

When $x[n]$ and $h[n]$ have a finite # of non-zero values, we can do convolution easily (esp with a computer)

But what if $x[n] = \cos(\omega_0 n)$, $\frac{1}{2}^n$, $e^{j\omega_0 n}$?
 very hard to compute convolution by hand. We need to go to the frequency domain via the z -transform

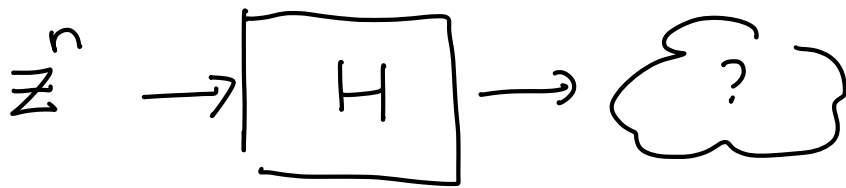
Let z denote a complex number

$$z = \operatorname{Re}\{z\} + j \operatorname{Im}\{z\}$$

$$= |z| e^{j\angle z}$$

the complex exponential $e^{j\omega_0 n}$ is a specific z^n ,
 where $|z| = 1$ and $\angle z = \omega_0$

So if we want to understand how an LTI
System affects an input $e^{j\omega_0 n}$, we can study
 how



Assuming $x[n] = z^n$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 y[n] &= \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x[k] h[n-k] = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} h[k] x[n-k] \\
 &= \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} h[k] z^{(n-k)} = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} h[k] z^n z^{-k} \\
 &= \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} (h[k] z^{-k}) z^n = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} (h[k] z^{-k}) x[n]
 \end{aligned}$$

If the summation converges (i.e. adding entries from $-\infty$ to ∞ results in a finite value), we can use this quantity to study the behavior of the system

$H(z)$ = transfer function or system function

$$= \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} (h[k] z^{-k})$$

Note that

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

$$= H(z) x[n], \text{ for all } n$$

Note that convolution becomes a convolution when $x[n]$ is a complex number and we have the transfer function $H(z)$

the output of an LTI system when the input $x[n] = z^n$, is a complex exponential, is also a complex exponential at the same frequency as $x[n]$

For general $x[n]$ ($x[n] \neq \delta[n]$), we will see that $Y(z) = H(z)X(z)$

The z -domain is the generalization of the frequency domain

$$z = \text{any complex number} \\ \text{Re}\{z\} + j \text{Im}\{z\}$$

$$e^{j\omega_0} = \text{frequency domain}$$