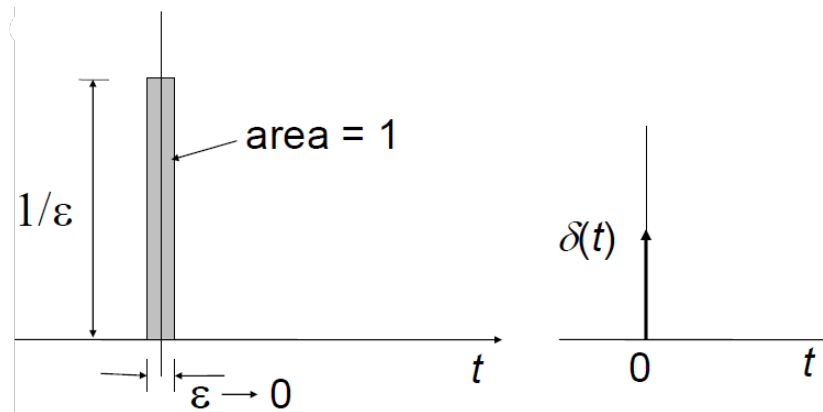


0.1 Impulse functions/responses

0.1.1 Impulse response of a system: Dirac delta function

A useful tool in analysing the transient response of a system is the impulse signal, a unit (amplitude = 1) pulse infinitesimally small, with area = 1. Formally this is known as the **Dirac delta function (impulse function)**.



The Dirac delta function is a non-physical, singularity function with the follow definition:

$$\delta(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } t \neq 0 \\ \text{undefined} & \text{for } t = 0 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

but with the requirement that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(t) dt = 1 \quad (2)$$

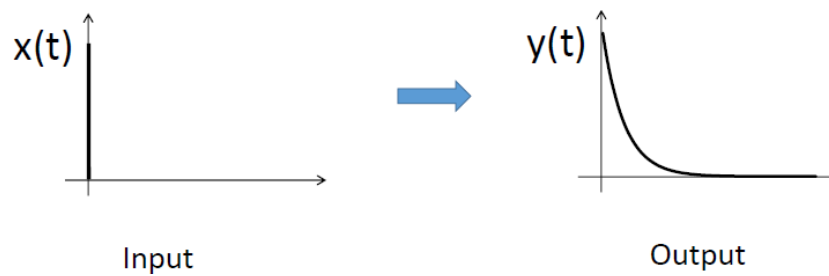
so taking the Laplace transform of this is also just 1

$$\mathcal{L}(\delta(t)) = \int_{0-}^{\infty} \delta(t) e^{-st} dt = 1 \quad (3)$$

Thus, the impulse response of the system is equal to the transfer function and from this it can be shown that **any** arbitrary signal can be described as a summation of impulse responses.

0.1.2 Impulse response on a first order system

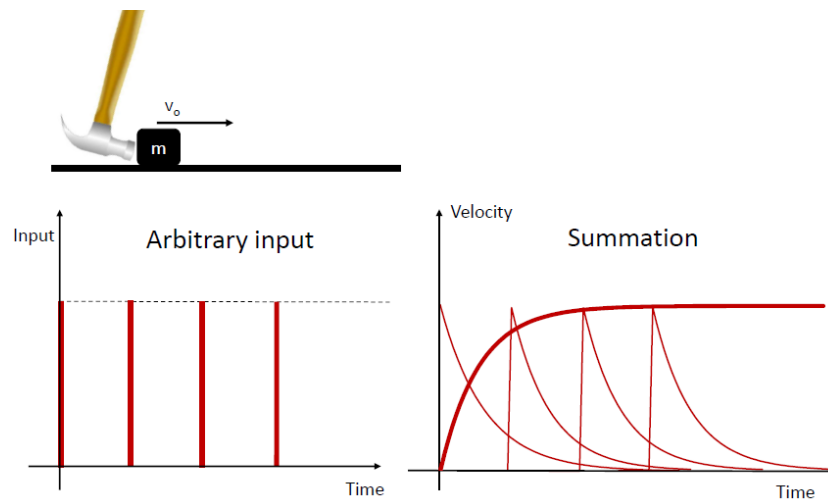
Take a first order response for example, the transfer function and thus the impulse response looks like this:



Due to our LTI assumptions:

- Scaling the input scales the output
- Superposition of inputs equals superposition of outputs
- Time invariance

0.1.3 Impulse response of a system



Time vs Frequency Domain



- u is the impulse function to the system
- h is called the impulse response of the system

- H is called the transfer function (TF) of the system

$$y(t) = \int_0^\infty h(\tau)u(t-\tau) d\tau = \int_0^\infty h(\tau-t)u(\tau) d\tau \quad (4)$$

with $0 \leq \tau \leq t$

$$y(t) = h(t) \cdot u(t) \quad (5)$$

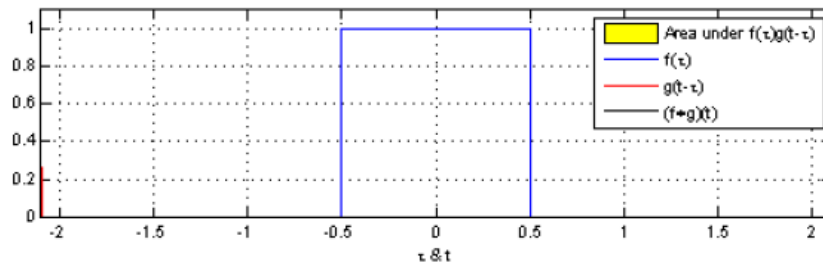
This is called convolution.

$$Y(s) = H(s) \cdot U(s) \quad (6)$$

This is called multiplication.

Convolution example

Essentially, the steps for convolving two signals are to first reflect the signal g , then offset the reflected signal. Then calculate the area under the graph for every offset, by sliding $-g$. The convolution at each time point is equal to the area under the intersection of functions. For two pulses, the result is a triangle wave:



However, the calculations to obtain this result in the time domain are complicated, but are only multiplication in the Laplace domain.

Getting the Time Response

The procedure to describe the time response for LTI systems is thus:

- Express the input, $u(t)$, in Laplace notation, $U(s)$
- Use this to find output $Y(s)$, usually by multiplying $U(s)$ by the transfer function $Y(s) = U(s)G(s)$
- Use inverse Laplace transforms (from tables) to express $Y(s)$ as a function of time, $y(t)$

0.2 Input functions: Impulse - Step - Ramp

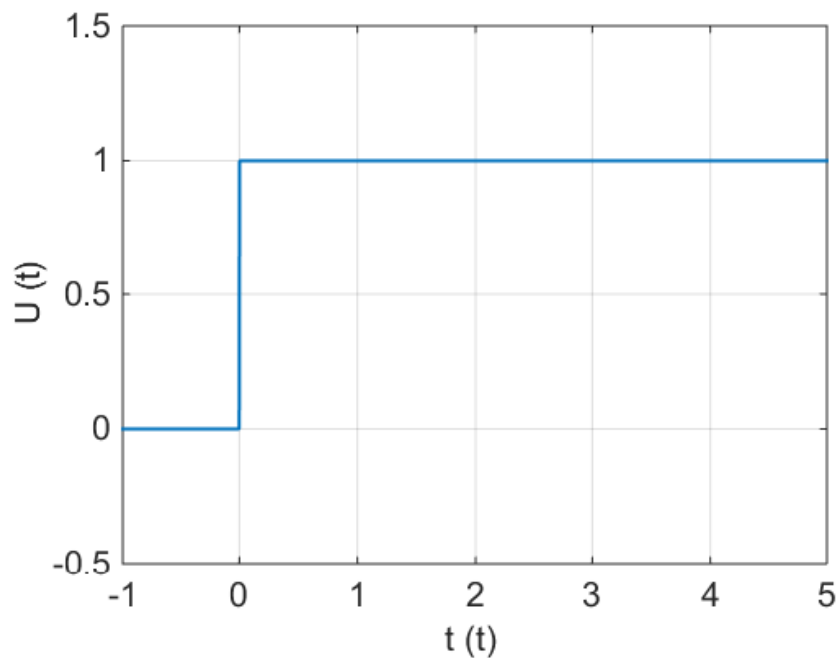
Now we will consider some standard inputs and look at the response of first and second order systems:

- Impulse
 - The Laplace transform is 1, so the response to an impulse is by the definition the transfer function
- Step
- Ramp

There are many others, particularly sinusoidal inputs or other discontinuous inputs, which are important in control loops, but we will focus on the two classic examples.

0.2.1 Step input

A step input is a discontinuous function, which is zero for all negative values of t and 1 for all positive values.



Laplace transform

$$x(t) = U(t) \quad (7)$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{U(t)\} = \int_{0^-}^{\infty} e^{-st} dt = \left[-\frac{1}{s} e^{-st} \right]_{0^-}^{\infty} \rightarrow \frac{1}{s} \quad (8)$$

$$(9)$$

Or for a gain of A

$$x(t) = AU(t) \quad (10)$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{AU(t)\} = \frac{A}{s} \quad (11)$$

Applications

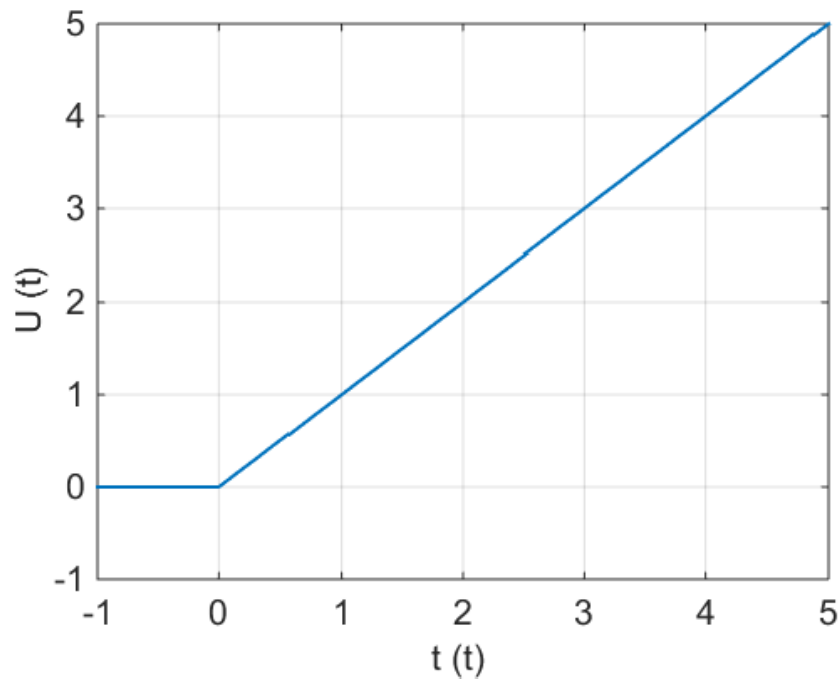
The step response is extremely useful in control theory for describing the behaviour of the system. In part because it incorporates the "transient" behaviour - from the sudden change from zero to one, as well as the "steady state" behaviour as the system settles down to a single value. IT also replicates many real world control applications such as:

- Position control - move to a $X = 10\text{mm}$ position and stay
- Speed control - go to 33 RPM
- Temperature - heat element on 3D printer to 230°C

Also, unlike the Dirac impulse - it is physically realisable.

0.2.2 Ramp input

A ramp input has a value of t for all t values above zero and zero elsewhere, often is scaled by a gain A.



Laplace transform

$$x(t) = at \quad (12)$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{at\} \int_{0^-}^{\infty} ate^{-st} dt = -a \left[\frac{t}{s} e^{-st} \right]_0^{\infty} + a \int_0^{\infty} \frac{1}{s} e^{-st} dt \quad (13)$$

$$= a \left[-\frac{1}{s^2} e^{-st} \right] \rightarrow \frac{a}{s^2} \quad (14)$$

Applications

Ramp inputs are useful in understanding the steady state behaviour of a system i.e. when t goes to infinity. Practical examples of control applications using ramp inputs are

- Servo motors - shaft **position** rather than speed
- Ovens for PCB manufacturing etc. - strict linear **profile** of temperature required as opposed to "get to this temperature quickly"
- CNC milling machine, move in X direction and constant rate

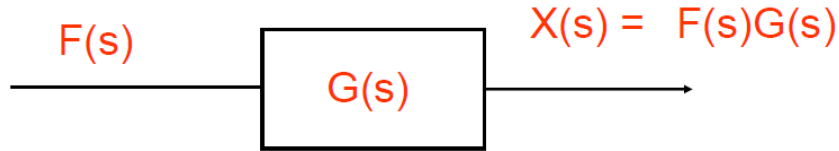
0.2.3 Summary of Input Functions

$$\text{Impulse } F(s) = A \quad (15)$$

$$\text{Step } F(s) = \frac{A}{s} \quad (16)$$

$$\text{Ramp } F(s) = \frac{A}{s^2} \quad (17)$$

For a **unit** response, $A = 1$. We can apply these inputs to the LTI system by multiplying the transfer function by the input, both in terms of s .



0.3 First Order System Step Response

Electromagnets are used in motors both rotary and linear, as well as in power transfer and also magnetic levitation in trains. First obtain the transfer function.

$$\frac{I(s)}{V(s)} \quad (18)$$

Balancing voltage gives:

$$v(t) = v_R(t) + v_I(t) \quad (19)$$

where

$$v_R(t) = i(t)R \quad (20)$$

$$v_I(t) = L \frac{di(t)}{dt} \quad (21)$$

Substitution gives:

$$v(t) = Ri(t) + L \frac{di(t)}{dt} \quad (22)$$

In the Laplace domain

$$V(s) = RI(s) + LsI(s) \quad (23)$$

$$\frac{I(s)}{V(s)} = \frac{1}{(Ls + R)} \quad (24)$$

For a **step** input of 1 V (unit step)

$$V(s) = \frac{1}{s} \quad (25)$$

$$I(s) = V(s) \frac{1}{(Ls + R)} \quad (26)$$

$$= \frac{1}{s(Ls + R)} \quad (27)$$

Sadly there is no direct equivalent in the tables for this transform. The first takes is to split the expression up using partial fractions, into expressions that are give in the tables.

$$I(s) = \frac{1}{s(Ls + R)} = \frac{\frac{1}{L}}{s(s + \frac{R}{L})} \text{ (remove coeff for s)} \quad (28)$$

$$= \frac{k_1}{s} + \frac{k_2}{(s + \frac{R}{L})} \text{ partial fraction expansion} \quad (29)$$

where

$$k_1(s + \frac{R}{L}) + k_2s = \frac{1}{L} \quad (30)$$

Looking at $s = 0$

$$k_1 \frac{R}{L} = \frac{1}{L} \rightarrow k_1 = \frac{1}{R} \quad (31)$$

Looking at $s = -\frac{R}{L}$

$$-k_2 \frac{R}{L} = \frac{1}{L} \rightarrow k_2 = -\frac{1}{R} \quad (32)$$

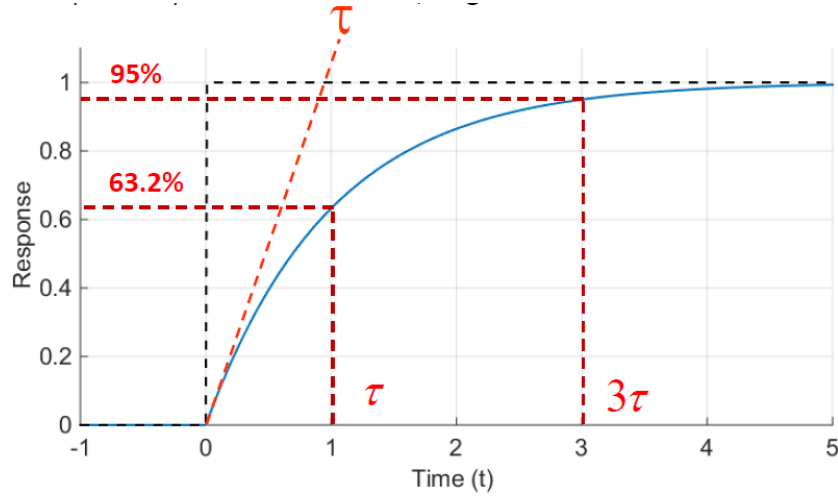
Which yields

$$I(s) = \frac{1}{R} \left[\frac{1}{s} - \frac{1}{(s + \frac{R}{L})} \right] \quad (33)$$

Looking at the Laplace tables, we can now use entries for $\frac{1}{s}$ and $\frac{1}{(s+a)}$, considering $t > 0 \therefore u(t) = 1$.

$$I(t) = \frac{1}{R} \left[1 - e^{-\frac{R}{L}t} \right] \quad (34)$$

Which has the familiar form of a first order exponential rise, with a steady state gain of $\frac{1}{R}$. Time constant $\tau = \frac{L}{R}$. For now assume that L and $R = 1$, so gain and time constant are 1.



Thus for a known time constant, it is possible to calculate the response at any point after the step. A common parameter of a first order system is the **settling time** which is the time taken to reach 95% of the desired value, or 3τ . The inverse process is also used in system identification, because the response is so simple - we can measure the step response and calculate the time constant of the system. If we do convolution in the time domain you get the same too.

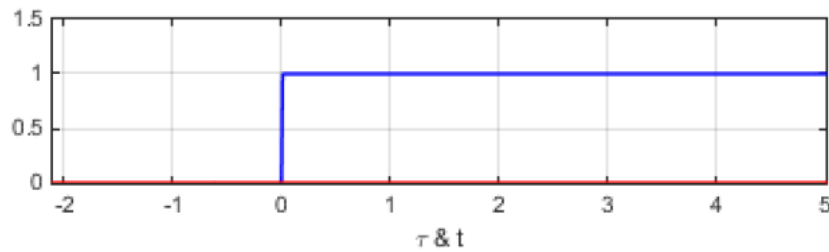
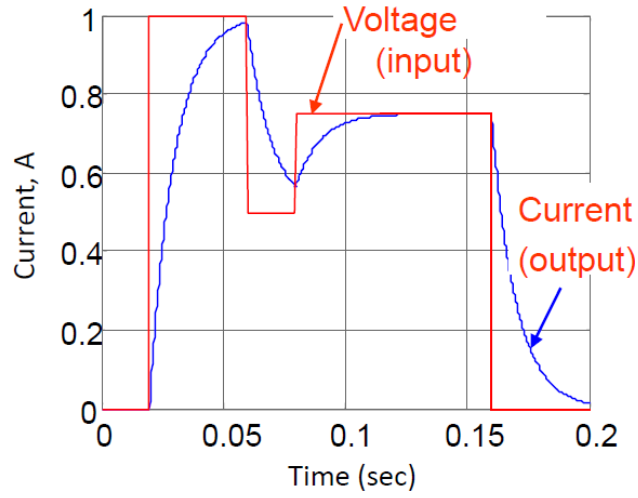


Figure 1: Area under $f(\tau)g(1 - \tau)$, blue line $f(\tau)$, red line $g(t - \tau)$, black line $(f + g)t$.

These "step responses" can be repeated for different values of V and for different starting values of $I(t)$. The response will always be behind the input for all time constant > 0 , and thus these systems are referred to as **first order lags**.



0.4 First Order System Ramp Response

For a **ramp** input of gain 1 (unit ramp)

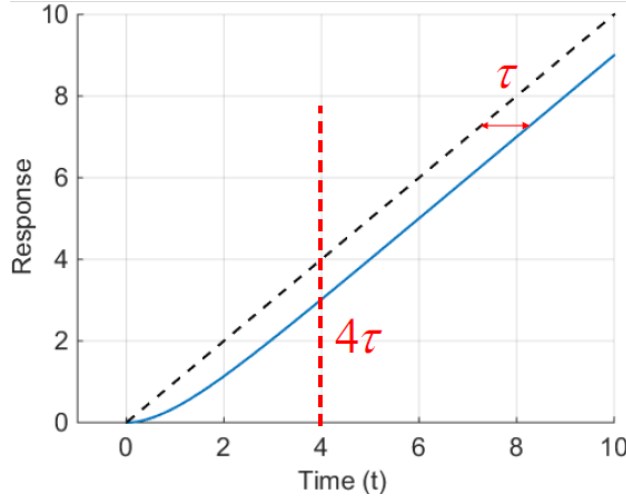
$$\frac{I(s)}{V(s)} = \frac{1}{(Ls + R)} \quad (35)$$

$$V(s) = \frac{1}{s^2} \quad (36)$$

$$I(s) = \frac{1}{s^2(Ls + R)} = \frac{\frac{1}{L}}{s^2(s + \frac{R}{L})} \quad (37)$$

Again, this is not in the Laplace tables, so rearrange use partial fractions, giving us the general solution:

$$I(t) = t - \tau \left(1 - e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} \right) \quad (38)$$



After 4 time constants, we can say that the system is in the **steady state** where the difference between the input and output is no longer changing. The steady state lag is then equal to τ

0.5 Understanding Poles and Zeros

As defined, the transfer function is a rational function in the complex variable $s = \sigma + jw$, that is

$$G(s) = \frac{b_m s^m + b_{m-1} s^{m-1} + \dots + b_1 s + b_0}{a_n s^n + a_{n-1} s^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 s + a_0} \quad (39)$$

It is often convenient to factor the polynomials in the numerator and denominator, and to write the transfer function terms of those factors:

$$G(s) = \frac{N(s)}{D(s)} = K \frac{(s - z_1)(s - z_2) \dots (s - z_{m-1})(s - z_m)}{(s - p_1)(s - p_2) \dots (s - p_{n-1})(s - p_n)} \quad (40)$$

Where the numerator and denominator polynomials, $N(s)$ and $D(s)$, have real coefficients defined by the system's differential equation and $K = \frac{b_m}{a_n}$. Poles and zeros are found by

$$N(s) = 0 \text{ and } D(s) = 0 \quad (41)$$

All of the coefficients of polynomials $N(s)$ and $D(s)$ are real, therefore the poles and zeros must be either purely real, or appear in complex conjugate pairs.

The poles and zeros are properties of the transfer function and therefore of the differential equation describing the input-output system dynamics. Together with the gain constant, they completely characterize the differential equation, and provide a complete description of the system.

0.5.1 Example

A linear system is described by the differential equation:

$$\frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} + 2\frac{dy}{dt} + 5y = 3\frac{du}{dt} + 12u \quad (42)$$

$$\mathcal{L} \left\{ \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} + 2\frac{dy}{dt} + 5y \right\} = s^2 Y(s) + 2sY(s) + 5Y(s) \quad (43)$$

$$\mathcal{L} \left\{ 3\frac{du}{dt} + 12u \right\} = 3sU(s) + 12U(s) \quad (44)$$

$$N(s) = 3s + 12 = 0 \rightarrow z_1 = -4 \quad (45)$$

$$D(s) = s^2 + 2s + 5 \rightarrow p_{1/2} = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{2^2 - 4 \times 5}}{2} = -1 \pm j2 \quad (46)$$

$$G(s) = \frac{N(s)}{D(s)} = 3 \frac{(s - (-4))}{(s - (-1 + j2))(s - (-1 - j2))} \quad (47)$$

