

Chapter 3

Transfer Functions and Stability

3.1 1st-order system

Consider the first order difference equation

$$x(k) = \alpha x(k-1) + \beta u(k-1)$$

We have

$$X(z) = \alpha z^{-1} X(z) + \beta z^{-1} U(z)$$

$$\begin{aligned} X(z) &= \frac{\beta z^{-1}}{1 - \alpha z^{-1}} U(z) = \frac{\beta}{z - \alpha} U(z) \\ &= H(z) U(z) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$H(z) = \frac{\beta}{z - \alpha}$$

$$x_{k+1} = \alpha x_k + \beta u_k$$

$$x_1 = \alpha x_0 + \beta u_0$$

$$x_2 = \alpha x_1 + \beta u_1 = \alpha^2 x_0 + \alpha \beta u_0 + \beta u_1$$

$$x_3 = \alpha x_2 + \beta u_2 = \alpha^3 x_0 + \alpha^2 \beta u_0 + \alpha \beta u_1 + \beta u_2$$

$$\vdots$$

$$x_k = \alpha x_{k-1} + \beta u_{k-1}$$

$$= \alpha^k x_0 + \alpha^{k-1} \beta u_0 + \alpha^{k-2} \beta u_1 + \cdots + \beta u_{k-1}$$

$$= \alpha^k x_0 + \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \alpha^j \beta u_{k-1-j}$$

Suppose :

(i) an input sequence where $u(k)=0$ for all $k < 0$.

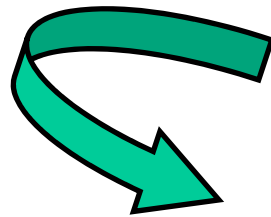
(ii) zero initial conditions:
 $x(0)=0$.

$$x(k) = \alpha^{k-1} \beta u_0 + \alpha^{k-2} \beta u_1 + \cdots + \beta u_{k-1}$$

$$= \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \alpha^{k-1-j} \beta u_j$$

$$= \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} h(k-j)u(j), \quad h(i) = \alpha^{i-1} \beta, \quad i \geq 1$$

$$= \sum_{j=0}^k h(k-j)u(j), \quad \text{adding } h(0) = 0 !$$



Convolution sum in time domain!



$$x(k) = \alpha^{k-1} \beta u_0 + \alpha^{k-2} \beta u_1 + \cdots + \beta u_{k-1}$$

$$= \sum_{j=0}^k h(k-j) u(j)$$

$$h(0) = 0, h(k) = \alpha^{k-1} \beta, k \geq 1, h(k) = 0, k < 0.$$

$$H(z) = Z \{ h(k) \} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h(k) z^{-k}$$

$$= 0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \alpha^{k-1} \beta z^{-k} = z^{-1} \beta \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \alpha^{k-1} z^{-(k-1)}$$

$$= z^{-1} \beta \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \alpha^l z^{-l} = z^{-1} \beta \frac{z}{z - \alpha} = \frac{\beta}{z - \alpha}$$

3.2 The Discrete Transfer Functions

For a general linear discrete system:

$$u_k + a_1 u_{k-1} + a_2 u_{k-2} + \cdots + a_n u_{k-n} = b_0 e_k + b_1 e_{k-1} + \cdots + b_m e_{k-m}$$

it follows from time shift property of the z-transform that

$$\begin{aligned} U(z) + a_1 z^{-1} U(z) + \cdots + a_n z^{-n} U(z) \\ = b_0 E(z) + b_1 z^{-1} E(z) + \cdots + b_m z^{-m} E(z) \end{aligned}$$

The discrete transfer function is defined as

$$H(z) := \frac{U(z)}{E(z)} := \frac{b_0 + b_1 z^{-1} + \cdots + b_m z^{-m}}{1 + a_1 z^{-1} + \cdots + a_n z^{-n}}$$

If $n \geq m$, write this as

$$H(z) = \frac{b_0 z^n + b_1 z^{n-1} + \cdots + b_m z^{n-m}}{z^n + a_1 z^{n-1} + \cdots + a_n} \doteq \frac{b(z)}{a(z)}$$

The input-output relation is expressed as

$$U(z) = H(z)E(z)$$

Because $H(z)$ is a rational function of a complex variable, we say that the places in z where $b(z) = 0$ are zeros of transfer function, and the places in z where $a(z) = 0$ are poles of $H(z)$.

We can now give a physical meaning to the variable z . Suppose all other coefficients to be zero except $b_1 = 1$. Then the LDE reduces to

$$u_k = e_{k-1}$$

The present output u_k equals the input delayed by one period. In this case

$$H(z) = z^{-1}, \quad U(z) = z^{-1} E(z).$$

we see that a transfer function of z^{-1} is a delay of one time unit.

Time-domain meaning to an arbitrary transfer function

Recall that $U(z) = H(z) E(z)$. Let $e(k)$ be the discrete unit pulse

$$e_k = \delta_k = \begin{cases} 1, & k = 0 \\ 0, & k \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

The z-transform of unit discrete pulse is

$$Z(e_k) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} e_k z^{-k} = e_k z^{-k} \Big|_{k=0} = 1$$

Thus, $U(z) = H(z)$. The transfer function $H(z)$ is seen to be the z-transform of the output response to a unit-pulse input, $\{h_k\}$, which is called the unit-pulse response.

For input $E(z)$ other than $E(z) = 1$, we can get the response u_k by multiplying the infinite polynomials of $H(z)$ $E(z)$ as $U(z) = H(z)E(z)$. Usually, we assume $h_k = 0$ for $k < 0$ and $k=0$ being the starting time for e_k :

$$H(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k z^{-k}$$

$$E(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} e_k z^{-k}$$

$$U(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} u_k z^{-k} = H(z)E(z) = \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k z^{-k} \right) \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} e_k z^{-k} \right)$$

Equalizing the coefficients of the same power on both sides gives

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} u_k z^{-k} &= \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k z^{-k} \right) \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} e_k z^{-k} \right) \\ &= (h_0 + h_1 z^{-1} + h_2 z^{-2} + \dots) (e_0 + e_1 z^{-1} + e_2 z^{-2} + \dots)\end{aligned}$$

Coefficient of

$$\begin{aligned}z^0 : \quad u_0 &= h_0 e_0 \\ z^{-1} : \quad u_1 &= h_0 e_1 + h_1 e_0 \\ z^{-2} : \quad u_2 &= h_0 e_2 + h_1 e_1 + h_2 e_0 \\ z^{-3} : \quad &\dots\end{aligned}$$

In general, we have

$$u_k = \sum_{j=0}^k h_{k-j} e_j, \text{ if } h_k = e_k = 0, \quad k < 0.$$

Otherwise

$$u_k = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} h_{k-j} e_j$$

This is the discrete convolution sum and is the analog of convolution integral in continuous system.

Conversely, let $x(k) = \sum_{j=0}^k h(k-j)u(j)$.

If $h(k) = 0, k < 0$, then $x(k) = \sum_{j=0}^k h(k-j)u(j) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} h(k-j)u(j)$.

$$\begin{aligned} X(z) &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x(k)z^{-k} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} z^{-k} \left[\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} h(k-j)u(j) \right] \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} u(j) \left[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h(k-j)z^{-k} \right] \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} u(j)z^{-j} H(z) = H(z)U(z) \end{aligned}$$

$H(z)$ is the z-transform of the sequence, $h(k)$.

$h(k)$ is one to one correspondence with $H(z)$

In continuous time

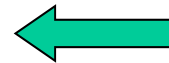


In s-domain:

$$Y(s) = G(s)U(s)$$

In time domain:

$$y(t) = \int_0^t g(\tau) u(t - \tau) d\tau$$



Continuous time
convolution integral

In continuous time,

- $g(t)$ is the output response to the unit impulse input
- $G(s)$ is the transfer function, or Laplace transform of $g(t)$
- Output, $y(t)$, is given by (**continuous**) convolution integral
- Output $Y(s) = G(s)U(s)$

In discrete time,

- $h(k)$ is the output response to the unit pulse input
- $H(z)$ is the discrete transfer function, or z-transform of $h(k)$
- Output, $u(k)$, is given by (**discrete**) convolution sum
- Output $U(z) = H(z)E(z)$

In Summary, ...

- We have a tool which works just like the Laplace transform and transfer functions in the continuous time.
- The discrete transfer function is the ratio:

$$\frac{\text{z transform of output sequence}}{\text{z transform of input sequence}}$$

Or it is also the z-transform of the unit pulse response, $h(k)$.

Examples of Discrete transfer functions

1) Differentiator

- In our room temperature example, we approximated

$$y(t) = \frac{d\theta(t)}{dt} \approx \frac{\theta(t+T) - \theta(t)}{T}$$

$$y(k) = \frac{\theta(k+1) - \theta(k)}{T}$$

- Taking z transform



$$Y(z) = \frac{z\Theta(z) - \Theta(z)}{T}$$

$$\frac{Y(z)}{\Theta(z)} = \frac{z - 1}{T}$$

2) Integrator

$$y(t) = \int_{t=0}^t \theta(t) dt, \quad \text{and,} \quad y(kT + T) = \int_{t=0}^{t=kT} \theta(t) dt + \int_{t=kT}^{t=kT+T} \theta(t) dt$$

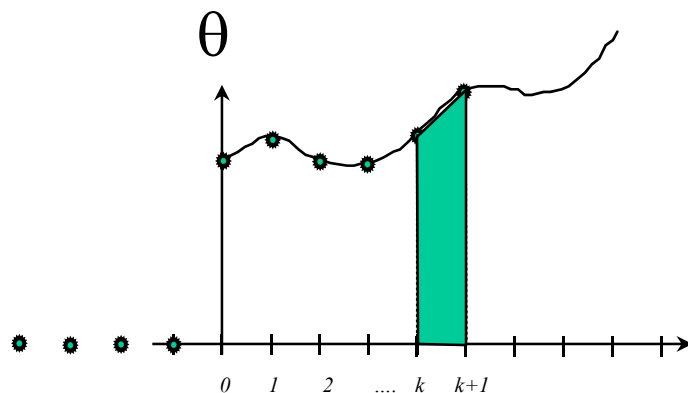
$$\therefore y(k+1) = y(k) + \int_{t=kT}^{t=kT+T} \theta(t) dt \approx y(k) + T\theta(k), \quad \text{or,} \quad y(k) + T\theta(k+1)$$

- Taking the z-transforms, we have

$$zY(z) = Y(z) + T\Theta(z) \quad \text{or} \quad zY(z) = Y(z) + Tz\Theta(z)$$

$$\frac{Y(z)}{\Theta(z)} = \frac{T}{z-1} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{Y(z)}{\Theta(z)} = \frac{Tz}{z-1}$$

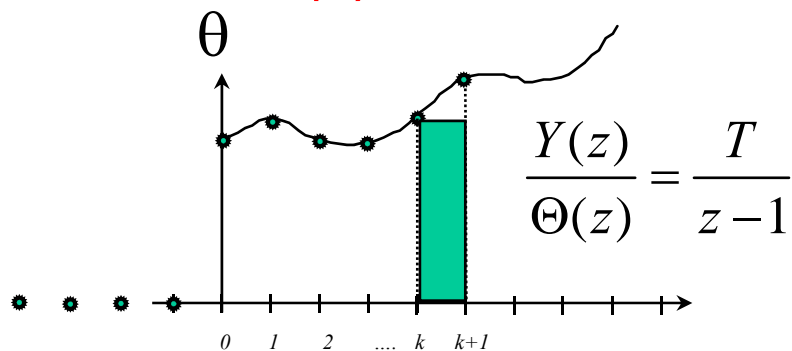
A pictorial view



The key is how we represent the shaded area.

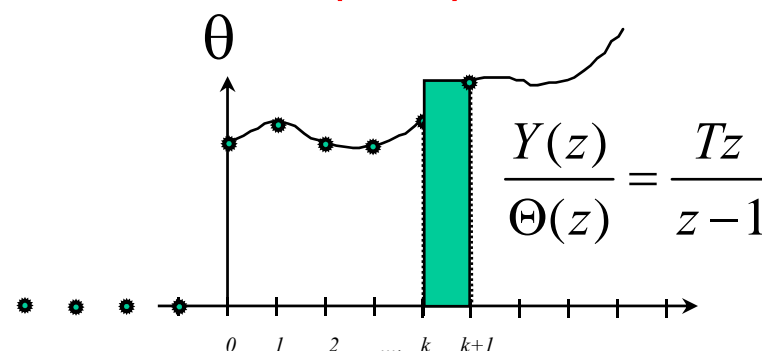
The two possibilities we considered were

$\theta(k)T$



or

$\theta(k+1)T$



Yet another method

$$y(k+1) = y(k) + \frac{1}{2}T[\theta(k+1) + \theta(k)]$$

- Takes the area of a trapezium
- More accurate than the other two methods to approximate the area under the curve
- Will learn more about this later

3.3 Stability

Definition: A system is said to be BIBO stable if for every bounded input, its output is also bounded.

How to get stability condition,...

View from s-z mapping:

$$z = e^{Ts}$$

Let the poles of continuous system $G(s)$ be

$$s_{pi} = \alpha_i + j\beta_i$$

$G(s)$ is stable if for all i , there hold

$$\alpha_i < 0$$

Then

$$z_{pi} = e^{Ts_{pi}} = e^{\alpha_i T} e^{jT\beta_i}$$

$$|z_{pi}| = |e^{\alpha_i T}| < 1$$

View from $h(k)$: given rational $H(z)$, one expands

$$\frac{H(z)}{z} = \sum_i \frac{\lambda_i}{z - z_{p_i}}$$

Then

$$H(z) = \sum_i \frac{\lambda_i z}{z - z_{p_i}}$$

$$h(k) = \sum_i \lambda_i (z_{p_i})^k$$

$$\text{if } |z_{p_i}| < 1, \quad h(k) \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} 0.$$

Let

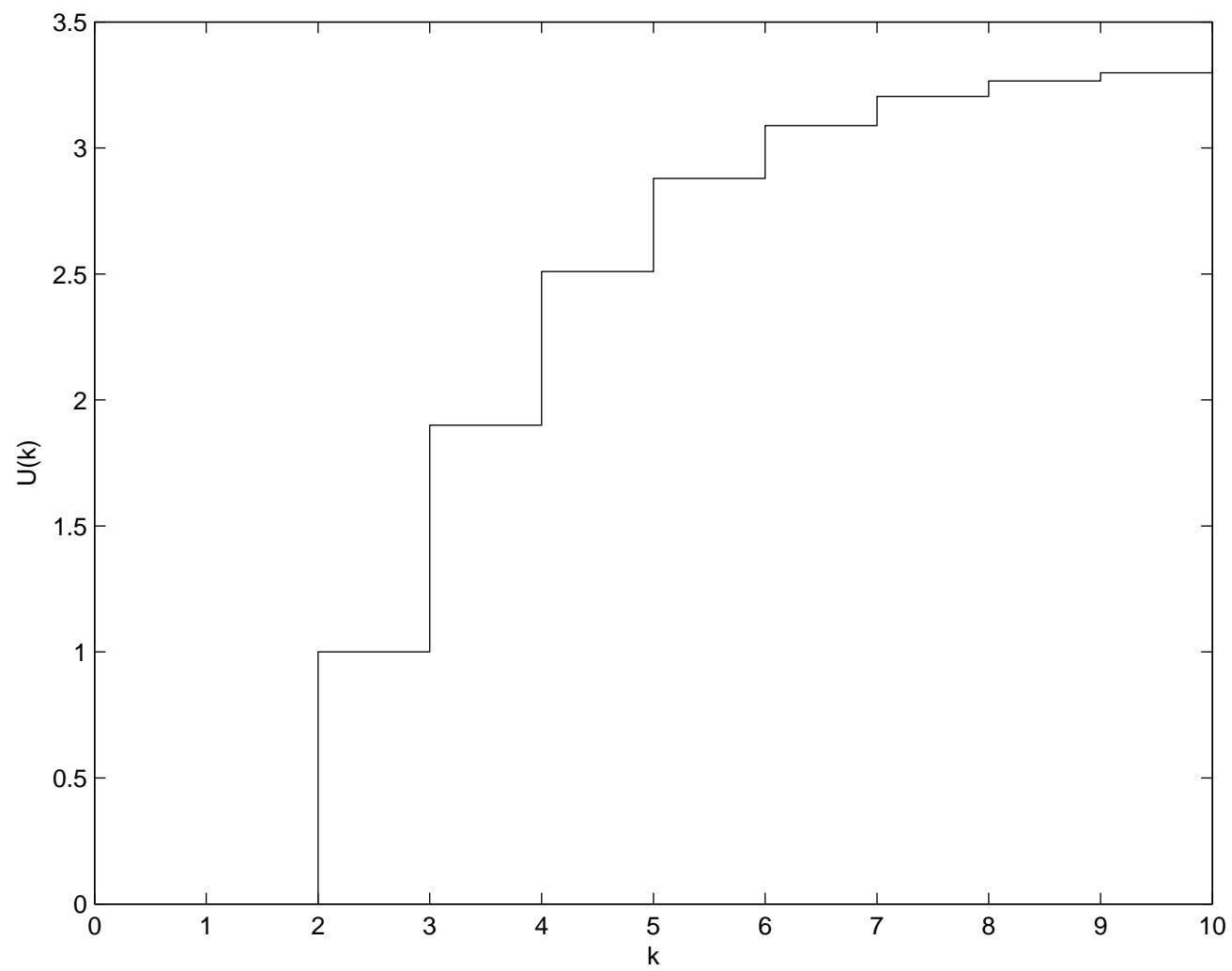
$$H(z) = \frac{1}{z^2 - 0.9z + 0.2}$$

$H(z)$ has two poles at

$$z_1 = 0.5 \quad \text{and} \quad z_2 = 0.4$$

both are inside the unit circle (i.e. magnitude less than 1),
Step response of $H(z)$ is shown below.

The system is stable.



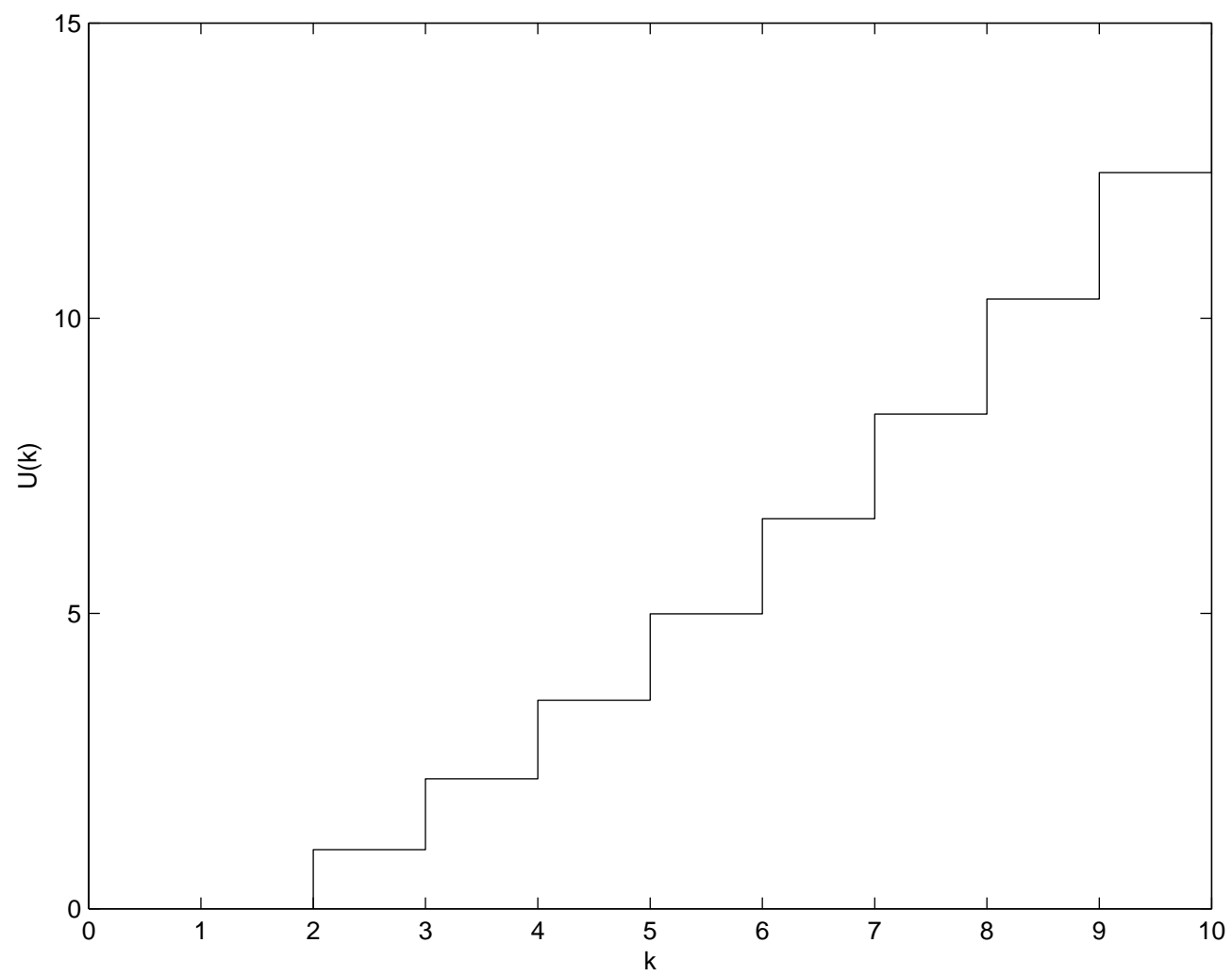
Let

$$H(z) = \frac{1}{z^2 - 1.2z + 0.11}$$

$H(z)$ has two poles at $z_1 = 1.1$ and $z_2 = 0.1$.
 z_1 is outside the unit circle.

See the figure below for its step response.

The system is unstable.



Satellite system

The attitude of a satellite can be described by the equation

$$J \frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2} = \tau$$

where θ is the attitude angle, τ is the control torque, and J is the moment of inertia. Suppose that $J=1$ and the transfer function is

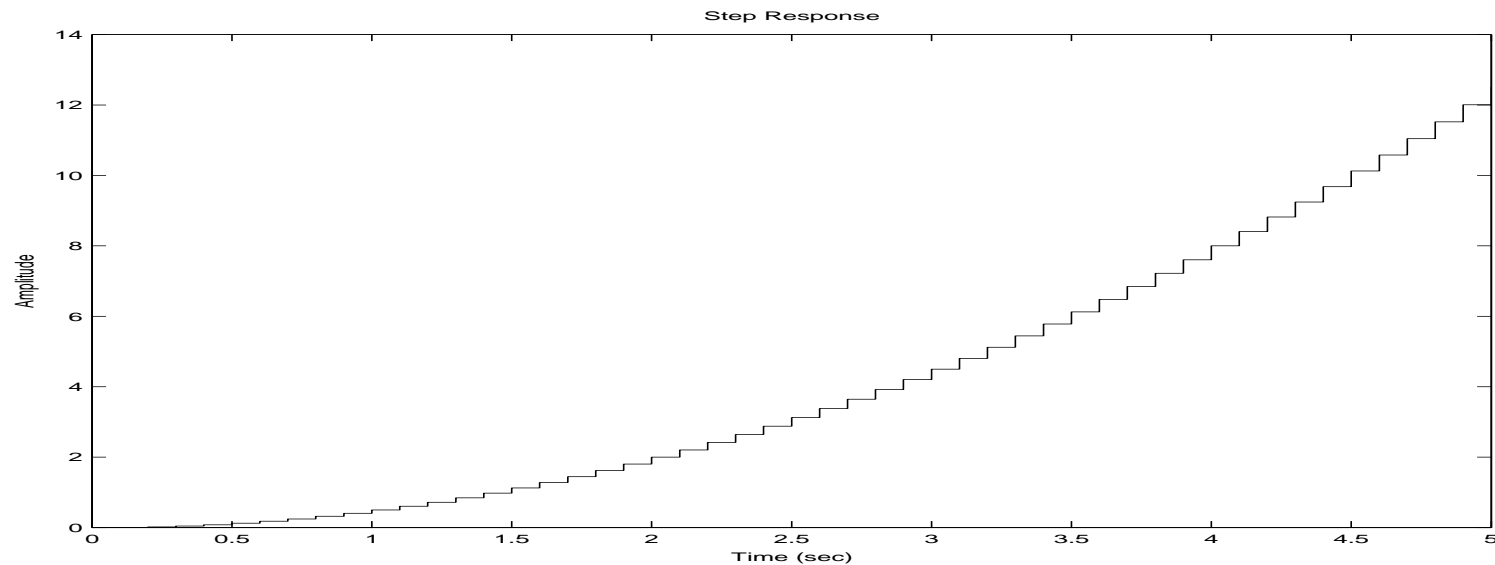
$$\frac{\theta(s)}{\tau(s)} = \frac{1}{s^2}$$



With $T=0.1$, the zero-hold equivalent method (Chapter 7) leads to the discrete transfer function as

$$\frac{\Theta(z)}{\tau(z)} = \frac{0.005z + 0.005}{z^2 - 2z + 1}.$$

The discrete transfer function has two poles at $z=1$ so that it is unstable. The step response is given in the following figure.



Stability Theorem: If a discrete system with the transfer function $H(z)$ has all its poles, z_k , strictly inside the unit circle, i.e., $|z_k| < 1$ for all k , then the system is stable; If at least one pole is on or outside the unit circle, the corresponding system is not stable.

Going from s to z ...

Example: $G(s) = \frac{1}{s^2 + s + 1}$ Poles at $s = -\frac{1}{2} \pm j\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$

s-poles are mapped to z-poles via $z=e^{sT}$. Suppose sampling frequency is $\omega_s = 10\pi \text{ rad} / s$, or $T = 2\pi / \omega_s = 0.2s$.

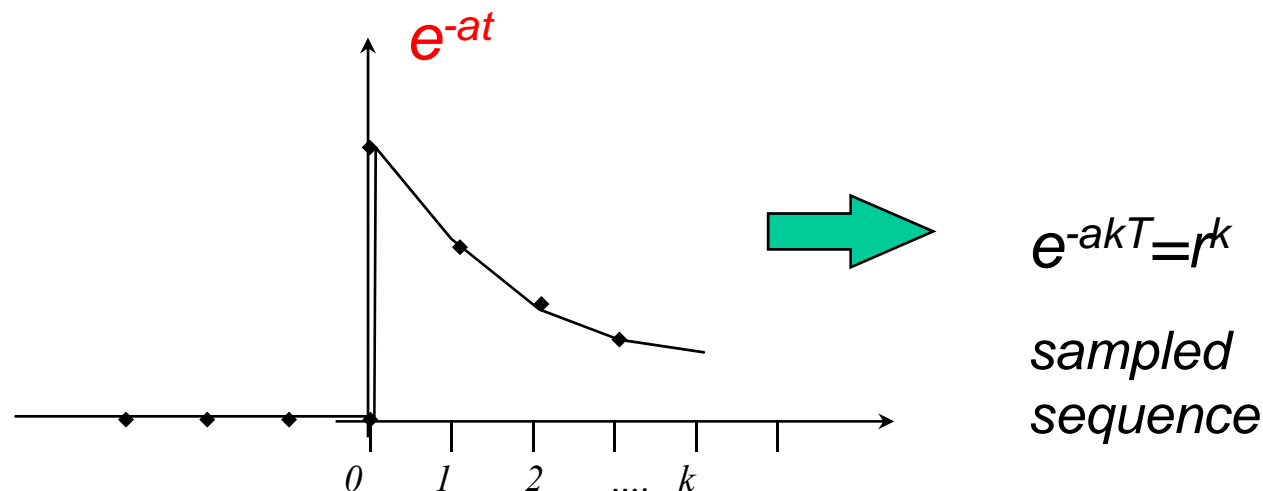
z-domain poles at $z = e^{sT}$

$$= e^{(-0.5 \pm j0.5\sqrt{3})0.2}$$

$$= 0.8913 \pm j0.1559$$

Its magnitude is $0.9048 < 1$  stable z-poles

Signal Analysis 1: real poles



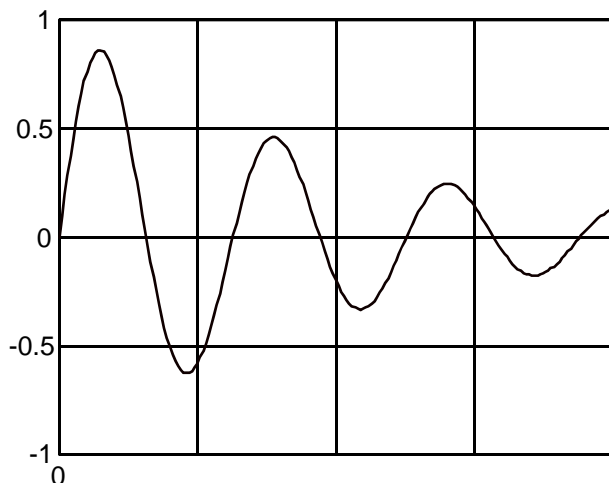
$$L\{e^{-at}\} = \frac{1}{s+a}$$

$$Z\{r^k\} = \frac{z}{z-r}, \quad r = e^{-aT}$$

- pole at $-a$
- $a < 0$ for unbounded signal
- $a = 0$ for step function
- $a > 0$ for bounded signal
- large positive a for fast decay

- pole at $z = r = e^{-aT}$
- $a < 0$, then, $r > 1$ for unbounded signal
- $a = 0$, then, $r = 1$ for step function
- $a > 0$, then $r < 1$ for bounded signal
- large positive a , then small r for fast decay

Signal Analysis 2: complex poles



$$e^{-at} \sin(bt) \quad t \geq 0$$

when sampled gives

$$e^{-aTk} \sin(bTk), \quad t = kT$$

$$r^k \sin(k\theta), \quad r = e^{-aT}, \quad \theta = bT$$

$$\frac{b}{(s + a)^2 + b^2}$$



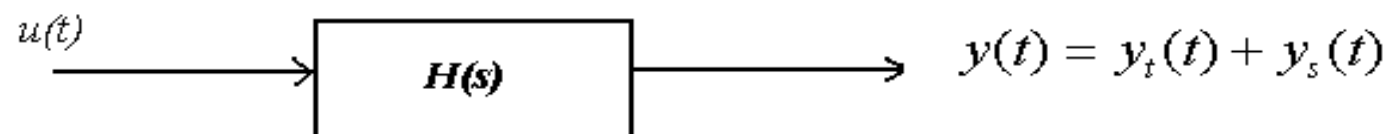
$$\frac{r \sin(\theta)z}{z^2 - 2r \cos(\theta)z + r^2}$$

- poles at $-a+jb, -a-jb$
- $a < 0$ for unbounded signal
- $a > 0$ for bounded signal
- large a for fast decay
- large b for higher frequency

- poles at $r \cos(\theta) \pm j r \sin(\theta)$
- $r > 1$ for unbounded signal
- $r < 1$ for bounded signal
- Small r for fast decay
- large θ for higher frequency

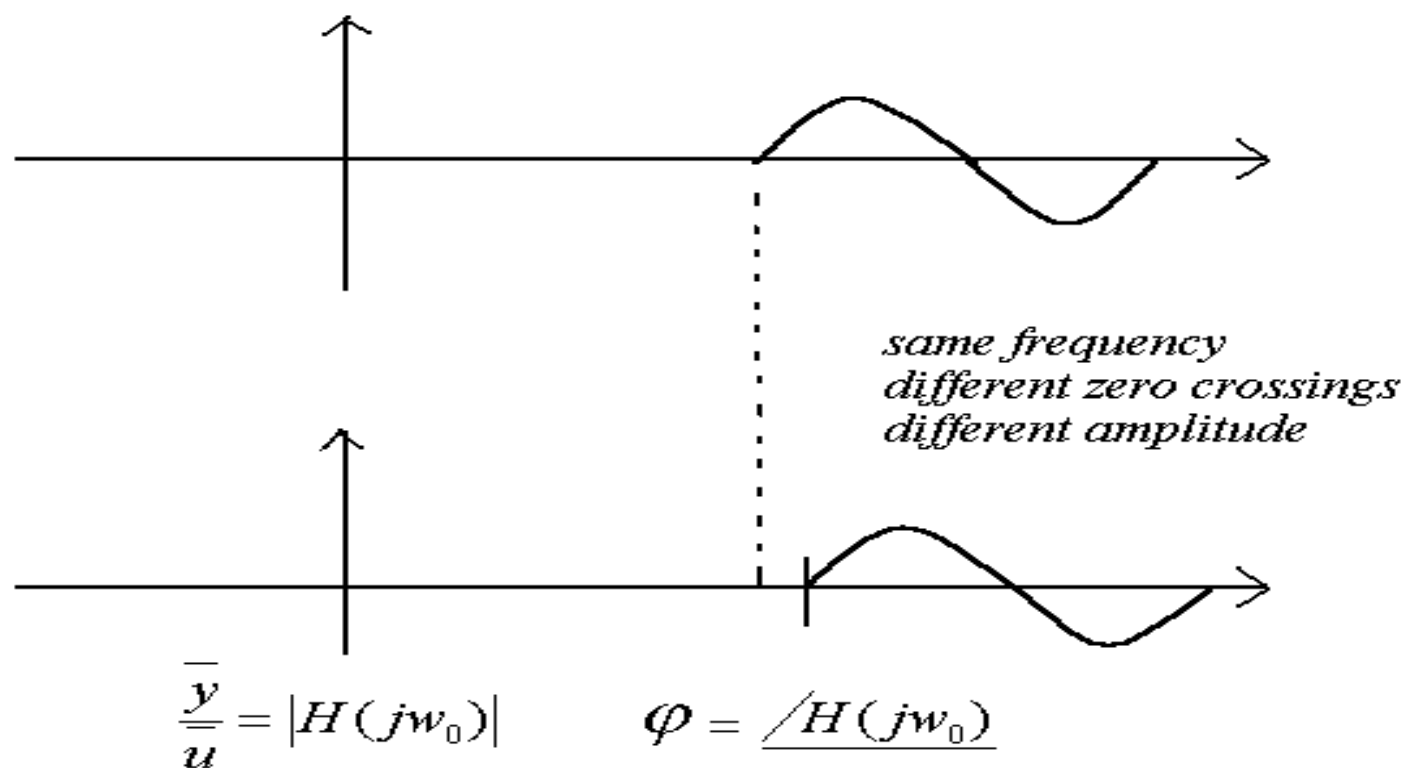
3.4 Frequency Response

Continuous system: transfer function $H(s) \gg \gg$ frequency response $H(j\omega) = A(\omega) e^{j\varphi(\omega)}$; Physically, if a sinusoid at frequency ω_0 is applied to a stable, linear, time-invariant system, the response is a transient plus sinusoidal steady state at the same frequency, ω_0 , as the input. The steady-state response to a unit-amplitude sinusoidal signal has amplitude $A(\omega_0)$ and phase $\varphi(\omega_0)$, related to the input signal.



$$u(t) = \bar{u} \cos \omega_0 t$$

$$y_s(t) = \bar{y} \cos(\omega_0 t + \varphi)$$



Discrete system is almost same: from transfer function $H(z)$ to frequency response $H(e^{j\omega T}) = A(\omega T)e^{j\varphi(\omega T)}$

Let the system be

$$U(z) = H(z)E(z)$$

If $e(k) = \cos(\omega_0 T k)1(k)$, $u(k)$ has the steady state response:

$$u_{ss}(kT) = A \cos(\omega_0 T k + \varphi)$$

which, of course, are samples at kT instants on a sinusoid of amplitude A , phase φ , and frequency ω_0 .

Caution: it should be noticed here that although a sinusoid of frequency ω_0 could be passed through the samples of $u_{ss}(kT)$, there are other continuous sinusoids of frequency $\omega_0 + l2\pi / T$ for integer l which also pass through these points.

Convention: define the discrete frequency response of a transfer function $H(z)$ to sinusoids of frequency ω_0 as $H(e^{j\omega_0 T})$

$$H(s) \rightarrow H(j\omega)$$

$$H(z) \xrightarrow{z=e^{Ts}, s=j\omega} H(e^{j\omega T})$$