

About Linearization of Active Traffic Management Module Model

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The emergence of self-oscillating modes in data-transmission networks negatively affects characteristics of these networks. As a result the task of identifying zones of self-oscillations' origin and studying the self-oscillation parameters becomes relevant. The study of the self-oscillating modes is complicated by the significant nonlinearity of the original system. The study of self-oscillating modes could simplify the transition to the linearized model; however, the self-oscillating mode disappears during the linearization. As an alternative, it is proposed to use an harmonic linearization approach which takes into consideration both the linearized part of the equations and the nonlinearity that influences them. This paper describes the preparation for the application of the harmonic linearization method, namely the linearization of the original nonlinear model.

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1. Introduction

While modeling technical systems with control it is often required to study characteristics of these systems. Also it is necessary to study the influence of system parameters on characteristics. In systems with control there is a parasitic phenomenon as self-oscillating mode. We carried out studies to determine the region of the self-oscillations emergence. However, the parameters of these oscillations were not investigated. In this paper, we propose to use the harmonic linearization method for this task. This method is used in control theory, but this branch of mathematics rarely used in classical mathematical modeling. The authors offer a methodological article in order to introduce this method to non-specialists.

2. The RED Congestion Adaptive Control Mechanism

To improve the performance of the channel it is necessary to optimize the queue management at the routers. One of possible approaches is the application of the random early detection (RED) algorithm (see [1–5]).

The RED algorithm uses a weighted queue length as the factor determining the probability of packet drop. As the average queue length grows, the probability of packet drop also increases (see (1)). The algorithm uses two threshold values of the

average queue length to control drop function (Fig. 1):

$$p(\hat{Q}) = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 < \hat{Q} \leq Q_{\min}, \\ \frac{\hat{Q} - Q_{\min}}{Q_{\max} - Q_{\min}} p_{\max}, & Q_{\min} < \hat{Q} \leq Q_{\max}, \\ 1, & \hat{Q} > Q_{\max}. \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Here $p(\hat{Q})$ — packet drop function (drop probability), \hat{Q} — exponentially-weighted moving average of the queue size average, Q_{\min} and Q_{\max} — thresholds for the weighted average of the queue length, p_{\max} — the maximum level of packet drop.

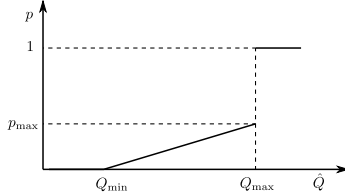


Figure 1. RED packet drop function

The RED algorithm is quite effective due to simplicity of implementation in the network hardware, but it has a number of drawbacks. In particular, for some parameters values there is a steady oscillatory mode in the system, which negatively affects quality of service indicators (QoS) [6–8]. Unfortunately there are no clear criteria for RED parameters values selection, in which the system does not enter self-oscillating mode.

We describe the control system driven by RED algorithm as the continuous model (see [9–16]):

$$\begin{cases} \dot{W}(t) = \frac{1}{T(Q, t)} - \frac{W(t)W(t - T(Q, t))}{2T(t - T(Q, t))} p(t - T(Q, t)); \\ \dot{Q}(t) = \frac{W(t)}{T(Q, t)} N(t) - C; \\ \dot{\hat{Q}}(t) = -w_q C \hat{Q}(t) + w_q C Q(t). \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

Here the following notation is used:

- W — the average TCP window size;
- Q — the average queue size;
- \hat{Q} — the exponentially weighted moving average (EWMA) of the queue size average;
- C — the queue service intensity;
- T — full round-trip time; $T = T_p + \frac{Q}{C}$, where T_p — round-trip time for free network (excluding delays in hardware); $\frac{Q}{C}$ — the time which batch spent in the queue;

- N — number of TCP sessions;
- p — packet drop function.

For this model we use some simplifying assumptions:

- the model is written in the moments;
- the model describes only the phase of congestion avoidance for TCP Reno protocol;
- in the model the drop is considered only after reception of 3 consistent ACK confirmations.

3. The Elements of Control Theory

We will use the control theory block-linear approach [17]. According to this approach, the original nonlinear system is linearized and divided into blocks. These blocks are characterized by the transfer function linking the input and output values. The transfer function $H(s)$ ties the input x_1 and output x_2 functions in following way:

$$x_2(s) = H(s)x_1(s).$$

The graphical notation for this relationship is shown on Fig. 2.

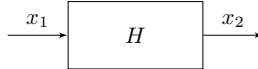


Figure 2. Transfer function

In control theory Laplace transformations are used. The Laplace transformation of real variable function $f(t)$ is the function of complex variable $s = \sigma + i\omega$, that:

$$F(s) = \mathcal{L}[f(t)] = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt.$$

The inverse Laplace transformation of a complex variable function is the function $f(t)$ of a real variable, such that:

$$f(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}[F(s)] = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\sigma_1 - i\infty}^{\sigma_1 + i\infty} e^{st} F(s) ds,$$

where σ_1 is a real number.

The Laplace transformation allows to replace differential equations with algebraic ones. Formally, the differential operator $\frac{d^n a}{dt^n}$ is replaced by the degree of the variable s :

$$\frac{d^n}{dt^n} \rightarrow s^n. \quad (3)$$

Also it simplifies the work with functions with lagging argument. The lagging argument is formally transformed into the multiplicative exponent:

$$f(t - \tau) \rightarrow F(s)e^{-s\tau}. \quad (4)$$

On the block diagram one can select several connection types: series (Fig. 3), parallel (Fig. 4) and the connection with the opposite link (Fig. 5). Each of these connection types can be converted into the structure shown in Fig. 2.

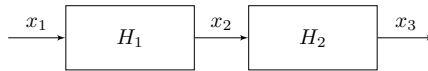


Figure 3. Series connection of blocks

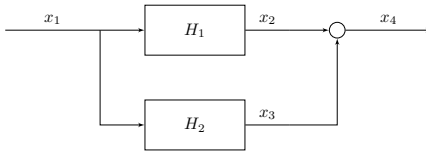


Figure 4. Parallel connection of blocks

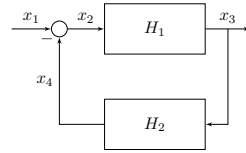


Figure 5. Feedback

For series connection (Fig. 3): $x_2(s) = H_1(s)x_1(s)$, $x_3(s) = H_2(s)x_2(s)$. Excluding $x_2(s)$, we will get $x_3(s) = H_2(s)H_1(s)x_1(s)$. So, for the series connection the transfer function of the junction will be the product of the transfer functions of links: $H(s) = H_2(s)H_1(s)$, or for n links:

$$H(s) = \prod_{i=1}^n H_i(s).$$

For parallel connection¹ (Fig. 4) we have $x_2(s) = H_1(s)x_1(s)$, $x_3(s) = H_2(s)x_1(s)$, $x_4(s) = x_2(s) + x_3(s)$. Excluding $x_2(s)$ and $x_3(s)$, we will get $x_4(s) = (H_1(s) + H_2(s))x_1(s)$. Thus, the transfer function of the parallel connection is equal to the sum of transfer functions of the links, or for n links:

$$H(s) = \sum_{i=1}^n H_i(s).$$

For negative feedback² (Fig. 5) we have $x_3(s) = H_1(s)x_2(s)$, $x_4(s) = H_2(s)x_3(s)$, $x_2(s) = x_1(s) - x_4(s)$. By excluding $x_2(s)$ and $x_4(s)$, we will get $x_3(s) = \frac{H_1(s)}{1 + H_1(s)H_2(s)}x_1(s)$. Thus, the transfer function of connection with negative feedback is:

$$H(s) = \frac{H_1(s)}{1 + H_1(s)H_2(s)}.$$

¹Here we used the element “summation unit” (presented in the diagram as a circle).

²Here we used the element “summation unit with subtraction” or “comparator”.

4. Harmonic Linearization Method

The method of harmonic linearization is an approximate method. It is used for study of start-oscillation conditions and determination of the parameters of self-oscillations, for the analysis and evaluation of their sustainability, as well as for the study of forced oscillations. Harmonically-linearized system depends on the amplitudes and frequencies of periodic processes. The harmonic linearization differs from the common method of linearization (leading to purely linear expressions) and allows to explore the basic properties of nonlinear systems.

The method of harmonic linearization is used for systems of a certain structure (see figure 6). The system consists of the linear part H_l and the nonlinear part, which is set by function $f(x)$. It is generally considered a static nonlinear element.

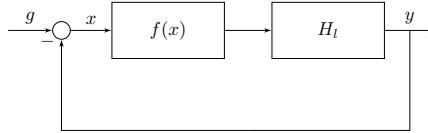


Figure 6. Block structure of the system for the harmonic linearization method

We can represent a nonlinear element as follows:

$$f(x) = \left[\varkappa(A) + \frac{\varkappa'(A)}{\omega} \frac{d}{dt} \right] x = H_{nl}(A, \partial_t)x, \quad (5)$$

where $H_{nl}(A, \partial_t)$ is the approximate transfer function of the nonlinear unit, $\varkappa(a)$ and $\varkappa'(a)$ are the harmonic linearization coefficients.

After finding the coefficients of harmonic linearization for given nonlinear unit, it is possible to study the parameters of the oscillation mode. The existence of oscillation mode in a nonlinear system corresponds to the determination of oscillating boundary of stability for the linearized system. Then A and ω can be found by using linear systems stability criteria (Mikhailov, Nyquist–Mikhailov, Routh–Hurwitz). Thus, the study of self-oscillation parameters can be done by one of the methods of determining the limits of stability of linear systems.

The Nyquist-Mikhailov criterion [18, 19] allows to judge about the stability of the open-loop automatic control system by using Nyquist plot (amplitude-phase characteristic) of the open-loop system.

Make the substitutions $\partial_t \rightarrow i\omega$ and $s \rightarrow \partial_t \rightarrow i\omega$ in the transfer function. Undamped sinusoidal oscillations with constant amplitude are determined by passing the amplitude-phase characteristics of the open-loop system through the point $(-1, i0)$.

The characteristic function of the system is:

$$\begin{aligned} 1 + H_o(i\omega) &= 0, \\ H_o(i\omega) &:= H_l(i\omega)H_{nl}(A, i\omega), \end{aligned}$$

where H_o — the transfer function of the open-loop system.

Thus:

$$H_l(i\omega)H_{nl}(A, i\omega) = -1. \quad (6)$$

Given by (5) from (6) the equality is obtained:

$$H_l(i\omega) = -\frac{1}{\varkappa(A) + i\varkappa'(A)}. \quad (7)$$

The left part of the equation (7) is the amplitude-phase characteristic of the linear unit, and the right part is the inverse of the amplitude-phase characteristic of the first harmonic non-linear level (with opposite sign). And the equation (7) is the equation of balance between the frequency and the amplitude.

This type of criterion is also called as a Goldfarb method.

Sometimes it is more convenient to write the equation (7) in the following form:

$$\varkappa(A) + i\varkappa'(A) = -\frac{1}{H_l(i\omega)}. \quad (8)$$

This type of criterion is also called as a Kochenburger method.

5. Linearization of the Model

We will carry out the linearization near the equilibrium point (the balance point is denoted by f index). At the equilibrium point time derivatives turn to zero, so the system of equations (2) will be as follows:

$$\begin{cases} 0 = \frac{1}{T_f} - \frac{W_f^2}{2T_f} p_f; \\ 0 = \frac{W_f}{T_f} N_f - C; \\ 0 = -w_q C \hat{Q}_f + w_q C Q_f. \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

From the system of equations (9) we get the bound equation for the equilibrium values of the variables:

$$\begin{cases} p_f = \frac{2}{W_f^2}; \\ W_f = \frac{CT_f}{N_f}; \\ \hat{Q}_f = Q_f. \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

Let us denote the variables: $W := W(t)$, $W_T := W(t - t)$, $Q := Q(t)$, $p := p(t - t)$. We write out the right part of the system (2):

$$\begin{cases} L_W(W, W_T, Q, p) = \frac{1}{T} - \frac{WW_T}{2T} p; \\ L_Q(W, Q) = \frac{W}{T} N - C; \\ L_{\hat{Q}}(\hat{Q}, Q) = -w_q C \hat{Q} + w_q C Q. \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

The variation of the right part (11) for all variables in a neighborhood of the equilibrium point is:

$$\begin{aligned} \left. \frac{\delta L_W}{\delta W} \right|_f &= -\frac{W_T}{2T} p \Big|_f = -\frac{W_f}{2T_f} p_f; & \left. \frac{\delta L_W}{\delta W_T} \right|_f &= -\frac{W}{2T} p \Big|_f = -\frac{W_f}{2T_f} p_f; \\ \left. \frac{\delta L_W}{\delta Q} \right|_f &= -\frac{1}{T^2} \frac{\delta \left(\frac{Q}{C} + T_p \right)}{\delta Q} + \frac{W W_T}{2T^2} p \frac{\delta \left(\frac{Q}{C} + T_p \right)}{\delta Q} \Big|_f = -\frac{1}{CT_f^2} + \frac{W_f^2}{2CT_f^2} p_f; \\ \left. \frac{\delta L_W}{\delta p} \right|_f &= -\frac{W W_T}{2T} \Big|_f = -\frac{W_f^2}{2T_f}; & \left. \frac{\delta L_Q}{\delta W} \right|_f &= \frac{1}{T} N \Big|_f = \frac{N}{T_f}; \\ \left. \frac{\delta L_Q}{\delta Q} \right|_f &= -\frac{W}{T^2} N \frac{\delta T}{\delta Q} \Big|_f = -\frac{W}{T^2} N \frac{\delta \left(\frac{Q}{C} + T_p \right)}{\delta Q} \Big|_f = -\frac{W}{CT_f^2} N \Big|_f = -\frac{W_f}{CT_f^2} N; \\ \left. \frac{\delta L_{\hat{Q}}}{\delta \hat{Q}} \right|_f &= -w_q C \Big|_f = -w_q C; & \left. \frac{\delta L_{\hat{Q}}}{\delta Q} \right|_f &= w_q C \Big|_f = w_q C. \end{aligned}$$

Considering the equation (10), we can rewrite this system in the following form.

$$\begin{aligned} \left. \frac{\delta L_W}{\delta W} \right|_f &= -\frac{W_f}{2T_f} \frac{2}{W_f^2} = -\frac{1}{W_f T_f} = -\frac{N}{CT_f^2}; \\ \left. \frac{\delta L_W}{\delta W_T} \right|_f &= -\frac{W_f}{2T_f} \frac{2}{W_f^2} = -\frac{1}{W_f T_f} = -\frac{N}{CT_f^2}; \\ \left. \frac{\delta L_W}{\delta Q} \right|_f &= -\frac{1}{CT_f^2} + \frac{2}{2CT_f^2} = 0; \\ \left. \frac{\delta L_W}{\delta p} \right|_f &= -\frac{C^2 T_f^2}{N^2} \frac{1}{2T_f} = -\frac{C^2 T_f}{2N^2}; \\ \left. \frac{\delta L_Q}{\delta W} \right|_f &= \frac{N}{T_f}; & \left. \frac{\delta L_Q}{\delta Q} \right|_f &= -\frac{CT_f}{N} \frac{N}{CT_f^2} = -\frac{1}{T_f}; \\ \left. \frac{\delta L_{\hat{Q}}}{\delta \hat{Q}} \right|_f &= -w_q C; & \left. \frac{\delta L_{\hat{Q}}}{\delta Q} \right|_f &= w_q C. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we received from the initial system (2) the linearized one:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \delta \dot{W}(t) = \frac{\delta L_W}{\delta W} \Big|_f \delta W(t) + \frac{\delta L_W}{\delta W} \Big|_{T_f} \delta W(t - T_f) + \\ \quad + \frac{\delta L_W}{\delta Q} \Big|_f \delta Q(t) + \frac{\delta L_W}{\delta p} \Big|_f \delta p(t - T_f) = \\ \quad = -\frac{N}{CT_f^2} (\delta W(t) + \delta W(t - T_f)) - \frac{C^2 T_f}{2N^2} \delta p(t - T_f); \\ \delta \dot{Q}(t) = \frac{\delta L_Q}{\delta W} \Big|_f \delta W(t) + \frac{\delta L_Q}{\delta Q} \Big|_f \delta Q(t) = \frac{N}{T_f} \delta W(t) - \frac{1}{T_f} \delta Q(t). \\ \delta \dot{\hat{Q}}(t) = \frac{\delta L_{\hat{Q}}}{\delta \hat{Q}} \Big|_f \delta \hat{Q}(t) + \frac{\delta L_{\hat{Q}}}{\delta Q} \Big|_f \delta Q(t) = -w_q C \delta \hat{Q}(t) + w_q C \delta Q(t). \end{array} \right. \quad (12)$$

In addition, let us to linearize the drop function (1):

$$\delta p(\hat{Q}, t) = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 < \hat{Q} \leq Q_{\min}, \\ \frac{p_{\max}}{Q_{\max} - Q_{\min}} \delta \hat{Q}(t), & Q_{\min} < \hat{Q} \leq Q_{\max}, \\ 0, & \hat{Q} > Q_{\max}. \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

The (13) may be denoted as

$$\begin{aligned} \delta p(\hat{Q}, t) &= P_{\text{RED}} \delta \hat{Q}(t); \\ P_{\text{RED}} &:= \begin{cases} 0, & 0 < \hat{Q} \leq Q_{\min}, \\ \frac{p_{\max}}{Q_{\max} - Q_{\min}}, & Q_{\min} < \hat{Q} \leq Q_{\max}, \\ 0, & \hat{Q} > Q_{\max}. \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

Let us perform on (12) the transformation (3) and (4).

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} s \delta W(s) = -\frac{N}{CT_f^2} (\delta W(s) + \delta W(s) e^{-sT_f}) - \frac{C^2 T_f}{2N^2} \delta p(s) e^{-sT_f} = \\ \quad = -\frac{N}{CT_f^2} (1 + e^{-sT_f}) \delta W(s) - \frac{C^2 T_f}{2N^2} \delta p(s) e^{-sT_f}; \\ s \delta Q(s) = \frac{N}{T_f} \delta W(s) - \frac{1}{T_f} \delta Q(s). \\ s \delta \hat{Q}(s) = -w_q C \delta \hat{Q}(s) + w_q C \delta Q(s). \end{array} \right. \quad (15)$$

Let's simplify (15):

$$\begin{cases} \delta W(s) = -\frac{1}{s + \frac{N}{CT_f^2}(1 + e^{-sT_f})} \frac{C^2 T_f}{2N^2} e^{-sT_f} \delta p(s); \\ \delta Q(s) = \frac{1}{s + \frac{1}{T_f}} \frac{N}{T_f} \delta W(s); \\ \delta \hat{Q}(s) = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{s}{w_q C}} \delta Q(s). \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

Considering the formula $\delta \hat{Q}(s)$ from the system of equations (16), we can write out (14) in the following form:

$$\delta p(s) = P_{\text{RED}} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{s}{w_q C}} \delta Q(s). \quad (17)$$

The function P_{RED} has the form shown in Fig. 7

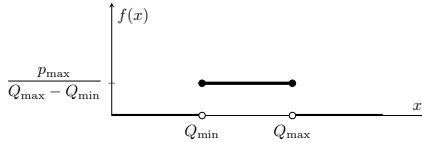


Figure 7. The function P_{RED}

Based on (16) and (17) the block representation of the linearized RED model (Fig. 8) is constructed.

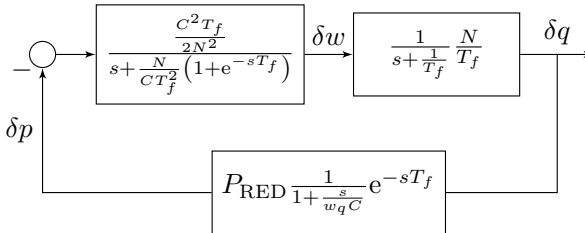


Figure 8. Block representation of the linearized RED model

For clarity, it is possible to plot parametric graphs on the complex plane separately for left $H_l(i, \omega)$ and right $-1/H_{nl}(A)$ parts of the equation (7) (of ω and A respectively)

(see figures 9 and 10). The intersection of the curves gives the point of emergence of self-oscillations.

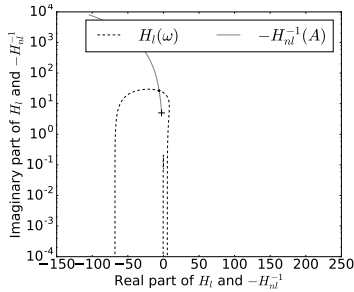


Figure 9. Nyquist plot for system (7)

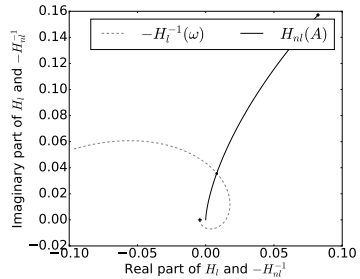


Figure 10. Nyquist plot for system (8)

For the example of the calculation we have chosen the following parameters: $Q_{\min} = 100$ [packets], $Q_{\max} = 150$ [packets], $p_{\max} = 0.1$, $T_p = 0.0075$ s, $w_q = 0.002$, $C = 2000$ [packets]/s, $N = 60$ (the number of TCP sessions).

As a result we obtained the following values for the amplitude and the cyclic frequency: $A = 1.89$ [packets], $\omega = 16.55s^{-1}$.

6. Conclusion

The authors demonstrated the technique of oscillatory modes research for the systems with control. We tried to explain this technique for mathematicians unfamiliar with the control theory formalism. We plan to apply this technique to the study of a wide range of traffic active control algorithms. Also it is interesting to compare these results with the previous results obtained for self-oscillation systems with control.

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