

# Lyapunov Stability

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\*Slides based on or adapted from Sanjiban Choudhury

# Logistics

## **New Office Hours**

Chris: Tuesdays at 1:00pm (CSE1 436)

Kay: Tuesdays at 4:00pm (CSE1 022)

**Just for this week, Wednesday at 5:00pm**

Gilwoo: Thursdays at 4:00pm (CSE1 022)

Schmittle: Fridays at 4:00pm (CSE1 022)

# Recap: PID / Pure Pursuit control

## Pros

## Cons

PID Control

Simple law that works pretty well!

Tuning parameters! Doesn't understand dynamics

Pure Pursuit

Cars can travel in arc!

No proof of convergence

Can we get some control law that has **formal guarantees**?

# Table of Controllers

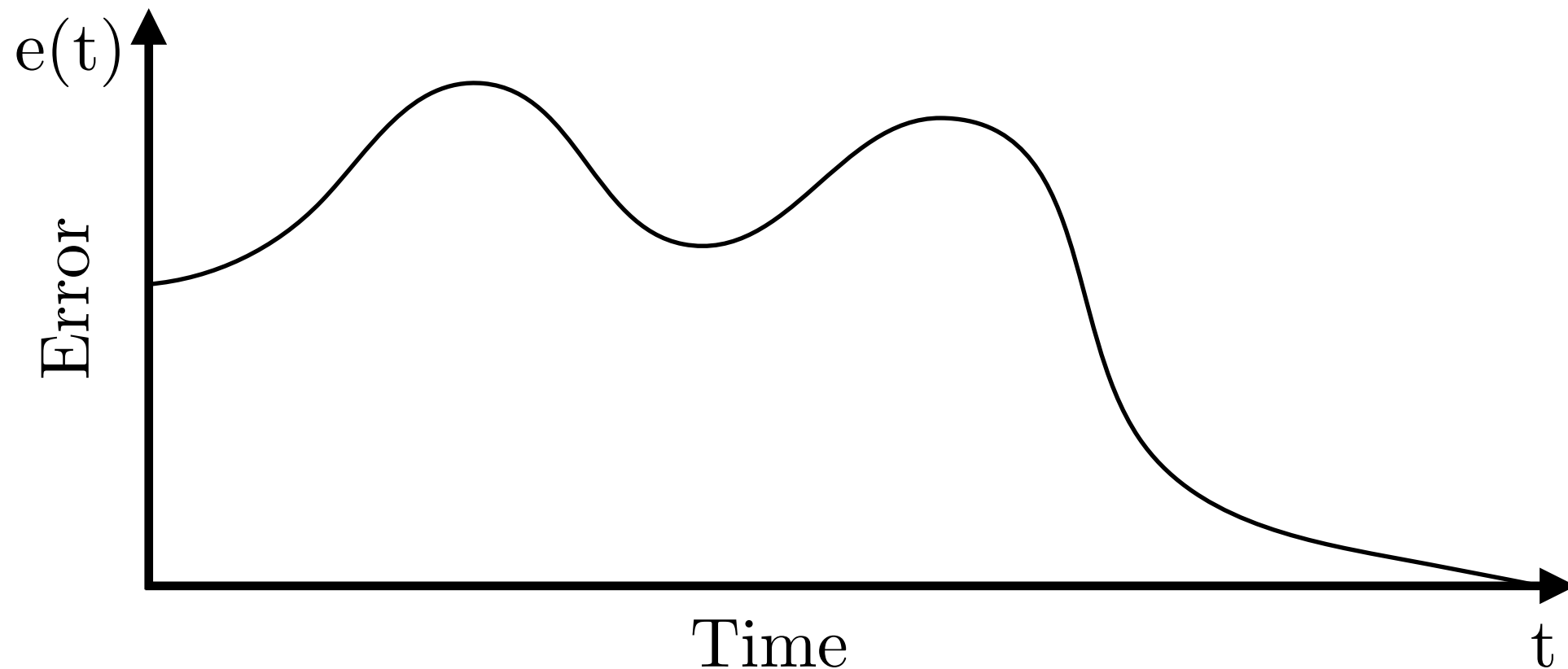
	Control Law	Uses model	Stability Guarantee
PID	$u = K_p e + \dots$	No	No
Pure Pursuit	$u = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{2B \sin \alpha}{L} \right)$	Circular arcs	Yes - with assumptions

Stability:

Prove error goes to zero  
and stays there

# What is stability?

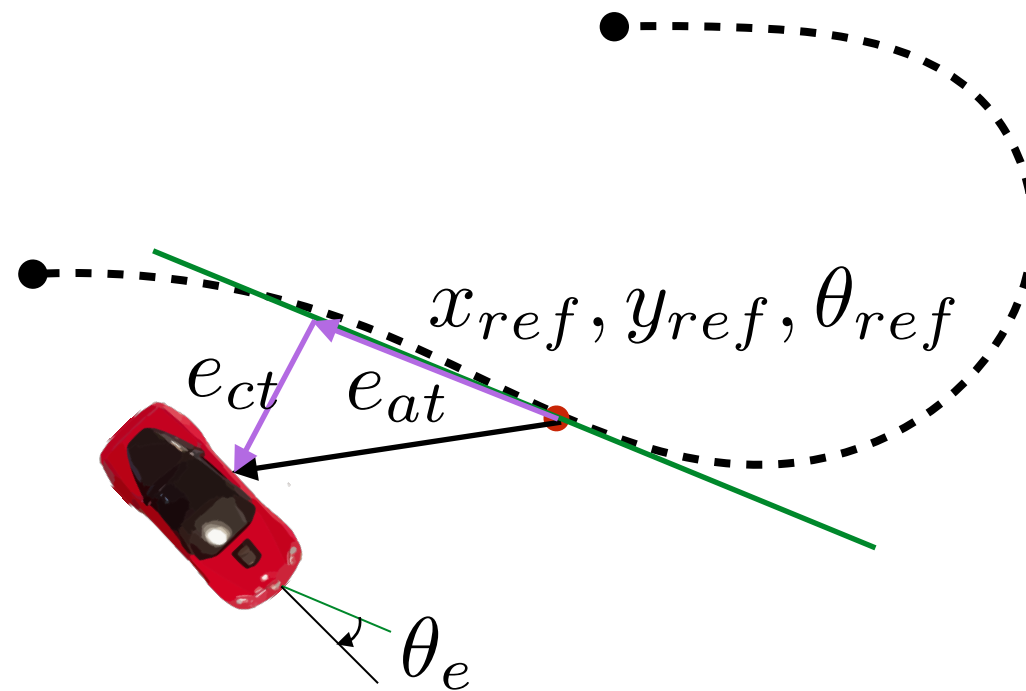
$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e(t) = 0$$



So we want both  $e(t) \rightarrow 0$  and  $\dot{e}(t) \rightarrow 0$

**Question:** Why does the error oscillate?

# How does error evolve in time?



Let's say we were interested in driving both  $e_{ct}$  and  $\theta_e$  to zero

$$e_{ct} = -\sin(\theta_{ref})(x - x_{ref}) + \cos(\theta_{ref})(y - y_{ref})$$

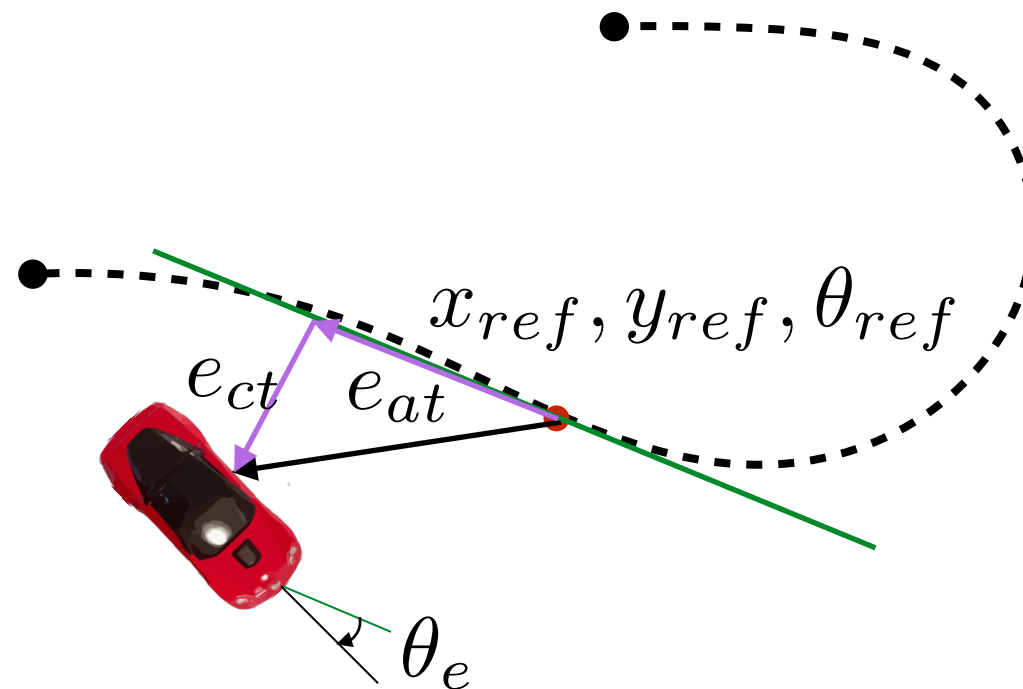
$$\theta_e = \theta - \theta_{ref}$$

$$\dot{e}_{ct} = V \sin \theta_e$$

$$\dot{\theta}_e = \omega = u$$

Notice how our control variable affects all the error terms

# How does error **evolve in time**?



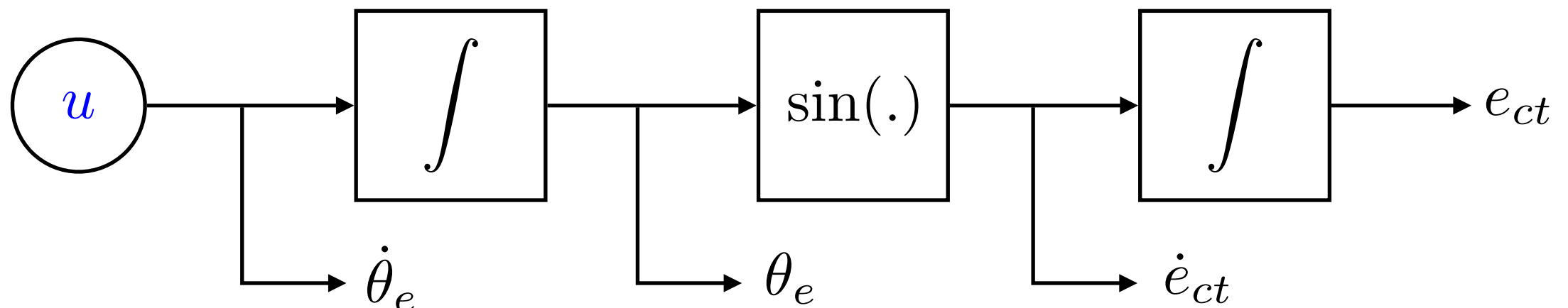
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Is it because of non-linearity?

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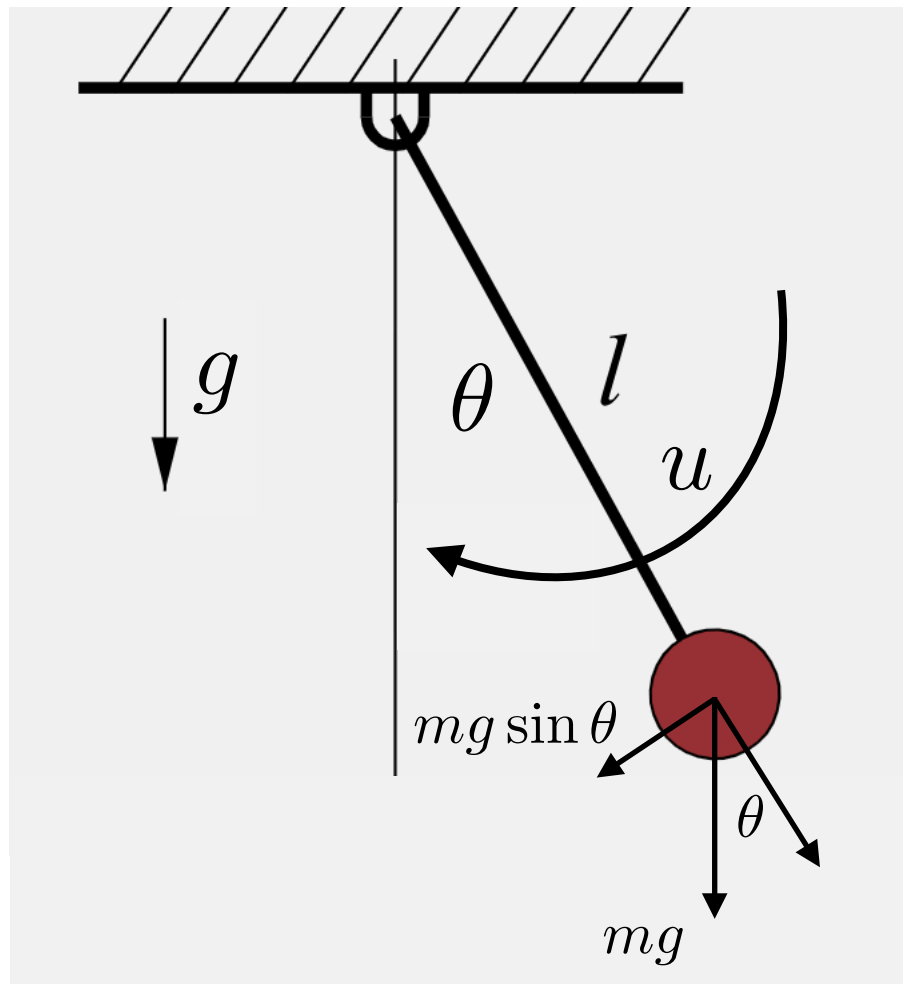


Because of underactuated dynamics...

# Fundamental problem with **underactuated** systems



# Example: Pendulum Dynamics



Balance of Moments

$$\Sigma M = J\ddot{\theta}$$

$$J = ml^2$$

$$\Sigma M = -mgl \sin \theta + u$$

$$ml^2\ddot{\theta} = -mgl \sin \theta + u$$

What control law should we use to stabilize the pendulum, i.e.

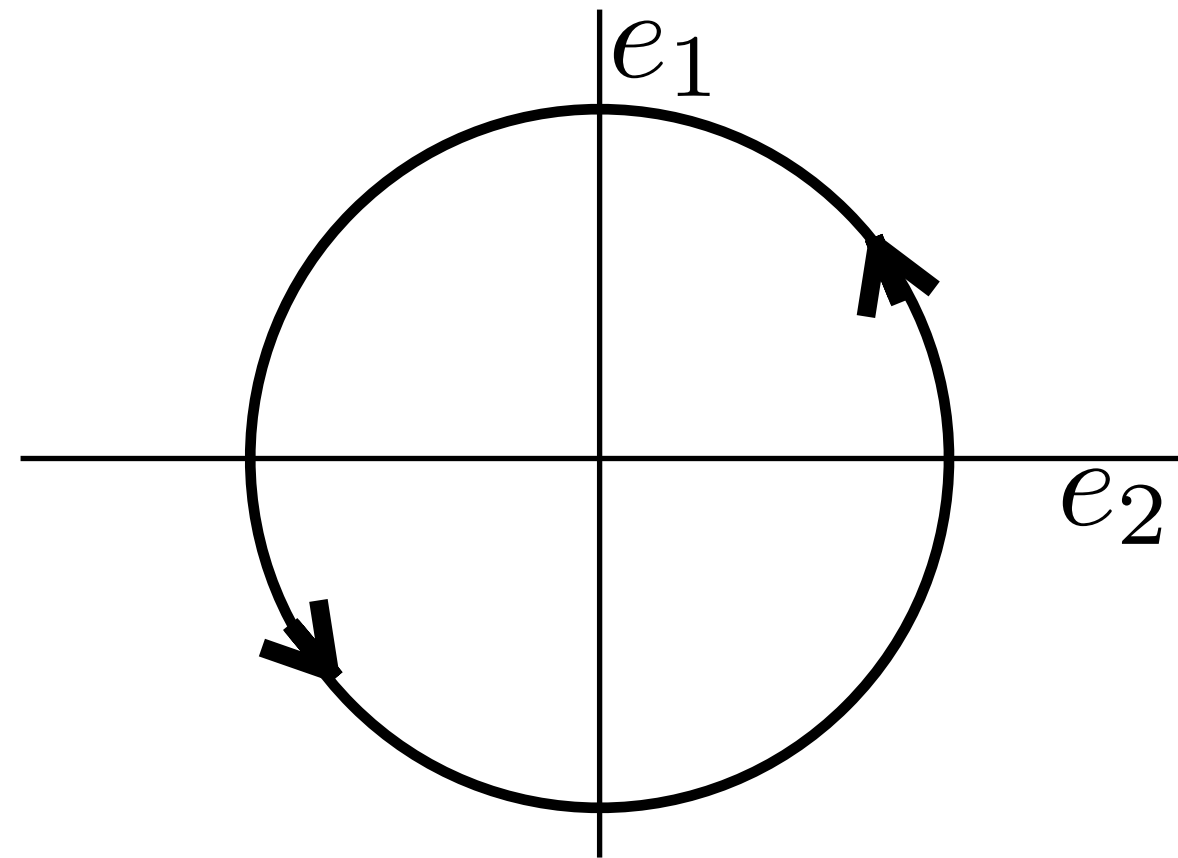
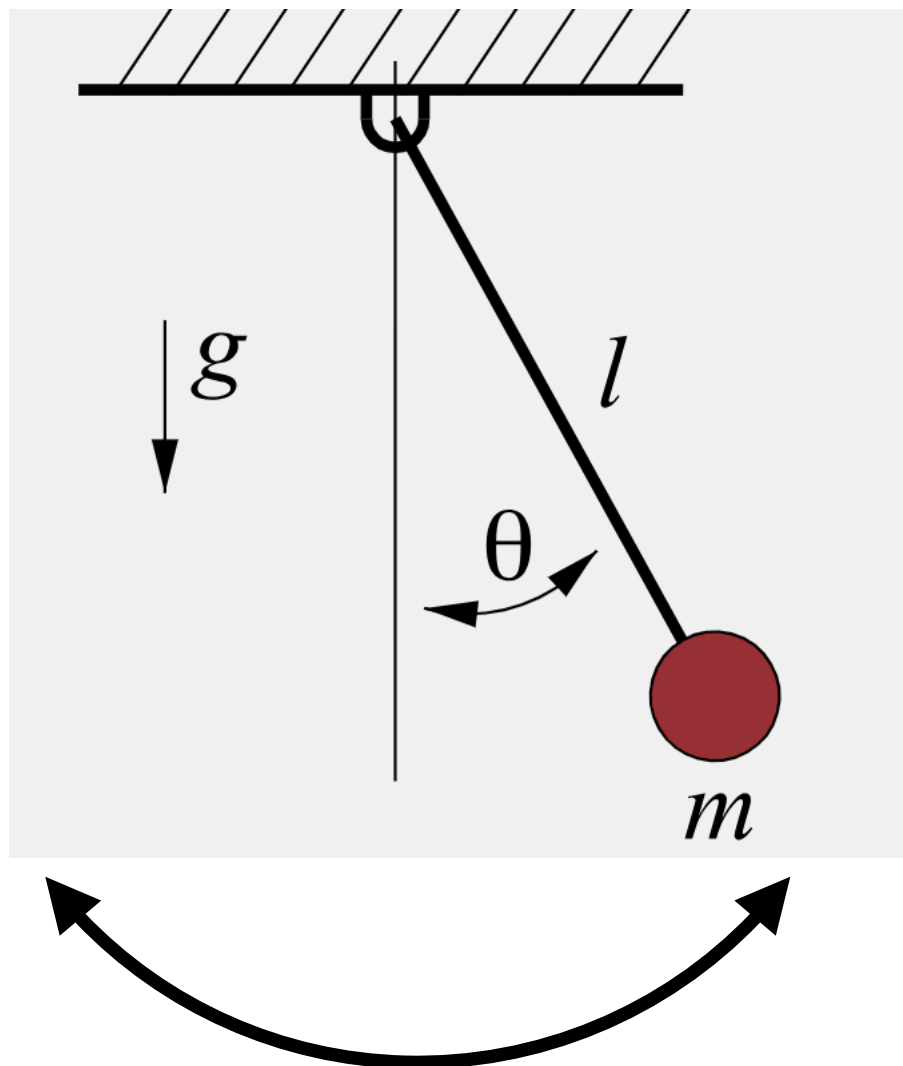
Choose  $u = \pi(\theta, \dot{\theta})$  such that  $\theta \rightarrow 0$   
 $\dot{\theta} \rightarrow 0$

How does the **passive** error dynamics behave?

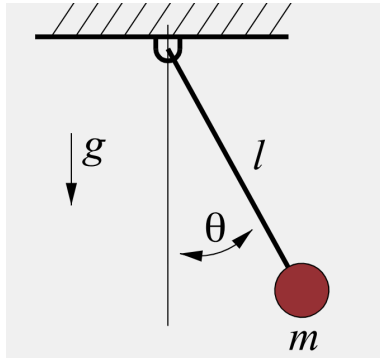
$$e_1 = \theta - 0 = \theta$$

$$e_2 = \dot{\theta} - 0 = \dot{\theta}$$

Set  $u=0$ . Dynamics is not stable.



# How do we verify if a controller is stable?



$$ml^2\ddot{\theta} + mgl \sin \theta = u$$

Lets pick the following law:

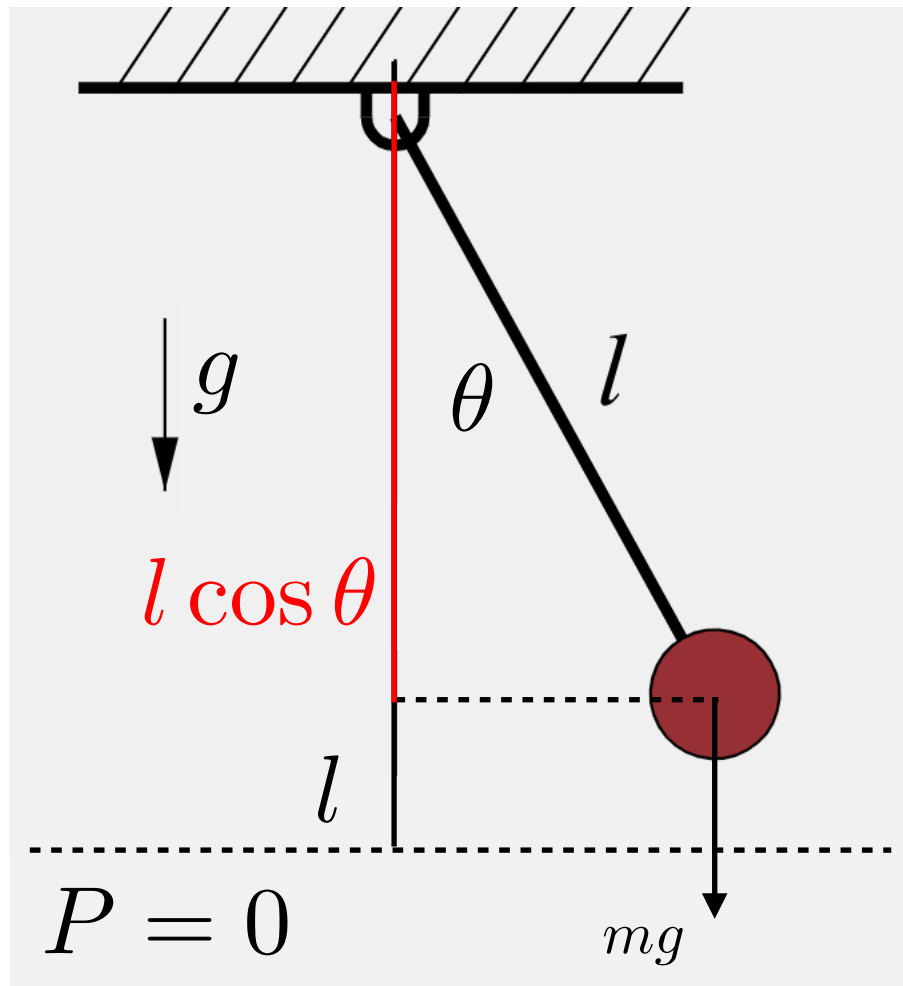
$$u = -K\dot{\theta}$$

Is this stable? How do we know?

We can simulate the dynamics from different start point and check....

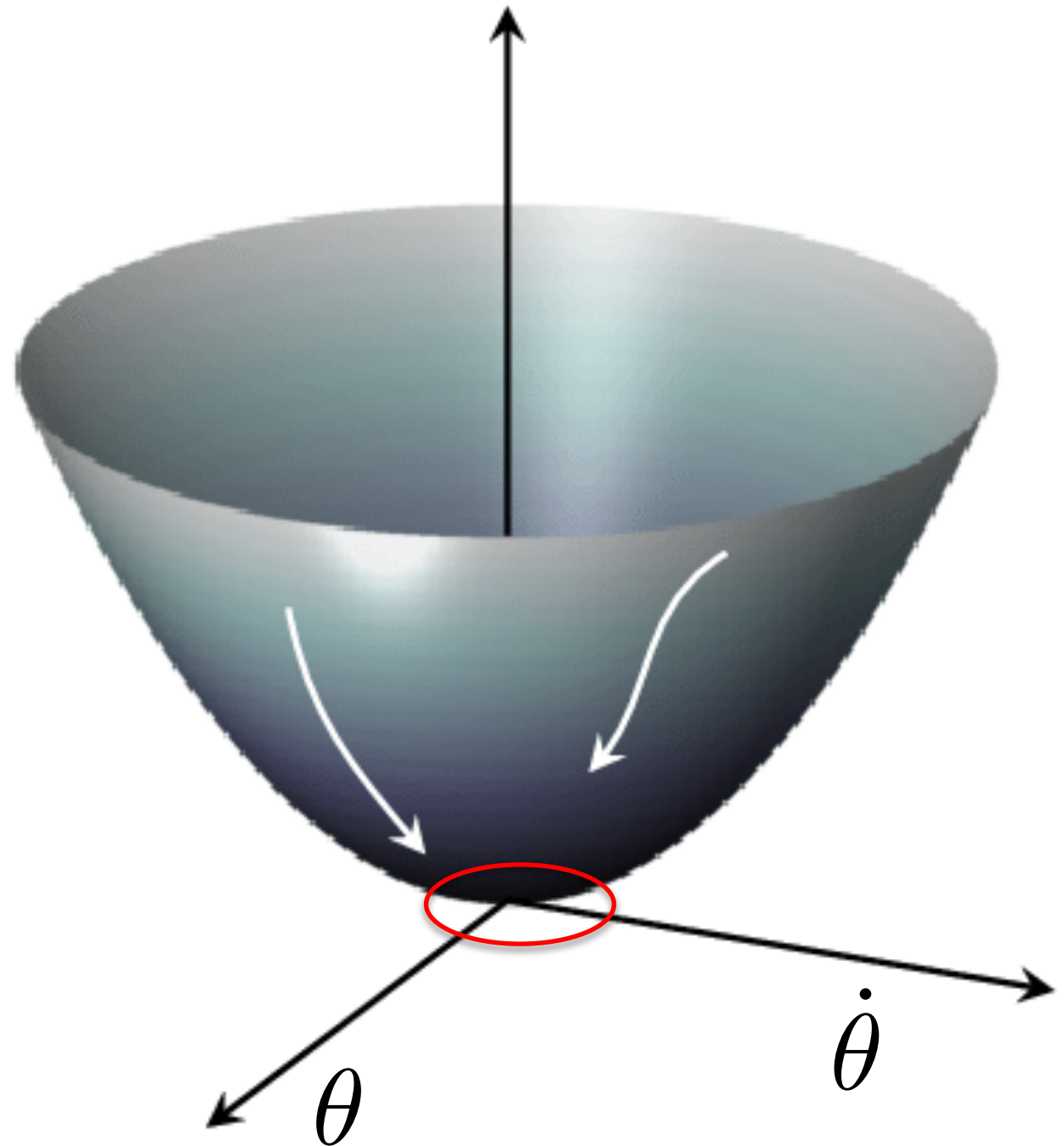
but how many points do we check? what if we miss some points?

# Key Idea: Think about energy!



$$K = \frac{1}{2}m(\dot{\theta}l)^2 \quad (\text{Kinetic})$$

$$P = mgl(1 - \cos \theta) \quad (\text{Potential})$$



$$V(\theta, \dot{\theta}) = \frac{1}{2}ml^2\dot{\theta}^2 + mgl(1 - \cos \theta) \quad (\text{Total})$$

# Make energy decay to 0 and stay there

$$\begin{aligned} V(\theta, \dot{\theta}) &= \frac{1}{2}ml^2\dot{\theta}^2 + mgl(1 - \cos \theta) \\ &\geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(\theta, \dot{\theta}) &= ml^2\dot{\theta}\ddot{\theta} + mgl(\sin \theta)\dot{\theta} \\ &= \dot{\theta}(u - mgl \sin \theta) + mgl(\sin \theta)\dot{\theta} \\ &= \dot{\theta}u \end{aligned}$$

Choose a control law  $u = -k\dot{\theta}$

$$\dot{V}(\theta, \dot{\theta}) = -k\dot{\theta}^2 < 0$$



Lyapunov function:  
A generalization of energy

# Lyapunov function for a closed-loop system

1. **Construct** an energy function that is **always positive**

$$V(x) > 0, \forall x$$

Energy is only 0 at the origin, i.e.  $V(0) = 0$

2. **Choose** a **control law** such that this energy **always decreases**

$$\dot{V}(x) < 0, \forall x$$

Energy rate is 0 at origin, i.e.  $\dot{V}(0) = 0$

No matter where you start, energy will decay and you will reach 0!

# Let's get provable control for our car!

Dynamics of the car

$$\dot{x} = v \cos \theta$$

$$\dot{y} = v \sin \theta$$

$$\dot{\theta} = \frac{v}{B} \tan u$$

# Let's get provable control for our car!

Let's define the following Lyapunov function

$$V(e_{ct}, \theta_e) = \frac{1}{2}k_1 e_{ct}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\theta_e^2 \quad > 0$$

Compute derivative

$$\dot{V}(e_{ct}, \theta_e) = k_1 e_{ct} \dot{e}_{ct} + \theta_e \dot{\theta}_e$$

$$\dot{V}(e_{ct}, \theta_e) = k_1 e_{ct} V \sin \theta_e + \theta_e \frac{V}{B} \tan u$$

# Let's get provable control for our car!

$$\dot{V}(e_{ct}, \theta_e) = k_1 e_{ct} V \sin \theta_e + \theta_e \frac{V}{B} \tan u$$

**Trick:** Set  $u$  intelligently to get this term to always be negative

$$\dot{V}(e_{ct}, \theta_e) = -k_2 \theta_e^2$$

$$\theta_e \frac{V}{B} \tan u = -k_1 e_{ct} V \sin \theta_e - k_2 \theta_e^2$$

$$\tan u = -\frac{k_1 e_{ct} B}{\theta_e} \sin \theta_e - \frac{B}{V} k_2 \theta_e$$

$$u = \tan^{-1} \left( -\frac{k_1 e_{ct} B}{\theta_e} \sin \theta_e - \frac{B}{V} k_2 \theta_e \right)$$

(Advanced Reading)

**Bank-to-Turn Control for a Small UAV using Backstepping  
and Parameter Adaptation**

Dongwon Jung and Panagiotis Tsiotras

# Coming Up Next: Optimal Control

*Assuming we proved stability, how can we handle steering rate, acceleration, jerk, snap constraints?*