

---

# **Error Constants and Steady-State Error**

**ECE 461/661 Controls Systems**

**Jake Glower - Lecture #18**

Please visit [Bison Academy](#) for corresponding  
lecture notes, homework sets, and solutions

---

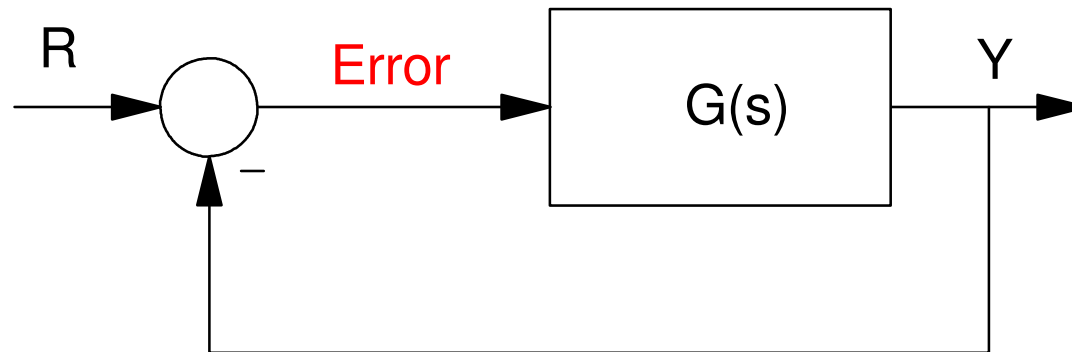
---

## Unity Feedback

- Compare the desired output ( $R = \text{Reference}$ ) to the actual output ( $Y$ )
- Creates an error driven device

Example: Cruise control on a car

- If  $R > Y$  ( $E > 0$ ), accelerate
- If  $R < Y$  ( $E < 0$ ), decelerate
- If  $R = Y$  ( $E = 0$ ), do nothing



---

# Error Constants

What is the steady state error?

- Zero is the goal

What is the steady-state error for

- $R = 1$  (unit step) models tracking a constant set point
- $R = t$  (unit ramp) models tracking a set point with constant velocity
- $R = t^2$  (unit parabola) models tracking a set point with constant acceleration

Error constants attempt to assign a single number to a system

- Bigger is better
  - Large error constants mean small error
-

---

## Definitions:

**Type N System:** The plant,  $G(s)$ , has  $N$  poles at  $s=0$ .

**Error Constants:**  $K_p$ ,  $K_v$ ,  $K_a$ . The DC gain of a plant:

**$K_p$ :** The DC gain of a type-0 system

- $K_p = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} (G(s))$

**$K_v$ :** The DC gain of a type-1 system:

- $K_v = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} (s \cdot G(s))$  or  $\lim_{s \rightarrow 0} (G(s)) = \frac{K_v}{s}$

**$K_a$ :** The DC gain of a type-2 system:

- $K_a = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} (s^2 \cdot G(s))$  or  $\lim_{s \rightarrow 0} (G(s)) = \frac{K_a}{s^2}$

**Steady-State Error:** The error as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  for a unity feedback system

---

---

## Unit Inputs

Unit Step:  $R(s) = \frac{1}{s}$

- Historically modeled trying to point an anti-aircraft gun at a German bomber in WWII.
- Models tracking a constant setpoint, ( room = 72F, speed = 55mph, etc )

Unit Ramp:  $R(s) = \frac{1}{s^2}$

- Historically modeled trying to track a German bomber moving at a constant speed across the sky.
- Models tracking a setpoint which is rising or falling at a constant rate.

Unit Parabola:  $R(s) = \frac{1}{s^3}$

- Historically, models German bombers as they fly over you (the angle of the anti-aircraft gun whips around at the zenith).
  - I'm not sure what this models.
-

---

## Type-0 Systems:

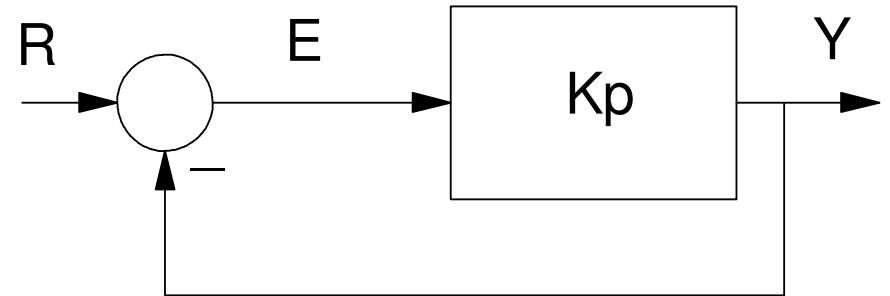
i) if  $R(s)$  is a unit step:

$$E = \left(\frac{1}{K_p+1}\right) \left(\frac{1}{s}\right) \Rightarrow e(t) = \left(\frac{1}{K_p+1}\right)$$

ii) if  $R(s)$  is a unit ramp:

$$E(s) = \left(\frac{1}{K_p+1}\right) \left(\frac{1}{s^2}\right) \Rightarrow e(t) = \left(\frac{1}{K_p+1}\right) t$$

error goes to infinity



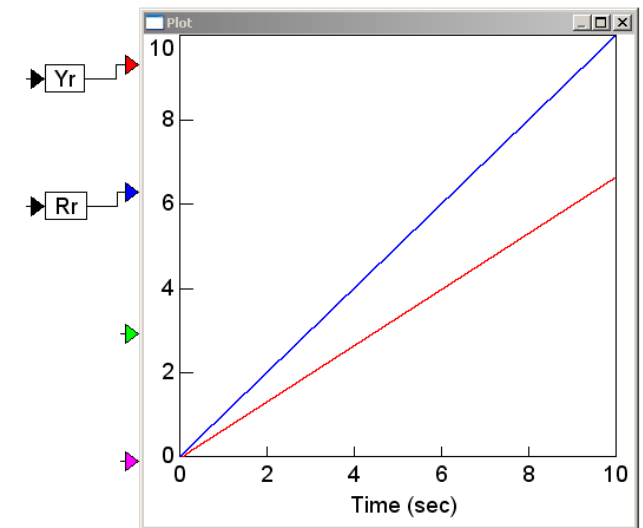
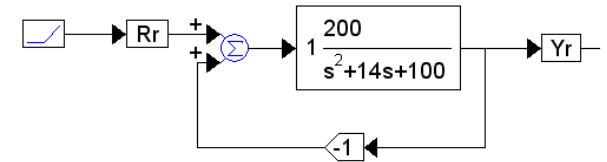
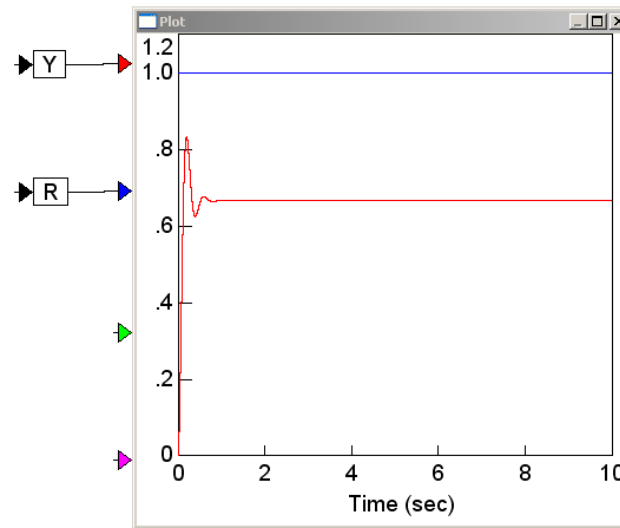
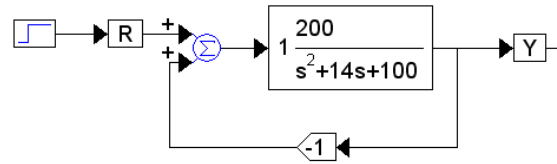
Example:

$$G(s) = \left( \frac{200}{s^2 + 14s + 100} \right)$$

$$K_p = G(s)_{s \rightarrow 0} = 2$$

$$E_{step} = \frac{1}{K_p + 1} = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$E_{ramp} = \infty$$



---

## Type-1 Systems:

i)  $R =$  a unit step:

$$E = \left( \frac{s}{K_v + s} \right) \left( \frac{1}{s} \right) = \left( \frac{0}{s} \right) + \left( \frac{1}{K_v + s} \right)$$

$$e(t) = 0 + \text{transient}$$

ii)  $R =$  a unit ramp:

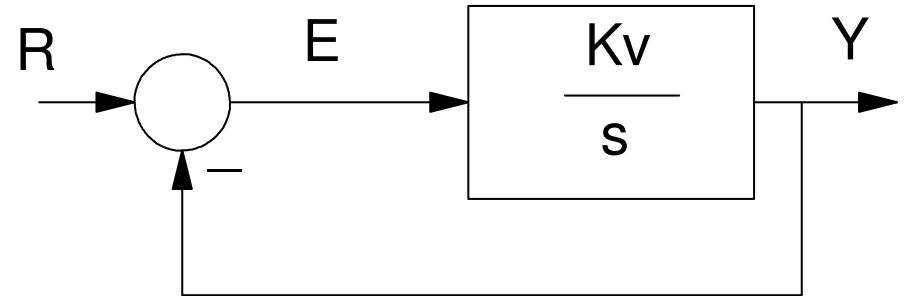
$$E = \left( \frac{s}{K_v + s} \right) \left( \frac{1}{s^2} \right) = \left( \frac{1}{K_v + s} \right) \left( \frac{1}{s} \right) = \left( \frac{\frac{1}{K_v}}{s} \right) + \left( \frac{c}{s + K_v} \right)$$

$$e(t) = \left( \frac{1}{K_v} \right) + \text{transients}$$

iii)  $R =$  a unit parabola:

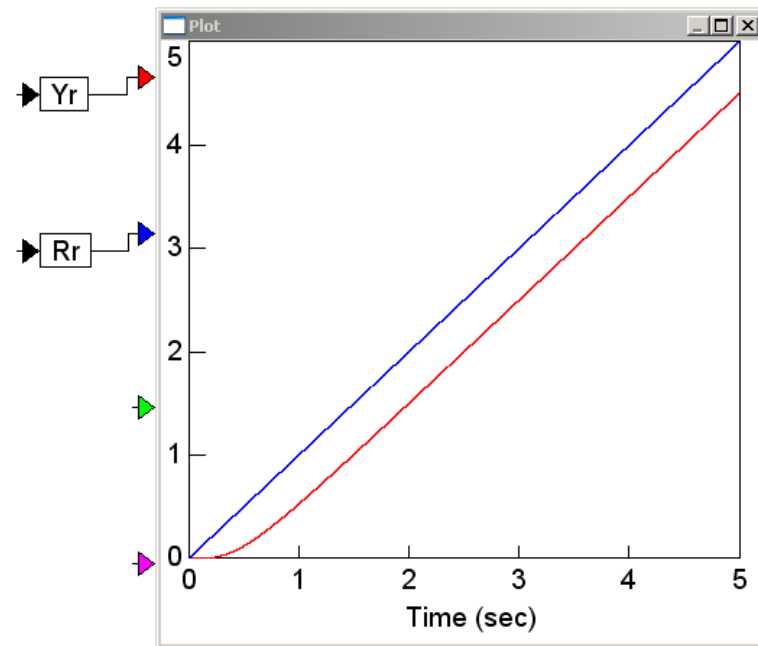
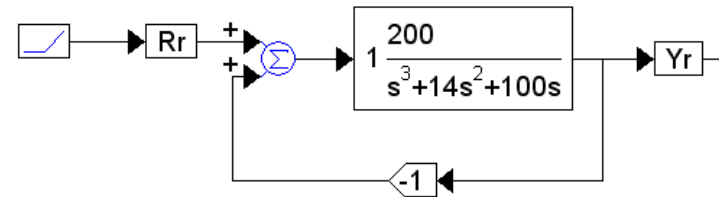
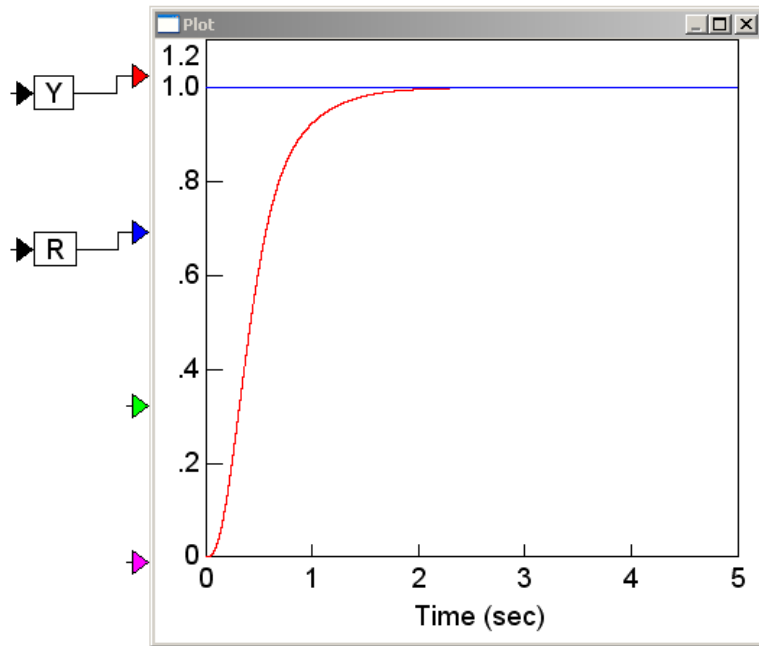
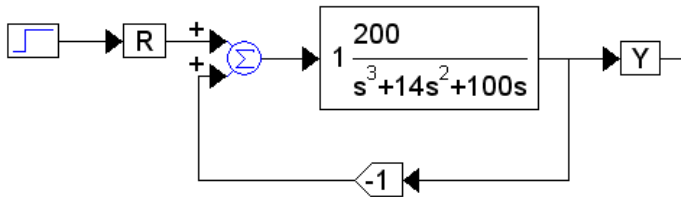
$$E = \left( \frac{s}{K_v + s} \right) \left( \frac{1}{s^3} \right) = \left( \frac{1}{K_v + s} \right) \left( \frac{1}{s^2} \right) = \left( \frac{\frac{1}{K_v}}{s^2} \right) + \left( \frac{c}{s} \right) + \left( \frac{d}{s + K_v} \right)$$

$$e = \left( \frac{1}{K_v} \right) t + \dots$$





Example:  $G(s) = \left( \frac{200}{s(s^2+14s+100)} \right)$      $G(s)_{s \rightarrow 0} = \frac{2}{s}$      $K_p = \infty$      $K_v = 2$



---

## Type-2 systems:

i) If R is a unit step:

$$E = \left( \frac{1}{1 + \frac{K_a}{s^2}} \right) \frac{1}{s} = \left( \frac{s^2}{s^2 + K_a} \right) \frac{1}{s} = 0 + \left( \frac{c}{s^2 + K_a} \right)$$

$$e(t) = 0 + (\text{transients})$$

ii) if R is a unit ramp:

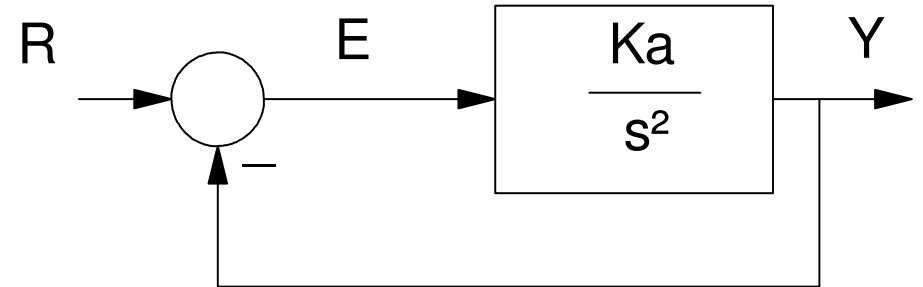
$$E = \left( \frac{s^2}{s^2 + K_a} \right) \frac{1}{s^2} = 0 + \left( \frac{1}{s^2 + K_a} \right)$$

$$e(t) = 0 + (\text{transients})$$

iii) Unit parabola:

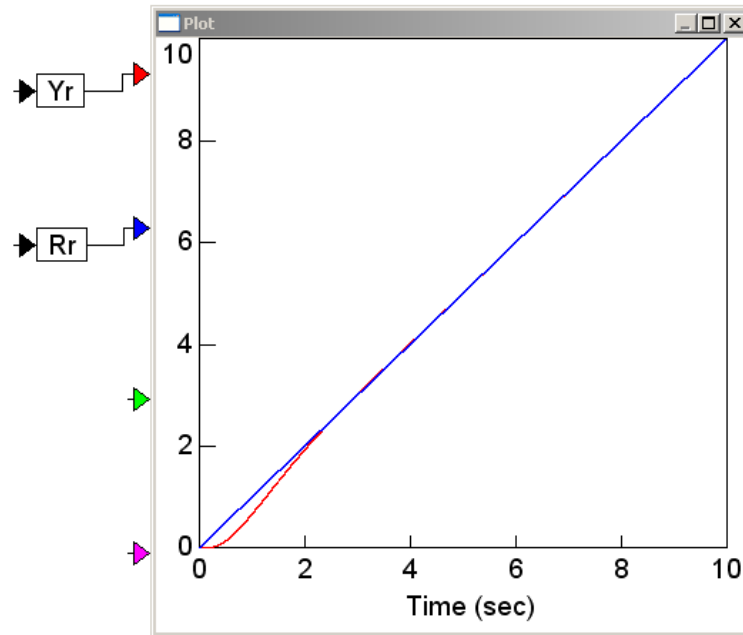
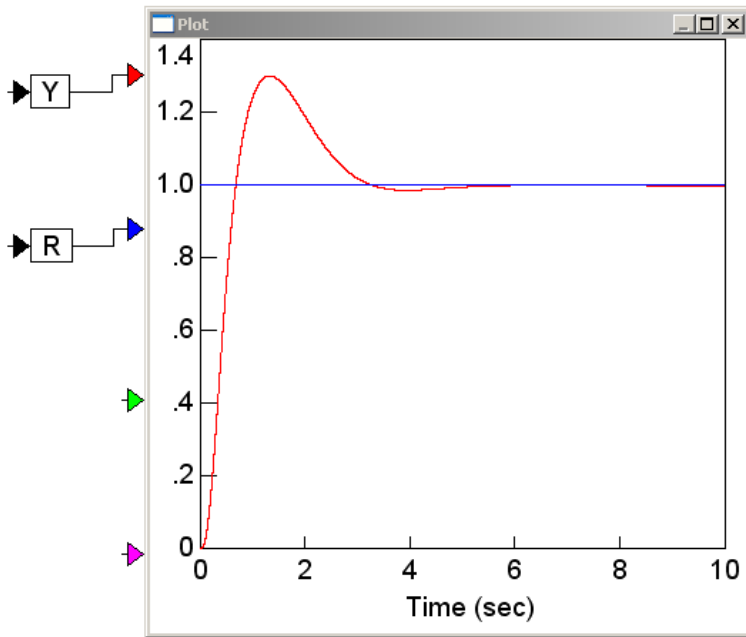
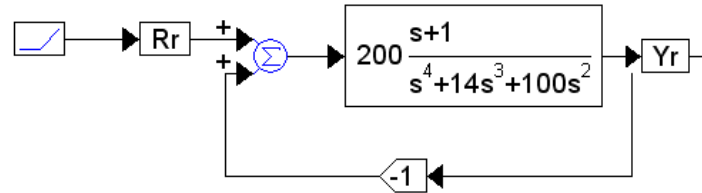
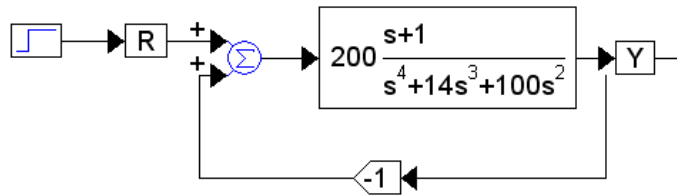
$$E = \left( \frac{s^2}{s^2 + K_a} \right) \frac{1}{s^3} = \left( \frac{\frac{1}{K_a}}{s} \right) + \left( \frac{c}{s^2 + K_a} \right)$$

$$e(t) = \left( \frac{1}{K_a} \right) + \text{transients}$$



Example:  $G(s) = \left( \frac{200(s+1)}{s^2(s^2+14s+100)} \right)$

$$G(s)_{s \rightarrow 0} = \frac{2}{s^2} = \frac{K_a}{s^2}$$



# Handout

Determine the system type, the error constants, and the steady-state error for a step input:

$G(s)$	System Type	$K_p$	$K_v$	Steady-state error for a unit step input
$\left(\frac{200}{(s+3)(s+6)}\right)$				
$\left(\frac{2000}{(s+3+j10)(s+3-j10)(s+20)}\right)$				
$\left(\frac{20}{s(s+3)(s+6)}\right)$				
$\left(\frac{200}{(s-1)(s+5)(s+10)}\right)$				

## Summary:

Computation of Error Constants			
	$K_p$	$K_v$	$K_a$
Type 0	$\lim_{s \rightarrow 0} (G(s))$	0	0
Type 1	$\infty$	$\lim_{s \rightarrow 0} (s \cdot G(s))$	0
Type 2	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\lim_{s \rightarrow 0} (s^2 \cdot G(s))$

Steady-State Error			
	Unit Step	Unit Ramp	Unit Parabola
Type 0	$\left(\frac{1}{K_p+1}\right)$	$\infty$	$\infty$
Type 1	0	$\left(\frac{1}{K_v}\right)$	$\infty$
Type 2	0	0	$\left(\frac{1}{K_a}\right)$