



ELEC 341: Systems and Control

Lecture 11

Root locus: Introduction

Course roadmap

Modeling

- ✓ Laplace transform
- ✓ Transfer function
- Models for systems
 - ✓ • Electrical
 - ✓ • Electromechanical
 - ✓ • Mechanical
- ✓ Linearization, delay

Analysis

- ✓ Stability
 - ✓ • Routh-Hurwitz
 - Nyquist
- ⇨ ✓ Time response
 - ✓ • Transient
 - ✓ • Steady state
- Frequency response
 - Bode plot

Design

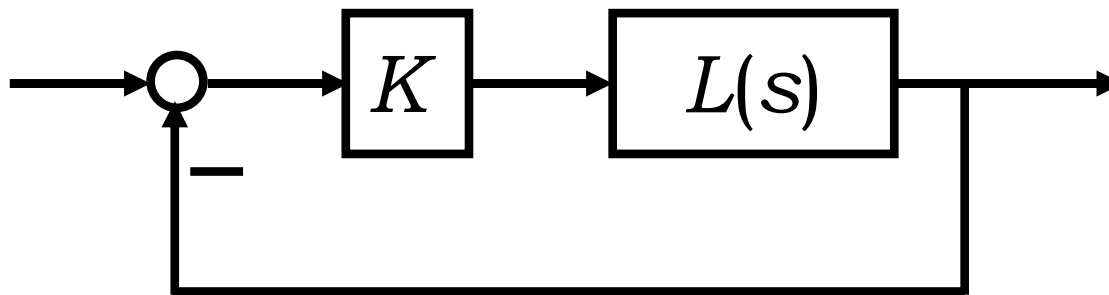
- ➔ Root locus
- Frequency domain
- PID & Lead-lag
- Design examples

Matlab simulations



What is Root Locus?

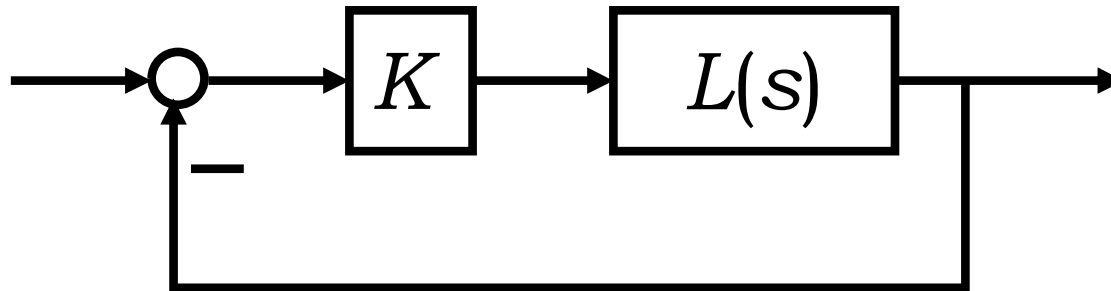
- *Pole locations* of the system characterizes **stability** and **transient properties**.
- Consider a feedback system that has one parameter (gain) $K > 0$ to be designed:



$K.L(s)$: open-loop TF

- *Root locus* (RL) graphically shows how poles of CL system vary as K varies from 0 to infinity.

Example 1



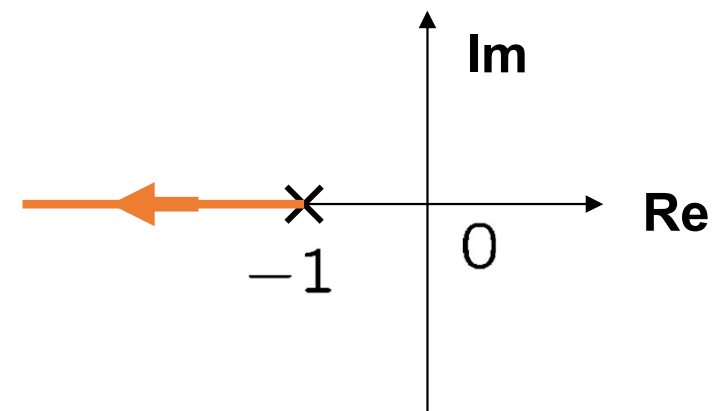
$$L(s) = \frac{1}{s + 1}$$

- Characteristic eq. $1 + K \frac{1}{s + 1} = 0$

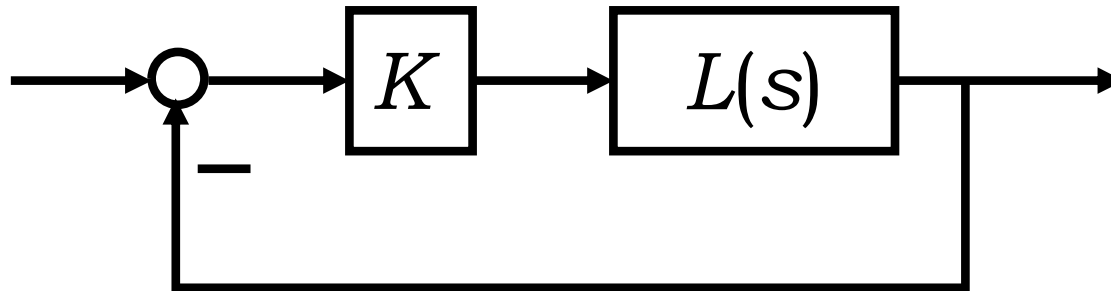
Closed-loop poles

$$\Rightarrow s + 1 + K = 0 \quad \Rightarrow s = -1 - K$$

- $K = 0$: $s = -1$
- $K = 1$: $s = -2$
- $K = 2$: $s = -3$, etc.



Example 2



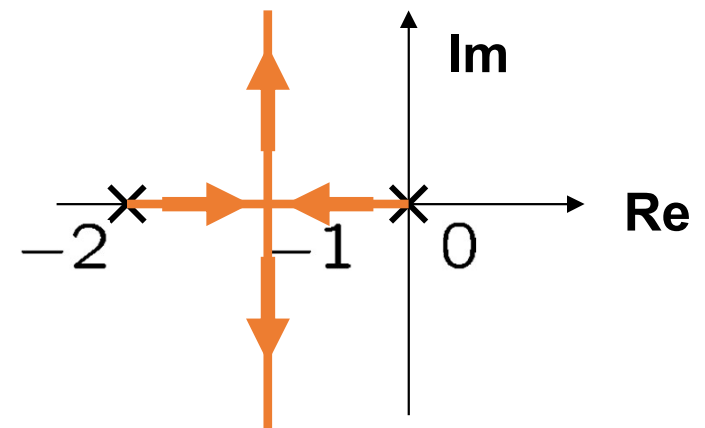
$$L(s) = \frac{1}{s(s+2)}$$

- Characteristic eq. $1 + K \frac{1}{s(s+2)} = 0$

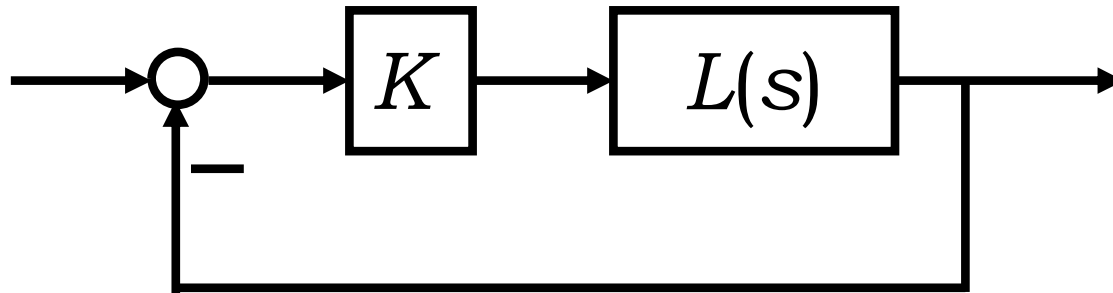
Closed-loop poles

$$\Rightarrow s^2 + 2s + K = 0 \Rightarrow s = -1 \pm \sqrt{1 - K}$$

- $K = 0$: $s = 0, -2$
- $K = 1$: $s = -1, -1$
- $K > 1$: complex roots (numbers)



Example 3



$$L(s) = \frac{s + 1}{s(s + 2)(s + 3)}$$

- Characteristic eq. $1 + K \frac{s + 1}{s(s + 2)(s + 3)} = 0$

$$\Rightarrow s(s + 2)(s + 3) + K(s + 1) = 0 \Rightarrow s = ???$$

- It is hard to solve this analytically for each K .
- Is there some way to **sketch roughly and quickly** root locus by hand?

Example 3 (cont'd): Root locus sketching

- **Step 0:** Mark open-loop poles and zeros
- **Step 1:** On the real axis (also called real-axis segments)
- **Step 2:** Asymptotes
- **Step 3:** Breakaway points
- **Step 4:** Angles of departures and arrivals

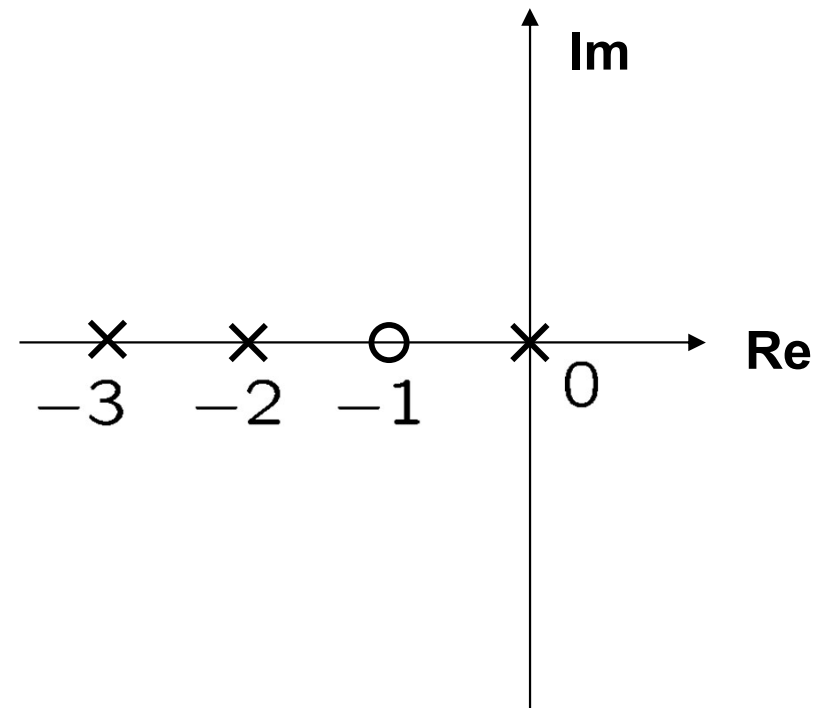
Note: For your tests, there is no need to draw your graphs to scale. Please, just show the trend of variation.

Example 3 (cont'd)

Root locus: Step 0

- Mark poles of $L(s)$ with “x” and zeros of $L(s)$ with “o”.
- Root locus is symmetric w.r.t. the real axis.
- The number of branches that go to infinity = # of poles - # of zeros
- The total number of branches = order of $L(s)$

$$L(s) = \frac{s + 1}{s(s + 2)(s + 3)}$$



Note: In most engineering designs, the total number of branches (or the order of $L(s)$) is equal to the number of poles.

Example 3 (cont'd): Root locus sketching

- **Step 0:** Mark open-loop poles and zeros
- **Step 1:** On the real axis
- **Step 2:** Asymptotes
- **Step 3:** Breakaway points
- **Step 4:** Angles of departures and arrivals

Example 3 (cont'd)

Root locus: Step 1 (On the real axis)

- *RL includes all points on real axis to the **left of an odd number** of roots (poles and zeros of $L(s)$).*
- *RL originates from the poles of $L(s)$ and terminates at the zeros of $L(s)$, including **infinity zeros**.*

How to count the number of infinity zeros of $L(s)$:

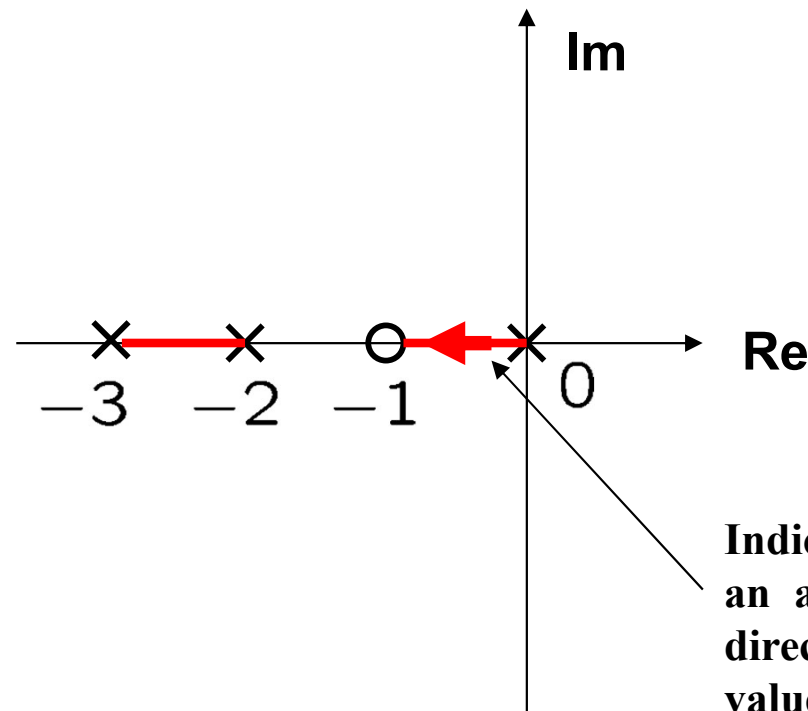
Let us say we have:

#Z = number of finite zeros of $L(s)$

#P = number of finite poles of $L(s)$

Case 1: If you DO see some finite zeros in $L(s)$, then the number of zeros at infinity is equal to $\#P - \#Z$.

Case 2: If you DO NOT see any finite zeros in $L(s)$, i.e., $\#Z = 0$, then the number of infinity zeros is equal to $\#P$.



Indicate the direction with an arrowhead. This is the direction of increase in the value of K .

Example 3 (cont'd): Root locus sketching

- **Step 0:** Mark open-loop poles and zeros
- **Step 1:** On the real axis
- **Step 2:** Asymptotes (i.e., lines to which root locus converges)
- **Step 3:** Breakaway points
- **Step 4:** Angles of departures and arrivals

Example 3 (cont'd)

Root locus: Step 2 (Asymptotes)

- Number of asymptotes = relative degree (r) of $L(s)$:

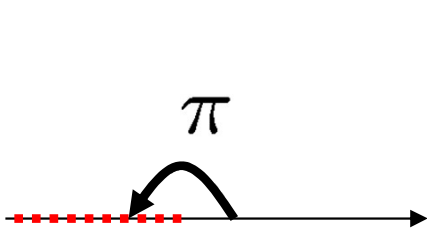
$$r = \underbrace{n}_{\text{deg}(\text{den})} - \underbrace{m}_{\text{deg}(\text{num})}$$

- Angles of asymptotes are

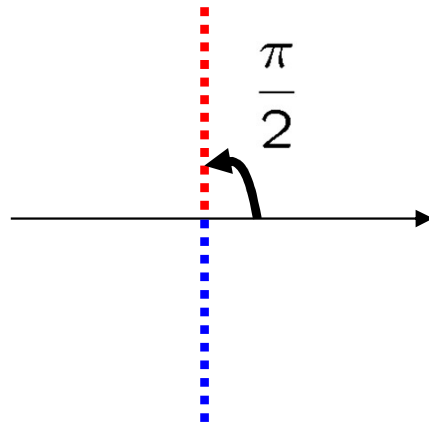
$$\frac{\pi}{r} \times (2k + 1), \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, (r - 1)$$

Odd number

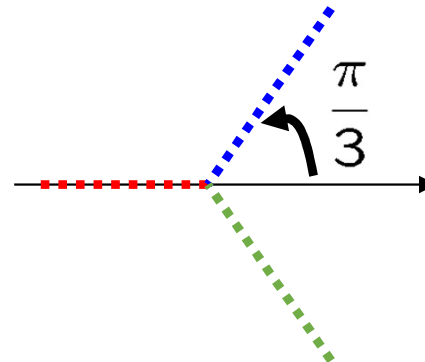
$$r = 1$$



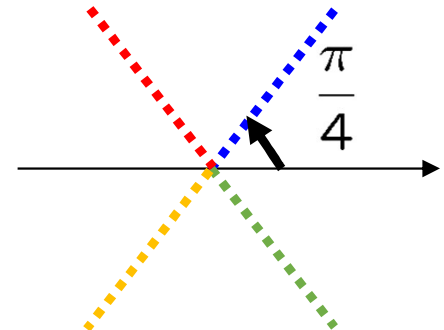
$$r = 2$$



$$r = 3$$



$$r = 4$$



Note:

number of asymptotes = r = number of branches that will go to infinity = number of infinity zeros = $\#P - \#Z$

Example 3 (cont'd)

Root locus: Step 2 (Asymptotes)

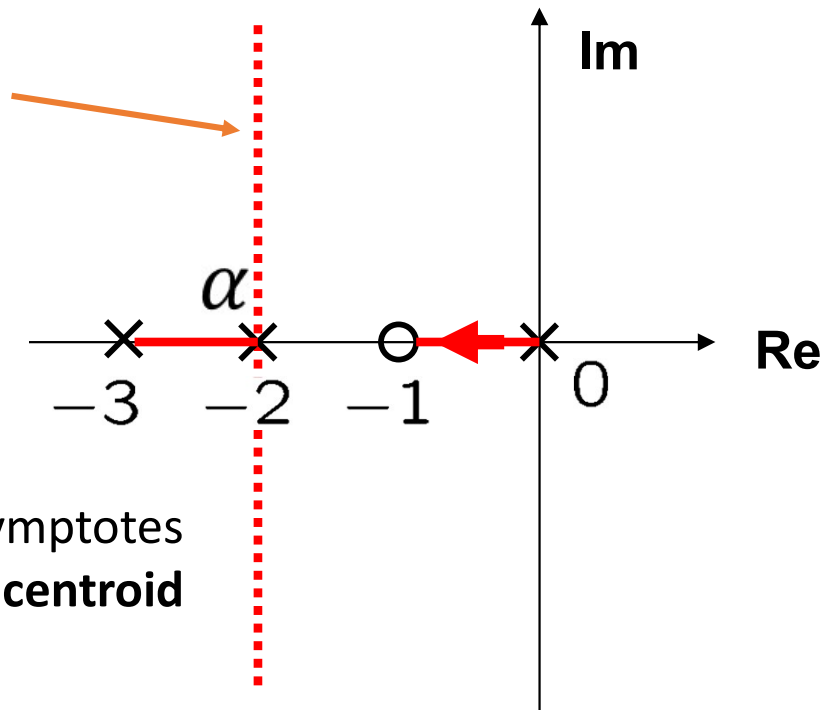
- Intersections of asymptotes* $\alpha = \frac{\sum \text{pole} - \sum \text{zero}}{r}$

$$L(s) = \frac{s+1}{s(s+2)(s+3)} \rightarrow \frac{\sum \text{pole} - \sum \text{zero}}{r} = \frac{(0 + (-2) + (-3)) - (-1)}{2} = -2$$

↓

$$\alpha = -2$$

Asymptotes
(Not root locus)



The intersection point of asymptotes on the real axis is known as **centroid** (shown by α).

Example 3 (cont'd): Root locus sketching

- **Step 0:** Mark open-loop poles and zeros
- **Step 1:** On the real axis
- **Step 2:** Asymptotes
- **Step 3:** Breakaway points
- **Step 4:** Angles of departures and arrivals

Breakaway points (BAP) are the points where two or more branches meet on the real axis and then break away.

Example 3 (cont'd)

Root locus: Step 3

- Breakaway points are among roots of $\frac{dL(s)}{ds} = 0$

$$L(s) = \frac{s+1}{s(s+2)(s+3)} \rightarrow \frac{dL(s)}{ds} = -2 \frac{s^3 + 4s^2 + 5s + 3}{(s(s+2)(s+3))^2} = 0$$

BAP (break-away point)

$$\rightarrow s = -2.4656, -0.7672 \pm 0.7926i$$

For each candidate s , check the positivity of $K = -\frac{1}{L(s)}$

$$\rightarrow K = +0.4186$$

K value corresponding to the BAP

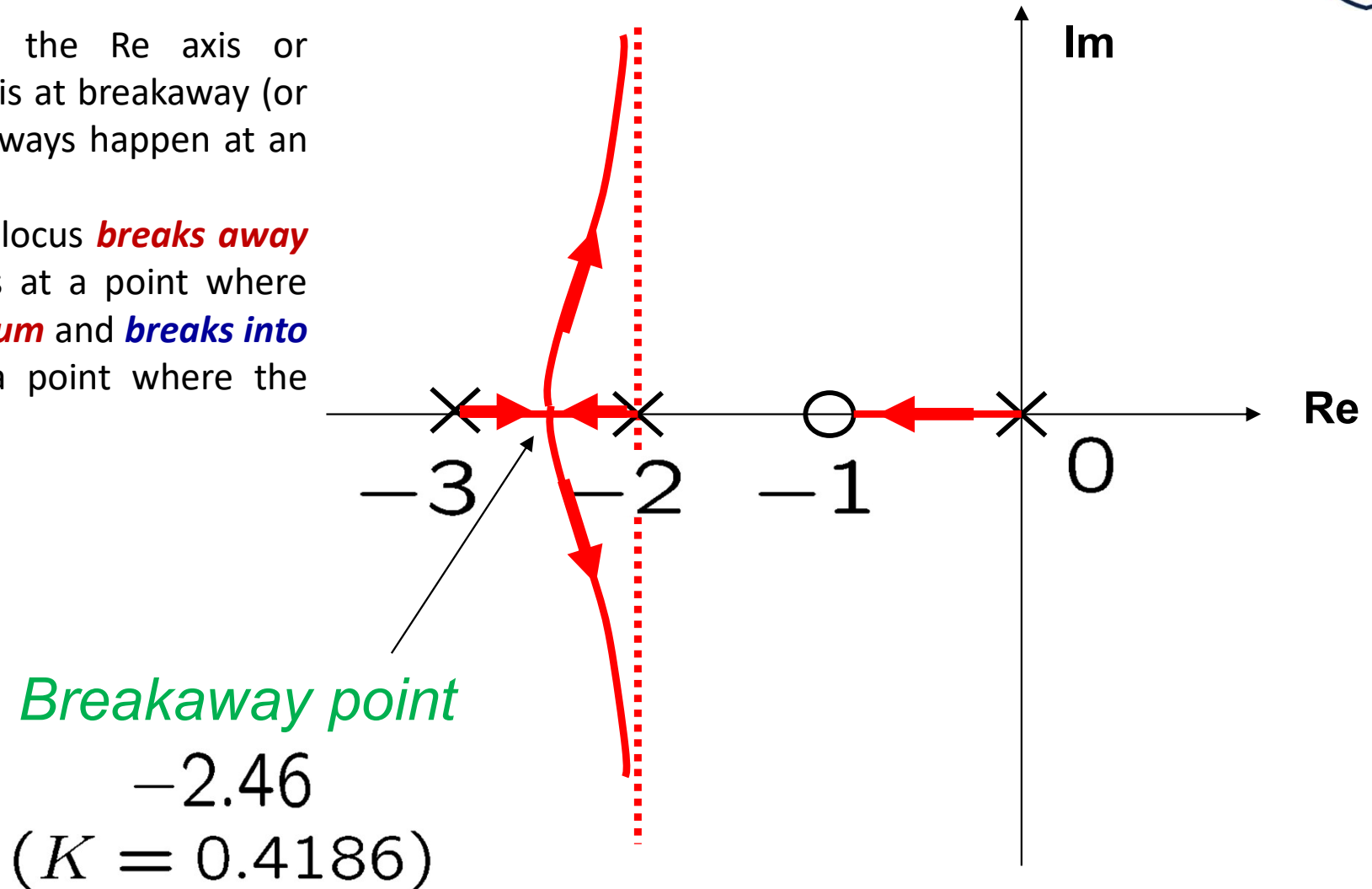
↑
Positivity Test

Example 3 (cont'd)

Root locus: Step 3

Note 1: Leaving the Re axis or entering the Re axis at breakaway (or break-in) points always happen at an angle of 90° .

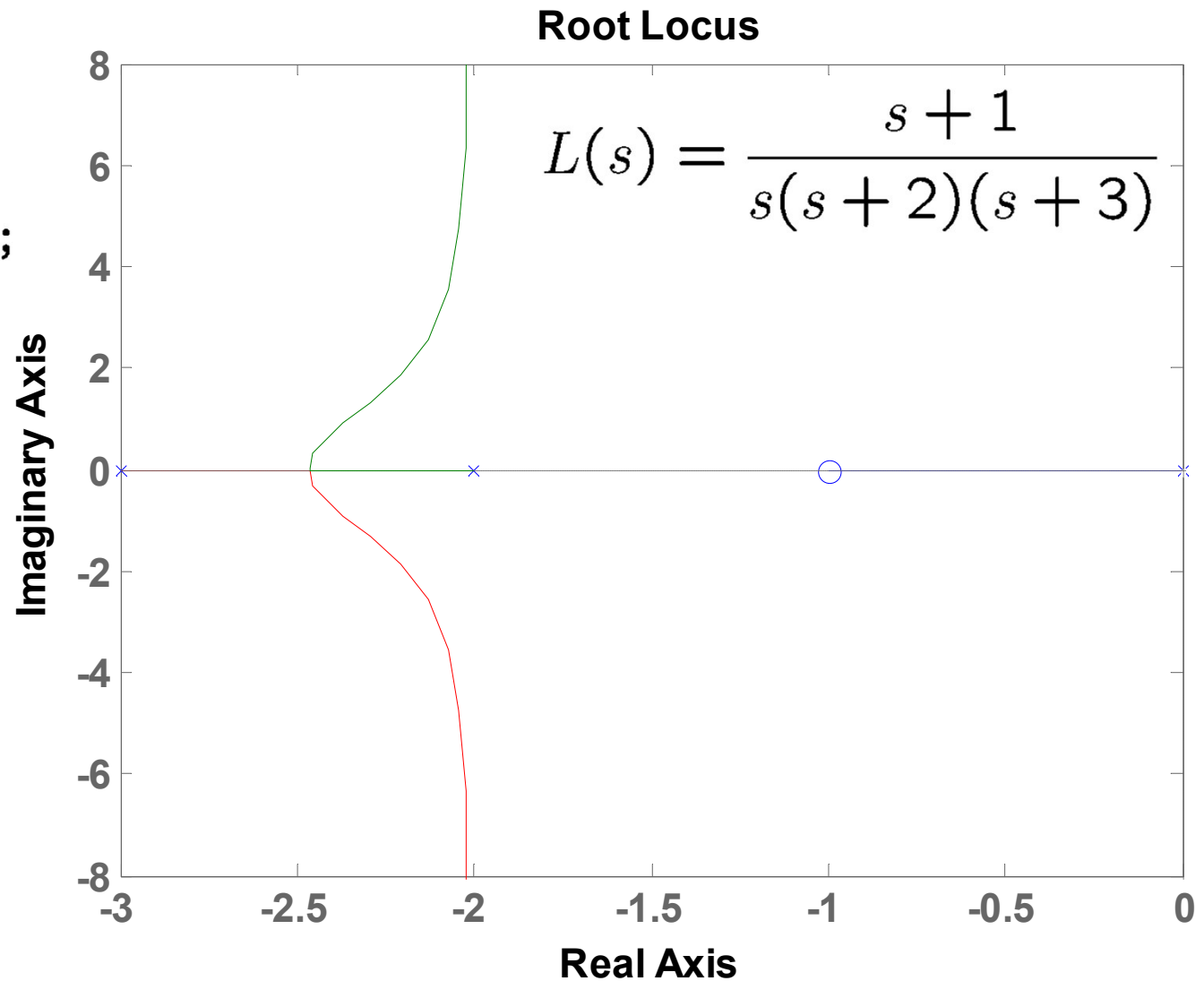
Note 2: The root locus *breaks away* from the real axis at a point where the *gain is maximum* and *breaks into* the real axis at a point where the *gain is minimum*.



Example 3 (cont'd)

Matlab command “rlocus”

```
num=[1 1];  
den=[1 5 6 0];  
sys=tf(num,den);  
rlocus(sys)
```



Example 3 (cont'd)

Root locus: Step 3

Find the number of root locus branches (as a prediction):

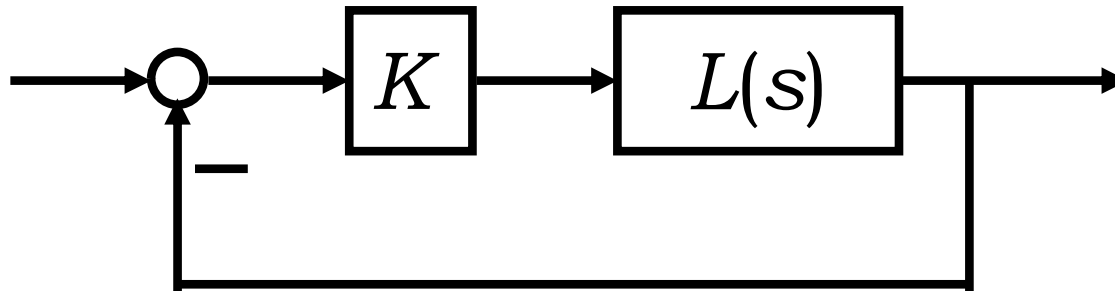
- We know that the root locus branches start at the open loop poles and end at open loop zeros. So, the number of root locus branches N_b is equal to the number of finite open loop poles $\#P$ or the number of finite open loop zeros $\#Z$, whichever is greater.
- Mathematically, we can write the number of root locus branches N_b as:

$$\text{If } \#P \geq \#Z \rightarrow N_b = \#P$$

$$\text{If } \#P < \#Z \rightarrow N_b = \#Z$$

- In this example, $\#P = 3$, $\#Z = 1$.
- So, $\#P \geq \#Z \rightarrow N_b = \#P = 3 = \text{Number of branches}$.

Example 4

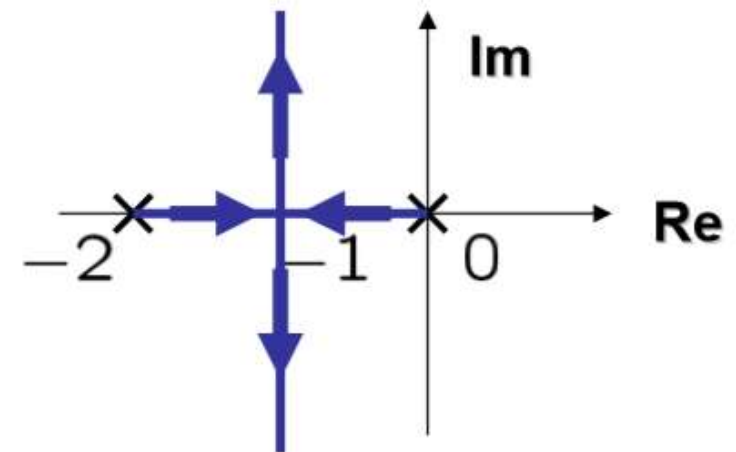


$$L(s) = \frac{1}{s(s+2)}$$

- Asymptotes:

- Relative degree: $r = 2$

- Intersection: $\frac{0 + (-2)}{2} = -1$



- Breakaway point:

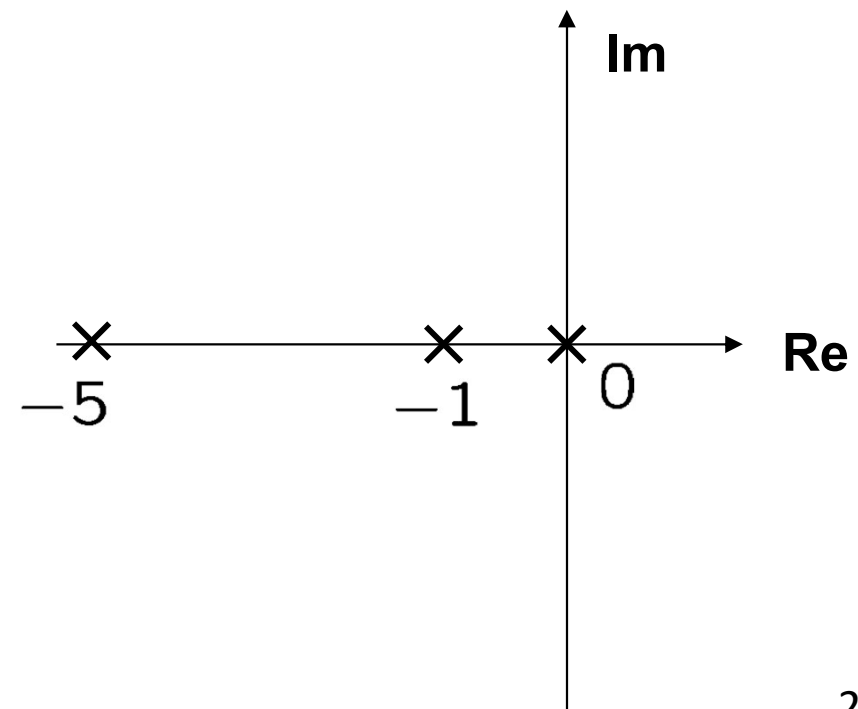
$$L'(s) = \frac{-(2s+2)}{s^2(s+2)^2} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad s = -1$$

Example 5

Root locus: Step 0

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

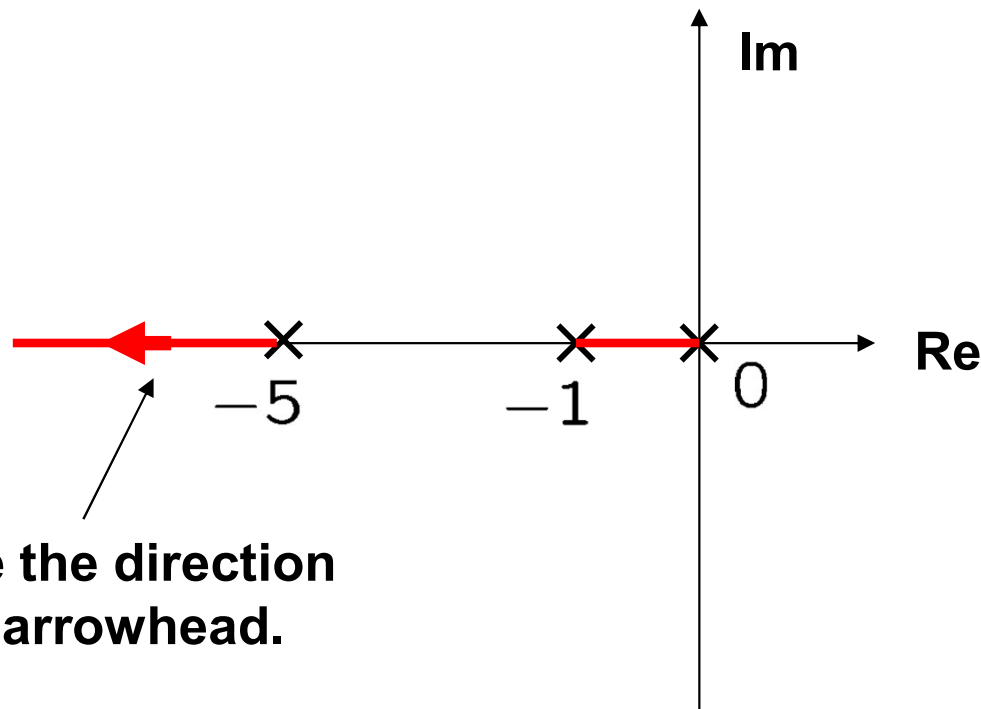
- Mark poles of L with “x” and zeros of L with “o”.
- Root locus is symmetric w.r.t. the real axis.
- The total number of branches = order of $L(s)$



Example 5 (cont'd)

Root locus: Step 1 (Real axis)

- *RL includes all points on real axis to the left of an odd number of roots (poles and zeros).*
- *RL originates from the poles of L and terminates at the zeros of L , including infinity zeros.*



Indicate the direction
with an arrowhead.

Example 5 (cont'd)

Root locus: Step 2 (Asymptotes)

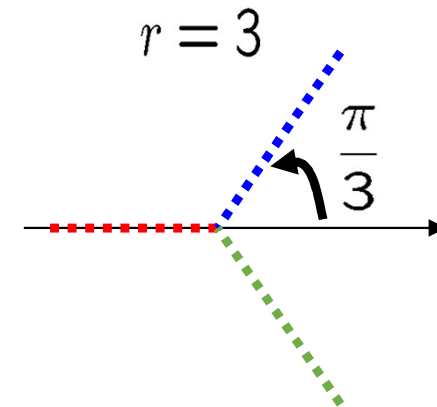
- *Number of asymptotes = relative degree (r) of L :*

$$r = \deg(\text{den}) - \deg(\text{num})$$

- *Angles of asymptotes are*

$$\frac{\pi}{r} \times (2k + 1), \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, (r - 1)$$

$$L(s) = \frac{1}{s(s+1)(s+5)} \quad \Rightarrow \quad r = 3 - 0 = 3 \quad \Rightarrow$$

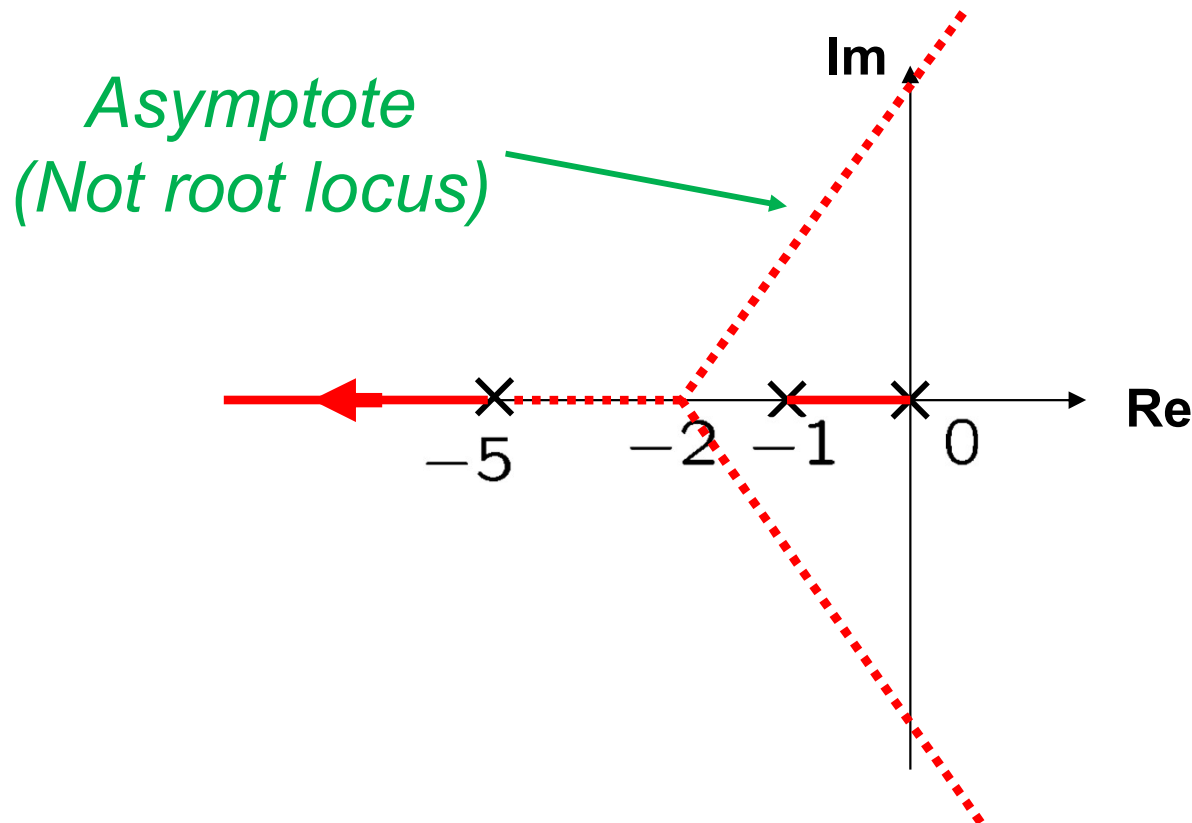


Example 5 (cont'd)

Root locus: Step 2 (Asymptotes)

- *Intersections of asymptotes* $\alpha = \frac{\sum \text{pole} - \sum \text{zero}}{r}$

$$L(s) = \frac{1}{s(s+1)(s+5)} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \alpha = \frac{\sum \text{pole} - \sum \text{zero}}{r} = \frac{0 + (-1) + (-5)}{3} = -2$$



Example 5 (cont'd)

Root locus: Step 3 (Breakaway)

- Breakaway points are among roots of $\frac{dL(s)}{ds} = 0$

$$L(s) = \frac{1}{s(s+1)(s+5)} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{dL(s)}{ds} = -\frac{3s^2 + 12s + 5}{(s(s+1)(s+5))^2} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow s = -2 \pm \frac{\sqrt{21}}{3}$$

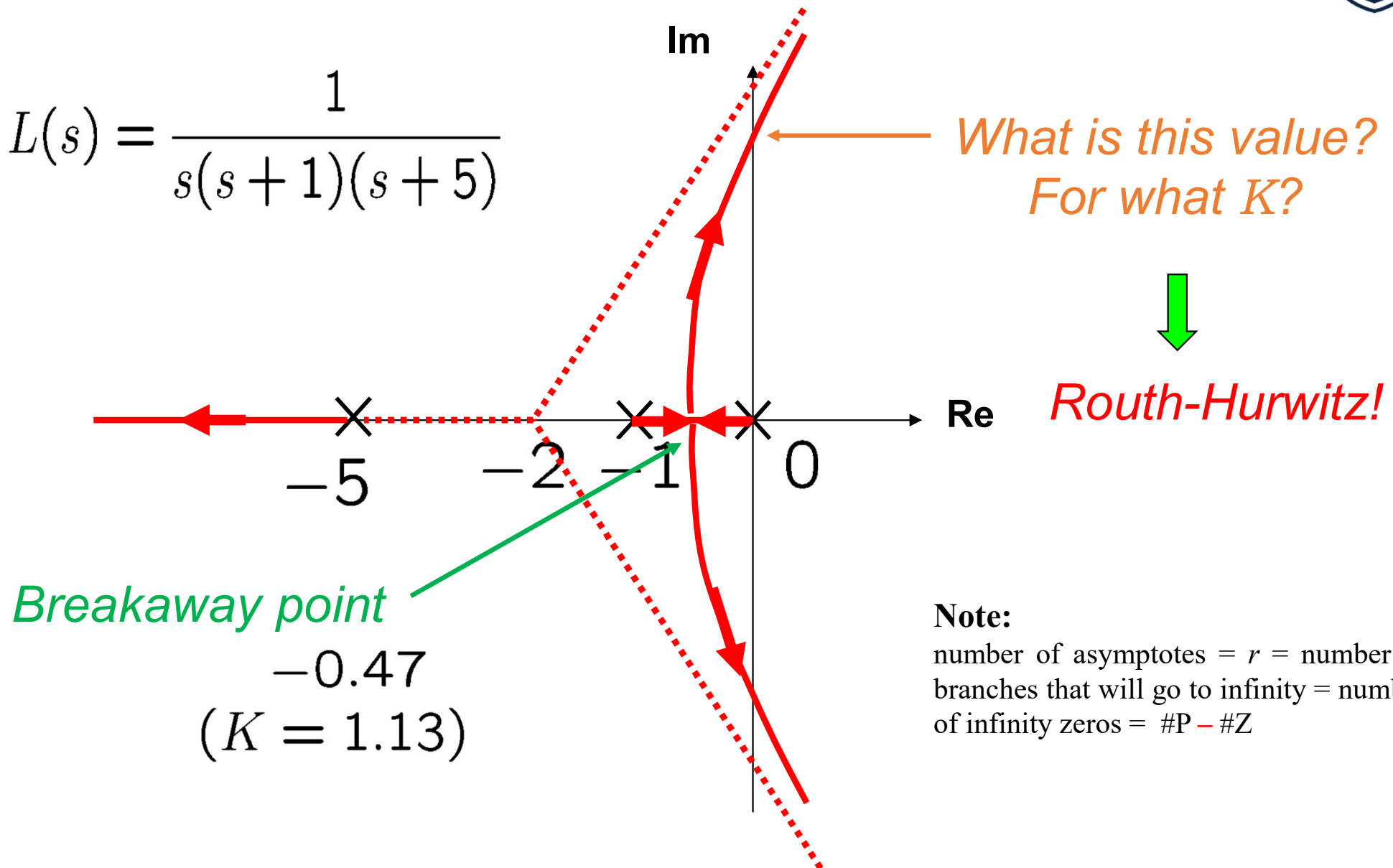
For each candidate s , check the positivity of $K = -\frac{1}{L(s)}$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} s = -2 + \frac{\sqrt{21}}{3} \approx -0.47 \Rightarrow K \approx 1.13 \\ s = -2 - \frac{\sqrt{21}}{3} \approx -3.52 \Rightarrow K \approx -13.1 \end{cases}$$

Example 5 (cont'd)

Root locus: Step 3 (Breakaway)

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



Note:

number of asymptotes = r = number of
 branches that will go to infinity = number
 of infinity zeros = $\#P - \#Z$

Example 5 (cont'd)

Finding stability condition for the range of K

- Characteristic equation:

$$1 + \frac{K}{s(s+1)(s+5)} = 0 \Leftrightarrow s^3 + 6s^2 + 5s + K = 0$$

- Routh array:
- | | | |
|-------|------------------|-----|
| s^3 | 1 | 5 |
| s^2 | 6 | K |
| s^1 | $\frac{30-K}{6}$ | |
| s^0 | K | |

Stability condition

$$0 < K < 30$$

- When $K = 30$

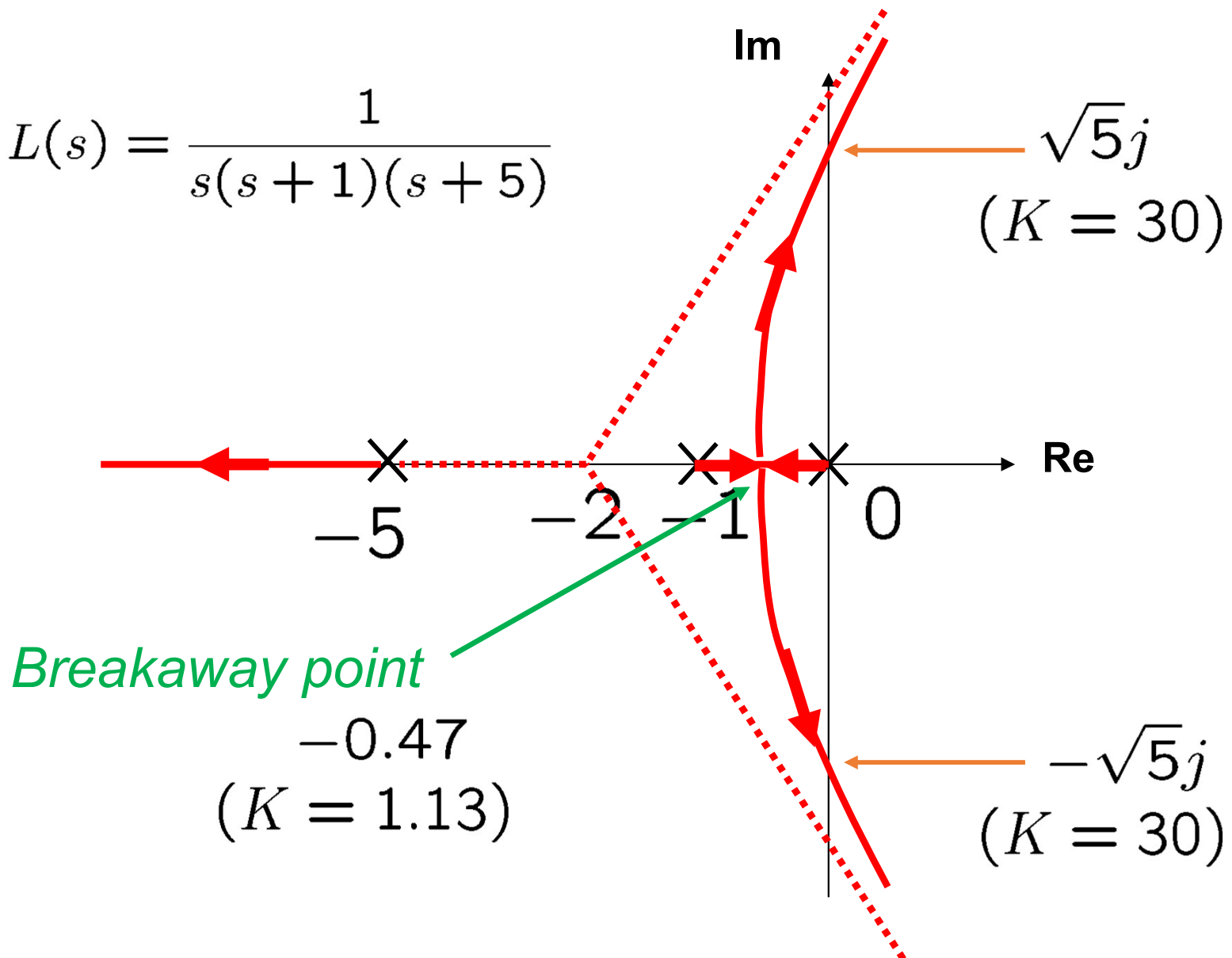
$$6s^2 + 30 = 0 \Rightarrow s = \pm\sqrt{5}j$$

These are called **$j\omega$ -axis crossing**.

Example 5 (cont'd)

Root locus

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



Summary

- Root locus
 - What is root locus
 - How to roughly and quickly sketch root locus
- Sketching root locus relies heavily on experience. Please practice!
- To accurately draw root locus, use Matlab.
- Next
 - Root locus examples
 - Step 4 (Angles of departures and arrivals)