

# EN1020 Circuits, Signals, and Systems: Signals

Ranga Rodrigo  
[ranga@uom.lk](mailto:ranga@uom.lk)

Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering, The University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

January 20, 2026



## Subsection 1

### Real Signals

# Continuous-Time Sinusoidal Signal

$$x(t) = A \cos(\omega_0 t + \phi). \quad (1)$$

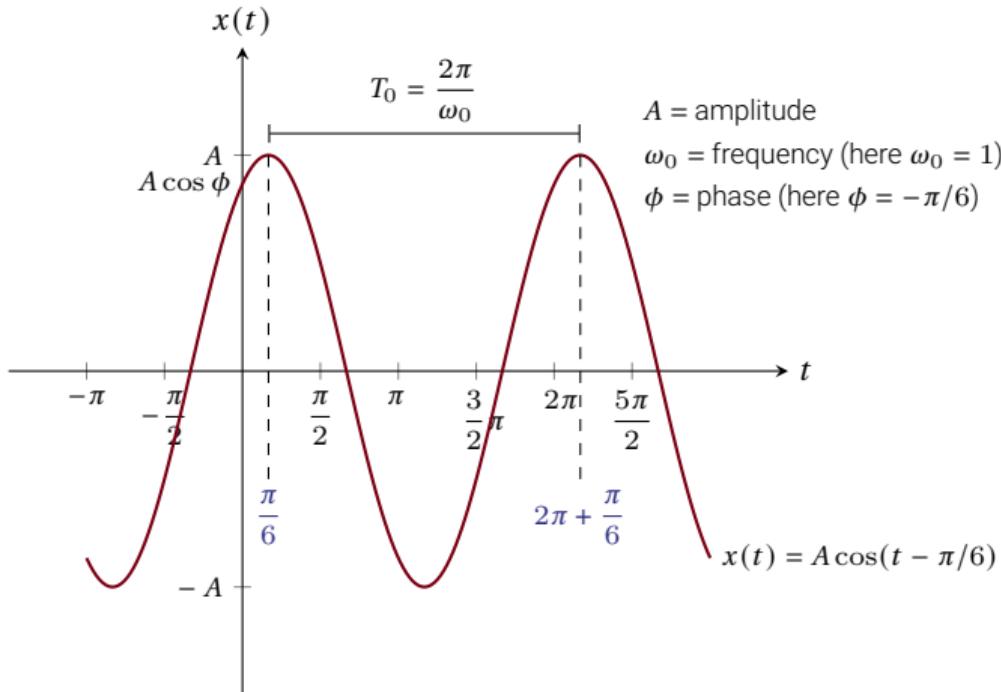


Figure: Continuous-time sinusoidal signal.

# Periodicity of a Sinusoidal

Sinusoidal signal is **periodic**.

A periodic continuous-time signal  $x(t)$  has the property that there is a positive value  $T$  for which

$$x(t) = x(t + T) \quad (2)$$

for all values of  $t$ .

Under an appropriate time-shift the signal repeats itself. In this case we say that  $x(t)$  is periodic with period  $T$ .

**Fundamental period  $T_0$**  = smallest positive value of  $T$  for which 2 holds.

A signal that is not periodic is referred to as **aperiodic**.

E.g.: Consider  $A \cos(\omega_0 t + \phi)$

$$\begin{aligned} A \cos(\omega_0 t + \phi) &= A \cos(\omega_0(t + T) + \phi), \quad \text{here } \omega_0 T = 2\pi m \quad \text{an integer multiple of } 2\pi \\ &= A \cos(\omega_0 t + \phi) \end{aligned}$$

## Phase of a Sinusoidal

A time-shift in a CT sinusoid is equivalent to a phase shift.

E.g.: Show that a time-shift of a sinusoid is equal to a phase shift.

# Even and Odd Signals

A signal  $x(t)$  or  $x[n]$  is referred to as an **even** signal if it is identical to its time-reversed counterpart, i.e., with its reflection about the origin:

$$\begin{aligned}x(-t) &= x(t), \\x[-n] &= x[n].\end{aligned}$$

A signal is referred to as an **odd** if

$$\begin{aligned}x(-t) &= -x(t), \\x[-n] &= -x[n].\end{aligned}$$

An odd signal must be 0 at  $t = 0$  or  $n = 0$ .

A signal can be broken into a sum of two signals, one of which is even and one for which is odd. Even part of  $x(t)$  is

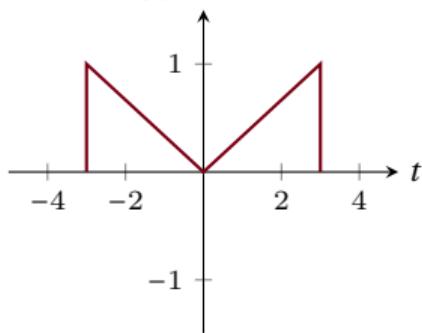
$$\mathfrak{Ev}\{x(t)\} = \frac{1}{2}[x(t) + x(-t)].$$

Odd part of  $x(t)$  is

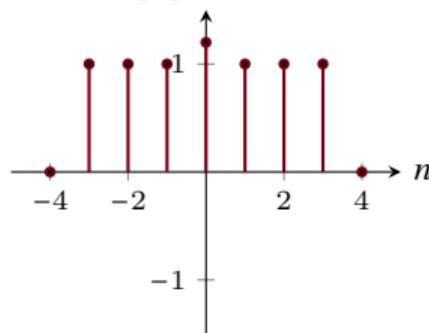
$$\mathfrak{Od}\{x(t)\} = \frac{1}{2}[x(t) - x(-t)].$$

# Examples of Even and Odd Functions

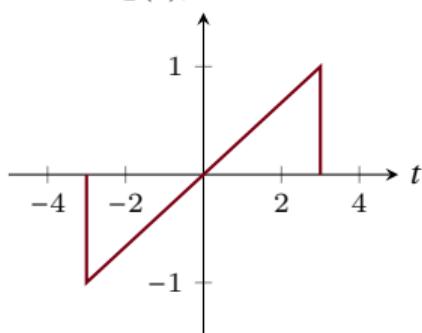
$x_1(t)$ , CT Even



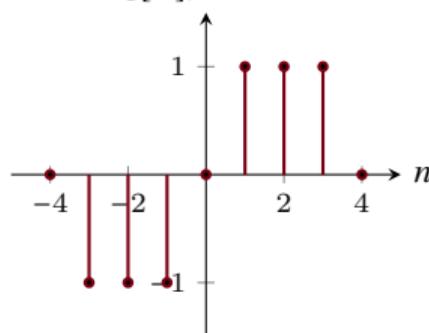
$x_3[n]$ , DT even



$x_2(t)$ , CT Odd



$x_4[n]$ , DT Odd



## Even and Odd Signals Contd.

### Example

Show that  $\text{Ev}\{x(t)\} = \frac{1}{2}[x(t) + x(-t)]$ .

Notation:  $x_e(t)$  is even part of  $x(t)$ ,  $x_o(t)$  is odd part of  $x(t)$ .

Phase of a Sinusoidal:  $\phi = 0$

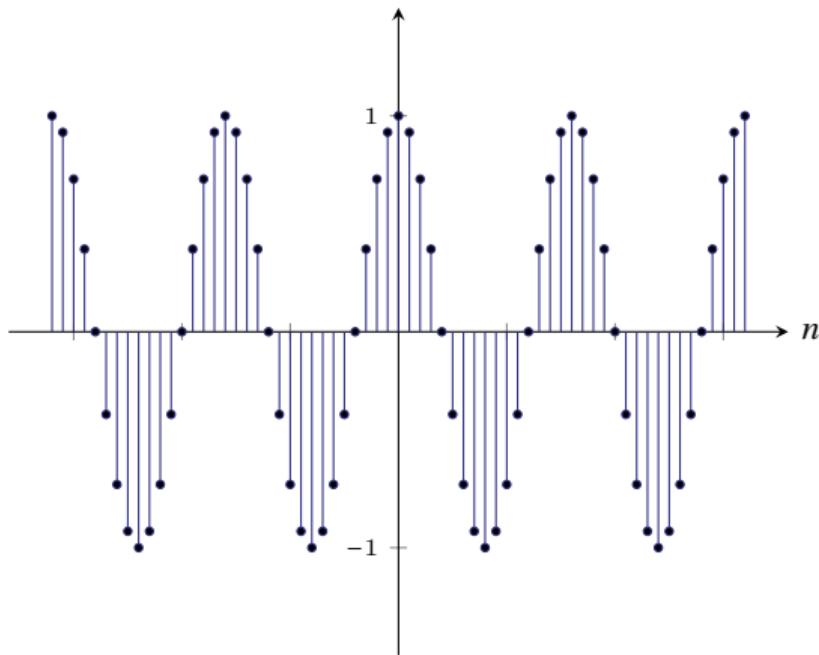
Phase of a Sinusoidal:  $\phi = -\pi/2$

## Subsection 2

### Discrete-Time Sinusoidal Signal

$$x[n] = A \cos(\omega_0 n + \phi) \text{ with } \phi = 0$$

$$x[n] = A \cos(\omega_0 n)$$



The independent variable is an integer.

The sequence takes values only at integer values of the argument.

This signal is even.

Even:  $x[n] = x[-n]$ .

Periodic:  $x[n] = x[n + N]$ . Here,

$$N = 16$$
$$\omega_0 = \frac{2\pi}{N} = \frac{\pi}{8}$$

$$x[n] = A \cos(\omega_0 n + \phi) \text{ with } \phi = -\pi/2$$

# Phase Change and Time Shift in DT

## Question

Does a phase change always correspond to a time shift in discrete-time signals?

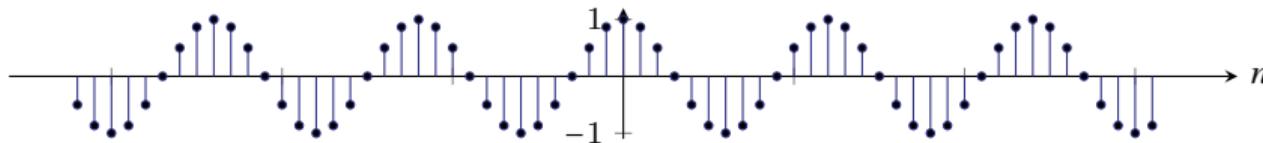
## Periodicity of a DT Signal

All continuous-time sinusoids are periodic. However, discrete-time sinusoids are not necessarily so.

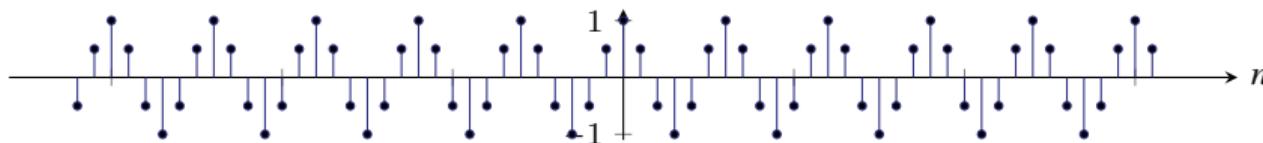
$$x[n] = x[n + N], \quad \text{smallest integer } N \text{ is the fundamental period.} \quad (3)$$

## Periodicity of a DT Signal Cntd.

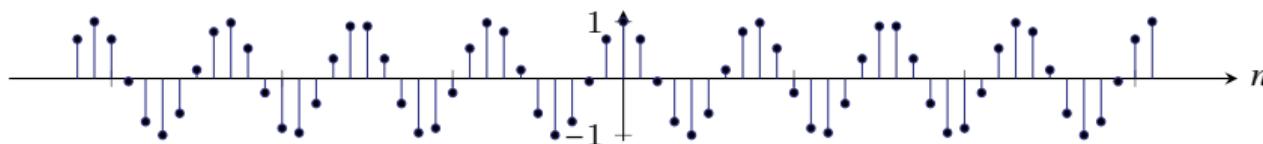
$$x[n] = A \cos(2\pi/12n)$$



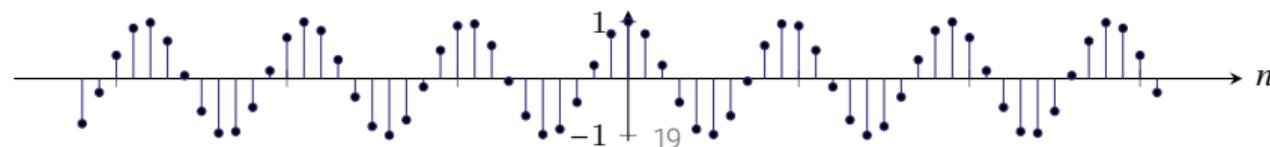
$$x[n] = A \cos(2\pi/6n)$$



$$x[n] = A \cos(8\pi/31n)$$



$$x[n] = A \cos(2/3n)$$



## Subsection 3

### Exponentials

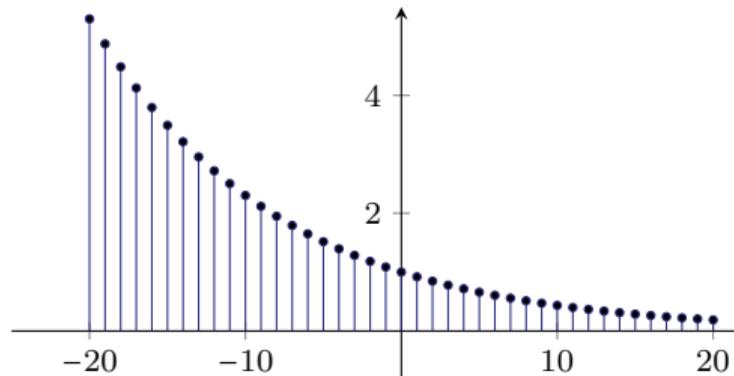
## CT Real Exponentials

$$\begin{aligned}x(t) &= Ce^{a(t+t_0)}, \quad C \text{ and } a \text{ are real numbers} \\&= Ce^{at_0}e^{at}.\end{aligned}$$

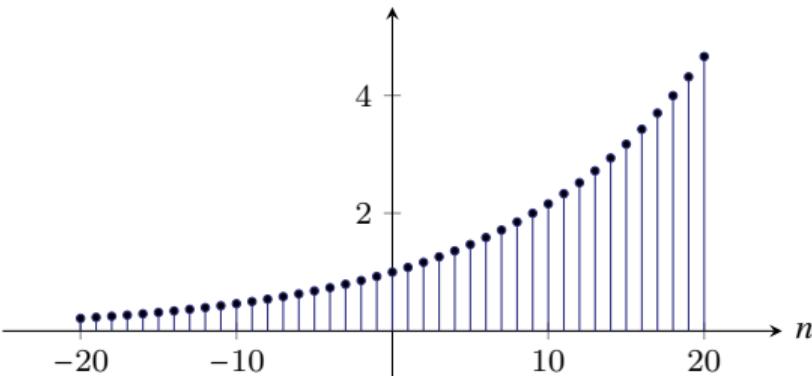
## DT Real Exponentials

$$x[n] = Ce^{\beta n} = C\alpha^n, \quad C \text{ and } \alpha \text{ are real numbers}$$

$$x[n] = C\alpha^n, \quad \alpha = 0.92$$



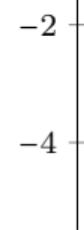
$$x[n] = C\alpha^n, \quad \alpha = 1.08$$



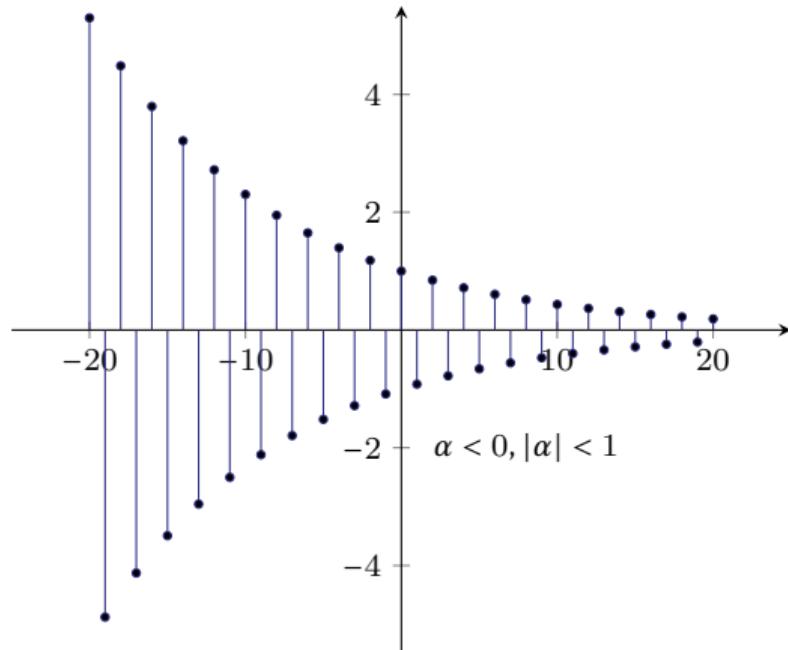
$$\alpha > 0, |\alpha| < 1$$



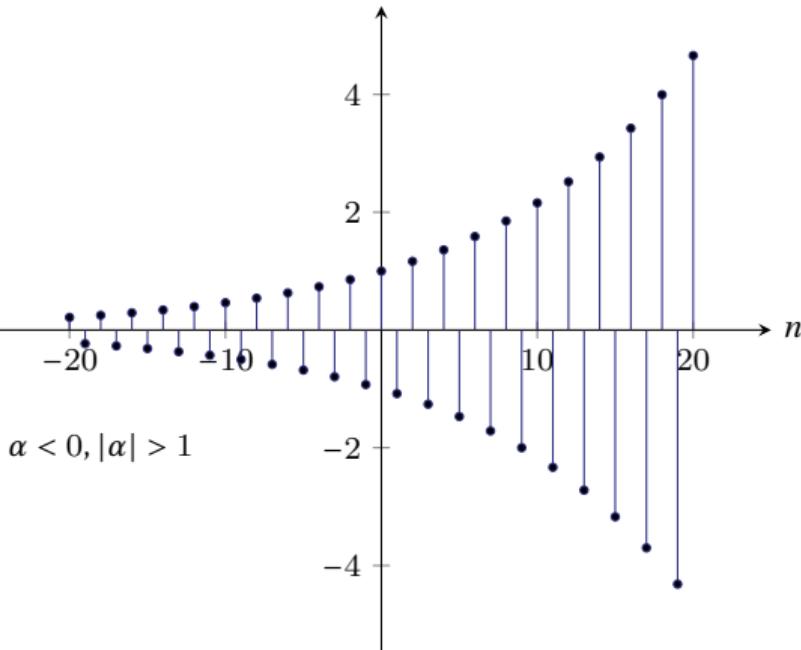
$$\alpha > 0, |\alpha| > 1$$



$$x[n] = C\alpha^n, \quad \alpha = -0.92$$



$$x[n] = C\alpha^n, \quad \alpha = -1.08$$



$$\alpha < 0, |\alpha| < 1$$

$$\alpha < 0, |\alpha| > 1$$

## Subsection 4

### Complex Numbers

# Representing Complex Numbers

The **Cartesian** or **rectangular** form:

$$z = x + jy,$$

where  $j = \sqrt{-1}$  and  $x$  and  $y$  are real numbers referred to respectively as the real part and the imaginary part. I.e.,

$$x = \Re\{z\}, y = \Im\{z\}$$

The **polar** form:

$$z = re^{j\theta},$$

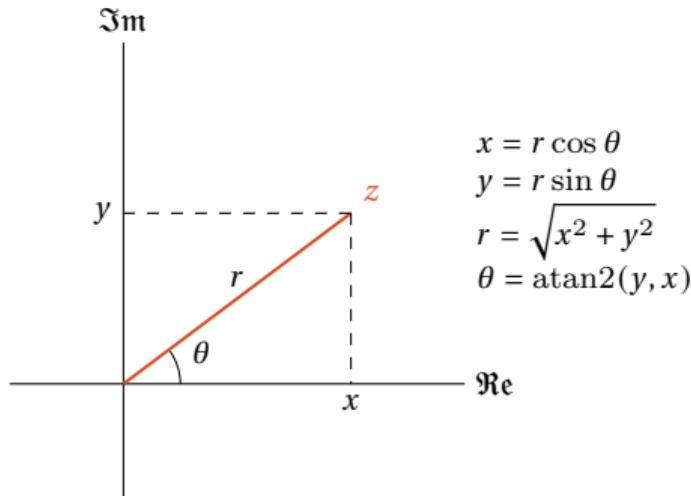
where  $r > 0$  is the **magnitude** of  $z$  and  $\theta$  is the **angle** or **phase** of  $z$ .

$$r = |z|, \theta = \angle z.$$

The relationship between these two representations can be determined from **Euler's formula**:

$$e^{j\theta} = \cos \theta + j \sin \theta$$

or by plotting  $z$  in the complex plane.



**Example** Let  $z_0$  be a complex number with polar coordinates  $(r_0, \theta_0)$  and Cartesian coordinates  $(x_0, y_0)$ . Determine expressions for the Cartesian coordinates of the following complex numbers in terms of  $x_0$  and  $y_0$ . Plot the points  $z_0, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4$ , and  $z_5$  in the complex plane when  $r_0 = 2$  and  $\theta_0 = \pi/4$  and when  $r_0 = 2$  and  $\theta_0 = \pi/2$ . Indicate on the plot the real and imaginary parts of each point.

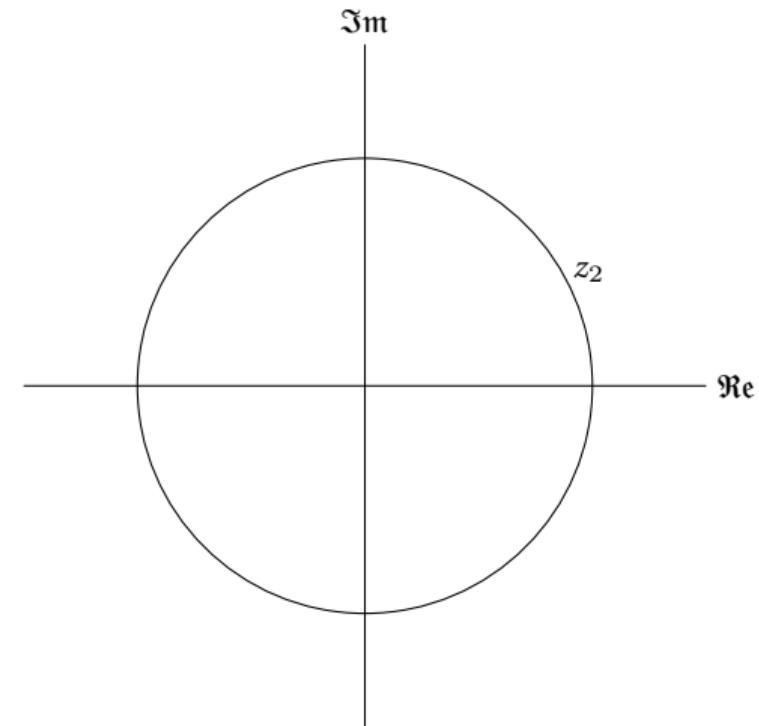
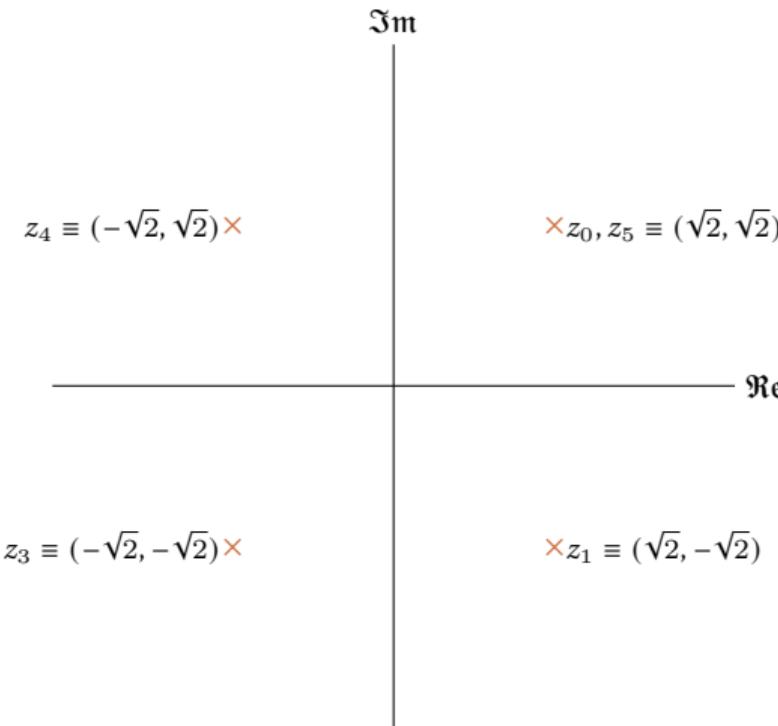
1.  $z_1 = r_0 e^{-j\theta_0}$
2.  $|z_2| = r_0$
3.  $z_3 = r_0 e^{j(\theta_0 + \pi)}$
4.  $z_4 = r_0 e^{j(-\theta_0 + \pi)}$
5.  $z_5 = r_0 e^{j(\theta_0 + 2\pi)}$

$$\begin{aligned} z_0 &= r_0 e^{j\theta_0} = r_0 (\cos \theta_0 + j \sin \theta_0) \\ &= r_0 \cos \theta_0 + j r_0 \sin \theta_0 = x_0 + j y_0. \end{aligned}$$

$$z_1 = r_0 e^{-j\theta} = r_0 (\cos(-\theta_0) + j \sin(-\theta_0)) = x_0 - j y_0.$$

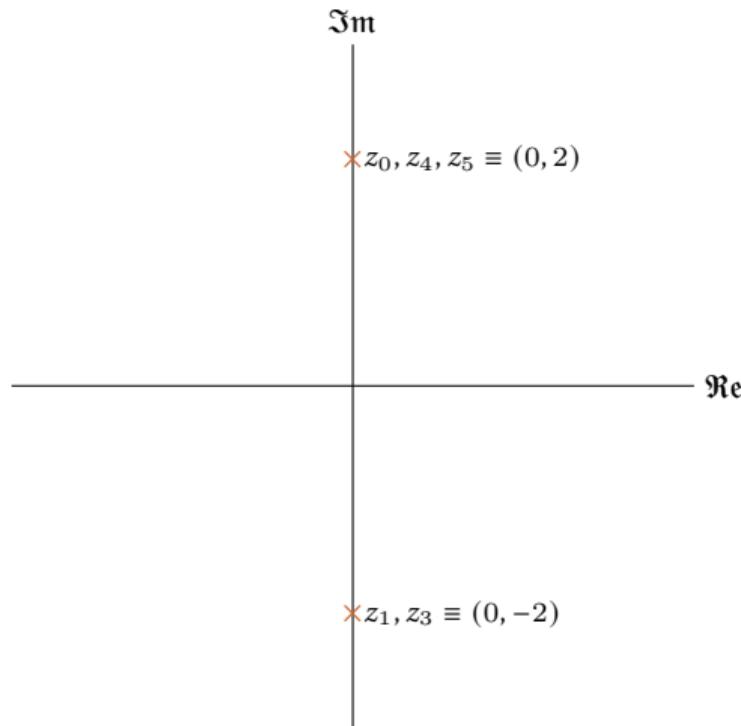
$$r = 2, \theta = \pi/4$$

$$z_1 = r_0 e^{-j\theta_0}, |z_2| = r_0, z_3 = r_0 e^{j(\theta_0+\pi)}, z_4 = r_0 e^{j(-\theta_0+\pi)}, z_5 = r_0 e^{j(\theta_0+2\pi)}$$



$$r = 2, \theta = \pi/2$$

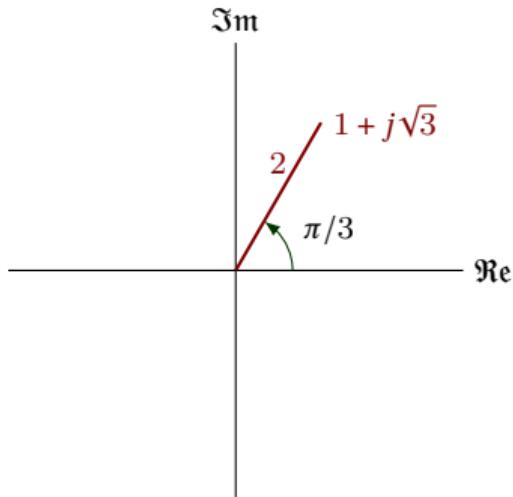
$$z_1 = r_0 e^{-j\theta_0}, |z_2| = r_0, z_3 = r_0 e^{j(\theta_0+\pi)}, z_4 = r_0 e^{j(-\theta_0+\pi)}, z_5 = r_0 e^{j(\theta_0+2\pi)}$$



**Example** Express each of the following complex numbers in polar form, and plot them in the complex plane, indicating the magnitude and angle of each number.

1.  $1 + j\sqrt{3}$
2.  $-5$
3.  $-5 - 5j$
4.  $3 + 4j$
5.  $(1 - j\sqrt{3})^3$
6.  $\frac{e^{j\pi/3} - 1}{1 + j\sqrt{3}}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 1 + j\sqrt{3} &= \sqrt{1^2 + (\sqrt{3})^2} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{1^2 + (\sqrt{3})^2}} + j \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{1^2 + (\sqrt{3})^2}} \right) \\
 &= 2e^{j\text{atan}2(\sqrt{3}, 1)} \\
 &= 2e^{j\pi/3}
 \end{aligned}$$



$\cos \theta$  and  $\sin \theta$

Using Euler's formula, derive the following relationships:

1.  $\cos \theta = \frac{1}{2}(e^{j\theta} + e^{-j\theta})$

2.  $\sin \theta = \frac{1}{2j}(e^{j\theta} - e^{-j\theta})$

Subtracting

$$e^{j\theta} = \cos \theta + j \sin \theta$$

$$e^{-j\theta} = \cos \theta - j \sin \theta$$

$$\sin \theta = \frac{1}{2j}(e^{j\theta} - e^{-j\theta})$$

Adding

$$e^{j\theta} + e^{-j\theta} = 2 \cos \theta$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{1}{2}(e^{j\theta} + e^{-j\theta})$$

# Complex Conjugate

Let  $z$  denote a complex variable; i.e.,

$$z = x + jy = re^{j\theta}.$$

The **complex conjugate** of  $z$  is

$$z^* = x - jy = re^{-j\theta}.$$

Show that

1.  $zz^* = r^2$
2.  $z + z^* = 2\Re\{z\}$
3.  $z - z^* = 2j\Im\{z\}$

1.  $zz^* = re^{j\theta}re^{-j\theta} = r^2e^0 = r^2$
2.  $z + z^* = x + jy + x - jy = 2x = 2\Re\{z\}$
3.  $z - z^* = x + jy - (x - jy) = 2jy = 2j\Im\{z\}$

List the values of

## Subsection 5

### Complex Signals

# CT Complex Exponentials

$x(t) = Ce^{at}$ ,  $C$  and  $a$  are complex numbers.

$$C = |C|e^{j\theta}$$

$$a = r + j\omega_0$$

$$x(t) = |C|e^{j\theta} e^{(r+j\omega_0)t}$$

$$= |C|e^{rt} e^{j(\omega_0 t + \theta)}$$

$$= |C|e^{rt} [\cos(\omega_0 t + \theta) + j \sin(\omega_0 t + \theta)]$$



# DT Complex Exponentials

$x[n] = C\alpha^n$ ,  $C$  and  $\alpha$  are complex numbers.

$$C = |C|e^{j\theta}$$

$$\alpha = |\alpha|e^{j\omega_0}$$

$$\begin{aligned}x[n] &= |C|e^{j\theta} \left( |\alpha|e^{j\omega_0} \right)^n \\&= |C||\alpha|^n \cos(\omega_0 n + \theta) + j|C||\alpha|^n \sin(\omega_0 n + \theta)\end{aligned}$$

Comments:

- When  $|\alpha| = 1$ : sinusoidal real and imaginary parts.
- $e^{j\omega_0 n}$  may or may not be periodic depending on the value of  $\omega_0$ .
- Sinusoidal, exponential, step, and impulse signal form the cornerstones for signals and systems analysis.

# DT Complex Exponentials Plot

# Periodicity Properties of Discrete-Time Complex Exponentials

$$e^{j\omega_0 n}$$

- For the CT counterpart  $e^{j\omega_0 t}$ ,
  1. The larger the magnitude of  $\omega_0$ , the higher is the rate of oscillation in the signal.
  2.  $e^{j\omega_0 t}$  is periodic for any value of  $\omega_0$ .
- In DT, as

$$e^{j(\omega_0 + 2\pi)n} = e^{j2\pi n} e^{j\omega_0 n} = e^{j\omega_0 n}$$

the exponential at frequency  $\omega_0 + 2\pi$  is the same as that at frequency  $\omega_0$ .

- Although in CT  $e^{j\omega_0 t}$  are all distinct for distinct values of  $\omega_0$ , In DT, these signals are not distinct, as the signal with frequency  $\omega_0$  is identical to the signals with frequencies  $\omega_0 + 2\pi$ ,  $\omega_0 + 4\pi$ , and so on. Therefore, in considering DT complex exponentials, we need only consider a frequency interval of length  $2\pi$  in which to choose  $\omega_0$ .
- In DT, as we increase  $\omega_0$  from 0, we obtain signals that oscillate more and more rapidly until we reach  $\omega_0 = \pi$ . As we continue to increase  $\omega_0$ , we decrease the rate of oscillation until we reach  $\omega_0 = 2\pi$ . Note:  $e^{j\pi n} = (e^{j\pi})^n = (-1)^n$ .

## Comparison of the Signals $e^{j\omega_0 t}$ and $e^{j\omega_0 n}$

$e^{j\omega_0 t}$	$e^{j\omega_0 n}$
Distinct signals for distinct values of $\omega_0$	Identical signals for values of $\omega_0$ separated by multiples of $2\pi$
Periodic for any choice of $e^{j\omega_0 t}$	Periodic only if $\omega_0 = 2\pi m/N$ for some integers $N > 0$ and $m$ .
Fundamental frequency $\omega_0$	Fundamental frequency $\omega_0/m$
Fundamental period $\omega_0 = 0$ : undefined $\omega_0 \neq 0$ : $2\pi/\omega_0$	Fundamental period $\omega_0 = 0$ : undefined $\omega_0 \neq 0$ : $m(2\pi/\omega_0)$

## Discrete-Time Unit Step $u[n]$

$$u[n] = \begin{cases} 1, & n \geq 0, \\ 0, & n < 0. \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

## Discrete-Time Unit Impulse (Unit Sample) $\delta[n]$

$$\delta[n] = \begin{cases} 1, & n = 0, \\ 0, & n \neq 0. \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

## DT Step and Impulse

Unit impulse is the first backward difference of the unit step sequence.

$$\delta[n] = u[n] - u[n - 1]. \quad (6)$$

## DT Step and Impulse

The unit step sequence is the running sum of the unit impulse.

$$u[n] = \sum_{m=-\infty}^n \delta[m]. \quad (7)$$

## DT Step and Impulse

The unit step sequence is a superposition of delayed unit impulses.

$$u[n] = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \delta[n - k]. \quad (8)$$

## Continuous-Time Unit Step Function $u(t)$

$$u(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 0, \\ 1, & t > 0. \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

## Continuous-Time Unit Impulse Function $\delta(t)$

$$\delta(t) = \frac{du(t)}{dt}. \quad (10)$$

## CT Unit Step Function and Unit Impulse Function

$$u(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t \delta(\tau) d\tau. \quad (11)$$

# Energy I

The total energy over a time interval  $t_1 \leq t \leq t_2$  in a continuous-time signal  $x(t)$  is

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} |x(t)|^2 dt$$

The total energy over a time interval  $n_1 \leq n \leq n_2$  in a discrete-time signal  $x[n]$  is

$$\sum_{n=n_1}^{n_2} |x[n]|^2 dt$$

Total energy over an infinite interval in a CT signal:

$$E_\infty \triangleq \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_{-T}^T |x(t)|^2 dt = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |x(t)|^2 dt. \quad (12)$$

## Energy II

Total energy over an infinite interval in a DT signal:

$$E_{\infty} \triangleq \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{n=-N}^{+N} |x[n]|^2 = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} |x[n]|^2. \quad (13)$$

Note that this integral may not converge for some signals. Such signals have infinite energy, while signals with  $E_{\infty} < \infty$  have finite energy.

# Power

Time-averaged power over an infinite interval in a CT signal:

$$P_{\infty} \triangleq \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2T} \int_{-T}^T |x(t)|^2 dt. \quad (14)$$

In a DT signal:

$$P_{\infty} \triangleq \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2N+1} \sum_{n=-N}^{+N} |x[n]|^2. \quad (15)$$

With these definitions, we can identify three important classes of signals:

# Examples

Determine whether the following signals are energy signals, power signals, or neither.

1.  $x(t) = e^{-at}u(t), \quad a > 0$
2.  $x(t) = A \cos(\omega_0 t + \theta)$
3.  $x(t) = tu(t)$

$$x(t) = e^{-at}u(t), \quad a > 0$$

$$E_{\infty} = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_{-T}^T |x(t)|^2 dt$$

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\infty} &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x(t)|^2 dt = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-2at} dt \\ &= \frac{-1}{2a} [e^{-2at}]_0^{\infty} = \frac{-1}{2a} [0 - 1] = \frac{1}{2a} \end{aligned}$$

This is an energy signal.

# Summary

Real Signals

Discrete-Time Sinusoidal Signal

Exponentials

Complex Numbers

Complex Signals