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# Differential Equations

#### Linear Constant-Coefficient Difference Equations

• In general, an *Nth*-order linear constant coefficient difference equation has the form

$$\sum_{k=0}^{N} a_{k} y [n-k] = \sum_{k=0}^{M} b_{k} x [n-k]$$

- The output is not uniquely specified for a given input
  - The initial conditions are required
  - Linearity, time invariance, and causality depend on the initial conditions
  - If initial conditions are assumed to be zero system is linear, time invariant, and causal

#### Linear Constant-Coefficient Difference Equations

- Example
  - Moving Average

$$y[n] = x[n] + x[n-1] + x[n-2] + x[n-3]$$

Difference Equation Representation

$$\sum_{k=0}^{0} a_k y [n-k] = \sum_{k=0}^{3} b_k x [n-k] \text{ where } a_k = b_k = 1$$

#### General Solution

• A general solution can be expressed as the sum of a homogeneous response (natural response), and a particular solution (forced response) of the system:

$$y[n] = y_h[n] + y_p[n]$$

• The concept of *initial rest* of the LTI causal system described by the difference equation here means that x[n] = 0 implies y[n] = 0

#### **Recursive Solution**

• In the discrete-time case, there are an alternative to find the Differential Equations

$$y[n] = \frac{1}{a_o} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{M} b_x x[n-k] - \sum_{k=1}^{N} a_k y[n-k] \right)$$

- This is often how digital filters are implemented on a computer or a digital signal processor board
- The response of a differential equation
  - The differential equation is discretized at a given sampling rate to obtain a difference equation
  - The response of the difference equation is computed recursively

Consider the difference equation

$$y[n] - \frac{5}{6}y[n-1] + \frac{1}{6}y[n-2] = 3x[n] - 2x[n-1]$$

Obtaining the recursive form of the difference equation

$$y[n] = \frac{5}{6}y[n-1] - \frac{1}{6}y[n-2] + 3x[n] - 2x[n-1]$$

• Assuming initial rest and that the input is an impulse, y[-2] = y[-1] = 0

• the recursion can be started

$$y[0] = \frac{5}{6}y[-1] - \frac{1}{6}y[-2] + 3x[0] - 2x[-1]$$
$$= \frac{5}{6}(0) - \frac{1}{6}(0) + 3(1) - 2(0) = 3$$

$$y[1] = \frac{5}{6}y[0] - \frac{1}{6}y[-1] + 3x[1] - 2x[0]$$
$$= \frac{5}{6}(3) - \frac{1}{6}(0) + 3(0) - 2(1) = \frac{1}{2}$$



$$y[2] = \frac{5}{6}y[1] - \frac{1}{6}y[0] + 3x[2] - 2x[1]$$
$$= \frac{5}{6}(\frac{1}{2}) - \frac{1}{6}(3) + 3(0) - 2(0) = -\frac{1}{12}$$

#### Matlab Implemantation

- A function called filter is available to solve difference equations numerically, given the input and the difference equation coefficients.
- In its simplest form this function is invoked by

$$y = filter(b,a,x)$$

- where
  - b = [b0, b1, ..., bM]; a = [a0, a1, ..., aN] are the coefficient arrays

$$\sum_{k=0}^{N} a_k y [n-k] = \sum_{k=0}^{M} b_k x [n-k]$$

## Matlab Implemantation

- To compute and plot impulse response, MATLAB provides the function impz.
- When invoked by

$$h = impz(b,a,n)$$

• Computes samples of the impulse response of the filter at the sample indices given in n with numerator coefficients in b and denominator coefficients in a.

• Given the following difference equation

$$y(n) - y(n-1) + 0.9y(n-2) = x(n);$$

- Calculate and plot the impulse response h(n) at  $n = -20, \ldots, 100$ .
- Calculate and plot the unit step response s(n) at  $n = -20, \ldots, 100$ .
- Is the system specified by h(n) stable?

• From the given difference equation the coefficient arrays are

```
b = [1]; a = [1, -1, 0.9];
```

• MATLAB script:

```
>> b = [1]; a = [1, -1, 0.9]; n = [-20:120];
>> h = impz(b,a,n);
>> subplot(2,1,1); stem(n,h);
>> title('Impulse Response'); xlabel('n');
ylabel('h(n)')
```

• MATLAB script:

```
n=-20:100;
x = (n-0) >= 0; % x = stepseq(0,-20,120);
s = filter(b,a,x);
subplot(2,1,2); stem(n,s)
title('Step Response'); xlabel('n');
ylabel('s(n)')
```

- To determine the stability of the system, we have to determine h(n) for all n.
- Although we have not described a method to solve the difference equation
- we can use the plot of the impulse response to observe that h(n) is practically zero for n > 120. Hence the sum

$$\sum |h[n]|$$

```
>> sum(abs(h))
ans = 14.8785
```

which implies that the system is stable.

- Let us consider the convolution given in previous example. The input sequence is of finite duration x(n) = u(n) u(n 10)
- while the impulse response is of infinite duration

$$h(n) = (0.9)^n u(n)$$

• Determine y(n) = x(n) \* h(n).

- If the LTI system, given by the impulse response h(n), can be described by a difference equation, then y(n) can be obtained from the filter function.
- From the h(n) expression

$$(0.9)h[n-1] = (0.9)(0.9)^{n-1}u[n-1] = (0.9)^{n}u[n-1]$$

$$h[n] - (0.9)h[n-1] = (0.9)^{n}u[n] - (0.9)^{n}u[n-1]$$

$$= (0.9)^{n}(u[n] - u[n-1]) = (0.9)^{n}\delta[n]$$

$$= \delta[n]$$

- The last step follows from the fact that  $\delta(n)$  is nonzero only at n=0.
- By definition h(n) is the output of an LTI system when the input is  $\delta(n)$ .
- Hence substituting x(n) for  $\delta(n)$  and y(n) for h(n), the difference equation is

$$y[n]-(0.9)y[n-1]=x[n]$$

• MATLAB's filter function can be used to compute the convolution indirectly.

```
>> b = [1]; a = [1,-0.9];
>> n = -5:50; x = stepseq(0,-5,50) -
stepseq(10,-5,50);
>> y = filter(b,a,x);
>> subplot(2,1,2); stem(n,y); title('Output sequence')
>> xlabel('n'); ylabel('y(n)'); axis([-5,50,-0.5,8])
```





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