

# Digital Signal Processing for Music

Part 16: z-transform

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## **z-transform**

## introduction

the z-transform is

- a generalization of DFT,
  - widely used in DSP as analysis tool,
  - a useful tool to characterize systems (also recursive systems!),
  - a useful tool to check for system stability and causality,
  - the discrete-time counterpart of the Laplace transform.

# z-transform

## definition

$$X(z) = \sum_{i=-\infty}^{\infty} x(i)z^{-i}, \quad z \in \mathbb{C}$$

- $X(z)$ : complex function of a complex number
- compare Fourier transform  $X(j\omega)$ : complex function of real-valued  $\omega$

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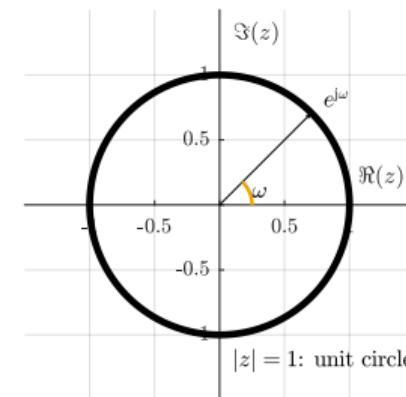
- $X(z)$ : complex function of a complex number
  - compare Fourier transform  $X(j\omega)$ : complex function of real-valued  $\omega$

$$X(j\omega) = \sum_{i=-\infty}^{\infty} x(i)e^{-j\omega i} \Rightarrow X(j\omega) = X(z) \text{ at } z = e^{j\omega}$$

## z-transform zplane

- $X(z)$  defined on complex plane
  - $X(j\omega)$  defined on unit circle

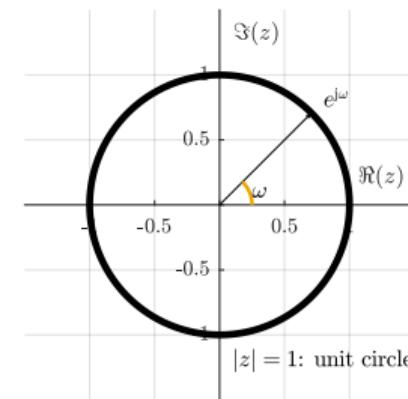
■ observation:  $X(j\omega)$  is periodic with  $2\pi$



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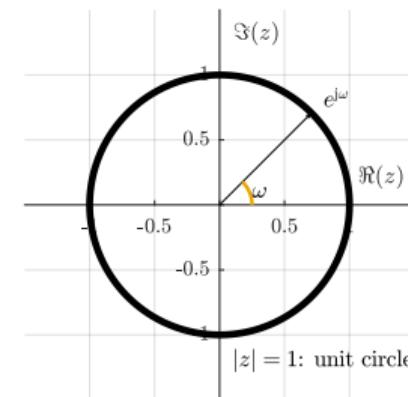
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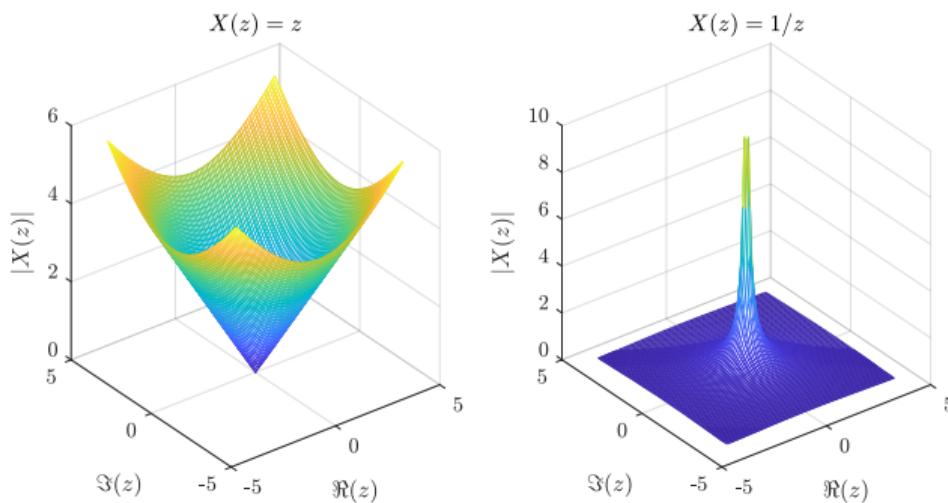
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# z-transform

## trivial example

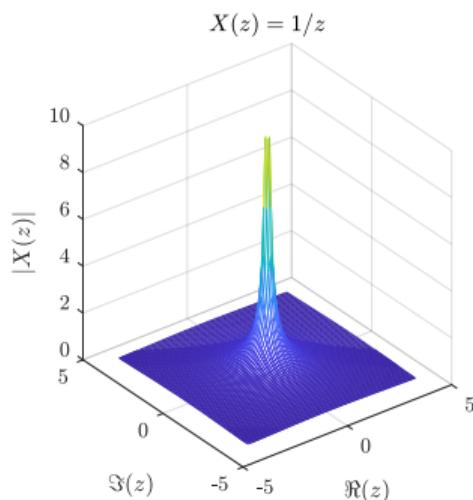
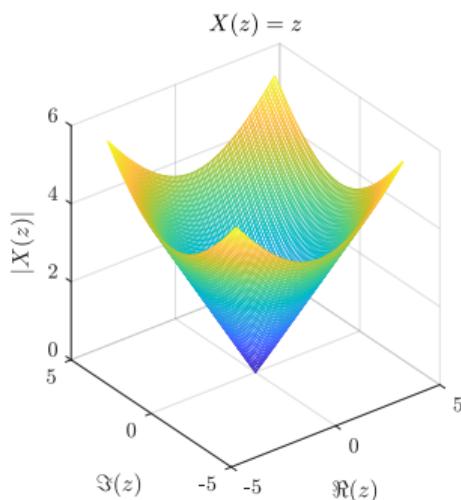


**what is the magnitude for  $X(z) = 1/(z - 0.5)$**



# z-transform

## trivial example



**what is the magnitude for  $X(z) = 1/(z - 0.5)$**

same as  $1/z$  but shifted on the x-axis.



## **z-transform system description**

Fourier transform and z-transform have largely similar properties, most importantly

## ■ linearity

$$y(i) = c_1 x_1(i) + c_2 x_2(i) \Rightarrow Y(j\omega) = c_1 X_1(j\omega) + c_2 X_2(j\omega)$$

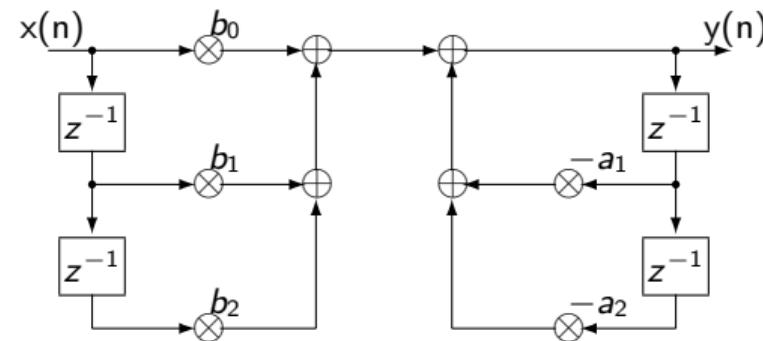
$$\Rightarrow Y(z) = c_1 X_1(z) + c_2 X_2(z)$$

### ■ time shift

$$\begin{aligned} y(i) = x(i-n) &\Rightarrow Y(j\omega) = e^{-j\omega n} X(j\omega) \\ &\Rightarrow Y(z) = z^{-n} X(z) \end{aligned}$$

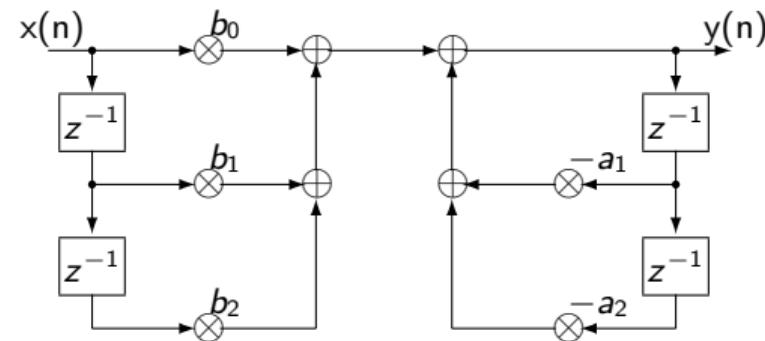
# z-transform

biquad: difference equation



# z-transform

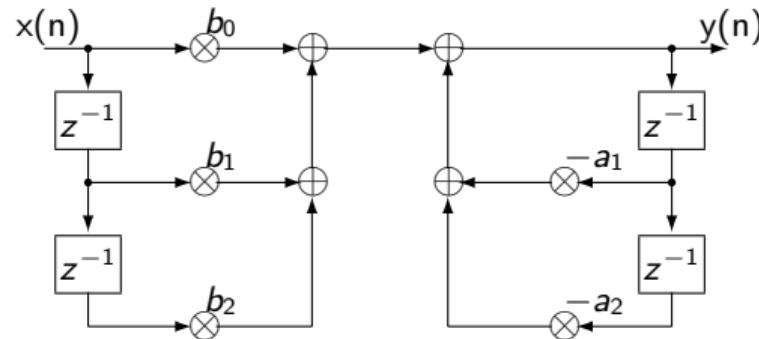
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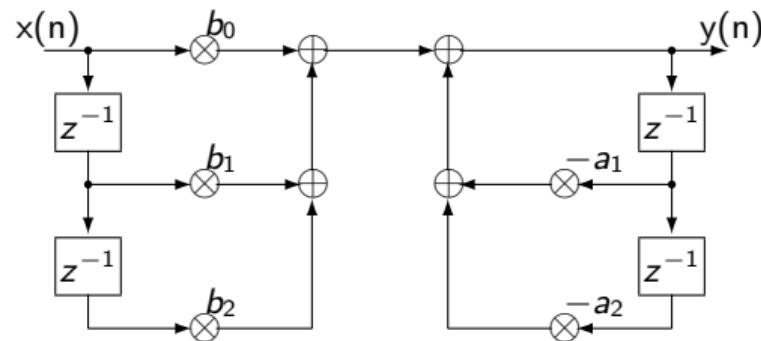


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$$Y(z) \left( 1 + \sum_{j=1}^2 a_j z^{-j} \right) = X(z) \sum_{j=0}^2 b_j z^{-j}$$

# biquad

## transfer function

$$\begin{aligned} H(z) &= \frac{Y(z)}{X(z)} \\ &= \frac{\sum_{j=0}^2 b_j z^{-j}}{1 + \sum_{j=1}^2 a_j z^{-j}} \\ &= \frac{b_0 + b_1 \cdot z^{-1} + b_2 \cdot z^{-2}}{1 + a_1 \cdot z^{-1} + a_2 \cdot z^{-2}} \\ &= \frac{\text{numerator polynomial}}{\text{denominator polynomial}} \end{aligned}$$

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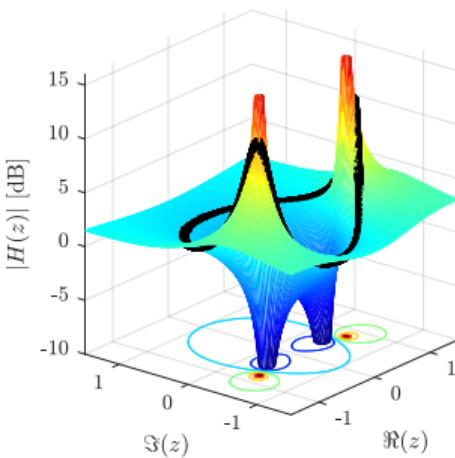
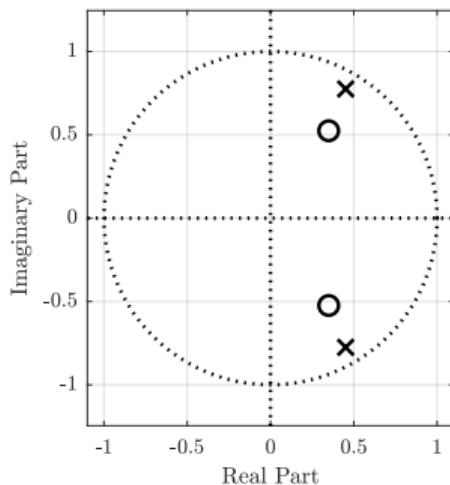
# biquad

## poles and zeros

- numerator  $\rightarrow 0$ : zero
- denominator  $\rightarrow 0$ : pole
  
- zeros and poles are a simplified way of visualizing filter properties in the zplane

# biquad

## zplane example



intro  
o

z-transform  
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examples  
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characteristics  
o

filter design  
o

quantized coefficients  
o

summary  
o

# biquad animation

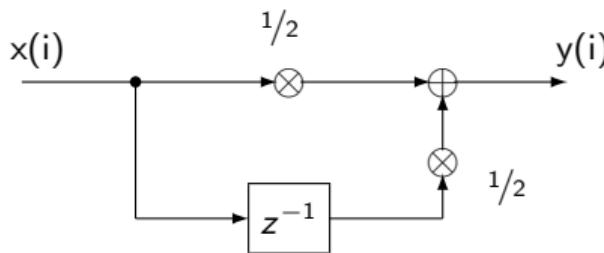
Georgia Tech | Center for Music Technology  
College of Design



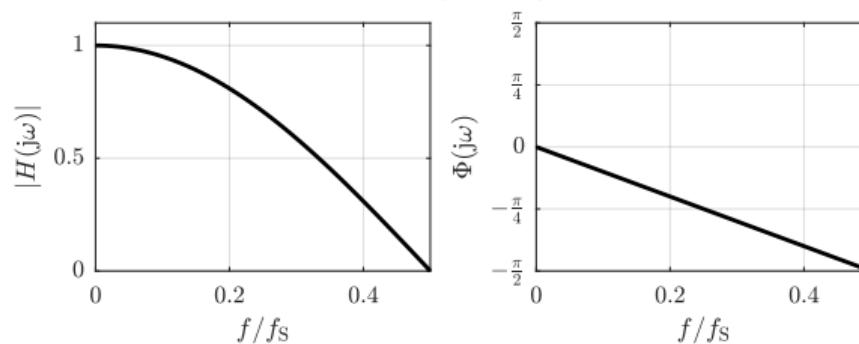
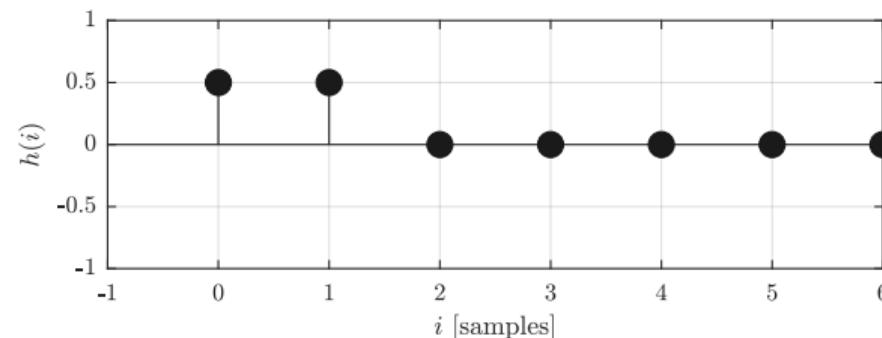
matlab source: [matlab/animateBiquadZplane.m](#)

# filters

## example 1 revisited



$$y(i) = 0.5 \cdot x(i) + 0.5 \cdot x(i - 1)$$



# filters

example 1 revisited: zplane

$$H(z) = 0.5 + 0.5 \cdot z^{-1}$$

⇒

$$H(-1) = 0$$

$$H(0) = \infty$$

# filters

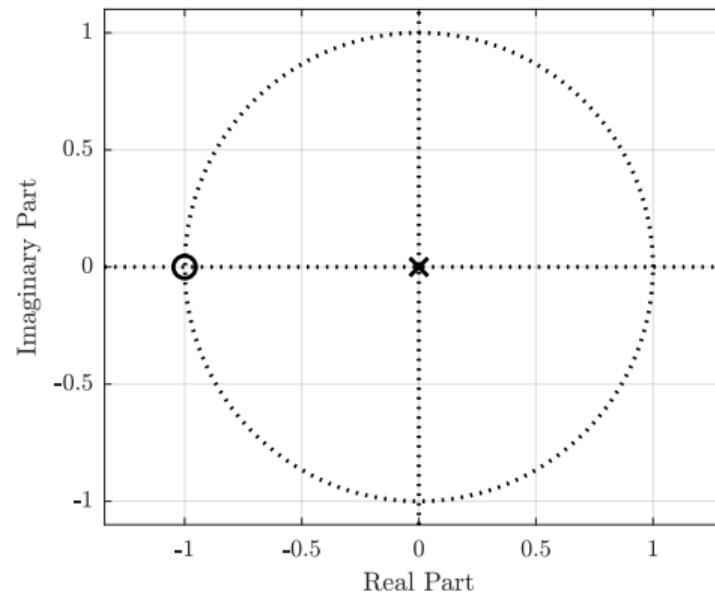
example 1 revisited: zplane

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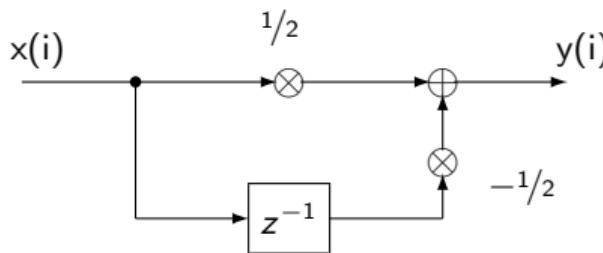
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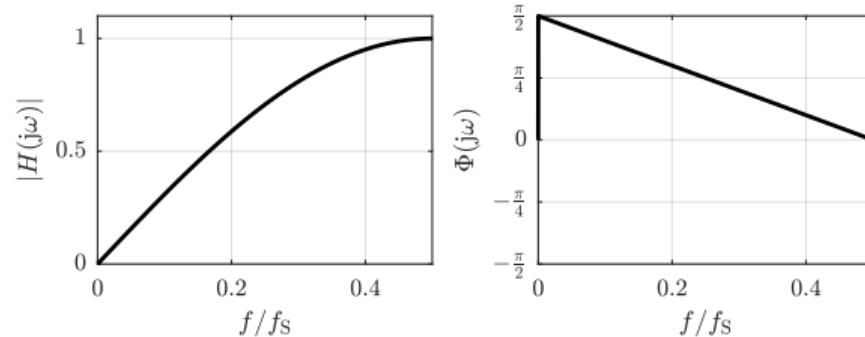
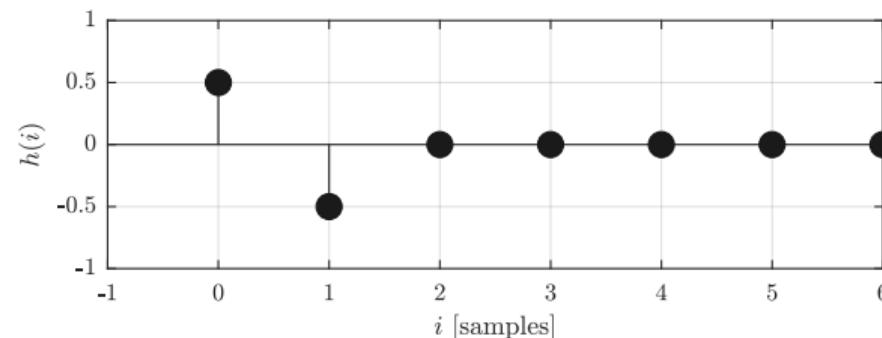


# filters

## example 2 revisited



$$y(i) = 0.5 \cdot x(i) - 0.5 \cdot x(i-1)$$



# filters

## example 2 revisited: zplane

$$H(z) = 0.5 - 0.5 \cdot z^{-1}$$

⇒

$$H(1) = 0$$

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# filters

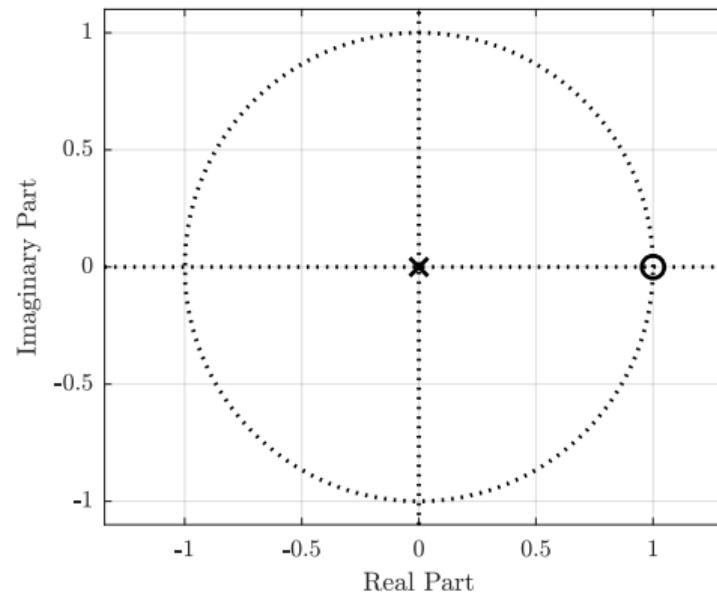
example 2 revisited: zplane

$$H(z) = 0.5 - 0.5 \cdot z^{-1}$$

⇒

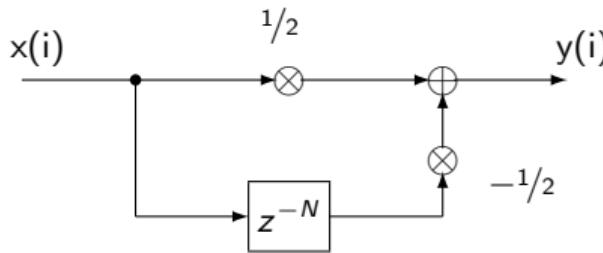
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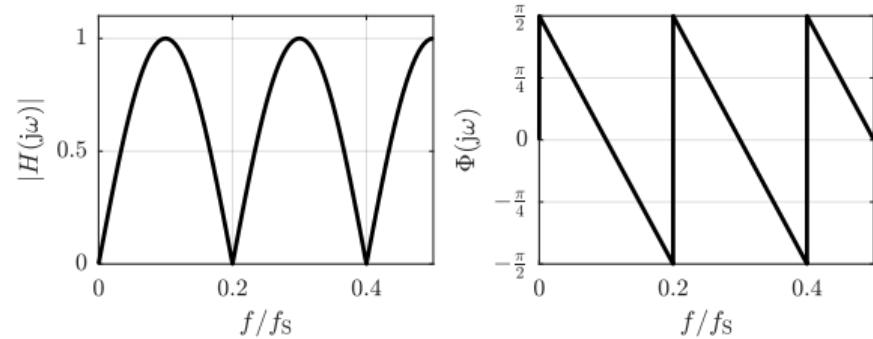
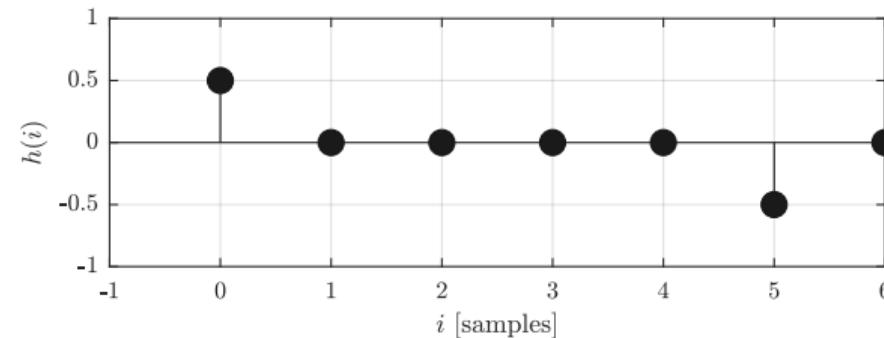


# filters

## example 3 revisited



$$y(i) = 0.5 \cdot x(i) - 0.5 \cdot x(i - N)$$



# filters

example 3 revisited: zplane

$$H(z) = 0.5 - 0.5 \cdot z^{-N}$$

⇒

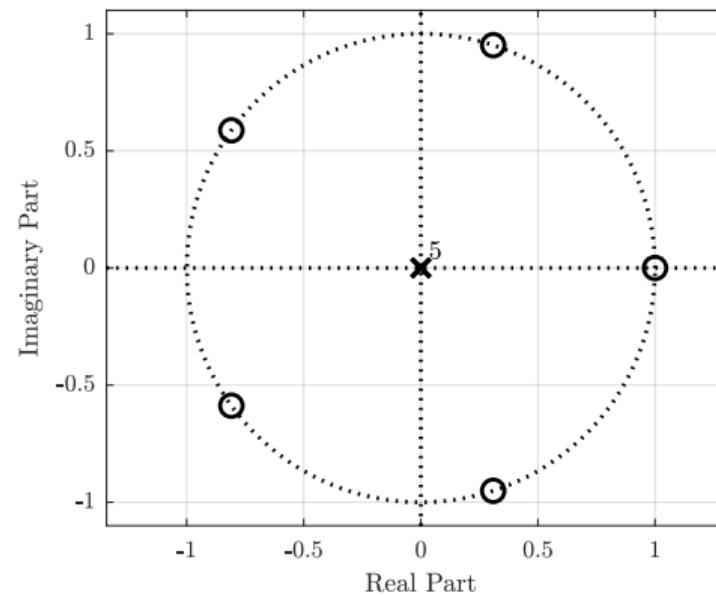
$$H(0, \omega = \frac{\pi}{5}, \omega = \frac{2\pi}{5}) = 0$$

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# filters

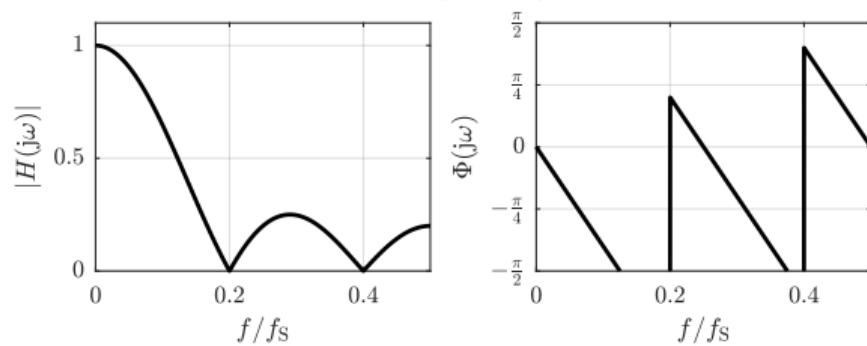
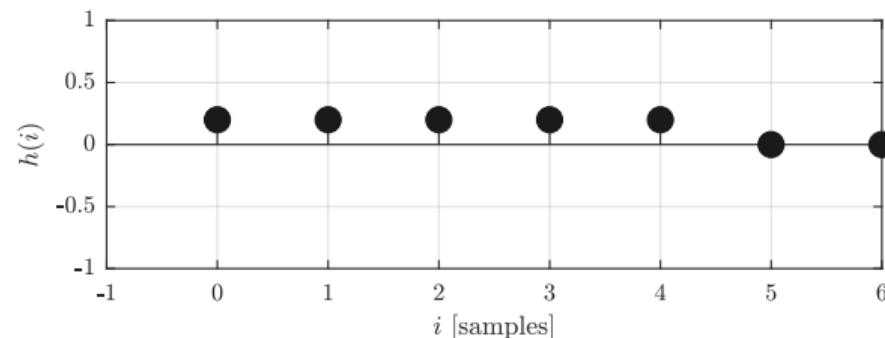
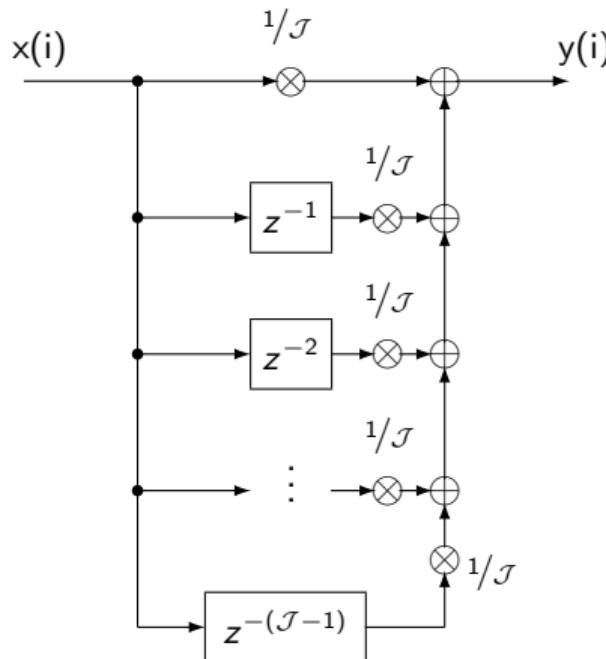
example 3 revisited: zplane

$$\begin{aligned} H(z) &= 0.5 - 0.5 \cdot z^{-N} \\ &\Rightarrow \\ H(0, \omega = \frac{\pi}{5}, \omega = \frac{2\pi}{5}) &= 0 \\ H(0) &= \infty \end{aligned}$$



# filters

## example 4 revisited



# filters

example 4 revisited: zplane

$$H(z) = \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=0}^{J-1} z^{-j}$$

⇒

$$H(z) = 0 \text{ for } \omega = \frac{\pi}{5}, \omega = \frac{2\pi}{5}, |z| = 1$$

$$H(0) = \infty$$

# filters

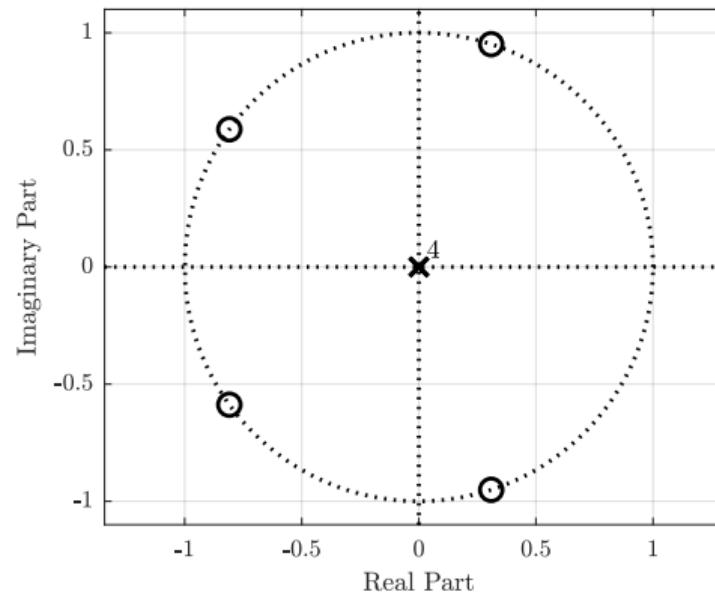
example 4 revisited: zplane

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⇒

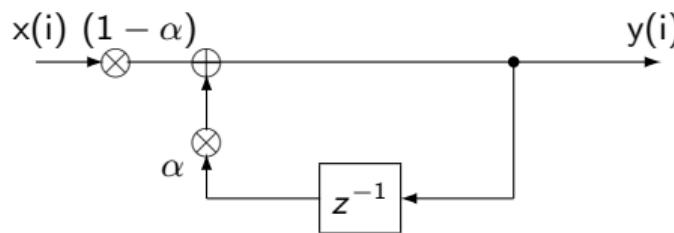
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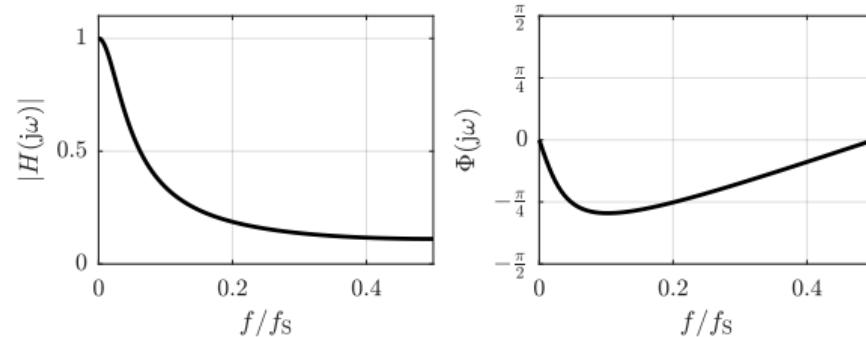
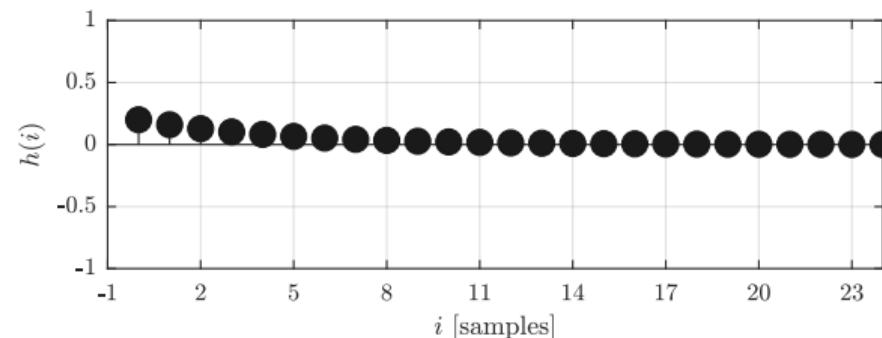


# filters

## example 5 revisited



$$y(i) = 0.5 \cdot x(i) - 0.5 \cdot x(i - N)$$



# filters

example 5 revisited: zplane

$$H(z) = \frac{1 - \alpha}{1 - \alpha z^{-1}}$$

⇒

$$H(0) = 0$$

$$H(\alpha) = \infty$$

# filters

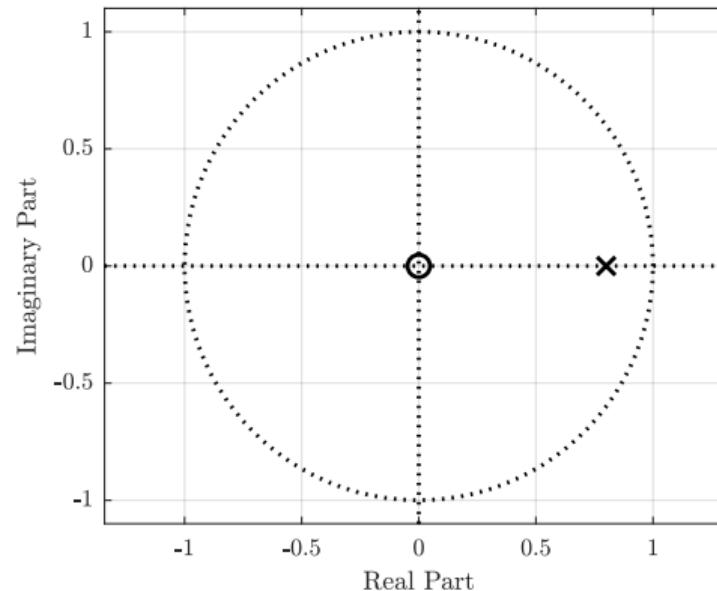
example 5 revisited: zplane

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⇒

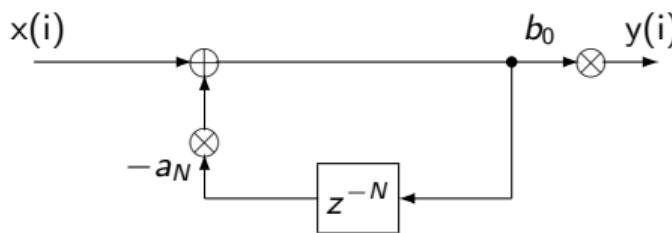
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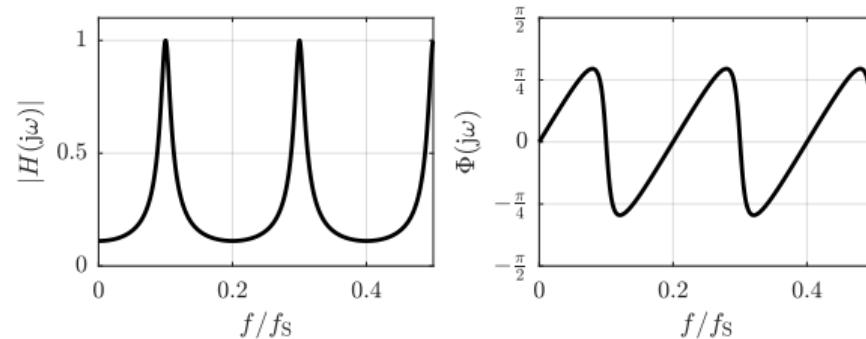
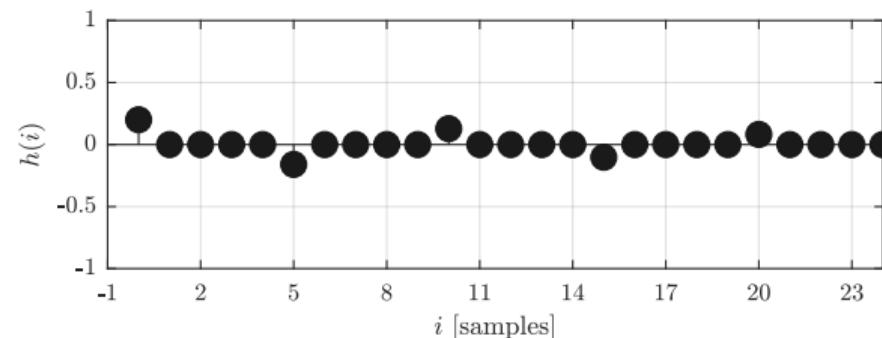


# filters

## example 6 revisited



$$y(i) = 0.5 \cdot x(i) - 0.5 \cdot x(i - N)$$



# filters

example 6 revisited: zplane

$$H(z) = \frac{b_0}{1 - a_N z^{-N}}$$

⇒

$$H(0) = 0$$

$$H(z) = \infty \text{ for } \omega = \pi - \frac{\pi}{N}, \omega = \pi - \frac{2\pi}{N}, \omega = \pi, |z| < 1$$

# filters

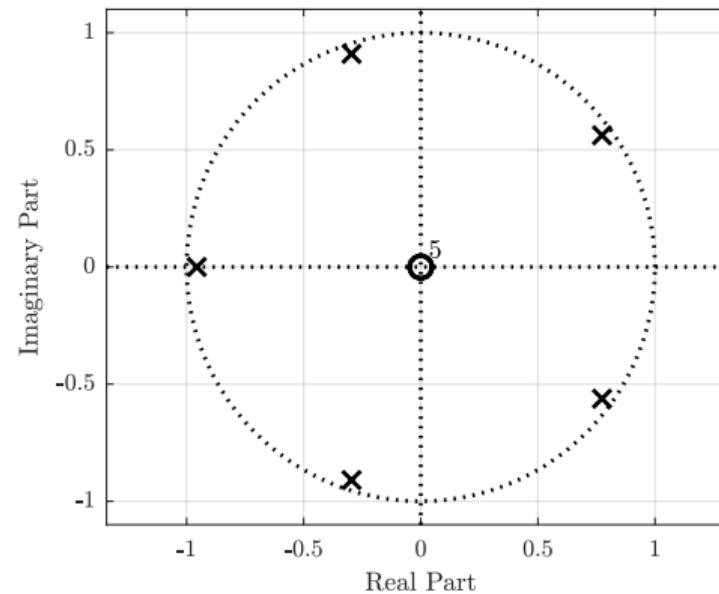
example 6 revisited: zplane

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# filters

## z-plane characteristics

- **stability:**

- poles within unit circle

- **zero points and poles**

- are either real or complex conjugate

- **minimal phase systems:**

- no zero points outside of unit circle

- **all pass system:**

- poles and zeros symmetric wrt unit circle

- **linear phase:**

- zero points within and outside unit circle symmetric wrt unit circle

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## filter design

### ■ impulse invariance: sample impulse response

- if continuous system is band-limited, frequency response will be approximately equal (below  $f_s/2$ )
- special case: no filter definition available → FIR coefficients

### ■ bi-linear transform

- map filter from (analogue) Laplace-plane to (digital) z-plane
- introduces frequency warping (increasing towards Nyquist frequency)

### ■ frequency transformation

- transform a (low-pass) prototype filter
- usually via all-pass mapping filter

### ■ iterative approximation of the magnitude response

### ■ intuitive methods

- manually move zeros and poles in z-plane
- draw magnitude response in frequency domain

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$$\begin{aligned}s &= \frac{2}{T} \frac{1 - z^{-1}}{1 + z^{-1}} \\ z &= \frac{1 + sT_s/2}{1 - sT_s/2}\end{aligned}$$

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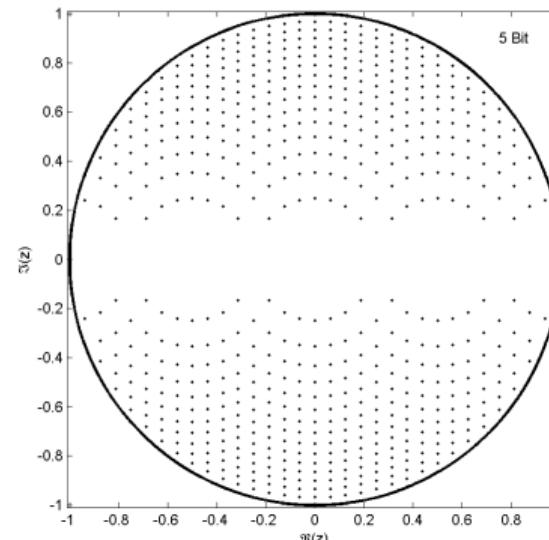
## effects of word length

- quantization of filter coefficients can lead to problems
- effects depend on filter type and structure:
  - changes of transfer function
  - instability
  - quantization noise → SNR

# filters

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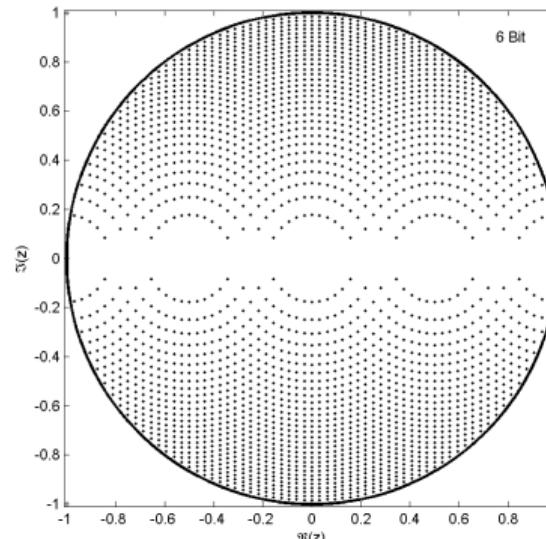
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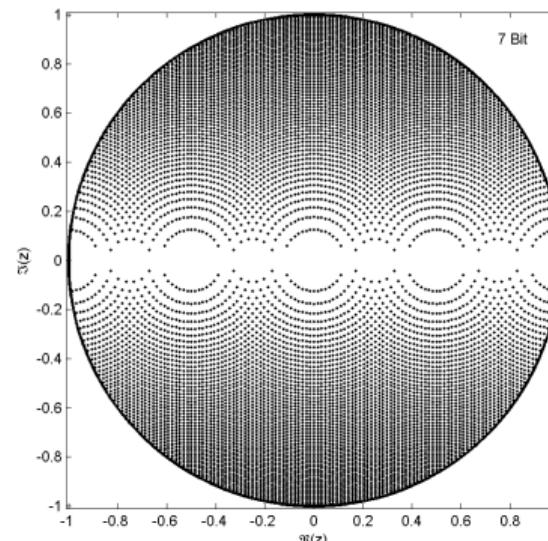
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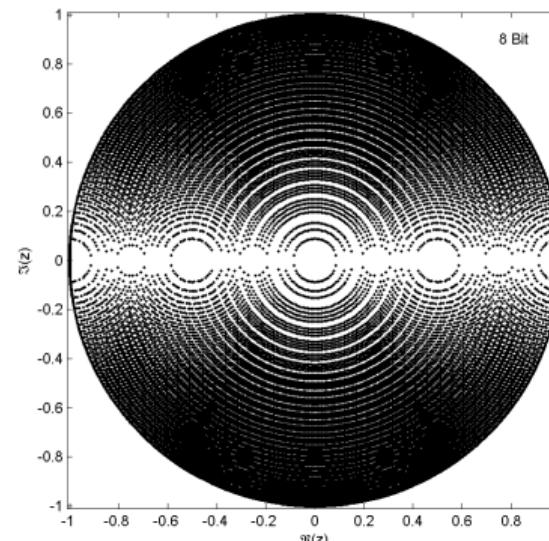
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- effects depend on filter type and structure:
  - changes of transfer function
  - instability
  - quantization noise → SNR



# filter summary

## FIR & IIR

	FIR	IIR
IR length	finite	infinite
structure	non-recursive	recursive
phase linearity	possible	impossible
ratio steepness/workload	low	high
stability	guaranteed	possibly unstable

- every LTI system is **completely described** either by
  - its complex transfer function,
  - its impulse response, or
  - its pole and zero positions in the z-plane