

Discrete-Time Processing of Continuous-Time Signals

Maxx Seminario

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Overview: Discrete-Time Processing System

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Introduction

LTI Processing

Example: Ideal
Lowpass Filter

Example: Ideal
Differentiator

Impulse
Invariance

Summary

General System Architecture:



Key Properties:

- Overall system cascade: continuous-time input \rightarrow continuous-time output
- Equivalent to continuous-time LTI system (under conditions)
- Same sampling rate T for C/D and D/C converters
- Properties depend on discrete-time system and sampling rate

Mathematical Summary: C/D Converter (ADC)

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Time Domain - Sample Generation:

$$x[n] = x_c(nT)$$

Frequency Domain - Periodic Replication:

$$X(e^{j\omega}) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} X_c \left(j \frac{\omega - 2\pi k}{T} \right)$$

Key Points:

- DTFT $X(e^{j\omega})$ is periodic with period 2π
- Continuous-time frequency: Ω (rad/s)
- Discrete-time frequency: ω (radians)
- Relationship: $\omega = \Omega T$

Mathematical Summary: D/C Converter (DAC)

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Ideal Bandlimited Interpolation:

$$y_r(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} y[n] \frac{\sin[\pi(t - nT)/T]}{\pi(t - nT)/T}$$

Frequency Domain Relationship:

$$Y_r(j\Omega) = \begin{cases} TY(e^{j\Omega T}), & |\Omega| < \pi/T \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Interpretation:

- Each sample reconstructed as sinc function
- Ideal lowpass filter with cutoff $\Omega_c = \pi/T$
- Extracts baseband from periodic spectrum

Discrete-Time LTI System Processing

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LTI System in Frequency Domain:

$$Y(e^{j\omega}) = H(e^{j\omega})X(e^{j\omega})$$

Combining with D/C Converter:

$$Y_r(j\Omega) = H_r(j\Omega)H(e^{j\Omega T})X(e^{j\Omega T})$$

Using Periodic Replication of $X(e^{j\omega})$:

$$Y_r(j\Omega) = H_r(j\Omega)H(e^{j\Omega T})\frac{1}{T} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} X_c \left(j \left(\Omega - \frac{2\pi k}{T} \right) \right)$$

Effective Continuous-Time System

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Condition: If $X_c(j\Omega) = 0$ for $|\Omega| \geq \pi/T$ (bandlimited)

Then the ideal reconstruction filter selects only $k = 0$ term:

$$Y_r(j\Omega) = H(e^{j\Omega T})X_c(j\Omega), \quad |\Omega| < \pi/T$$

Effective Frequency Response:

$$H_{\text{eff}}(j\Omega) = \begin{cases} H(e^{j\Omega T}), & |\Omega| < \pi/T \\ 0, & |\Omega| \geq \pi/T \end{cases}$$

Result: Overall system behaves as continuous-time LTI system

Requirements for LTI Behavior

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Two Essential Conditions:

1. Discrete-Time System:

- Must be linear and time-invariant
- Characterized by impulse response $h[n]$ or frequency response $H(e^{j\omega})$

2. Input Signal and Sampling:

- Input $x_c(t)$ must be bandlimited
- Sampling rate above Nyquist: $\Omega_s = 2\pi/T > 2\Omega_N$
- Aliased components (if any) must be removed by $H(e^{j\omega})$

Caution: Time-invariance can fail even with identity system if aliasing occurs

Example: Ideal Lowpass Filtering

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Example: Ideal Lowpass Filter

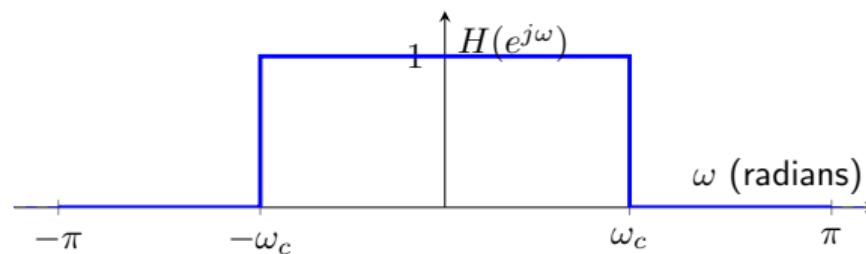
Example: Ideal Differentiator

Impulse Invariance

Summary

Discrete-Time Filter:

$$H(e^{j\omega}) = \begin{cases} 1, & |\omega| < \omega_c \\ 0, & \omega_c < |\omega| \leq \pi \end{cases}$$



Note: Periodic with period 2π

Effective Continuous-Time Lowpass Filter

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Example: Ideal
Lowpass Filter

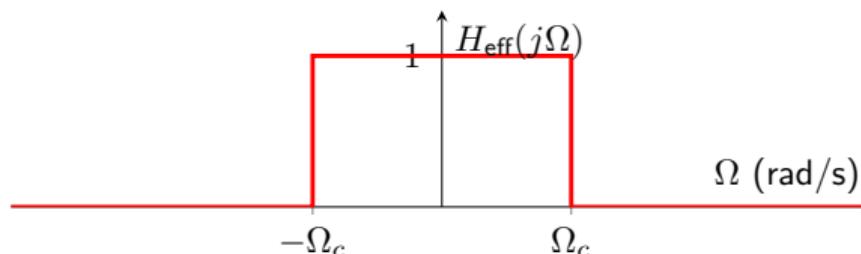
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For bandlimited inputs at/above Nyquist rate:

$$H_{\text{eff}}(j\Omega) = \begin{cases} 1, & |\Omega| < \omega_c/T \\ 0, & |\Omega| \geq \omega_c/T \end{cases}$$



Key Insight: Cutoff frequency $\Omega_c = \omega_c/T$

- Variable T provides tunable continuous-time cutoff
- Fixed discrete-time filter, varying sampling rate

Frequency Domain Illustration (1/3)

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Example: Ideal Lowpass Filter

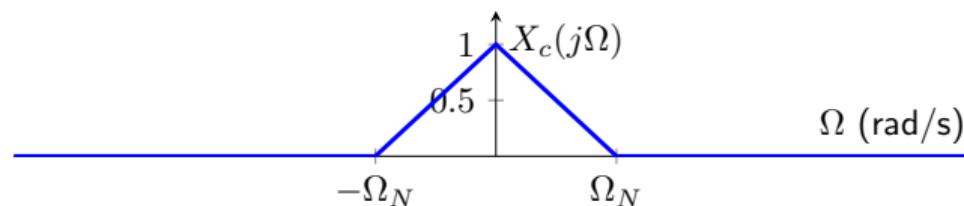
Example: Ideal Differentiator

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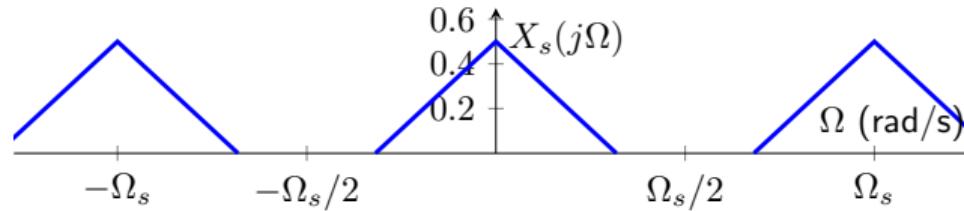
Bandlimited Input Spectrum:

Original Continuous-Time Signal



After Sampling - Periodic Replication:

After C/D: Replicated Spectrum



Frequency Domain Illustration (2/3)

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Example: Ideal Lowpass Filter

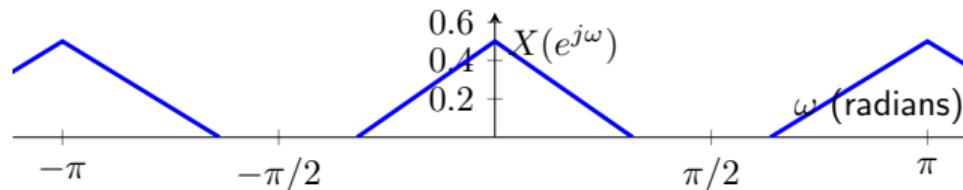
Example: Ideal Differentiator

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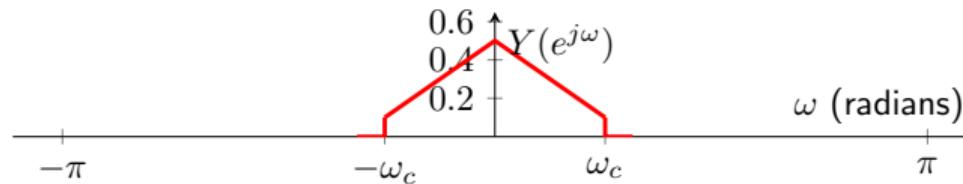
Discrete-Time Domain ($\omega = \Omega T$):

Normalized Frequency - Input to Discrete-Time System



After Discrete-Time Filtering ($\omega_c < \omega_N$):

Output of Discrete-Time Lowpass Filter (Cutoff Below Input Bandwidth)



Relaxed Nyquist Condition

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Traditional Nyquist Requirement:

$$\Omega_s \geq 2\Omega_N \quad \Rightarrow \quad (2\pi - \Omega_N T) \geq \Omega_N T$$

With Discrete-Time Filtering:

$$(2\pi - \Omega_N T) \geq \omega_c$$

Interpretation:

- Can tolerate some aliasing if $H(e^{j\omega})$ removes aliased components
- Filter must eliminate frequencies where aliasing occurs
- More flexible than strict bandlimiting requirement
- Allows lower sampling rates in some applications

Example: Ideal Bandlimited Differentiator

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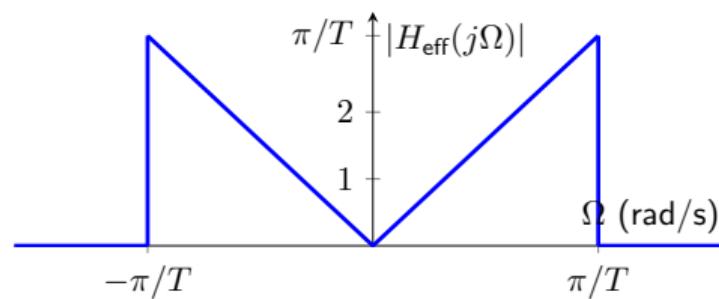
Summary

Continuous-Time Differentiator:

$$y_c(t) = \frac{d}{dt}[x_c(t)] \Leftrightarrow H_c(j\Omega) = j\Omega$$

Desired Effective Frequency Response:

$$H_{\text{eff}}(j\Omega) = \begin{cases} j\Omega, & |\Omega| < \pi/T \\ 0, & |\Omega| \geq \pi/T \end{cases}$$



Discrete-Time Differentiator Implementation

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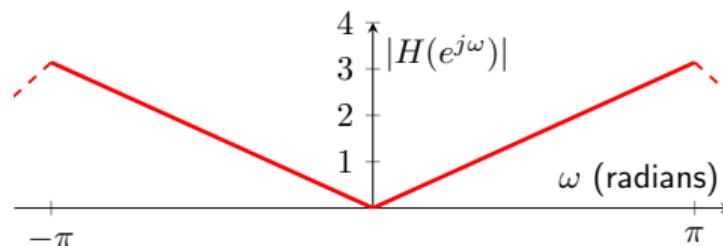
Example: Ideal
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Required Discrete-Time Frequency Response:

$$H(e^{j\omega}) = \frac{j\omega}{T}, \quad |\omega| < \pi$$



Relationship: $H(e^{j\omega}) = H_c(j\omega/T)$ (periodic with period 2π)

Impulse Response of Discrete-Time Differentiator

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Inverse DTFT:

$$h[n] = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{j\omega}{T} e^{j\omega n} d\omega$$

Result:

$$h[n] = \begin{cases} 0, & n = 0 \\ \frac{\cos(\pi n)}{nT}, & n \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

Properties:

- Non-causal and infinite duration (ideal filter)
- Alternating signs: $h[n] = \frac{(-1)^n}{nT}$ for $n \neq 0$
- Practical implementation requires windowing and truncation

Impulse Invariance: Time Domain Relationship

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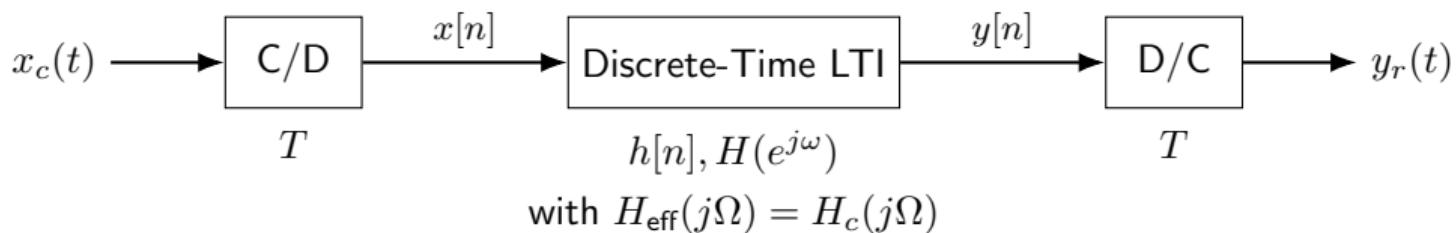
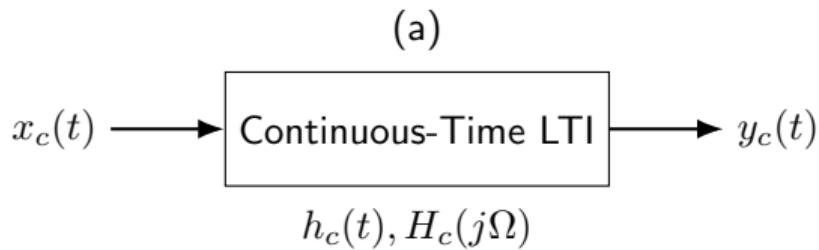
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Goal: Given continuous-time system $H_c(j\Omega)$, design discrete-time $H(e^{j\omega})$



Impulse Invariance: Mathematical Derivation

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Step 1 - Apply Sampling Theory:

Start with sampled impulse response:

$$h[n] = h_c(nT)$$

Step 2 - Use C/D Frequency Relationship:

From sampling theory (previous lecture):

$$H(e^{j\omega}) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} H_c \left(j \frac{\omega - 2\pi k}{T} \right)$$

We are left with periodic replication due to discrete sampling

Impulse Invariance: Deriving the Scale Factor

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Step 3 - Apply Bandlimited Condition:

If $H_c(j\Omega) = 0$ for $|\Omega| \geq \pi/T$, only $k = 0$ term survives (Perfect LPF'ing):

$$H(e^{j\omega}) = \frac{1}{T} H_c\left(j\frac{\omega}{T}\right), \quad |\omega| < \pi$$

Step 4 - Match Desired Response:

We want: $H(e^{j\omega}) = H_c(j\omega/T)$

But we have: $H(e^{j\omega}) = \frac{1}{T} H_c(j\omega/T)$

Solution: Scale the impulse response by T

$$h[n] = T h_c(nT)$$

This compensates for the $\frac{1}{T}$ scaling factor in the frequency domain

Impulse Invariance: Final Result

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Time Domain Relationship:

$$h[n] = Th_c(nT)$$

Frequency Domain Relationship:

$$H(e^{j\omega}) = H_c(j\omega/T), \quad |\omega| < \pi$$

Summary of Derivation:

- 1 Start with sampled impulse response: $h[n] = h_c(nT)$
- 2 Apply C/D frequency relationship (periodic replication)
- 3 Eliminate aliased terms
- 4 Scale by T to match desired frequency response

Impulse Invariance: Ideal Lowpass Example

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Continuous-Time Ideal Lowpass:

$$H_c(j\Omega) = \begin{cases} 1, & |\Omega| < \Omega_c \\ 0, & |\Omega| \geq \Omega_c \end{cases}, \quad h_c(t) = \frac{\sin(\Omega_c t)}{\pi t}$$

Impulse Invariant Discrete-Time Filter:

$$h[n] = T h_c(nT) = T \frac{\sin(\Omega_c nT)}{\pi nT} = \frac{\sin(\omega_c n)}{\pi n}$$

where $\omega_c = \Omega_c T$

Resulting Frequency Response:

$$H(e^{j\omega}) = \begin{cases} 1, & |\omega| < \omega_c \\ 0, & \omega_c \leq |\omega| \leq \pi \end{cases}$$

Impulse Invariance: Suddenly Applied Exponential

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Continuous-Time Exponential System:

$$h_c(t) = Ae^{s_0 t} u(t) \Leftrightarrow H_c(s) = \frac{A}{s - s_0}, \quad \text{Re}(s) > \text{Re}(s_0)$$

Apply Impulse Invariance:

$$h[n] = T h_c(nT) = AT e^{s_0 T n} u[n]$$

Discrete-Time System Function:

$$H(z) = \frac{AT}{1 - e^{s_0 T} z^{-1}}, \quad |z| > |e^{s_0 T}|$$

Frequency Response (if $\text{Re}(s_0) < 0 \rightarrow$ stable):

$$H(e^{j\omega}) = \frac{AT}{1 - e^{s_0 T} e^{-j\omega}}$$

Impulse Invariance: Aliasing Considerations

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Exact Relationship Requires:

$$H_c(j\Omega) = 0 \text{ for } |\Omega| \geq \pi/T$$

In Practice:

- Most systems are not strictly bandlimited
- Aliasing will occur in $H(e^{j\omega})$
- Effect may be small if $H_c(j\Omega)$ decays rapidly

Design Strategy:

- Choose T small enough that $H_c(j\Omega) \approx 0$ for $|\Omega| > \pi/T$
- Higher sampling rate reduces aliasing error
- Trade-off between computational complexity and accuracy
- Impulse invariance is widely used for IIR filter design

Summary: Key Equations

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C/D Conversion:

$$x[n] = x_c(nT), \quad X(e^{j\omega}) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} X_c\left(j\frac{\omega - 2\pi k}{T}\right)$$

D/C Conversion:

$$y_r(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} y[n] \frac{\sin[\pi(t - nT)/T]}{\pi(t - nT)/T}$$

Effective System:

$$H_{\text{eff}}(j\Omega) = \begin{cases} H(e^{j\Omega T}), & |\Omega| < \pi/T \\ 0, & |\Omega| \geq \pi/T \end{cases}$$

Impulse Invariance:

$$h[n] = Th_c(nT), \quad H(e^{j\omega}) = H_c(j\omega/T)$$

Summary: Design Implications

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Advantages of Discrete-Time Processing:

- Programmable filter characteristics
- Easily tunable cutoff frequencies (vary T , fixed $H(e^{j\omega})$)
- Precise, stable implementations (analog systems suffer from variances)
- Complex operations (differentiation, filtering) easily realized

Design Considerations:

- Input must be bandlimited or prefiltered (anti-aliasing filter)
- Sampling rate must meet Nyquist (or relaxed) criterion
- Aliasing can be tolerated if filtered out by $H(e^{j\omega})$
- Impulse invariance is widely used for IIR filter design

Applications:

- Highly popular in Audio/video processing, communications
- Control systems
- Any continuous-time signal processing via digital systems