

Department of Electronics & Communication Engg.

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Convolution

Discrete time Convolution

$$
x(n)\longrightarrow \fbox{\bf L}\longrightarrow y(n)
$$

DT convolution is based on an earlier result where we showed that any signal $x(n)$ can expressed as a sum of impulses.

$$
x(n) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x(k)\delta(n-k)
$$

So let us consider $x(n)$ written in this form to be our input to the LTI system.

$$
y(n) = \mathcal{L}[x(n)] = \mathcal{L}\left[\sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x(k)\delta(n-k)\right]
$$

This looks like our general linear form with a scalar $x(k)$ and a signal in n, $\delta(n-k)$. R that for an LTI system:

- Linearity (L): $ax_1(n) + bx_2(n) \longrightarrow \boxed{\mathbf{L}} \longrightarrow ay_1(n) + by_2(n)$
- Time Invariance (TI): $x(n n_o) \longrightarrow \boxed{\mathbf{L}} \longrightarrow y(n n_o)$

We can use the property of linearity to distribute the system L over our input.

$$
y(n) = \mathcal{L}\left[\sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x(k)\delta(n-k)\right] = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x(k)\mathcal{L}\left[\delta(n-k)\right]
$$

then we can infer

$$
x(n) \longrightarrow |{\bf L}| \longrightarrow y(n)
$$

which gives us the following.

$$
y(n) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x(k)h(n-k)
$$

This is the *convolution sum* for DT LTI systems.

The convolution sum for $x(n)$ and $h(n)$ is usually written as shown here.

$$
y(n) = x(n) * h(n) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x(k)h(n-k)
$$

Example 2.1: DT Convolution: Step Response

Say we are given the following signal $x(n)$ and system impulse response $h(n)$.

$$
x(n) = u(n)
$$
 and $h(n) = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n u(n)$

We wish to find the step response $s(n)$ of the system (i.e. the response of the system to the unit step input $x(n) = u(n)$. This is shown below.

$$
s(n) = x(n) * h(n) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x(k)h(n-k)
$$

Thus the step response is as follows, found by substituting our actual signals into the general convolution sum.

$$
s(n) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} u(k) \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n-k} u(n-k)
$$

Let's look at this step response in smaller ranges to see what happens.

• First, consider the case where $n < 0$.

Here, $s(n) = 0$. This is because $u(n - k)$ (and the associated exponential) will be starting at a point less than 0 in the k domain, and will extend to $-\infty$, whereas $u(k)$ starts at 0 and extends to $+\infty$. We can visualize this, say for a value of $n = -2$.

Notice that there is no non-zero overlap of $x(k)$ and $h(n - k)$. Since they are multiplied together, the zero part of one signal cancels out the non-zero part of the other, and vice versa. Thus, $s(n) = 0$ for $n < 0$.

• The more interesting case is when $n \geq 0$.

Recall the convolution sum we are using to determin $s(n)$.

$$
s(n) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} u(k) \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n-k} u(n-k)
$$

Note that $u(k)$ means we know the summation will be 0 for all values of $k < 0$, so we can change the lower limit of the summation to 0. Similarly, the $u(n - k)$ term means that the summation for all values of $k > n$ will be 0, since that unit step is flipped and extends toward $-\infty$. So, we can change the upper limit of the summation to n. In the range $0 \leq k \leq n$, both of the unit steps will have a value of 1. This is shown below.

$$
s(n) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} u(k) \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n-k} u(n-k)
$$

$$
= \sum_{k=0}^{n} 1 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n-k} \cdot 1
$$

We can pull out any terms only in \boldsymbol{n}

since that is not the summation variable.

$$
= \sum_{k=0}^{n} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{-k}
$$

$$
= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \sum_{k=0}^{n} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{-k}
$$

$$
= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \sum_{k=0}^{n} 2^k
$$

Now we have a form consistent with a geometric series. We can use that to solve.

Recall
$$
\sum_{k=0}^{n} 2^{k} = \frac{1 - 2^{n+1}}{1 - 2} = 2^{n+1} - 1
$$

So we have $s(n)$ as follows.

$$
s(n) = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n (2^{n+1} - 1)
$$

= $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n (2 \cdot 2^n - 1)$
= $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \left(2 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{-n} - 1\right)$
= $2 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{-n} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n - 1 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n$
 $s(n) = 2 - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n$

We can visualize this, say for $n = 2$, as shown below. Note how the system

Example: $y(t) = x(t) * h(t) = u(t) * u(t)$

• Setting up the convolution integral we have

$$
y(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 0 \\ \int_0^t d\tau, & t \ge 0 \end{cases}
$$

$= \begin{cases} 0, t < 0 \\ t, t \ge 0 \end{cases}$

or simply

$$
y(t) = tu(t) \equiv r(t),
$$

which is known as the *unit ramp*

- For $t 2 < 0$ or $t < 2$ there is no overlap in the product that comprises the integrand, so $y(t) = 0$
- For $t-2>0$ or $t>2$ there is overlap for $\tau \in [0, t-2)$, so here

Evaluating Convolution Integrals

Step and Exponential

- Consider $x(t) = u(t-2)$ and $h(t) = e^{-3t}u(t)$
- We wish to find $y(t) = x(t) * h(t)$

$$
y(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-3\tau} u(\tau) u(t - \tau - 2) d\tau
$$
 (9.38)

• To evaluate this integral we first need to consider how the step functions in the integrand control the limits of integration

$$
\frac{u(t-\tau-2)|_{t-2<0}}{t-2-0}
$$

Properties of Convolution

• Commutativity:

$$
x(t) * h(t) = h(t) * x(t)
$$

• Associativity:

 $[x(t)*h_1(t)]*h_2(t) = x(t)*[h_1(t)*h_2(t)]$

- Distributivity over Addition: $x(t) * [h_1(t) * h_2(t)] = x(t) * h_1(t) + x(t) * h_2(t)$
- Identity Element of Convolution: \bullet

$$
x(t)*h(t) = h(t)
$$

What is $x(t)$?

- It turns out that $x(t) = \delta(t) \Rightarrow \delta(t) * h(t) = h(t)$ proof

$$
\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(\tau)h(t-\tau)d\tau = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(\tau)h(t-0)d\tau
$$

$$
= h(t)\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(\tau)d\tau = h(t)
$$

Integrator

$$
h(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{t} x(\tau) d\tau \Big|_{x(\tau) = \delta(\tau)} = u(t)
$$

Ideal delay

$$
h(t) = x(t - t_d)|_{x(t) = \delta(t)} = \delta(t - t_d)
$$

• Note that this means that

$$
x(t) * \delta(t - t_d) = x(t - t_d)
$$

• For a cascade of two LTI systems having impulse responses $h_1(t)$ and $h_2(t)$ respectively, the impulse response of the cascade is the convolution of the impulse responses

$$
h_{\text{cascade}}(t) = h_1(t) * h_2(t) \tag{9.44}
$$

• For two systems connected in parallel, the impulse response is the sum of the impulse responses

$$
h_{\text{parallel}}(t) = h_1(t) + h_2(t) \tag{9.45}
$$
\n
$$
x(t) \longrightarrow \boxed{\frac{h_1(t)}{h_2(t)}} \longrightarrow y(t)
$$
\n
$$
x(t) \longrightarrow h(t) = h_1(t) + h_2(t) \longrightarrow y(t)
$$

Queries ...?

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