

---

# Meeting Design Specs in the z-plane

**ECE 461/661 Controls Systems**

**Jake Glower - Lecture #33**

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

---

---

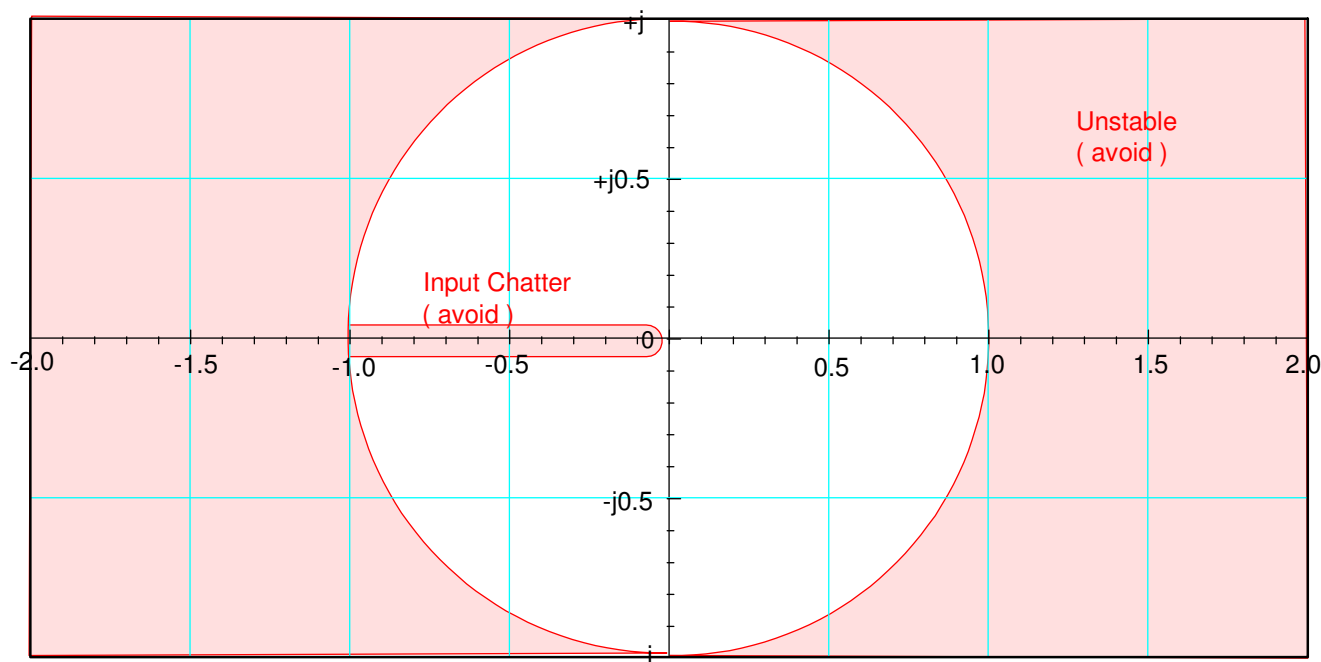
## Meeting Design Specs in the z-plane

Add poles and zeros to  $K(z)$  to meet the design specs.

- Add zeros to cancel slow poles
  - For every zero you add, you need to add a pole
  - One of these poles goes to  $s=0$  ( $z=1$ ) if you need to make the system type-1, and
  - The remaining poles go somewhere out of the way (or are adjusted to meet the design specs).
-

## Things to avoid when designing $K(z)$

- Avoid placing poles outside the unit circle.  
*This results in the open-loop system being unstable*  
*This makes it difficult (sometimes dangerous) to test and debug.*
- Avoid placing poles on the negative real axis (between -1 and 0).  
*This results in chatter ( + / - inputs, changing every sample)*



---

## Design Example

Design a compensator,  $K(z)$ , for the following system

$$G(s) = \left( \frac{50}{(s+1)(s+3)(s+10)} \right)$$

that results in

- No error for a step input,
  - 20% overshoot for a step input, and
  - A 2% settling time of 4 seconds.
-

---

## Method #1: z-Plane Analysis

Pick  $T = 200\text{ms}$ :

- $T_s = 4$  seconds
- $T = 200\text{ms}$  gives 20 samples in 4 seconds

*Enough for the controller to figure out what the input needs to be*

Convert to the z-Plane

$$G(z) \approx \left( \frac{0.1179z}{(z-0.8187)(z-0.5488)(z-0.1353)} \right)$$

The design requirements translate to

- Make the system type-1
- Place the closed-loop dominant pole at  $s = -1 + j2$  (s-plane)
- Place the closed-loop dominant pole at  $z = 0.7541 + j0.3188$

*z-plane found from  $z = e^{sT}$*

---

$$G(z) \approx \left( \frac{0.1179z}{(z-0.8187)(z-0.5488)(z-0.1353)} \right)$$

$$K(z) = k \left( \frac{(z-0.8187)(z-0.5488)}{(z-1)(z-a)} \right)$$

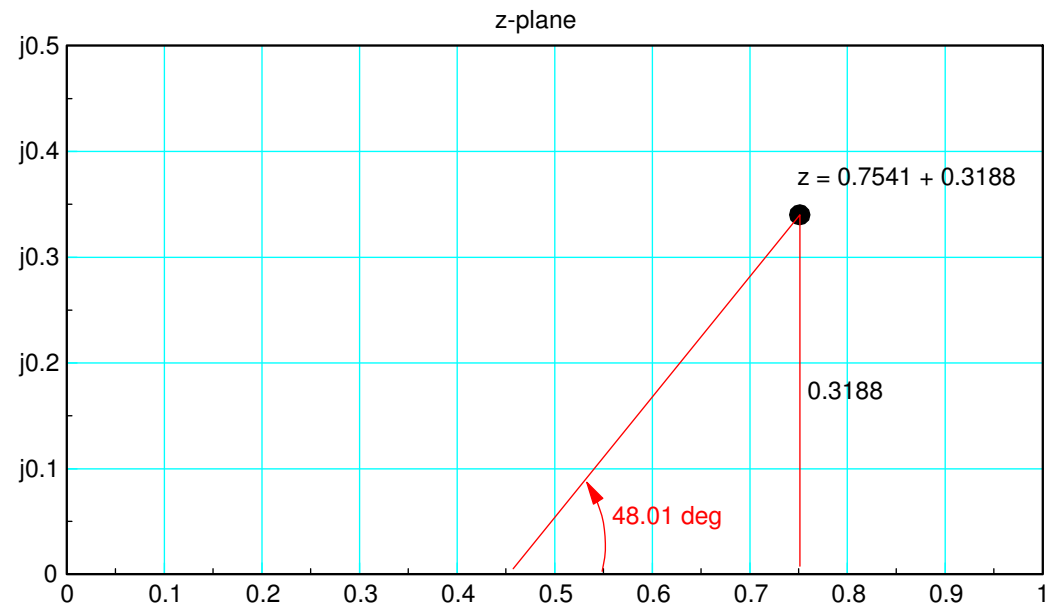
$$GK = \left( \frac{0.1179kz}{(z-1)(z-0.1353)(z-a)} \right)$$

Pick 'a' so that  $0.7541 + j0.3188$  is on the root locus.

$$\left( \frac{0.1179z}{(z-1)(z-0.1353)} \right)_z = 0.3444 \angle -131.98^\circ$$

$$a = 0.7541 - \left( \frac{0.3188}{\tan(48.01^\circ)} \right)$$

$$a = 0.4672$$



---

To find 'k', set  $GK = -1$  at  $z = 0.7541 + j0.3188$

$$GK = \left( \frac{0.1179z}{(z-1)(z-0.4672)(z-0.1353)} \right)_{z=0.7541+j0.3188} = 0.8029 \angle 180^\circ$$

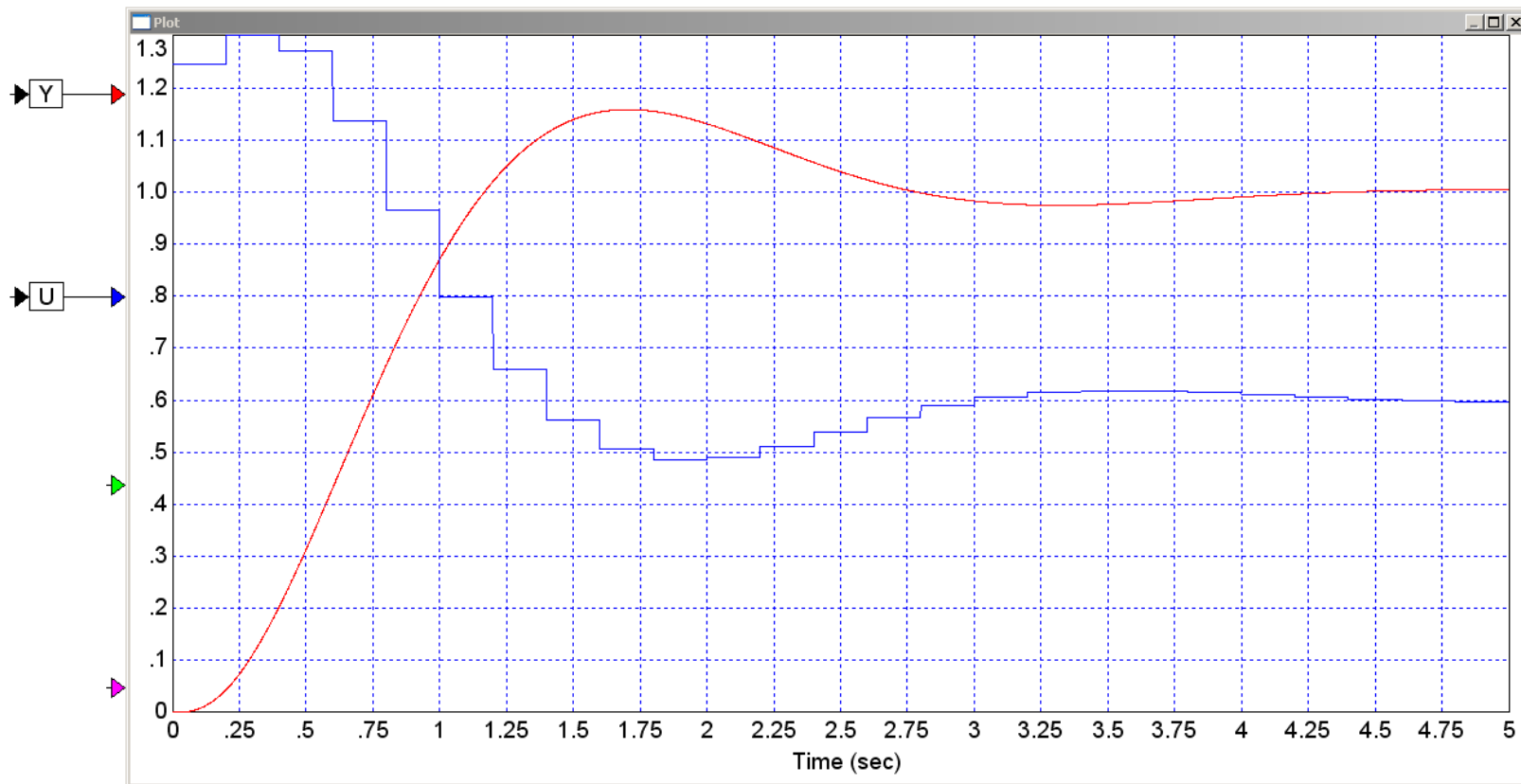
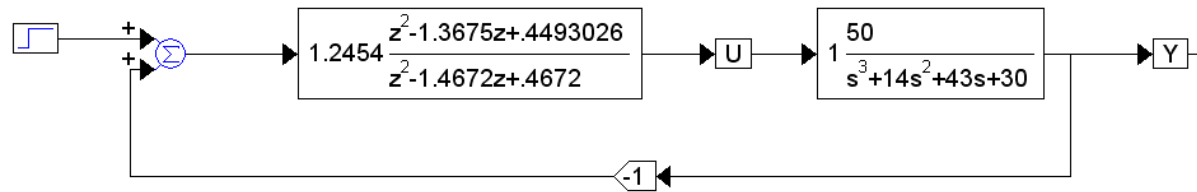
$$k = \frac{1}{0.8029} = 1.2454$$

and

$$K(z) = 1.2454 \left( \frac{(z-0.8187)(z-0.5488)}{(z-1)(z-0.4672)} \right)$$

Checking in VisSim:

- Note that the overshoot is a little off.
  - This is due to the model for  $G(z)$  being slightly off.
  - ( needs 1.55 zeros at  $z=0$  )
-



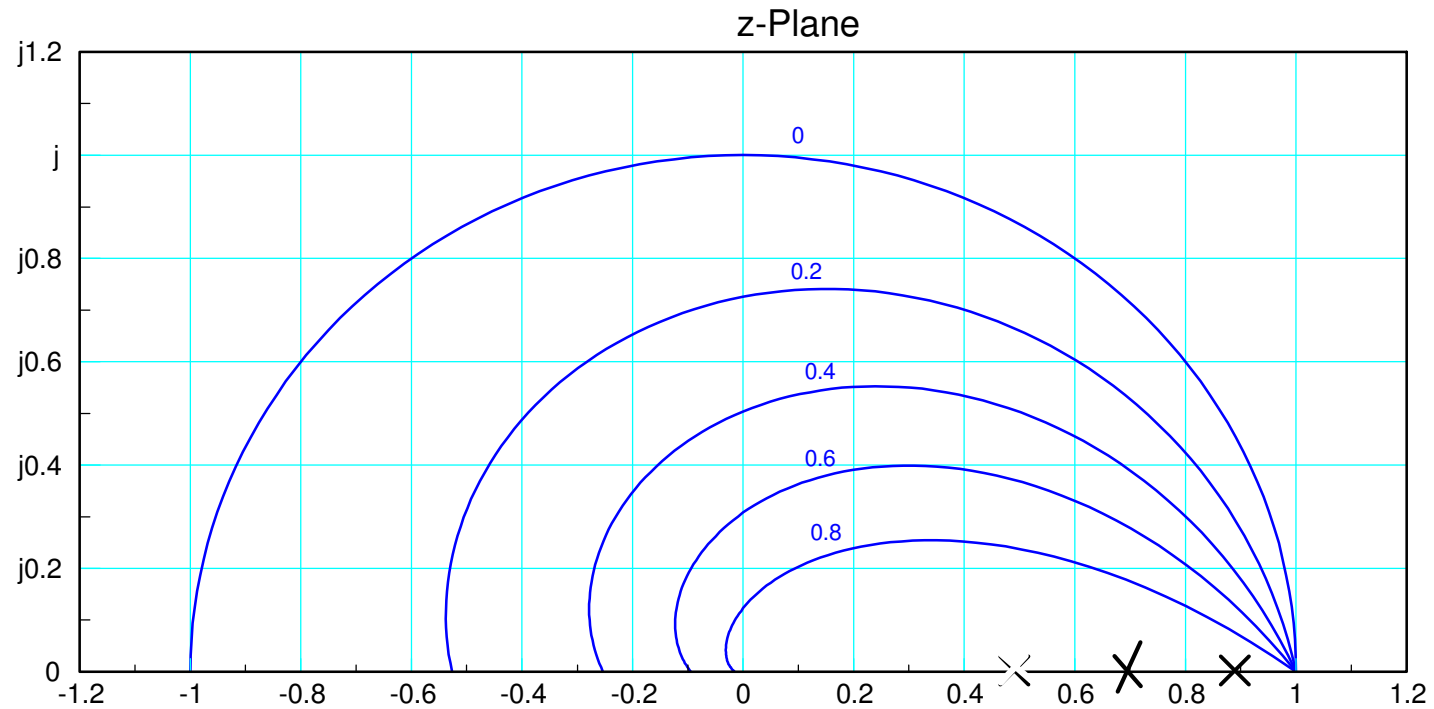


**Handout:** Given the system

$$G(z) = \left( \frac{0.2z}{(z-0.9)(z-0.7)} \right)$$

design a compensator,  $K(z)$ , that results in

- A type-1 system, and
- A closed-loop dominant pole at  $z = 0.6 + j0.4$



---

## Method #2: Mixed Plane Analysis

All we care about is one point

- Point on damping line where angles add up to 180 degrees

You don't really need to sketch the root locus

- All we need is that one point

Analyze the hybrid system:

$$G(s) \cdot \exp\left(\frac{-sT}{2}\right) \cdot K(z)$$

Step 1: Decide where you want to place the closed-loop poles. From before

- $s = -1 + j2$
  - $z = 0.7541 + j0.3188$
-

---

Step 2: Model  $G(s)$  and the zero-order hold (modeled as a 1/2 sample delay)

$$G(s) \cdot ZOH = \left( \frac{50}{(s+1)(s+3)(s+10)} \right) \cdot e^{-sT/2}$$

Step 3: Pick the form of  $K(z)$

$$K(z) = k \left( \frac{(z-0.8187)(z-0.5488)}{(z-1)(z-a)} \right)$$

$$G \cdot K \cdot ZOH = \left( \frac{50}{(s+1)(s+3)(s+10)} \right) \cdot e^{-sT/2} \cdot k \left( \frac{(z-0.8187)(z-0.5488)}{(z-1)(z-a)} \right)$$

Note that the zeros cancel poles

- $s = -1$       $z = 0.8187$
- $s = -3$       $z = 0.5488$



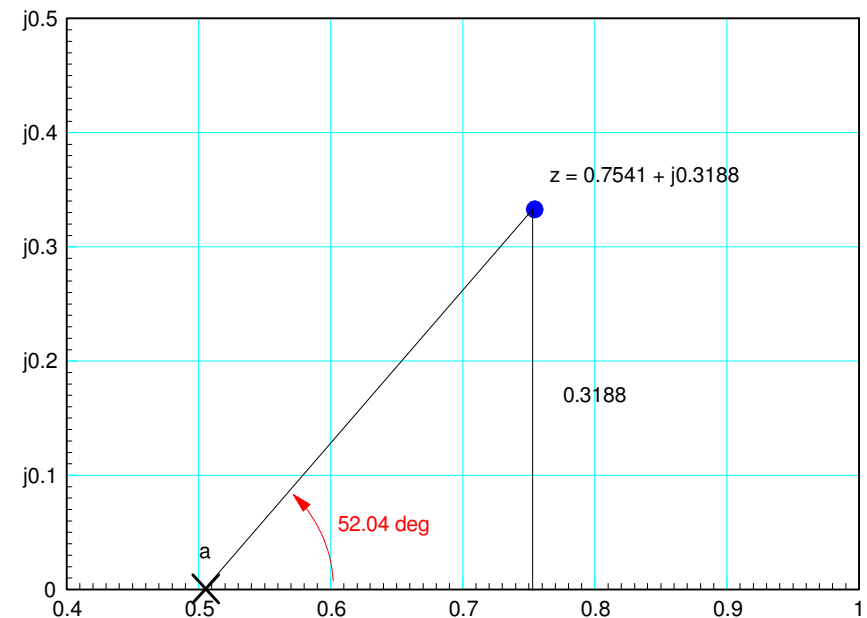
---

To find 'a', evaluate at s (z). Pick 'a' to make the angles add up to 180 degrees

$$\left( \left( \frac{50}{(s+1)(s+3)(s+10)} \right) \cdot e^{-sT/2} \cdot \left( \frac{(z-0.8187)(z-0.5488)}{(z-1)} \right) \right)_{s=-1+j2} =$$
$$= ((0.9587 \angle -147^0) \cdot (0.9048 \angle -11.46^0) \cdot (0.3063 \angle 31.03^0))$$
$$= 0.2657 \angle -127.96^0$$

To make the angle 180 degrees, (z-a)  
contributes 52.04 degrees

$$a = 0.7541 - \left( \frac{0.3188}{\tan(52.04^0)} \right) = 0.5054$$



---

This results in

$$K(z) = k \left( \frac{(z-0.8187)(z-0.5488)}{(z-1)(z-0.5054)} \right)$$

To find 'k'

$$\left( \left( \frac{50}{(s+1)(s+3)(s+10)} \right) \cdot e^{-sT/2} \cdot \left( \frac{(z-0.8187)(z-0.5488)}{(z-1)(z-0.5054)} \right) \right)_{s=-1+j2} = 0.8028 \angle 180^\circ$$

so

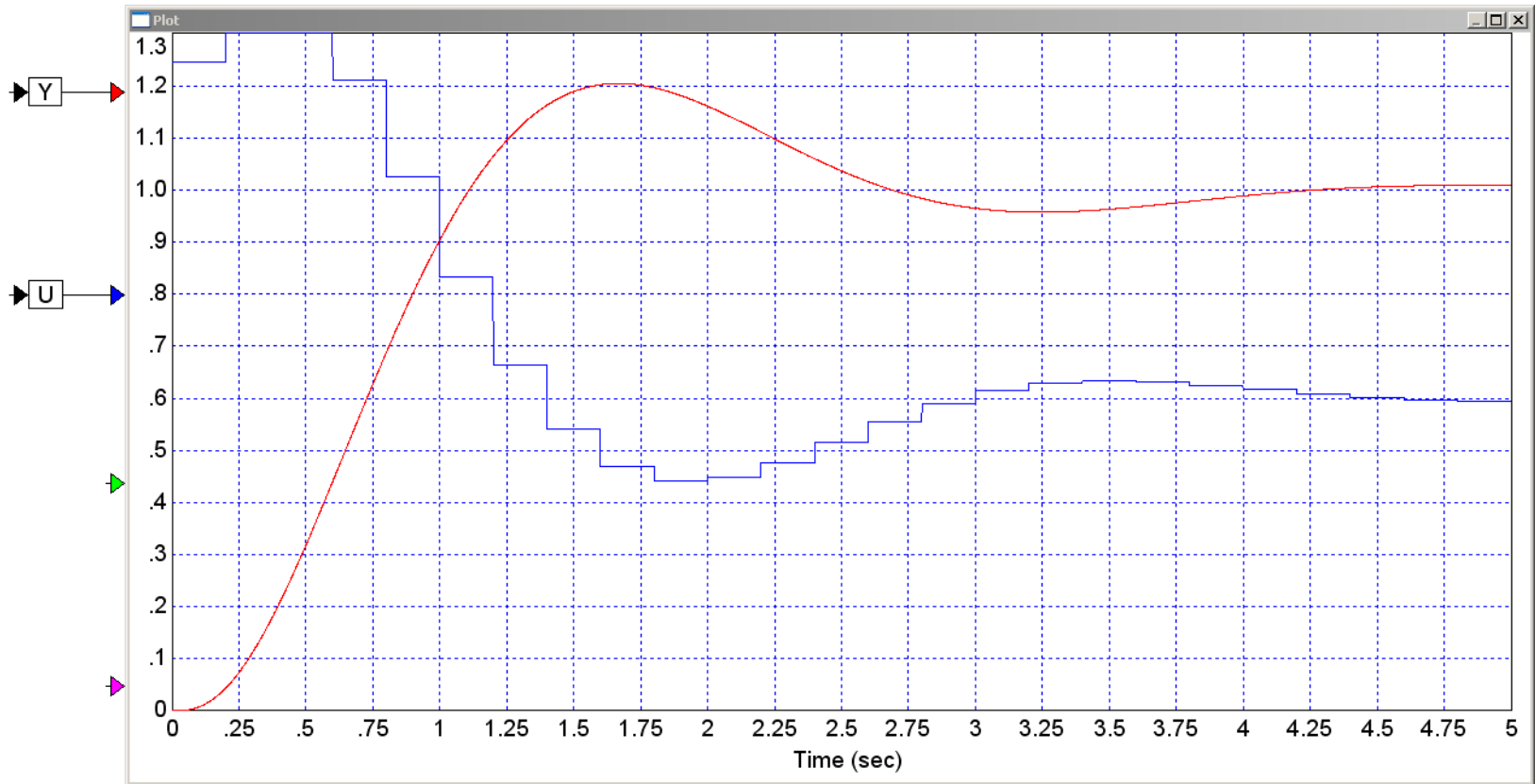
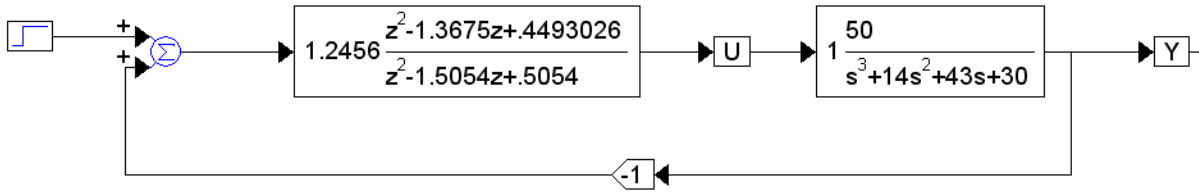
$$k = \frac{1}{0.8028}$$

and

$$K(z) = 1.2456 \left( \frac{(z-0.8187)(z-0.5488)}{(z-1)(z-0.5054)} \right)$$

Checking in VisSim:

- The overshoot is closer to 20%
  - No s to z conversion (and resulting errors)
-



---

## Summary:

Designing  $K(z)$  to meet the design specs is similar to the design in the s-plane

- Add a pole at  $s=0$  ( $z=1$ ) to make the system type-1 if needed
- Start cancelling poles with zeros to speed up the system
- Once the system is too fast, start adding poles so that

*The number of poles equals the number of zeros, and*

*$G(z)*K(z) = -1$  at the design point, or*

*$G(s)*zoh*K(z) = -1$  at the design point*

