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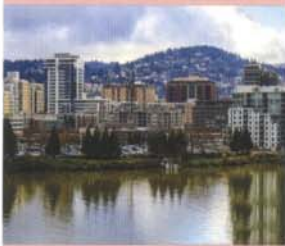


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A GALLERY OF ROOT LOCUS OF FRACTIONAL SYSTEMS

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ABSTRACT

The root locus (RL) is a classical tool for the stability analysis of integer order linear systems, but its application in the fractional counterpart poses some difficulties. Therefore, researchers have mainly preferred to adopt frequency based methods. Nevertheless, recently the RL was considered for the stability analysis of fractional systems. One first method is by taking advantage of commensurable expressions that occur when truncating fractional orders up to a finite precision. The second method consists of searching the complex plane for solutions of the characteristic equation using a numerical procedure. The resulting charts are insightful about the characteristics of the closed-loop system that outperform the frequency response methods. Given the limited know how in this particular topic and the shortage of literature, this study explores several types of fractional-order transfer functions and presents the corresponding RL.

INTRODUCTION

Fractional Calculus (FC) is a generalization of the classical integral and differential operators up to a non-integer order [1–5]. The concept of FC started with Leibniz but only in the last decades a significant number of applications emerged [6]. In fact, it was recognized that FC describes many phenomena, both natural and man made, taking into consideration memory aspects that standard calculus neglects. One of the major areas of development is modelling and control [7, 8]. Recently

several works [9–12] filled an existing gap, namely the lack of textbooks written in an educational perspective and capable of leading common readers into the details of FC. In spite of the important contributions, there is still some lack of experience and intuition about the dynamics of a system described by a given fractional-order transfer function. Often researchers adopt the frequency domain for stability and dynamical analysis. Recently the root locus (RL) was tackled for the case of fractional systems [13–20]. This method constitutes a valid alternative to methods based in the Fourier transform, but poses some additional complexity. This paper addresses this topic in an educational perspective and is inspired in classical textbook in automatic control [21, 22] where readers can compare the alternative methods of system analysis by means of a table including several typical examples. Bearing these ideas in mind, in the next section are analysed several fractional systems and their dynamics studied with the RL method.

DYNAMICAL ANALYSIS OF SEVERAL FRACTIONAL SYSTEM

In this section are analysed several fractional order linear systems using the RL method. In several cases, for comparison purposes, are only adopted the open-loop frequency response, namely the polar diagram and the Bode plots of magnitude and phase, and the closed-loop time response $c(t)$ for a Dirac reference impulse. In the sequel $G_i(s)$ denotes the open-loop transfer function of the i -th system, s represents the Laplace variable and

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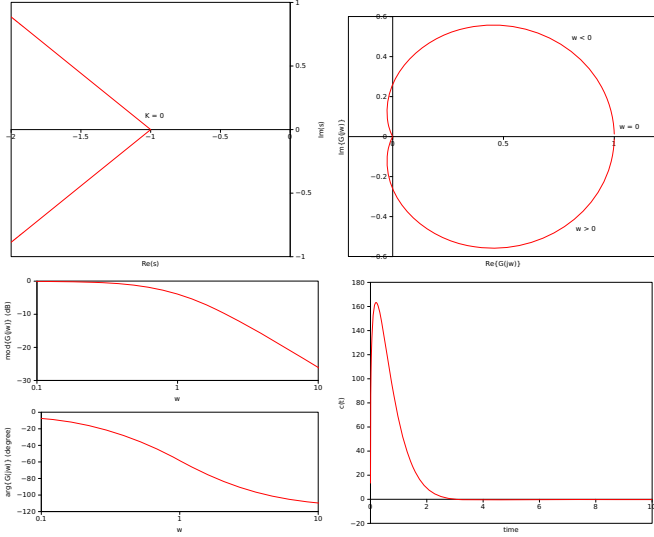


FIGURE 1. $G_1(s) = \frac{K}{(s+p)^\alpha}$, $p = 1$, $\alpha = 1.3$: ROOT LOCUS, POLAR PLOT, BODE DIAGRAM, IMPULSE RESPONSE.

K the gain. It is tackled the stability [23–27] of the closed-loop system with unit feedback $\frac{KG(s)}{1+KG(s)}$. At the end is also considered the case of a fractional PID controller $C(s) = K_p + K_i s^{-\lambda} + K_d s^\mu$ in series with the process $G_i(s)$ [28–30]. For studying the stability are applied the the following classical criteria:

Ultimate (or critical) gain K_u : $1 + K_u C(s) G(s) = 0$, $\text{Re}(s) = 0$

Phase margin PM : $|CG(i\omega_1)| = 1$, $PM = \arg\{CG(i\omega_1)\} + \pi$

Gain margin GM : $\arg\{CG(i\omega_\pi)\} = -\pi$, $GM = |CG(i\omega_\pi)|^{-1}$

In Table 1 are listed the main characteristics of the examples depicted in Figures 1-13. The white circle marks in the RL of Figures 12-13 correspond to the case of $K = 1$, that is, the closed-loop poles for the PID tuning adopted in [31].

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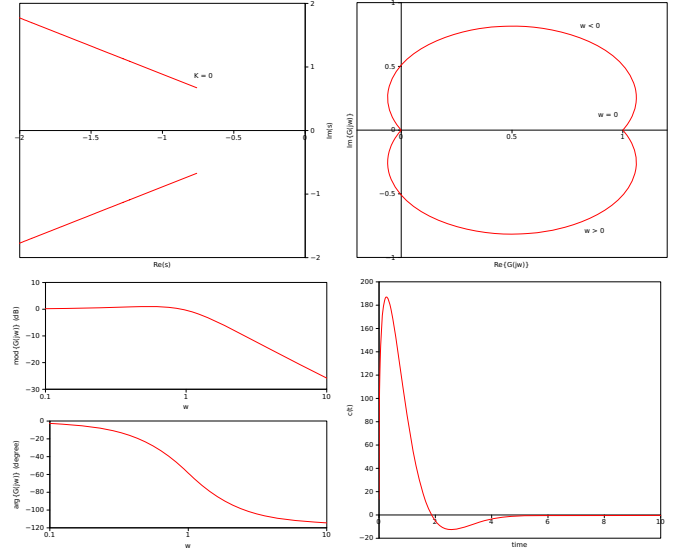


FIGURE 2. $G_2(s) = \frac{K}{s^\alpha + p}$, $p = 1$, $\alpha = 1.3$: ROOT LOCUS, POLAR PLOT, BODE DIAGRAM, IMPULSE RESPONSE.

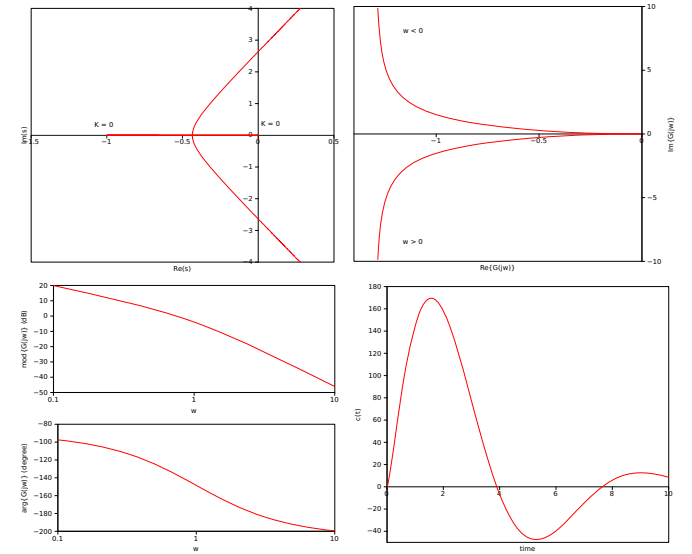


FIGURE 3. $G_3(s) = \frac{K}{s^{\alpha_1}(s+p)^{\alpha_2}}$, $p = 1$, $\alpha_1 = 1$, $\alpha_2 = 1.3$: ROOT LOCUS, POLAR PLOT, BODE DIAGRAM, IMPULSE RESPONSE.

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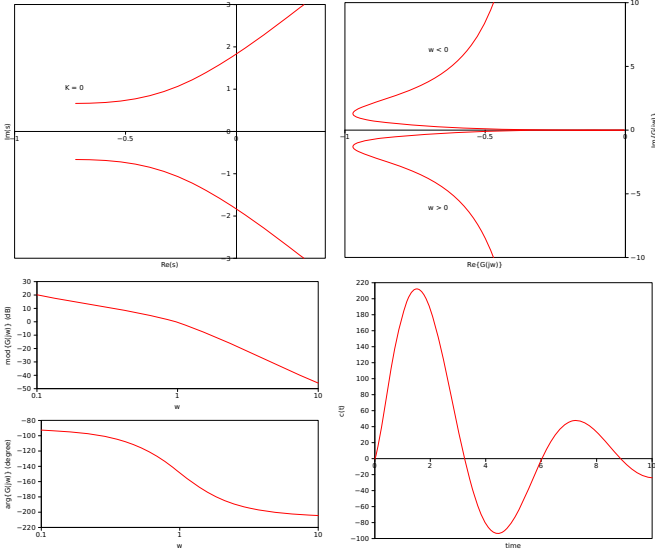


FIGURE 4. $G_4(s) = \frac{K}{s^{\alpha_1}(s^{\alpha_2}+p)}$, $p=1$, $\alpha_1=1$, $\alpha_2=1.3$: ROOT LOCUS, POLAR PLOT, BODE DIAGRAM, IMPULSE RESPONSE.

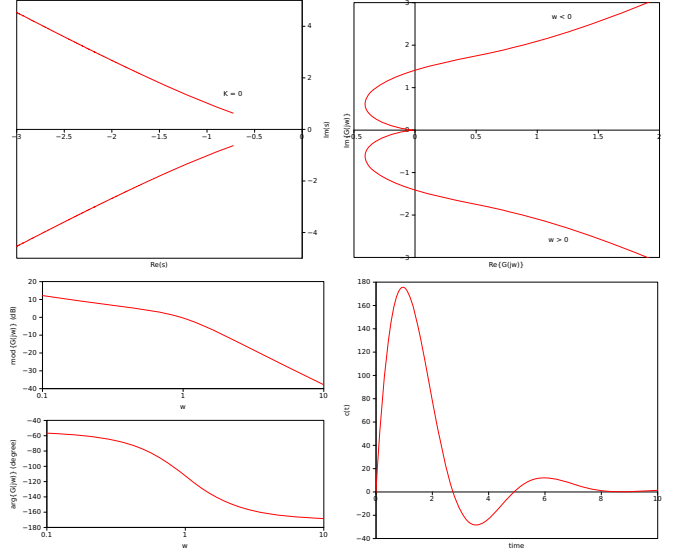


FIGURE 6. $G_6(s) = \frac{K}{s^{\alpha_1}(s^{\alpha_2}+p)}$, $p=1$, $\alpha_1=0.6$, $\alpha_2=1.3$: ROOT LOCUS, POLAR PLOT, BODE DIAGRAM, IMPULSE RESPONSE.

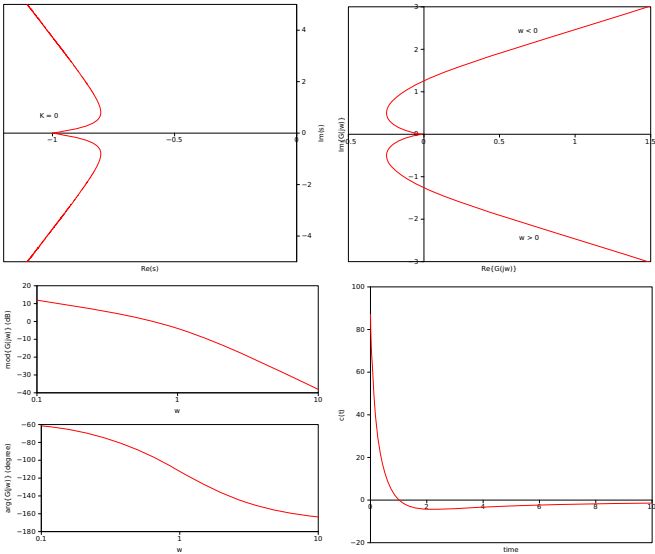


FIGURE 5. $G_5(s) = \frac{K}{s^{\alpha_1}(s+p)^{\alpha_2}}$, $p=1$, $\alpha_1=0.6$, $\alpha_2=1.3$: ROOT LOCUS, POLAR PLOT, BODE DIAGRAM, IMPULSE RESPONSE.

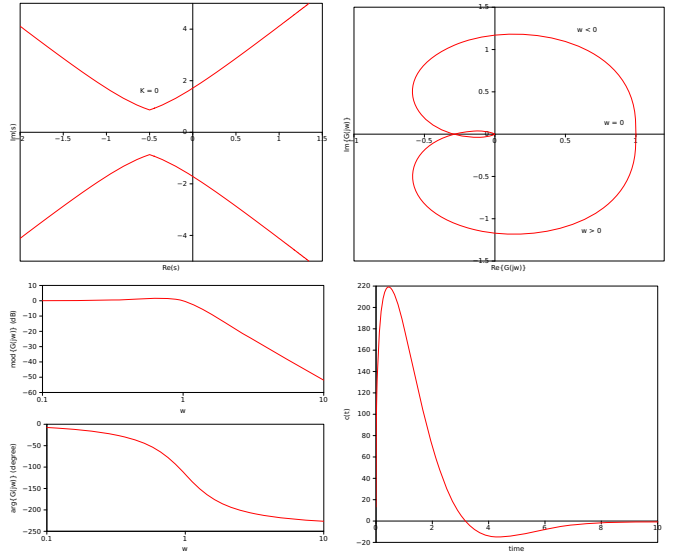


FIGURE 7. $G_7(s) = \frac{K}{(s^2+2\zeta\omega_n s+\omega_n^2)^{\alpha}}$, $\zeta=0.5$, $\omega_n=1$, $\alpha=1.3$: ROOT LOCUS, POLAR PLOT, BODE DIAGRAM, IMPULSE RESPONSE.

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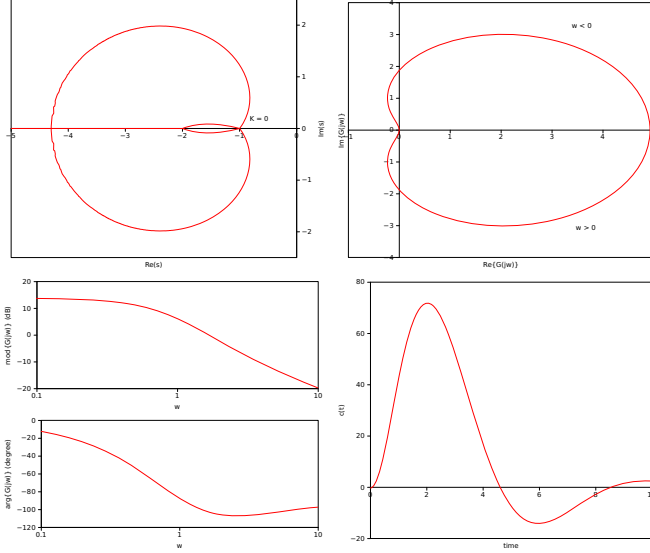


FIGURE 8. $G_8(s) = \frac{K(s+z)^\beta}{(s+p)^\alpha}$, $p=1, z=2, \alpha=3.3, \beta=2.3$: ROOT LOCUS, POLAR PLOT, BODE DIAGRAM, IMPULSE RESPONSE.

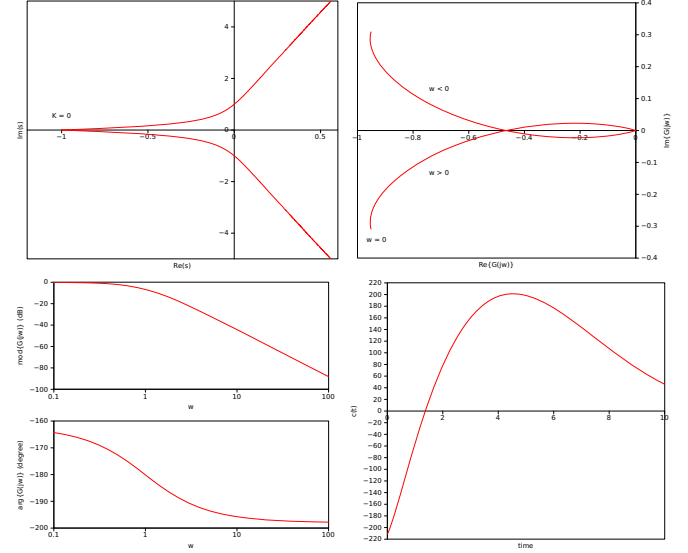


FIGURE 10. $G_{10}(s) = \frac{K}{(s+p_1)^{\alpha_1}(s+p_2)^{\alpha_2}}$, $p_1=1, \alpha_1=1.3, p_2=-1, \alpha_2=0.9$: ROOT LOCUS, POLAR PLOT, BODE DIAGRAM, IMPULSE RESPONSE.

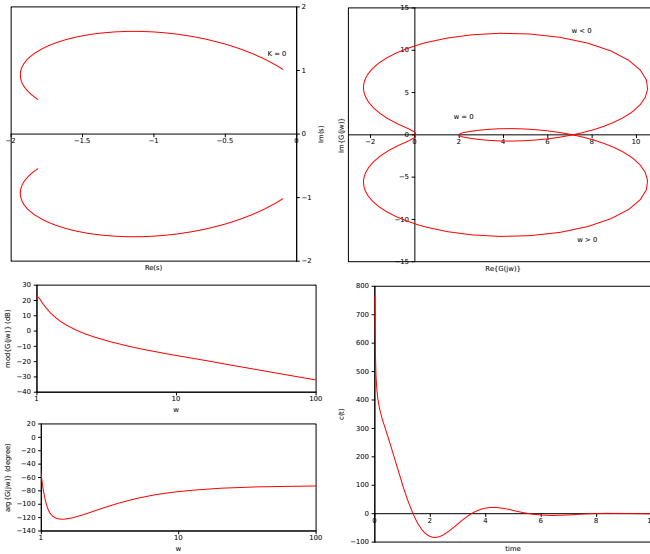


FIGURE 9. $G_9(s) = \frac{K(s^\beta+z)}{s^{\alpha+p}}$, $p=1, z=2, \alpha=1.9, \beta=1.1$: ROOT LOCUS, POLAR PLOT, BODE DIAGRAM, IMPULSE RESPONSE.

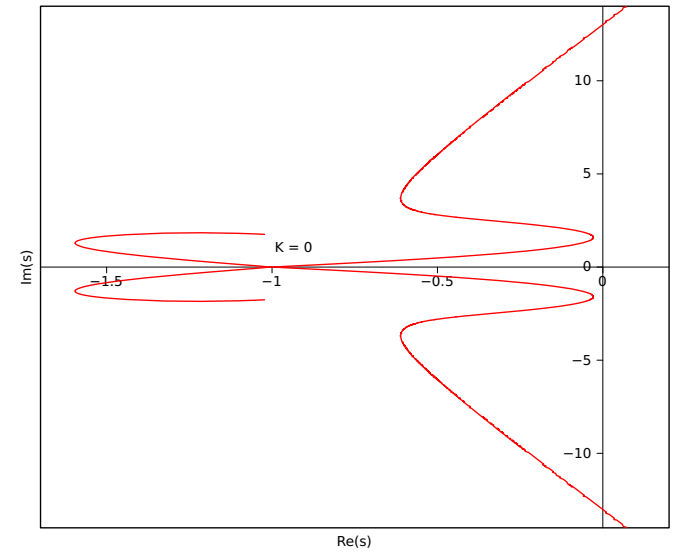


FIGURE 11. $G_{11}(s) = K \frac{(s^2+2\zeta\omega_n s+\omega_n^2)^\beta}{(s+p)^\alpha}$, $p=1, \alpha=4.3, \zeta=0.5, \omega_n=2, \beta=1.1$: ROOT LOCUS.

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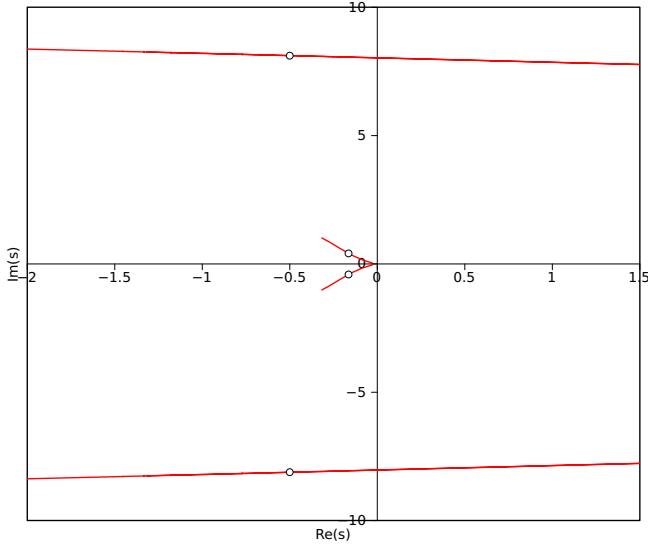


FIGURE 12. $G_{12}(s) = \frac{K}{1+\sqrt{s}}e^{-0.5s}$, $C(s) = 0.6021 + \frac{0.6187}{s^{1.3646}} + 0.3105s^{1.0618}$; ROOT LOCUS.

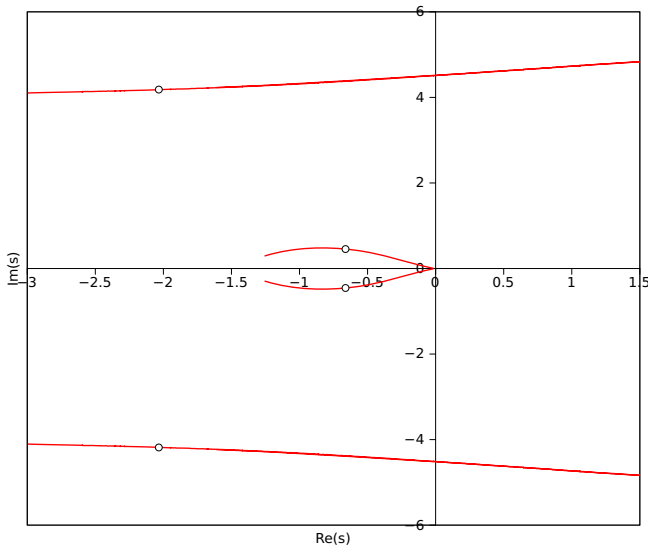


FIGURE 13. $G_{13}(s) = \frac{K}{1+\sqrt{s}}e^{-0.5s}$, $C(s) = 1.4098 + \frac{1.6486}{s^{1.1011}} - 0.2139s^{0.1855}$; ROOT LOCUS.

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TABLE 1. LIST OF FRACTIONAL ORDER SYSTEMS.

i	$G_i(s)$	Parameters	Stability
1	$\frac{K}{(s+p)^\alpha}$	$p = 1, \alpha = 1.3$	
2	$\frac{K}{s^{\alpha_1+p}}$	$p = 1, \alpha = 1.3$	$\omega_1 = 0.929, PM = 126^\circ$
3	$\frac{K}{s^{\alpha_1}(s+p)^{\alpha_2}}$	$p = 1$	$K_u = 10.14$
		$\alpha_1 = 1, \alpha_2 = 1.3$	$\omega_1 = 0.748, PM = 42.7^\circ, \omega_\pi = 2.633, GM = 20.1dB$
4	$\frac{K}{s^{\alpha_1}(s^{\alpha_2}+p)}$	$p = 1$	$K_u = 3.60$
		$\alpha_1 = 1, \alpha_2 = 1.3$	$\omega_1 = 0.973, PM = 33.2^\circ, \omega_\pi = 1.838, GM = 11.2dB$
5	$\frac{K}{s^{\alpha_1}(s+p)^{\alpha_2}}$	$p = 1$	$\omega_1 = 0.67, PM = 82.1^\circ$
		$\alpha_1 = 0.6, \alpha_2 = 1.3$	
6	$\frac{K}{s^{\alpha_1}(s^{\alpha_2}+p)}$	$p = 1$	$\omega_1 = 0.964, PM = 69.7^\circ$
		$\alpha_1 = 0.6, \alpha_2 = 1.3$	
7	$\frac{K}{(s^2+2\zeta\omega_n s+\omega_n^2)^\alpha}$	$\zeta = 0.5, \omega_n = 1$	$K_u = 3.43$
		$\alpha = 1.3$	$\omega_1 = 1.0, PM = 63.0^\circ, \omega_\pi = 1.715, GM = 10.8dB$
8	$\frac{K(s+z)^\beta}{(s+p)^\alpha}$	$p = 1, \alpha = 3.3$	$\omega_1 = 1.674, PM = 76.7^\circ$
		$z = 2, \beta = 2.3$	
9	$\frac{K(s^\beta+z)}{s^{\alpha+p}}$	$p = 1, \alpha = 1.9$	$\omega_1 = 1.978, PM = 63.8^\circ$
		$z = 2, \beta = 1.1$	
10	$\frac{K}{(s+p_1)^{\alpha_1}(s+p_2)^{\alpha_2}}$	$p_1 = 1, \alpha_1 = 1.3$	$K_u = 2.15$
		$p_2 = -1, \alpha_2 = 0.9$	$\omega_1 = 0.99, PM = 6.5^\circ$
11	$\frac{K(s^2+2\zeta\omega_n s+\omega_n^2)^\beta}{(s+p)^\alpha}$	$p_1 = 1, \alpha = 4.3$	$K_u = 227.6$
		$\zeta = 0.5, \omega_n = 2, \beta = 1.1$	$\omega_1 = 0.97, PM = 25.9^\circ, \omega_\pi = 13.1, GM = 47.1dB$
12	$\frac{K}{1+\sqrt{s}}e^{-0.5s}$	$K_p = 0.6021$	$K_u = 1.285$
	$PI^\lambda D^\mu$	$K_i = 0.6187, \lambda = 1.3646$	$\omega_\pi = 8.03, GM = 2.18dB$
		$K_d = 0.3105, \mu = 1.0618$	$\omega_1 = 0.44, PM = 43.0^\circ$
13	$\frac{K}{1+\sqrt{s}}e^{-0.5s}$	$K_p = 1.4098$	$K_u = 2.4$
	$PI^\lambda D^\mu$	$K_i = 1.6486, \lambda = 1.1011$	$\omega_\pi = 4.60, GM = 7.6dB$
		$K_d = -0.21395, \mu = 0.1855$	$\omega_1 = 1.06, PM = 69.7^\circ$