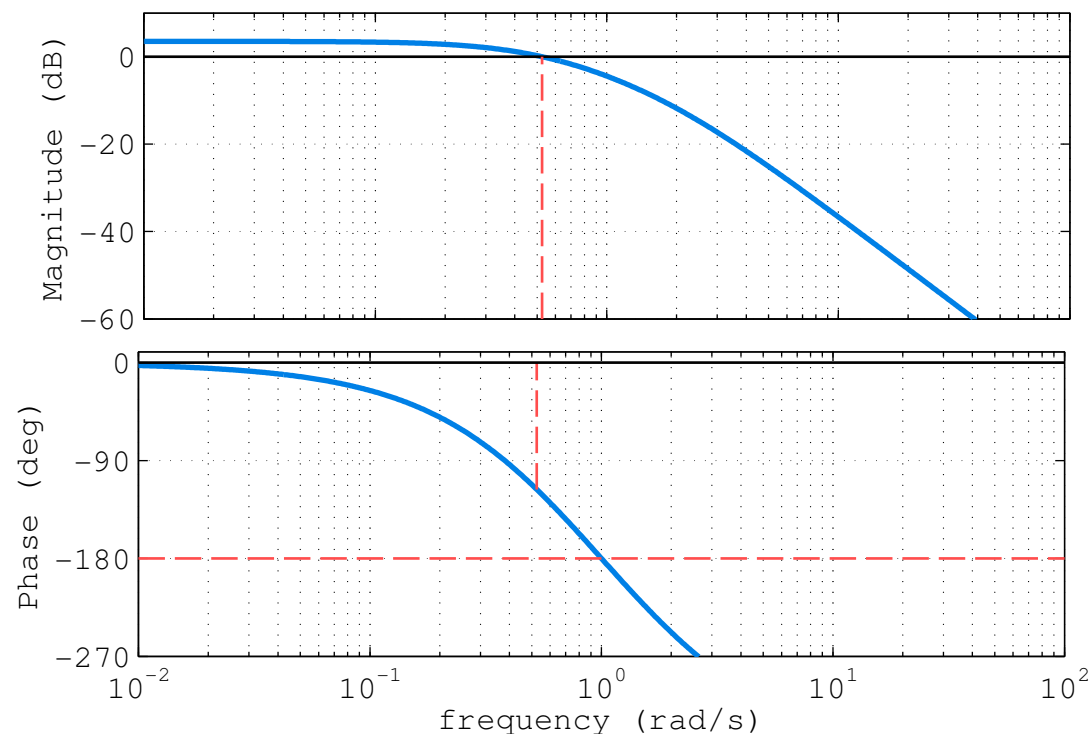
Let the open-loop system  $F(s)$  be with no positive real part poles (i.e.  $n_{F^+} = 0$ ) and such that there exists a unique crossover frequency  $\omega_c$  (i.e. such that  $|F(j\omega_c)| = 1$ ) then the closed-loop system is asymptotically stable if and only if

the system's generalized gain is positive

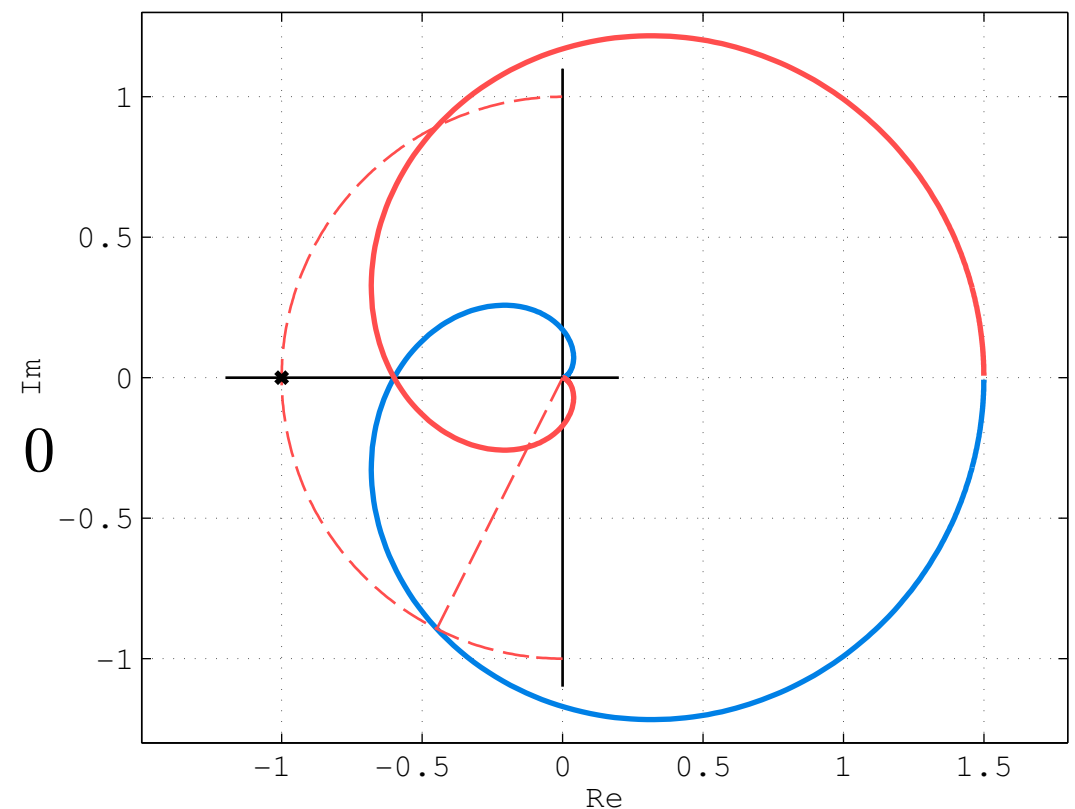
&

the phase margin ( $PM$ ) is positive

$$F(s) = \frac{1.5(1-s)}{(s+1)(2s+1)(0.5s+1)}$$

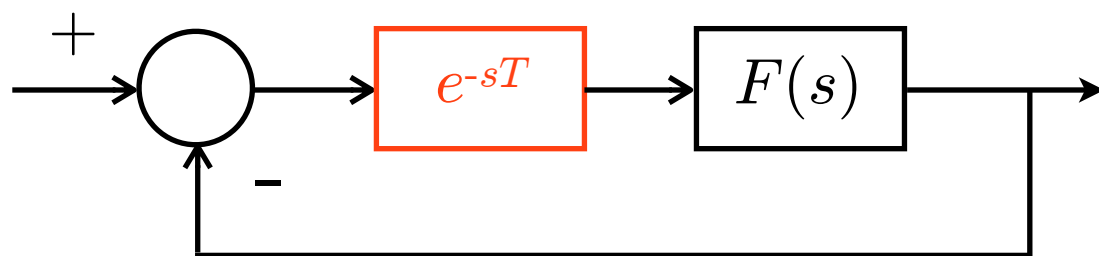


$$N_{cc} = n_{F^+} = 0$$



# Bode stability theorem

- stability margins are useful to evaluate stability **robustness** wrt parameters variations (for example the gain margin directly states how much gain variation we can tolerate)
- phase margin is also useful to evaluate stability **robustness** wrt delays in the feedback loop. Recall that, from the time shifting property of the Laplace transform, a delay is modeled by  $e^{-sT}$  and that



$$\angle e^{-j\omega T} = -\omega T$$
$$|e^{-j\omega T}| = 1$$

**delay**  
of  $T$  sec

$$\angle e^{-j\omega T} = -\omega T \longrightarrow$$

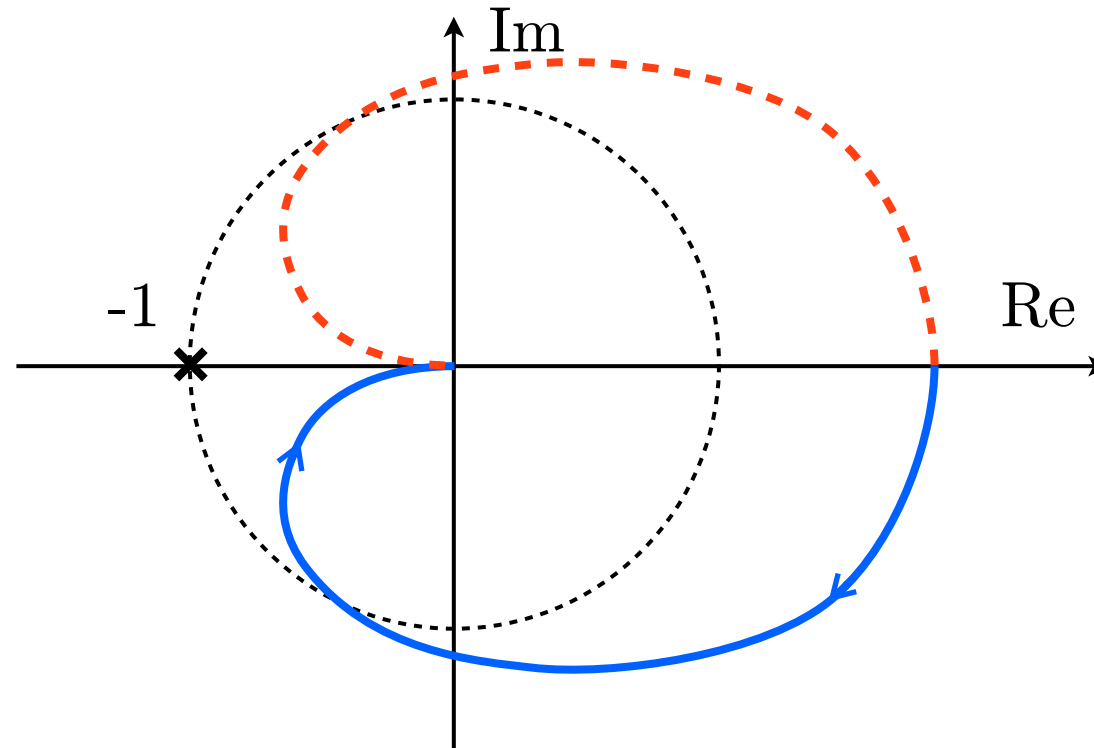
a delay introduces a phase lag and therefore it can easily “destabilize” a system (note that the abscissa in the Bode diagrams is in  $\log_{10}$  scale so the phase decreases very fast)

$$|e^{-j\omega T}| = 1 \longrightarrow$$

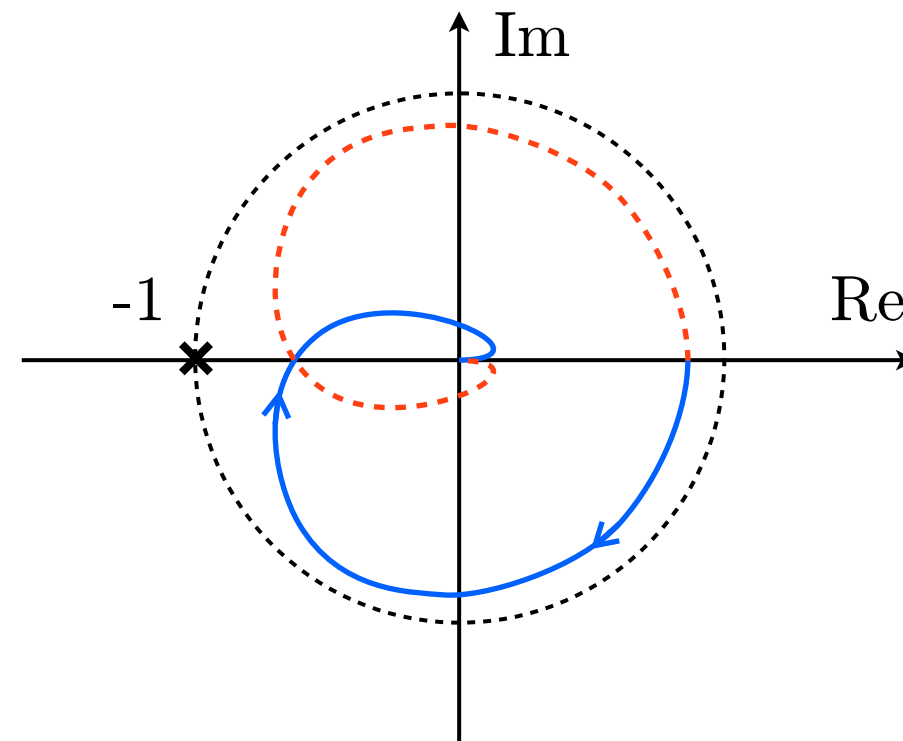
a delay in the loop does not alter the magnitude (0 dB contribution)

# Special cases

- infinite gain margin



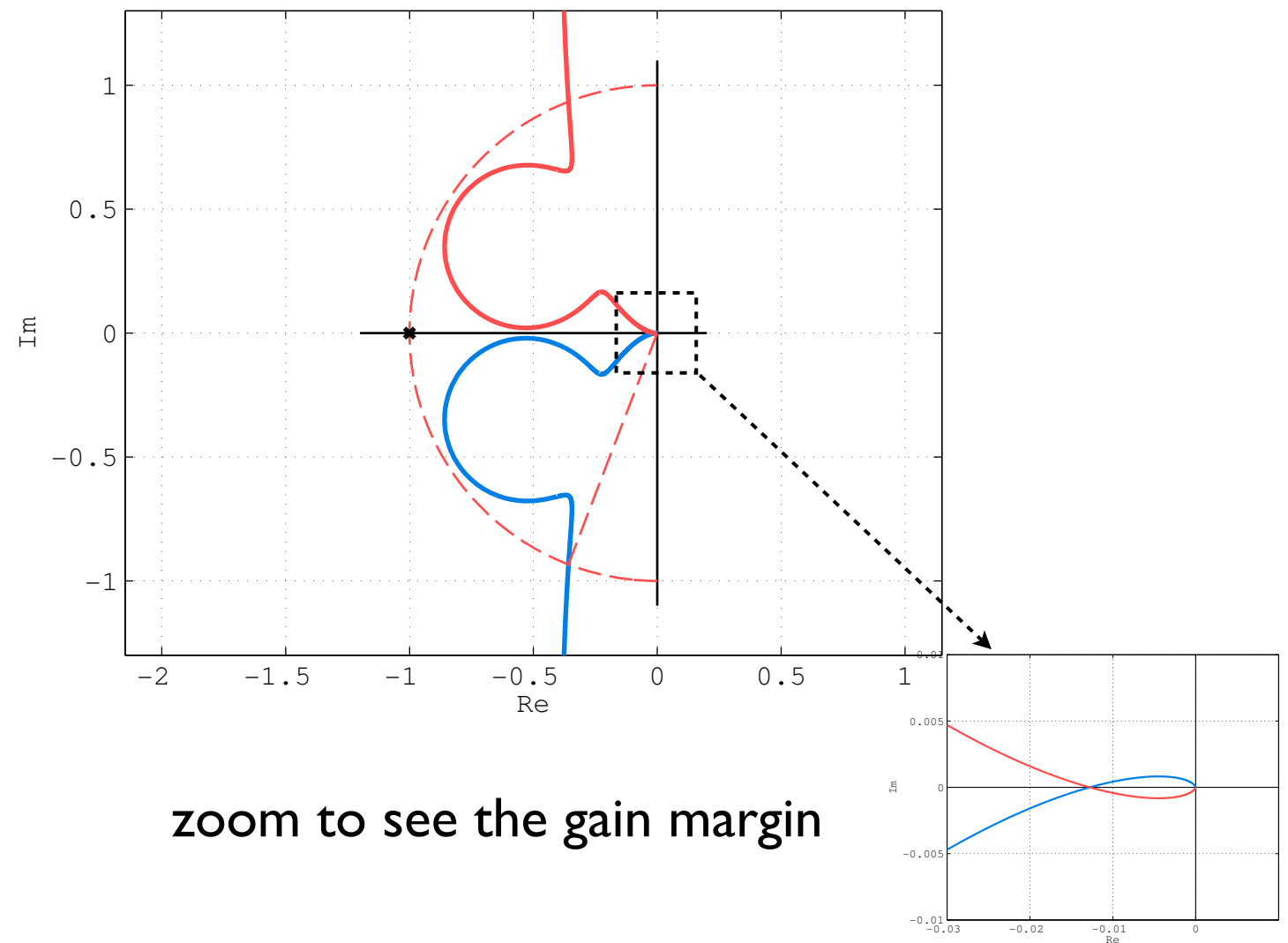
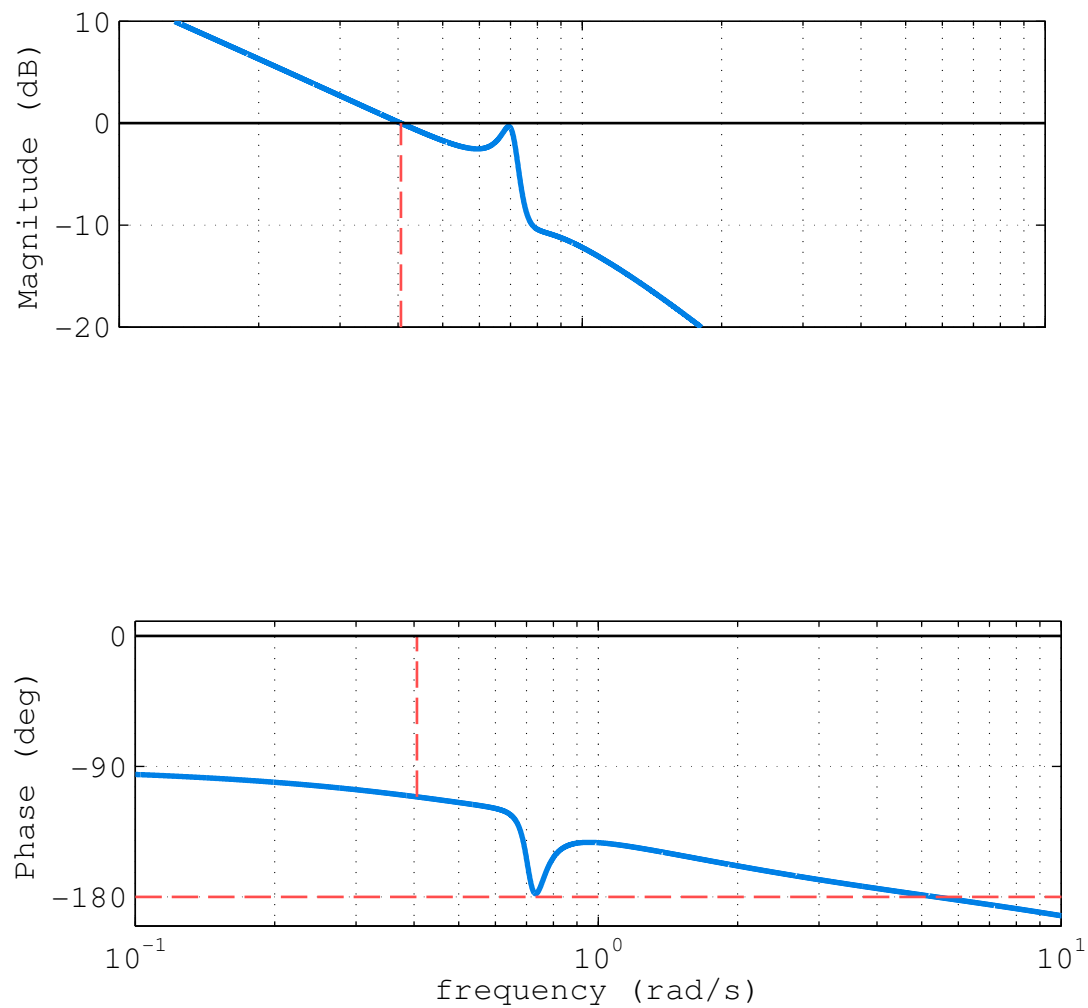
- infinite phase margin



# Particular example

good gain and phase margins but close to critical point

$$F(s) = \frac{0.38(s^2 + 0.1s + 0.55)}{s(s + 1)(s/30 + 1)(s^2 + 0.06s + 0.5)}$$



zoom to see the gain margin