
Poles, Zeros, and Frequency Response

ECE 321: Electronics II

Lecture #8

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

Poles, Zeros, and Frequency Response

With the previous circuits, you can build filters with

- Real poles
- Complex Poles, and
- Zeros at $s = 0$

Filter design uses this to place poles and zeros to give a desired frequency response. In this lecture we look at how the poles and zeros affect the gain vs. frequency for a filter.

Filter Analysis: Single Input

Example: Find $y(t)$

$$Y = \left(\frac{100}{s^2 + 5s + 30} \right) X$$

$$x(t) = 4 \cos(6t) + 5 \sin(6t)$$

Solution

$$s = j6$$

$$X = 4 - j5$$

$$Y = \left(\frac{100}{s^2 + 5s + 30} \right)_{s=j6} \cdot (4 - j5)$$

$$Y = -18.590 - j9.615$$

$$y(t) = -18.590 \cos(6t) + 9.615 \sin(6t)$$

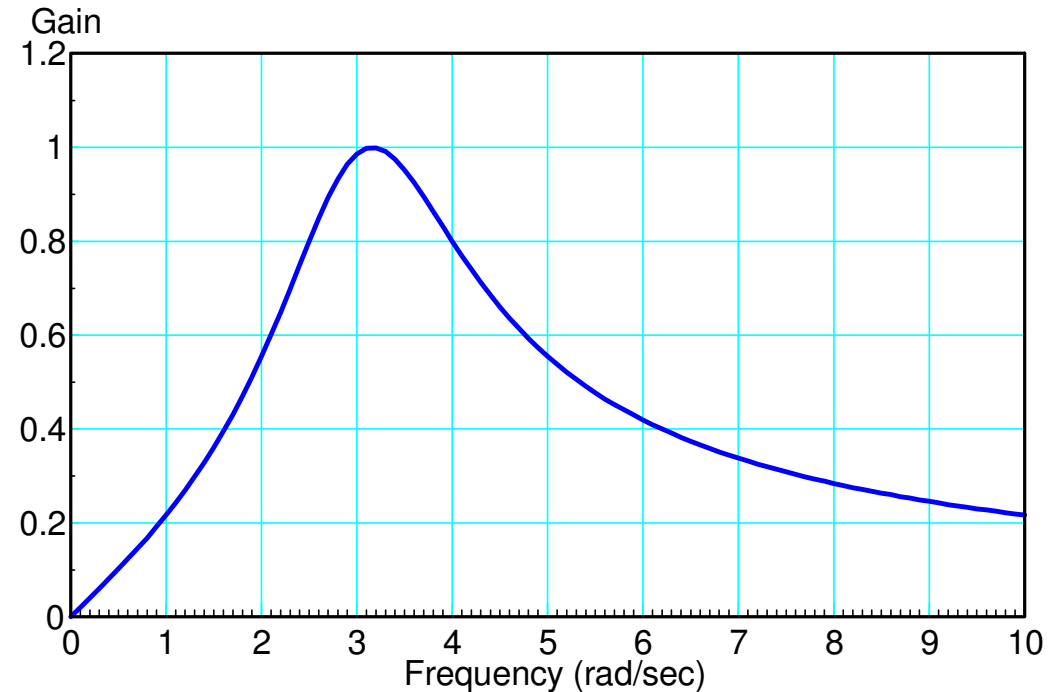
Filter Analysis: Bode Plot

Given a filter, find the gain vs. frequency.

Easy: Just plug into Matlab

$$Y = \left(\frac{2s}{s^2 + 2s + 10} \right) X$$

```
w = [0:0.01:10]';  
s = j*w;  
G = 2*s ./ (s.^2 + 2*s + 10);  
plot(w, abs(G));  
xlabel('Frequency (rad/sec)');  
ylabel('Gain');
```



Filter Design

Pick poles and zeros to match a desired frequency response

- harder

This lecture

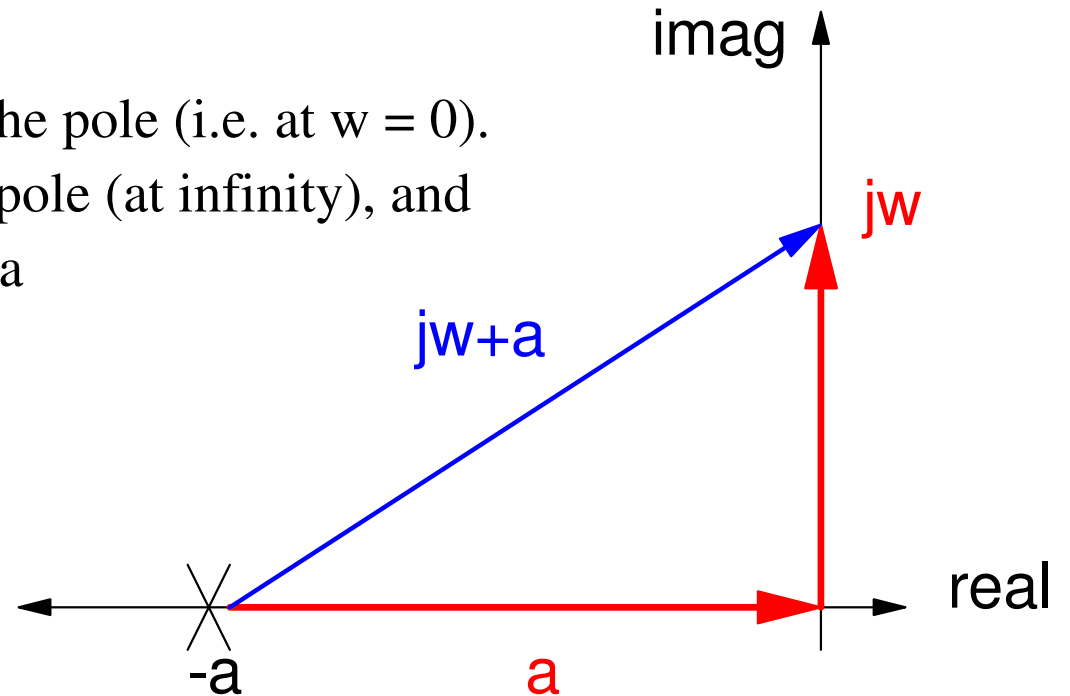
- How do real poles affect the gain vs. frequency
 - How do complex poles affect the gain vs. frequency
 - How do zeros affect the gain vs. frequency
 - Using *fminsearch()* to design a filter
-

Real Poles vs. Frequency Response

$$Y = \left(\frac{1}{s+a}\right)X = \left(\frac{1}{j\omega+a}\right)X$$

Graphical:

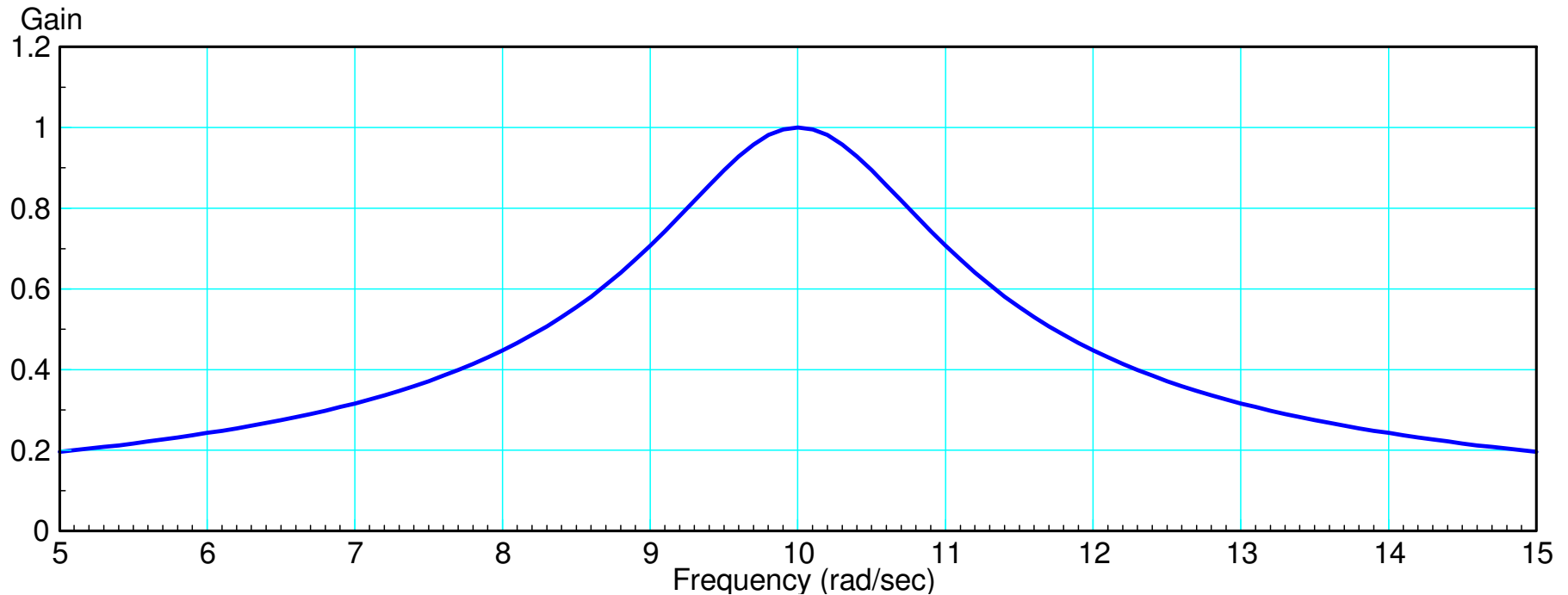
- A maximum when you're closest to the pole (i.e. at $\omega = 0$).
- Zero when you're far away from the pole (at infinity), and
- Down by $\sqrt{2}$ when the frequency is ja



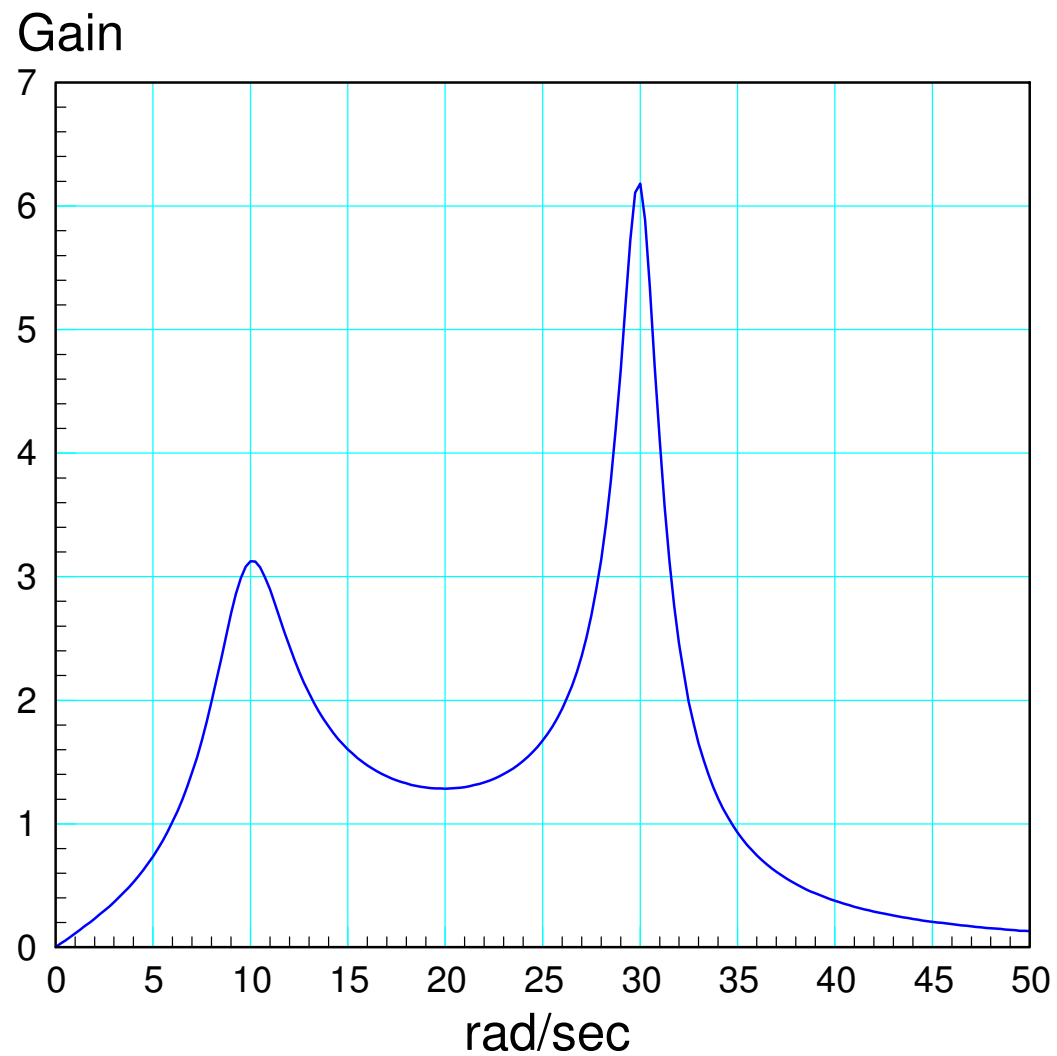
Complex Poles vs. Frequency Respons

$$Y = \left(\frac{1}{s+1-j10} \right) X$$

- Maximum at $s = j10$
- Down by $\sqrt{2}$ when 1 rad/sec away from 10 (j9 and j11)



Example: Determine $G(s)$



Zero at $s = 0$

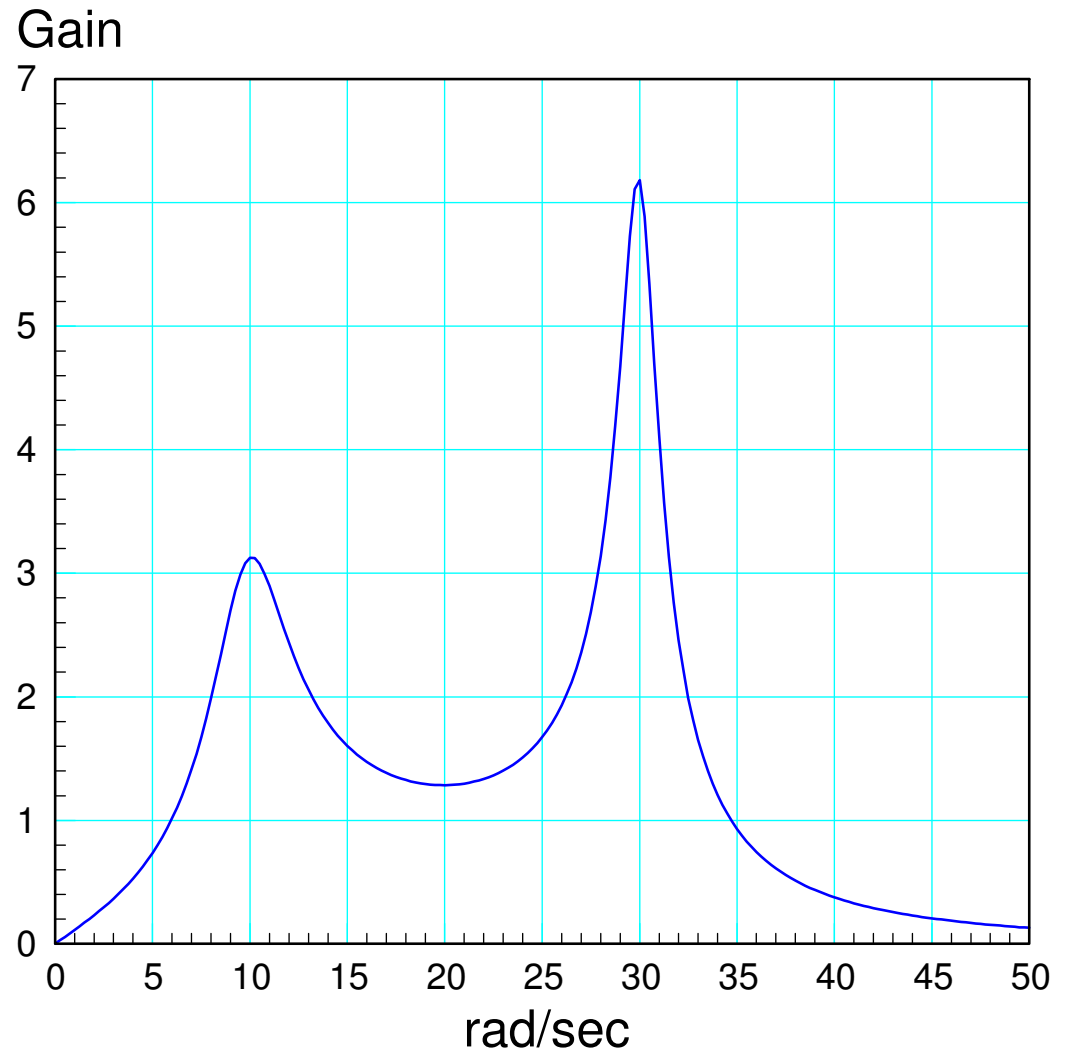
Pole at

- $s = j10$
- BW = 4 (real = 2)
- $s = -2 \pm j10$

Pole at

- $s = j30$
- BW = 2 (real = 1)
- $s = -1 \pm j30$

$$G(s) \approx \left(\frac{ks}{(s+2 \pm j10)(s+1 \pm j30)} \right)$$



Generalized Filter

$$Y = k \left(\frac{(s+z_1)(s+z_2)}{(s+p_1)(s+p_2)(s+p_3)} \right) X$$

The graphical interpretation for this filter is

$$gain = k \cdot \frac{\Pi(\text{distance from } j\omega \text{ to the zeros})}{\Pi(\text{distance from } j\omega \text{ to the poles})}$$

Note that

- If you're close to a zero, the gain is small (multiply by a small number)
- If you're close to a pole, the gain is large (divide by a small number)

So, a design strategy could be

- **Place zeros near frequencies you want to reject**
 - **Place poles near frequencies you want to pass.**
-

Filter Design using *fminsearch*

Problem: Design a filter to approximate an ideal low-pass filter with a gain of

$$G_{ideal}(s) \approx \begin{cases} 1 & \omega < 4 \\ 0 & otherwise \end{cases}$$

Guess filter parameters

- poles, zeros, gain

Compute $G(j\omega)$

Compute the difference

$$E(j\omega) = |G_{ideal}(j\omega)| - |G(j\omega)|$$

Compute the cost

$$J = \int_0^{10} E^2(j\omega) \cdot d\omega$$

Use *fminsearch* to reduce the cost as much as possible

Real Poles:

$$G(s) = \left(\frac{a}{(s+b)(s+c)(s+d)(s+e)} \right)$$

```
function [ J ] = costf( z )
a = z(1);
b = z(2);
c = z(3);
d = z(4);
e = z(5);

w = [0:0.01:10]';
s = j*w;
Gideal = 1 .* (w < 4);

G = a ./ ( (s+b) .* (s+c) .* (s+d) .* (s+e) );

E = abs(Gideal) - abs(G);

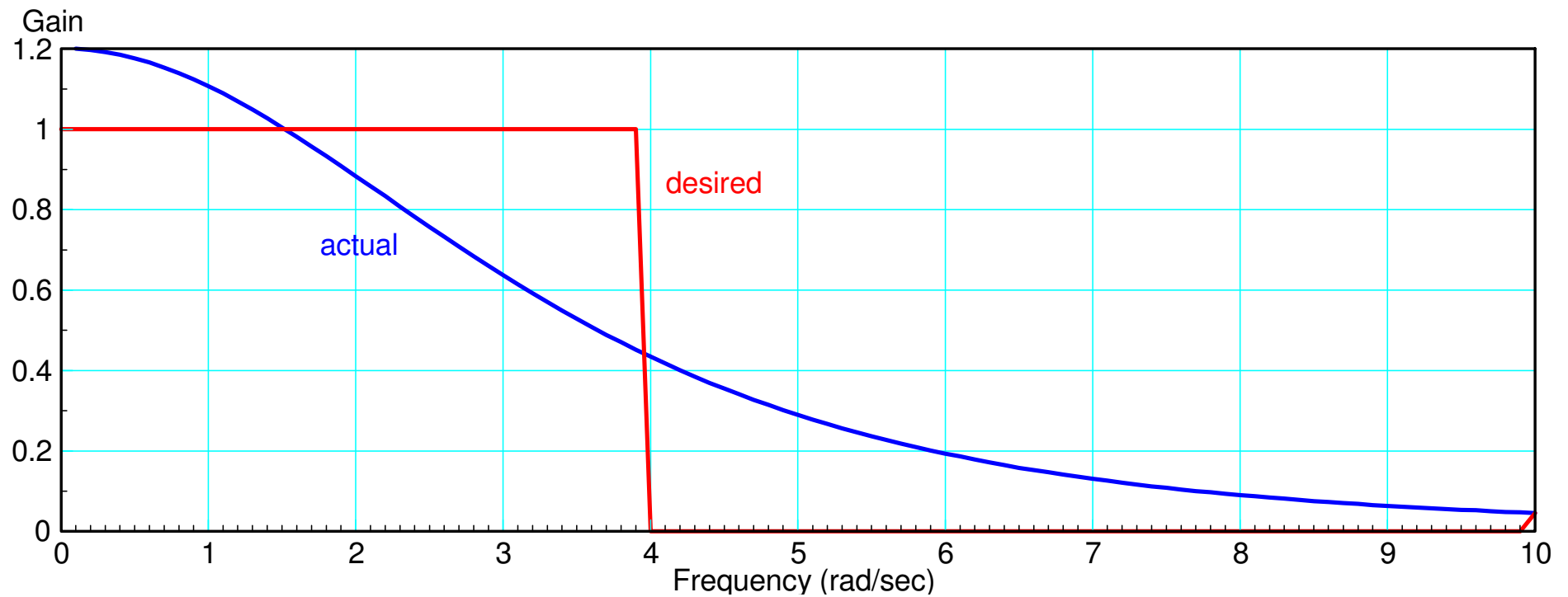
J = sum(E .^ 2);

end
```

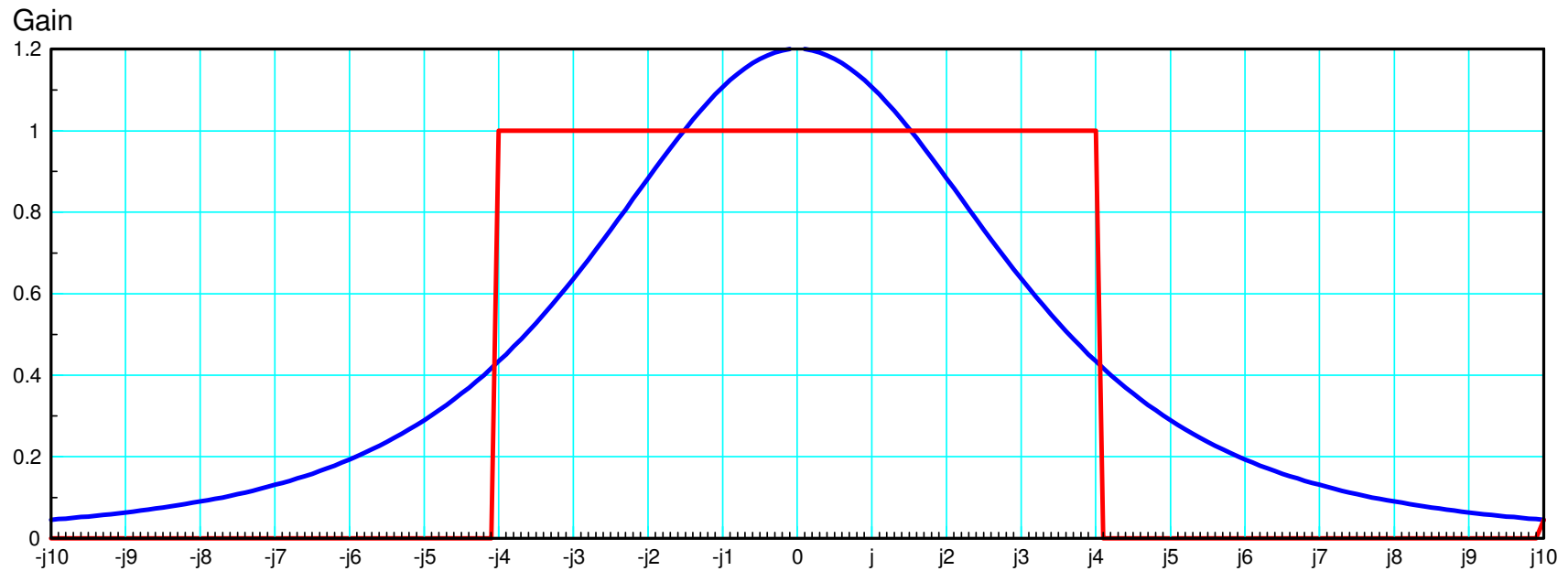
Solution: Not great with just real poles

```
[a,b] = fminsearch('costf',[100,2,3,4,5])
```

```
a = 697.8575    4.9165    4.9165    4.9165    4.9165  
b = 55.3564
```



Pole Location vs. Gain: $G(s) = \left(\frac{697}{(s+4.91)^4} \right)$



↑
max gain: $w = 0$

× 4 poles at $-4.91 + j0$

Complex Poles: $G(s) = \left(\frac{a}{(s^2+bs+c)(s^2+ds+e)} \right)$

```
function [ J ] = costf( z )
    a = z(1);
    b = z(2);
    c = z(3);
    d = z(4);
    e = z(5);

    w = [0:0.01:10]';
    s = j*w;
    Gideal = 1 .* (w < 4);

    G = a ./ ( (s.^2 + b*s + c) .* (s.^2 + d*s + e) );

    E = abs(Gideal) - abs(G);

    J = sum(E .^ 2);

end
```

Minimizing the cost:

```
>> [a,b] = fminsearch('costf',10*rand(1,5))
```

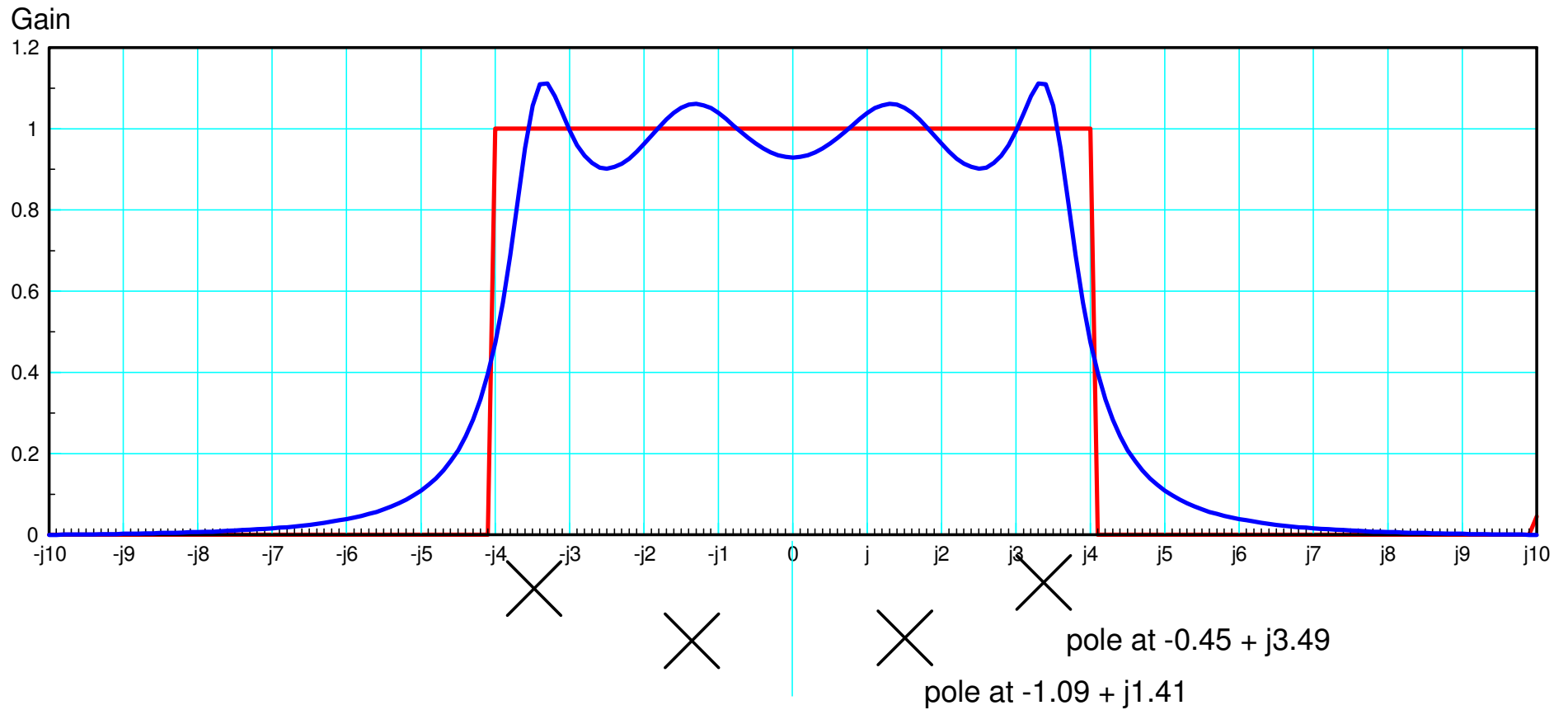
```
a =    36.6716    0.8314    12.3599    2.1860    3.1799
```

```
b =    13.0720
```

meaning

$$G(s) = \left(\frac{36.67}{(s^2 + 0.8314s + 12.3599)(s^2 + 2.1860s + 3.1799)} \right)$$

The gain vs. frequency and pole location looks like:



5 Poles: $G(s) = \left(\frac{a \cdot c \cdot e}{(s+a)(s^2+bs+c)(s^2+ds+e)} \right)$

```
function [ J ] = costf( z )
    a = z(1);
    b = z(2);
    c = z(3);
    d = z(4);
    e = z(5);

    w = [0:0.01:10]';
    s = j*w;
    Gideal = 1 .* (w < 4);

    G = a*c*e ./ ( (s+a) .* (s.^2 + b*s + c) .* (s.^2 + d*s + e) );

    G = abs(G);

    E = abs(Gideal) - abs(G);

    J = sum(E.^2);

end
```

Running in Matlab:

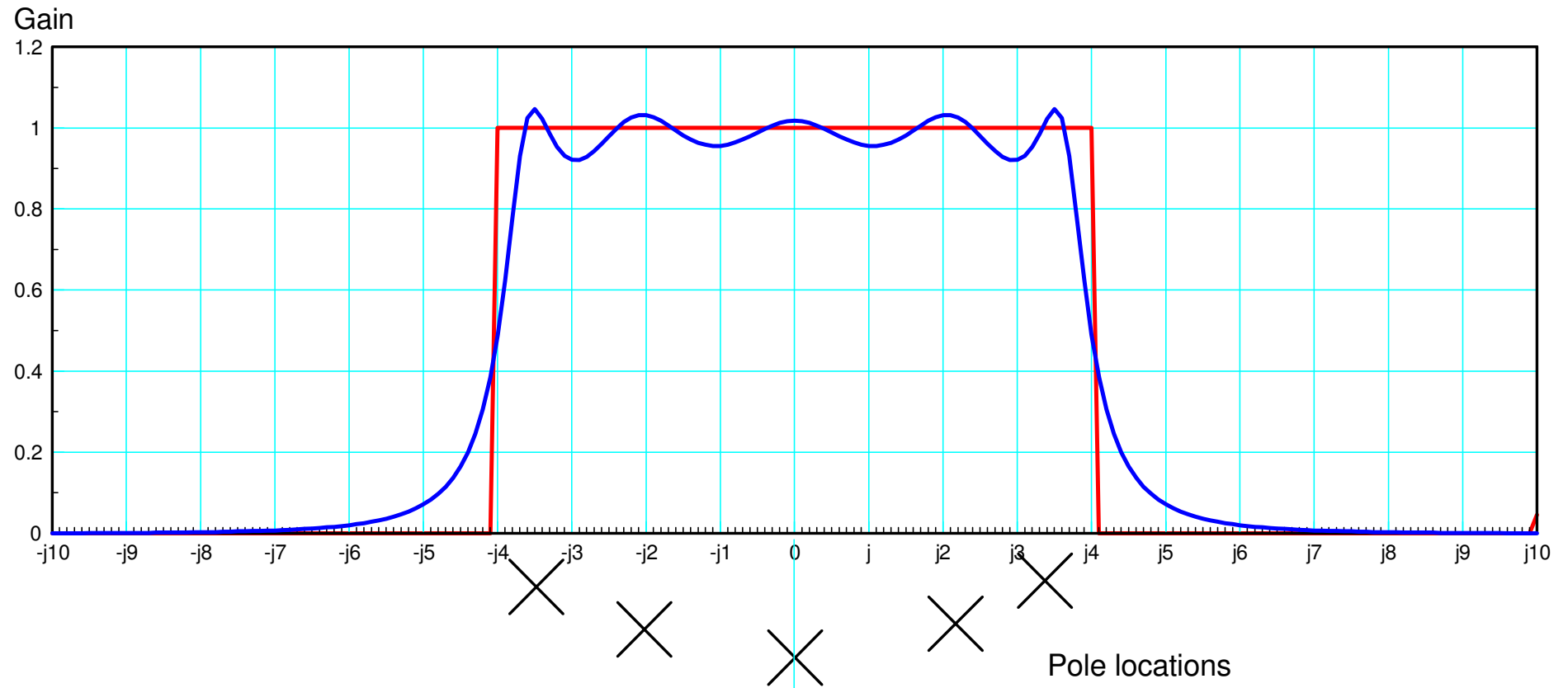
```
>> [a,b] = fminsearch('costf',10*rand(1,5))
```

```
a =      1.2226      0.6761     13.5006      1.8855      5.7318
```

```
b =      9.6110
```

meaning

$$G(s) = \left(\frac{96.4}{(s+1.222)(s^2+0.6761s+13.5)(s^2+1.88s+5.73)} \right)$$



Note that there is definitely a pattern here:

- You scatter N poles in the pass-band
 - Place the poles on an ellipse spanning the pass-band
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Summary

Filter analysis is simple

- Plug in $s = j\omega$

Filter design is a little harder

- Place zeros by frequencies you want to reject
 - Place poles by frequencies you want to pass
 - Complex part of pole tells you the resonance frequency
 - Real part of the pole tells you the bandwidth
 - `fminsearch()` can be used to design filters
-