

Checking for Stability?

Consider a general transfer function:

$$H(s) = \frac{q(s)}{p(s)}$$

where q and p are polynomials, and $\deg(q) \leq \deg(p)$.

We need tools for checking stability: whether or not all roots of $p(s) = 0$ lie in OLHP.

For simple polynomials, can just factor them “by inspection” and find roots.

Now, this is hard to do for high-degree polynomials — it’s computationally intensive, especially symbolically.

But: often we *don’t need to know* precise pole locations, just need to know that they are **strictly stable**.