

**ELEC 221 Lecture 03**  
**DT impulse response and convolution sum;**  
**CT convolution integral**

Thursday 12 September 2024

# Announcements

- Tutorial assignment 1 Monday 16 Sept 23:59
- Assignment 1 due Thursday 19 Sept 23:59
- Monday tutorial focus on practice problems - will post Piazza thread for requests

◆ New office hour Wed. 15:30-16:30 KALS 3065



Important:

every

- Quiz 2 on Tuesday
- Class next Thursday on Zoom (19<sup>th</sup>)
- Class next Tuesday also on Zoom if Air Canada goes on strike and cancels my flight (17<sup>th</sup>)

## Last time

We defined **LTI** (linear, time-invariant) systems.

$$x_1(t) \rightarrow y_1(t)$$

Linearity:

$$a x_1(t) + b x_2(t) \rightarrow a y_1(t) + b y_2(t)$$

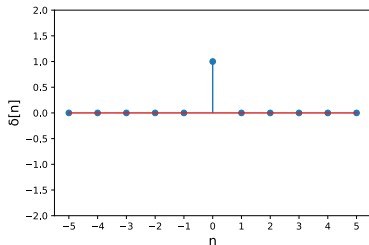
Time invariance:

$$x(t) \rightarrow y(t)$$

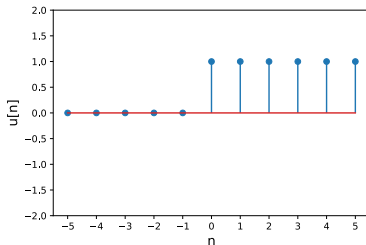
$$x(t-t_0) \rightarrow y(t-t_0)$$

## Last time

We defined the DT unit impulse and unit step



$$\delta[n] = \begin{cases} 1 & n=0 \\ 0 & n \neq 0 \end{cases}$$



$$u[n] = \begin{cases} 1 & n \geq 0 \\ 0 & n < 0 \end{cases}$$

... but then we got kind of stuck:

$$\delta[n] = u[n] - u[n-1]$$

$$u[n] = \sum_{m=-\infty}^n \delta[m]$$

*First: clarify some points from last time*

Learning outcomes:

- Define the convolution sum and use it to compute the output of a system
- Define the CT unit impulse and step functions
- Define the convolution integral and use it to compute the output of a system

In case we have time:

- Use the impulse response to determine whether a system is stable, causal, memoryless, or invertible

# What space are we in?

Used to thinking in terms of mathematical functions:

$$\underset{\substack{\nearrow \\ \text{output}}}{y} = f(\underset{\substack{\nwarrow \\ \text{input}}}{x}) \qquad \vec{y} = f(\vec{x})$$

For us, the system plays the role of the function, and signals are the input and output:

$$y(t) = S(x(t))$$

This is why linearity looks different.

## What space are we in?

A function  $y = f(x)$  is linear if

$$f(ax) = a f(x) = ay$$

$$f(x_1 + x_2) = f(x_1) + f(x_2) = y_1 + y_2$$

A system  $S$  that sends  $x(t) \rightarrow y(t)$  is linear if

$$S(ax(t)) = a S(x(t)) = ay(t)$$

$$S(x_1(t) + x_2(t)) = S(x_1(t)) + S(x_2(t)) = y_1(t) + y_2(t)$$

“Linear” is also overloaded. Recall the system

$$f(x) = ax + b$$

↖ degree 1

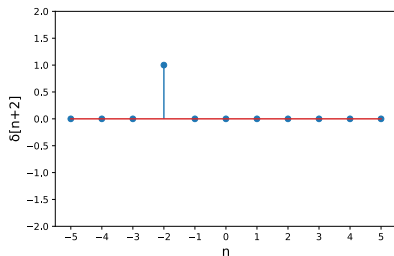
$$x(t) \rightarrow y(t) = x(t) + 1$$

is *not linear*, even though it looks like a linear equation.

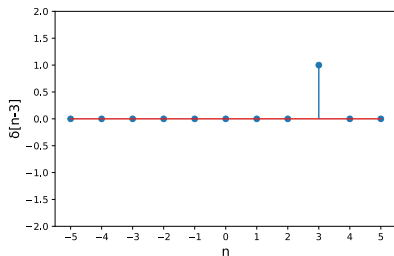
## Weighted, shifted impulses

$$\delta[n] = \begin{cases} 1 & n=0 \\ 0 & n \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\delta[n+2]$$



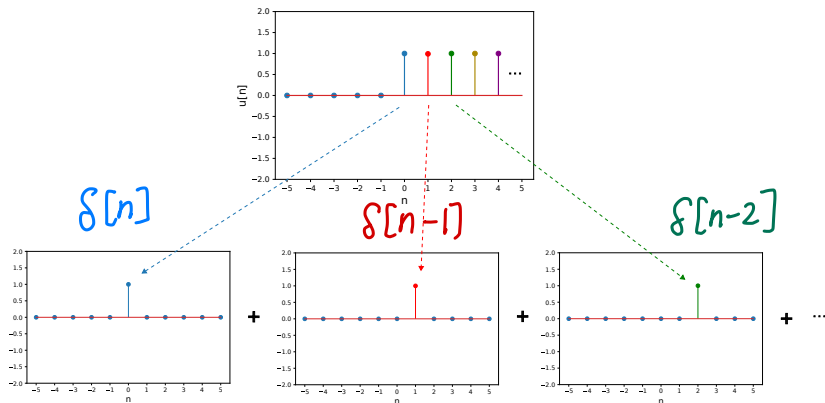
$$\delta[n-3]$$





## Weighted, shifted impulses

$$u[n] = \begin{cases} 1 & n \geq 0 \\ 0 & n < 0 \end{cases}$$



## Weighted, shifted impulses

More generally, can write

$$\begin{aligned}u[n] &= \delta[n] + \delta[n-1] + \delta[n-2] + \dots \\&= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \delta[n-k]\end{aligned}$$

$$u[2] = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \delta[2-k]$$

only 0 contributes  
 $\Rightarrow k=2$

Change variables ( $m = n - k$ )

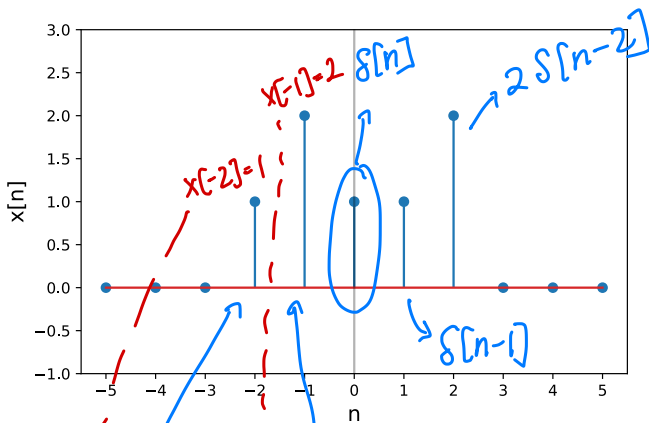
$$\begin{aligned}u[n] &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \delta[n-k] \\&= \sum_{m=n}^{-\infty} \delta[m] \quad (m \text{ decreases}) \\&= \sum_{m=-\infty}^n \delta[m]\end{aligned}$$

$$u[2] = \sum_{m=-\infty}^2 \delta[m]$$

$m=0$  contributes

## The unit impulse as a sampler

Every point is a *weighted, shifted impulse*.



$$\begin{aligned} x[n] &= \delta[n+2] + 2\delta[n+1] + \delta[n] + \delta[n-1] + 2\delta[n-2] \\ &= x[-2] \cdot \delta[n+2] + x[-1] \delta[n+1] + x[0] \delta[n] + \dots \end{aligned}$$

## The unit impulse as a sampler

Any signal can be written as a **superposition of weighted impulses**.

$$x[n] = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x[k] \delta[n-k]$$

Like a “deconstructed” version of the signal.

Multiplying by a shifted impulse “samples” the signal at that point:

$$x[n] \delta[n-k] = x[k] \cdot \underbrace{\delta[n-k]}$$

## The impulse response

How does an LTI system respond to a signal

$$x[n] = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x[k] \delta[n-k]$$

*coeff*

into linear system:  $y[n] = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x[k] \underbrace{\text{system}(\delta[n-k])}_{h_k[n]}$

Suppose it sends  $\delta[n-k] \rightarrow h_k[n]$

$$y[n] = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x[k] h_k[n]$$

$h_k[n]$  is called the **impulse response**.

## Real-world example: nerve conduction study

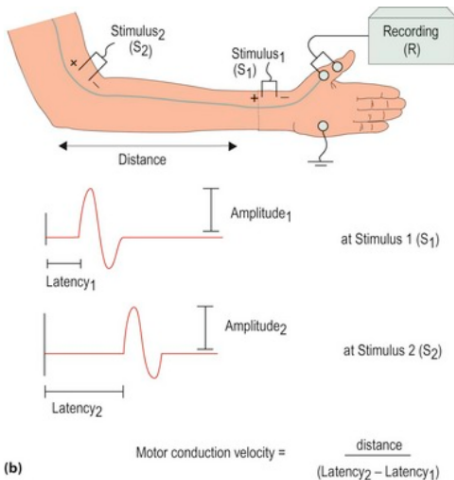


Image source: <https://neupsykey.com/nerve-conduction-studies-and-electromyography/>

## The impulse response and time-invariance

$$y[n] = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x[k] \underbrace{h_k[n]}_{\text{System}(\delta[n-k])}$$

What if the system is also time invariant?

$$x[n] \rightarrow y[n] \quad x[n-k] \rightarrow y[n-k]$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \delta[n] &\rightarrow h[n] \\ \delta[n-k] &\rightarrow h[n-k] \end{aligned}$$

## The convolution sum

If we know how a **linear** system responds to the unit impulse, we can learn how it responds to **any other signal**!

$$y[n] = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x[k] h[n-k]$$

This is the **convolution sum**. We are “convolving” the sequences  $x[n]$  and  $h[n]$ .

$$y[n] = x[n] * h[n]$$



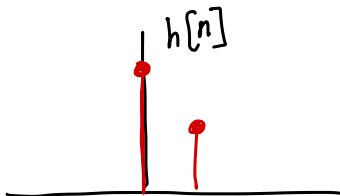
## Exercise: impulse response

Consider an LTI system with input/output relationship

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

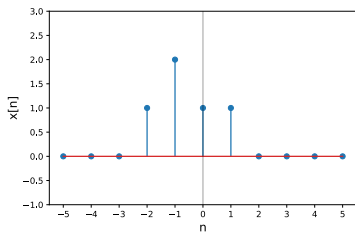
What is the impulse response of the system?

$$\delta[n] \rightarrow h[n] = 2 \cdot \delta[n] + \delta[n-1]$$

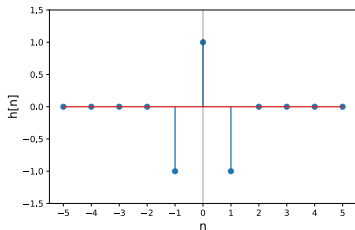


## Example: convolution sum

Consider the signal



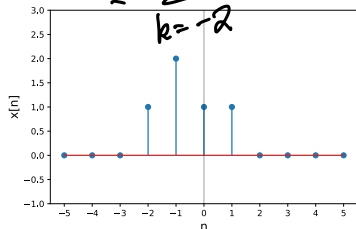
input to a system with impulse response



## Example: convolution sum

To learn the system output, we must consider the contribution of each weighted impulse response:

$$y[n] = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x[k] h[n-k]$$
$$\approx \sum_{k=-2}^1 x[k] h[n-k]$$

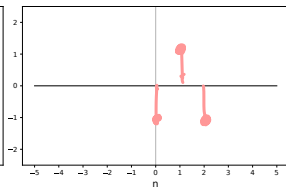
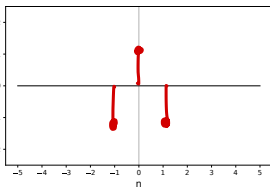
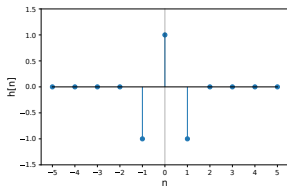
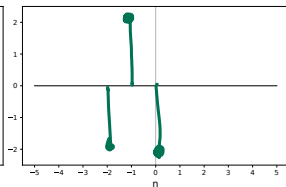
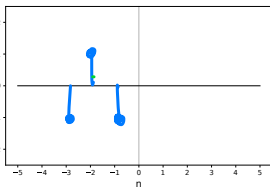
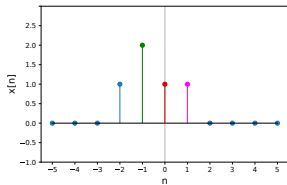


Only  $x[k] \neq 0$  only for  $k \in \{-2, -1, 0, 1\}$ . So need to determine  $x[k]h[n-k]$  for these cases, and sum them.

## Example: convolution sum

$k = -2$

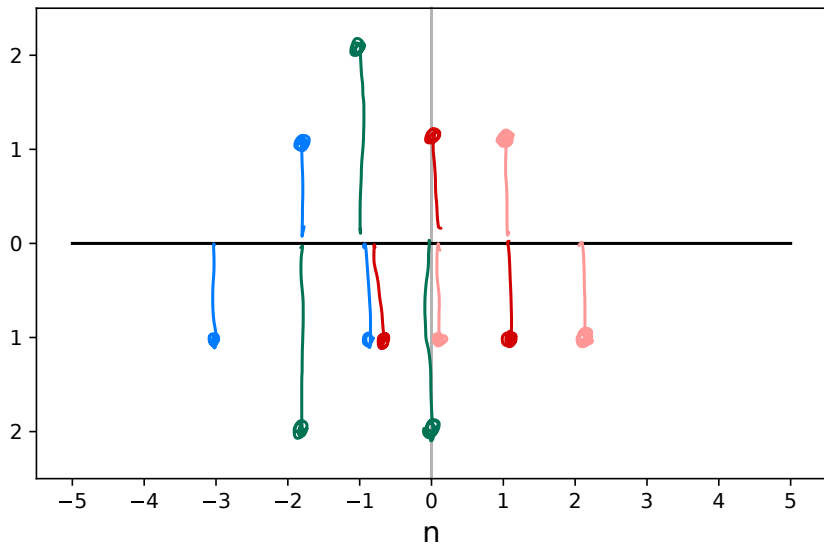
$k = -1$



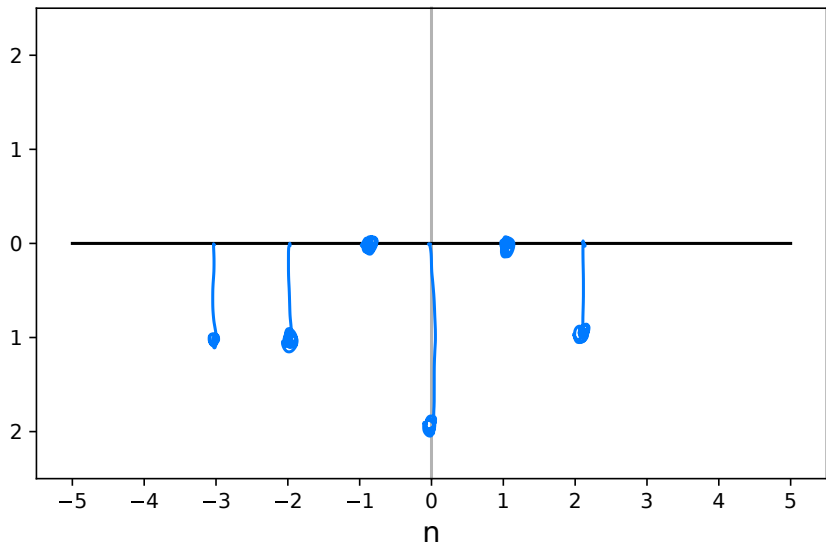
$k = 0$

$k = 1$

## Example: convolution sum



## Example: convolution sum



# Properties of convolutions

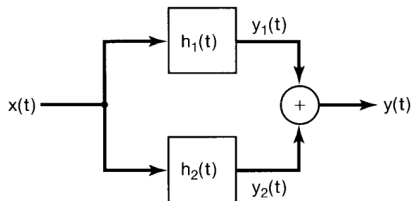
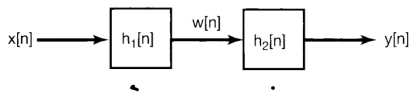


Image credits: Signals and Systems 2nd ed., Oppenheim

Convolution is:

- Associative:

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

- Commutative:

$$x[n] * h[n] = h[n] * x[n]$$

- Distributive:

$$x[n] * (h_1[n] + h_2[n]) = x[n] * h_1[n] + x[n] * h_2[n]$$

## Example: convolution sum

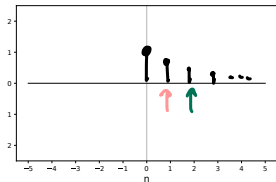
Consider an LTI system with impulse response

$$h[n] = 3\delta[n] + 2\delta[n+1]$$

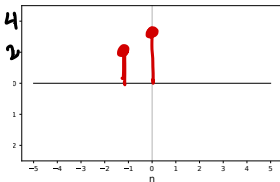
What is output of the system if

$$x[n] = \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n u[n]$$

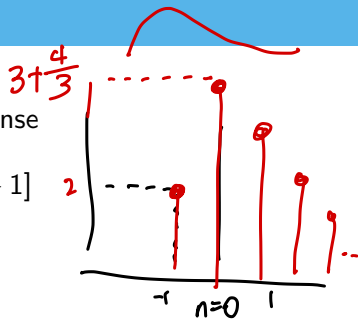
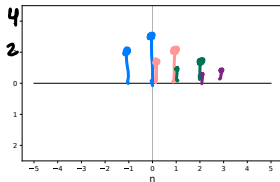
$x[n]$



$h[n]$



$x[n] * h[n]$





## Example/exercise: convolution sum

What is output of the system

$$x[n] = \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n u[n], \quad h[n] = 3\delta[n] + 2\delta[n+1]$$

$$\begin{aligned} y[n] &= x[n] * h[n] = x[n] * 3\delta[n] + x[n] * 2\delta[n+1] \\ &= \underbrace{3 x[n] * \delta[n]} + 2 x[n] * \delta[n+1] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 3 x[n] * \delta[n] &= 3 \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^k u[k] \delta[n-k] \\ &= 3 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^k \delta[n-k] \quad \rightarrow k=n \text{ survives} \\ &= 3 \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n \delta[0] = 3 \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n \cdot u[n] \end{aligned}$$

## Example/exercise: convolution sum

What is output of the system

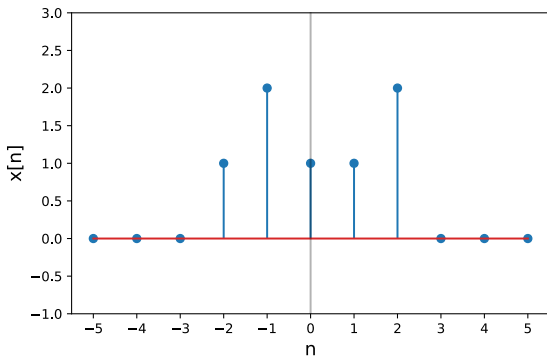
$$x[n] = \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n u[n], \quad h[n] = 3\delta[n] + 2\delta[n+1]$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2 x[n] * \delta[n+1] & \quad \text{only } k=n+1 \text{ contributes} \\ &= 2 \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^{n+1} u[n+1] \end{aligned}$$

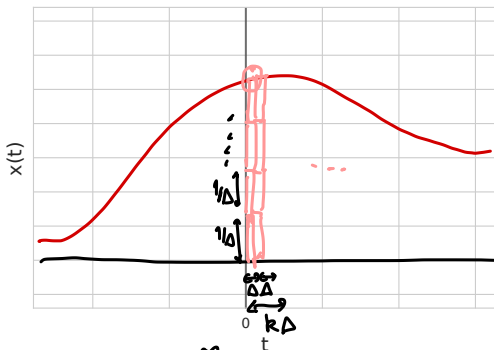
$$\Rightarrow x[n] * h[n] = 3 \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n u[n] + 2 \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^{n+1} u[n+1]$$

## Shifted, weighted impulses

Return to this picture:



# Shifted, weighted impulses



$$\hat{x}(t) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x(k\Delta) \delta_{\Delta}(t-k\Delta) \cdot \Delta$$

$$x(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(\tau) \underbrace{\delta(t-\tau)}_{\text{impulse}} d\tau$$

## The CT unit impulse

$\delta(t)$



$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(\tau) d\tau = 1$$

Today's learning outcomes were:

- Define the convolution sum and use it to compute the output of a system
- Define the CT unit impulse and step functions
- Define the convolution integral and use it to compute the output of a system

## For next time

Content: CT unit impulse/step, convolution integral

- (Complex) exponential signals
- The continuous time Fourier series representation

System properties from impulse response.

### Action items:

1. Submit Tutorial Assignment 1 (Monday 23:59)
2. Work on Assignment 1 (can do most of Qs 2, 4, 5)
3. Quiz 2 Tuesday about this week's material

### Recommended reading:

- From today's class: Oppenheim 1.4, 2.1-2.3
- practice problems: 2.1-2.12, 2.14-16, 2.21, 2.22, 2.28, 2.29
- For next class: Oppenheim 1.3, 3.0 3.3