

Definition of convolution for functions  $h$  and  $f$ :

$$(h * f)(t) \stackrel{\text{Def.}}{=} \int h(\tau) \cdot f(t - \tau) d\tau$$

Associativity:

$$((f * g) * h)(t) = (f * (g * h))(t)$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}
((f * g) * h)(t) &\stackrel{\text{Def.}}{=} \int (f * g)(\tau_1) \cdot h(t - \tau_1) d\tau_1 \\
&\stackrel{\text{Def.}}{=} \int \left[ \int f(\tau_2) \cdot g(\tau_1 - \tau_2) d\tau_2 \right] \cdot h(t - \tau_1) d\tau_1 \\
\text{rearrange:} &= \int \int f(\tau_2) \cdot g(\tau_1 - \tau_2) \cdot h(t - \tau_1) d\tau_2 d\tau_1 \\
\text{rearrange:} &= \int f(\tau_2) \cdot \left[ \int g(\tau_1 - \tau_2) \cdot h(t - \tau_1) d\tau_1 \right] d\tau_2 \\
\text{shift by } \tau_2 \text{ (transl. invar.):} &= \int f(\tau_2) \cdot \left[ \int g((\tau_1 + \tau_2) - \tau_2) \cdot h(t - (\tau_1 + \tau_2)) d\tau_1 \right] d\tau_2 \\
&= \int f(\tau_2) \cdot \left[ \int g(\tau_1) \cdot h((t - \tau_2) - \tau_1) d\tau_1 \right] d\tau_2 \\
&\stackrel{\text{Def.}}{=} \int f(\tau_2) \cdot (g * h)(t - \tau_2) d\tau_2 \\
&\stackrel{\text{Def.}}{=} (f * (g * h))(t)
\end{aligned}$$

□