
SIGNALS & SYSTEMS

MR. ANKUR JYOTI SARMAH

ASSISTANT PROF., DEPT. OF ELECTRONICS & TELECOM. ENGG.

ASSAM ENGINEERING COLLEGE



Unit step response using convolution

In general the response $y(t)$ of a system is given by convolution of input $x(t)$ and impulse response $h(t)$ of the system.

$$y(t) = x(t) * h(t) = \int_{\lambda=-\infty}^{\lambda=+\infty} x(\lambda) h(t-\lambda) d\lambda \quad \left. \vphantom{\int_{\lambda=-\infty}^{\lambda=+\infty}} \right\} \text{Already discussed}$$

Let the input $x(t)$ be unit step input $u(t)$, and the corresponding response be $s(t)$. Now the unit step response $s(t)$ is given by,

$$\text{Unit Step Response, } s(t) = u(t) * h(t) \\ = h(t) * u(t)$$

Using Commutative property

$$= \int_{\lambda=-\infty}^{\lambda=+\infty} h(\lambda) \underbrace{u(t-\lambda)}_{\downarrow} d\lambda$$

$y(t)$ in general
unit step response = system response in general



In the above convolution operation, $u(\lambda) = 1$ for $\lambda > 0$,
 $u(-\lambda) = 1$ for $\lambda < 0$,
 $u(t-\lambda) = 1$ for $\lambda < t$, and $u(t-\lambda) = 0$ for $\lambda > t$.

Therefore the unit step response $s(t)$ is given by,

$$\text{Unit Step Response, } s(t) = \int_{\lambda=-\infty}^{\lambda=t} h(\lambda) d\lambda$$

*Only, system equation needs to be
considered if i/p is an unit step
signal*



Perform convolution of the following causal signals.

a) $x_1(t) = 2 u(t)$, $x_2(t) = u(t)$

b) $x_1(t) = e^{-2t} u(t)$, $x_2(t) = e^{-5t} u(t)$

c) $x_1(t) = t u(t)$, $x_2(t) = e^{-5t} u(t)$

d) $x_1(t) = \cos t u(t)$, $x_2(t) = t u(t)$

Solⁿ - (a) First step always define the signal.

$$x_1(t) = 2u(t)$$

$$x_2(t) = u(t)$$

$u(t)$ = unit step signal and always defined for $u(t) = \begin{cases} 1, t > 0 \\ 0, \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

$$\therefore x_1(t) = 2 ; t > 0$$

$$\text{and } x_2(t) = 1 ; t > 0$$

Let us assume convoluted value would be $x_3(t)$

$$\therefore x_3(t) = x_1(t) * x_2(t)$$

$$\Rightarrow x_3(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x_1(\lambda) x_2(t-\lambda) d\lambda$$

As per the formula of convolution



$$x_3(t) = \int_0^t x_1(\lambda) \cdot x_2(t-\lambda) d\lambda$$

→ here the change of limit from $-\infty$ to 0 has been changed to $0 \rightarrow t$ because the given signals are causal and defined for $0 \rightarrow t$, i.e. $t \geq 0$

$$= \int_0^t (2) \cdot (1) d\lambda$$

$$= 2 \int_0^t d\lambda$$

$$= 2(\lambda)_0^t$$

$$= 2t \rightarrow \text{Also valid for } t \geq 0$$

$$\therefore x_3(t) = 2t u(t) \quad \text{✓}$$



b) Solⁿ:- $x_1(t) = e^{-2t} u(t) = e^{-2t} ; t > 0$

$x_2(t) = e^{-5t} u(t) = e^{-5t} ; t > 0$

Let $x_3(t) = x_1(t) * x_2(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x_1(\lambda) x_2(t-\lambda) d\lambda$

$$= \int_0^t e^{-2\lambda} \cdot e^{-5(t-\lambda)} d\lambda$$

Now, remember, in this problem whenever you find t that must be replaced by λ : for $x_1(t) \rightarrow t \xrightarrow[\text{by}]{\text{Replaced}} \lambda$

for $x_2(t) \xrightarrow[\text{by}]{\text{Replaced}} t \rightarrow$

But in previous problem, $x_1(t)$ and $x_2(t)$ are constant.



$$x_2(t) = \int_0^t e^{-2\lambda} e^{-st} e^{5\lambda} d\lambda$$

$$= \int_0^t e^{3\lambda} \cdot \underbrace{e^{-st}}_{\text{constant}} d\lambda$$

constant - as the integration is based on λ .

$$= e^{-st} \int_0^t e^{3\lambda} d\lambda$$

$$= e^{-st} \left[\frac{e^{3\lambda}}{3} \right]_0^t$$

$$= \frac{e^{-st}}{3} [e^{3t} - 1]$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} [e^{-2t} - e^{-5t}]$$

$$\therefore x_2(t) = \frac{1}{3} [e^{-2t} - e^{-5t}] u(t) \quad \text{since } t \geq 0$$

