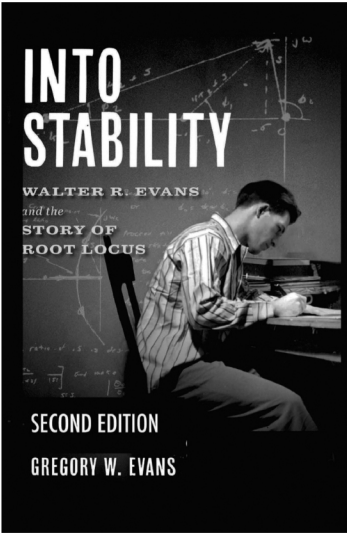


One Life's Lessons Drawn from an Engineering Career

Into Stability (Second Edition) follows Walter Evans’s life journey through three stages—Becoming an Engineer, Creating New Knowledge, and Living an Engineering Career. At the center of that journey is his development of the root-locus method, a breakthrough that transformed the analysis and design of feedback control systems and became a foundational tool of control engineering. His life illuminates the values, choices, setbacks, and habits of mind that shape both technical achievement and an engineering career.



Questions the book asks

- Where does innovation come from?
 - What distinguishes deep understanding from memorization?
 - How important are mentors?
 - Why are revolutionary ideas often resisted?
 - How does a new idea spread throughout a profession?
- When should an engineer choose management over a technical career?
 - Is entrepreneurship compatible with family life?
 - What does professional success look like through the eyes of one's children?
 - Where does resilience come from when tragedy strikes?

“These questions have no equations, yet they influence every engineering career.”
For 45 years I worked as an engineer before writing this book. Looking back, I realize that my most valuable lessons came from observing exceptional engineers and from living through hard-won successes and inevitable setbacks.
—Gregory W. Evans

What control educators say

<i>“This is a wonderful book about a giant of classical control who inspired me as an undergrad at MIT. I devoted my early career to bringing back the rigor and relevance that Evans and his contemporaries embodied and was sadly missing in modern control. Reading this book reminds me of what I missed in knowing the methods but not the man.”</i>	<i>“Greg Evans tells the fascinating story of his father, Walter Evans, whose development of the root locus method transformed control engineering. From foundational ideas to the clever “spirule” tool, this book captures the blend of insight and ingenuity that shaped the field. An engaging read for anyone interested in the history of innovation.”</i>
John C. Doyle, Caltech	Richard M. Murray, Caltech



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Into Stability
Chapter Questions

Chapter 1 – St. Louis

Where does innovation begin? Family, curiosity, and the environment that shapes a future innovator.

Chapter 2 – Schenectady

Can one mentor change a life? The lasting influence of teachers, mentors, and professional role models.

Chapter 3 – The GE Advanced Course

What does it mean to really understand? Deep learning versus memorization; developing intuition instead of formulas.

Chapter 4 – The Graphical Analysis Paper

Can great ideas come from obscure places? How important discoveries often begin unnoticed.

Chapter 5 – North American Aviation

What kind of workplace creates breakthroughs? An open culture where ideas circulate freely and collaboration flourishes.

Chapter 6 – Aerophysics Lab

How does opportunity meet preparation? Walt was ready when an extraordinary engineering challenge appeared.

Chapter 7 – The Spirule

Why do simple teaching tools matter? The power of visualization, memorable demonstrations, and making complex ideas accessible.

Chapter 8 – The Root Locus Paper

How does a new paradigm earn acceptance? Publishing, peer review, skepticism, and eventually changing an entire field.

Chapter 9 – The Textbook

When does an idea become part of history? A breakthrough becomes transformative only when others teach it, adopt it, and pass it on.

Chapter 10 – Autonetics

Should great engineers become managers? Technical excellence, leadership, and different paths to influence.

Chapter 11 – The Spirule Company

What does entrepreneurship really require? Balancing innovation, risk, business, and family responsibilities.

Chapter 12 – My Stories of Dad

What remains after the accomplishments? Character, family, humility, and the legacy remembered by those closest to us.

Epilogue

What is true stability? Resilience after tragedy, adapting to life’s unexpected turns, and the enduring support of loved ones.