



3

Signals and Systems: Part II

In addition to the sinusoidal and exponential signals discussed in the previous lecture, other important basic signals are the unit step and unit impulse. In this lecture, we discuss these signals and then proceed to a discussion of systems, first in general and then in terms of various classes of systems defined by specific system properties.

The unit step, both for continuous and discrete time, is zero for negative time and unity for positive time. In discrete time the unit step is a well-defined sequence, whereas in continuous time there is the mathematical complication of a discontinuity at the origin. A similar distinction applies to the unit impulse. In discrete time the unit impulse is simply a sequence that is zero except at $n = 0$, where it is unity. In continuous time, it is somewhat badly behaved mathematically, being of infinite height and zero width but having a finite area.

The unit step and unit impulse are closely related. In discrete time the unit impulse is the first difference of the unit step, and the unit step is the running sum of the unit impulse. Correspondingly, in continuous time the unit impulse is the derivative of the unit step, and the unit step is the running integral of the impulse. As stressed in the lecture, the fact that it is a first difference and a running sum that relate the step and the impulse in discrete time and a derivative and running integral that relate them in continuous time should not be misinterpreted to mean that a first difference is a good “representation” of a derivative or that a running sum is a good “representation” of a running integral. Rather, for this particular situation those operations play corresponding roles in continuous time and in discrete time.

As indicated above, there are a variety of mathematical difficulties with the continuous-time unit step and unit impulse that we do not attempt to address carefully in these lectures. This topic is treated formally mathematically through the use of what are referred to as generalized functions, which is a level of formalism well beyond what we require for our purposes. The essential idea, however, as discussed in Section 3.7 of the text, is that the important aspect of these functions, in particular of the impulse, is not what its value is at each instant of time but how it behaves under integration.



In this lecture we also introduce systems. In their most general form, systems are hard to deal with analytically because they have no particular properties to exploit. In other words, general systems are simply too general. We define, discuss, and illustrate a number of system properties that we will find useful to refer to and exploit as the lectures proceed, among them memory, invertibility, causality, stability, time invariance, and linearity. The last two, linearity and time invariance, become particularly significant from this point on. Somewhat amazingly, as we'll see, simply knowing that a system is linear and time-invariant affords us an incredibly powerful array of tools for analyzing and representing it. While not all systems have these properties, many do, and those that do are often easiest to understand and implement. Consequently, both continuous-time and discrete-time systems that are linear and time-invariant become extremely significant in system design, implementation, and analysis in a broad array of applications.

Suggested Reading

Section 2.4.1, The Discrete-Time Unit Step and Unit Impulse Sequences, pages 26–27

Section 2.3.2, The Continuous-Time Unit Step and Unit Impulse Functions, pages 22–25

Section 2.5, Systems, pages 35–39

Section 2.6, Properties of Systems, pages 39–45

单位阶跃序列 可称作一串单位脉冲。

UNIT STEP FUNCTION: DISCRETE-TIME



$$u[n] = \begin{cases} 1 & n \geq 0 \\ 0 & n < 0 \end{cases}$$

TRANSPARENCY

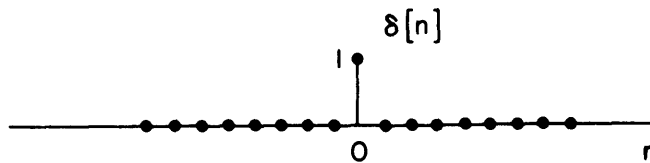
3.1

Discrete-time unit step and unit impulse sequences.

单位脉冲

UNIT IMPULSE FUNCTION: DISCRETE-TIME

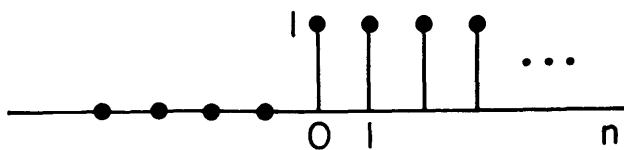
(Unit Sample)



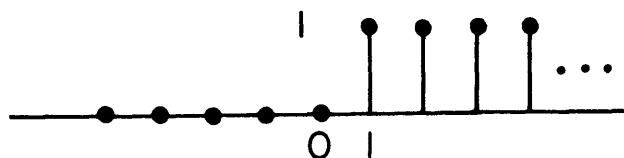
$$\delta[n] = \begin{cases} 1 & n = 0 \\ 0 & n \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\delta[n] = u[n] - u[n-1]$$

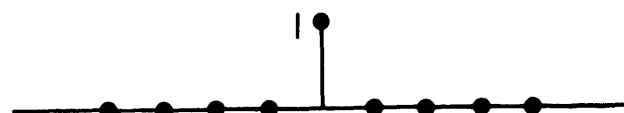
first difference - 一阶差分



$u[n]$



$u[n-1]$



$u[n] - u[n-1]$

TRANSPARENCY

3.2

The unit impulse sequence as the first backward difference of the unit step sequence.

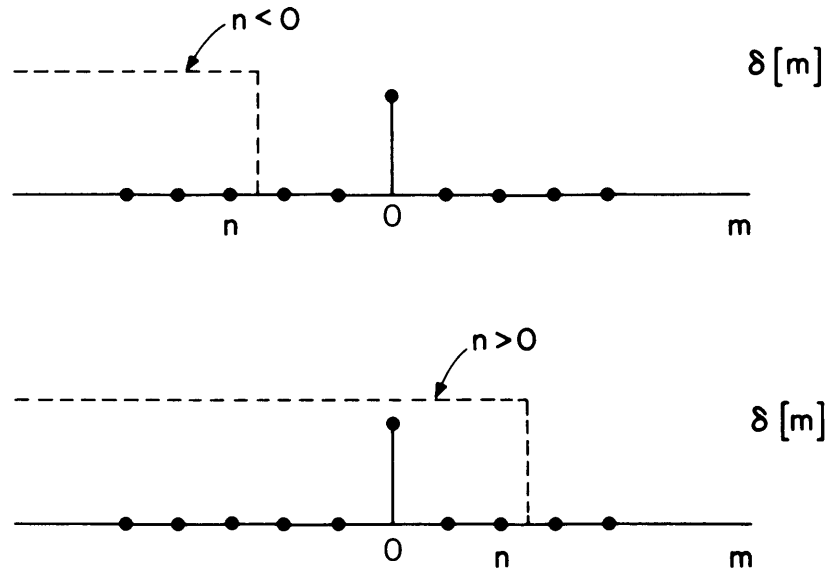


TRANSPARENCY

3.3

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

$$u[n] = \sum_{m=-\infty}^n \delta[m]$$

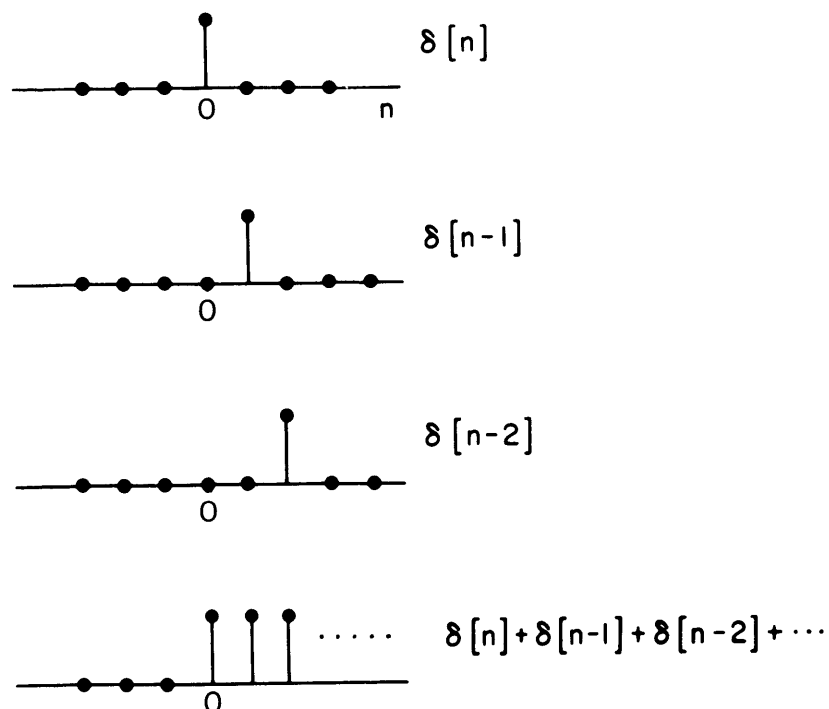


$$u[n] = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \delta[n-k]$$

TRANSPARENCY

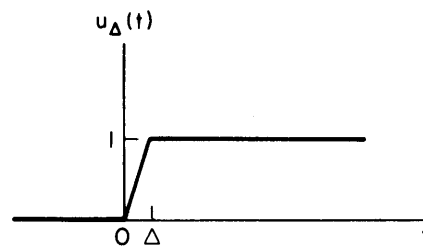
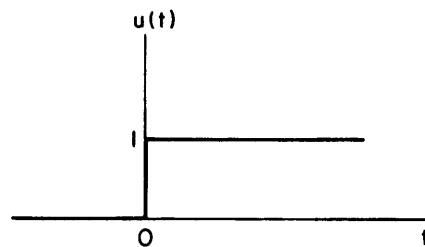
3.4

The unit step sequence
expressed as a
superposition of
delayed unit impulses.



UNIT STEP FUNCTION : CONTINUOUS - TIME

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



$$u(t) = u_{\Delta}(t) \text{ as } \Delta \rightarrow 0$$

TRANSPARENCY

3.5

The continuous-time unit step function.

UNIT IMPULSE FUNCTION

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

$$\delta_{\Delta}(t) = \frac{du_{\Delta}(t)}{dt}$$

$$\delta(t) = \delta_{\Delta}(t) \text{ as } \Delta \rightarrow 0$$

TRANSPARENCY

3.6

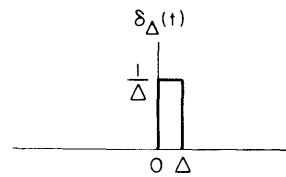
The definition of the unit impulse as the derivative of the unit step.



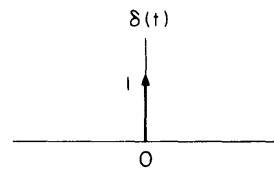
TRANSPARENCY

3.7

Interpretation of the continuous-time unit impulse as the limiting form of a rectangular pulse which has unit area and for which the pulse width approaches zero.



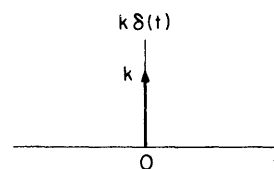
area = 1



height = " ∞ "

width = "0"

area = 1



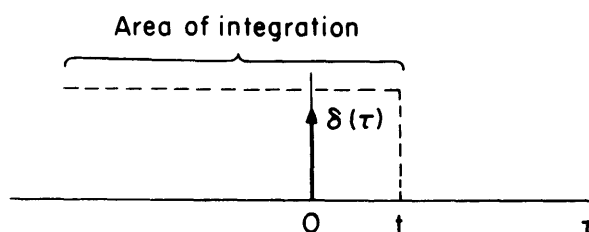
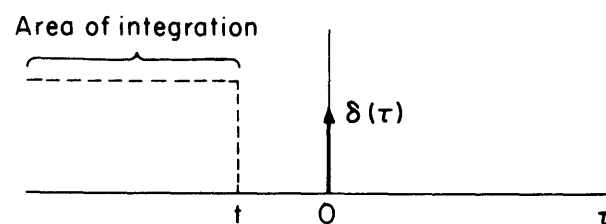
TRANSPARENCY

3.8

The unit step expressed as the running integral of the unit impulse.

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

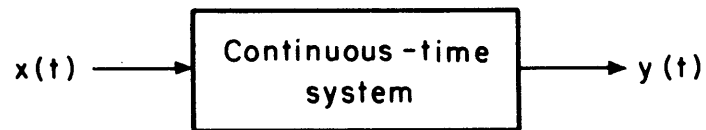
$$u(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t \delta(\tau) d\tau$$



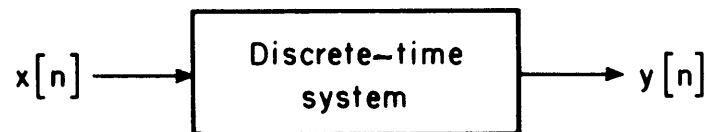
TRANSPARENCY

3.9

Definition of a system.



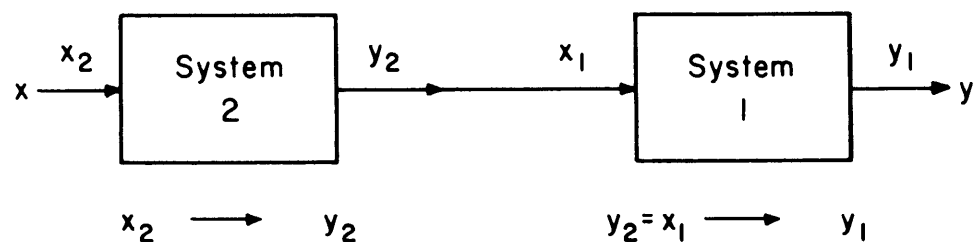
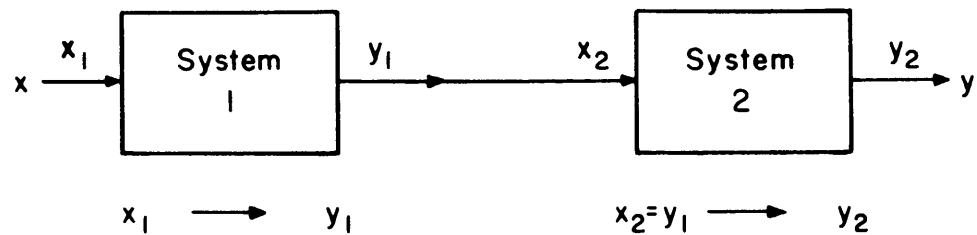
$$x(t) \longrightarrow y(t)$$



$$x[n] \longrightarrow y[n]$$

Cascade 级联 / 串联**TRANSPARENCY**

3.10

Interconnection of
two systems in
cascade.

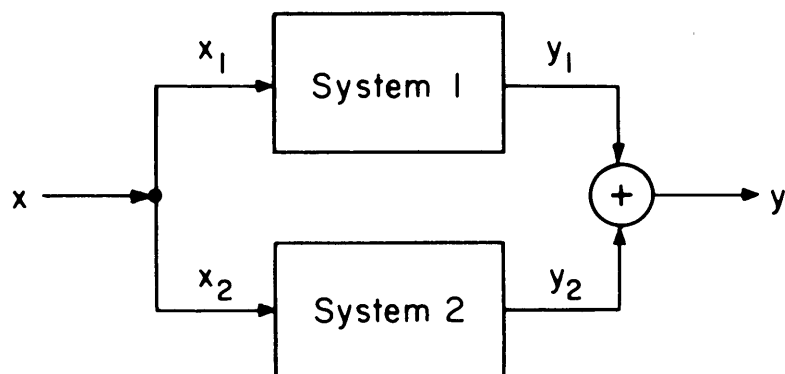


TRANSPARENCY

3.11

Interconnection of
two systems in
parallel.

parallel 并联



$$x_1 = x_2 = x$$

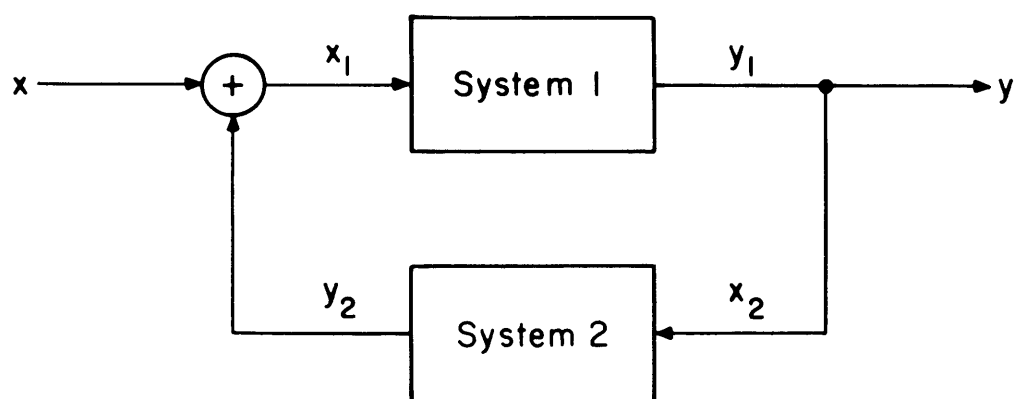
$$y = y_1 + y_2$$

TRANSPARENCY

3.12

Feedback inter-
connection of two
systems.

feedback



$$x_1 = x + y_2$$

$$y = y_1$$

$$x_2 = y_1$$



MARKERBOARD 3.1

记忆性 MEMORYLESS

任意给定的时间点上的输出只和同一时间点上的输入有关

$$y(t) @ t=t_0 \leftarrow x(t) @ t=t_0$$

$$y[n] @ n=n_0 \leftarrow x[n] @ n=n_0$$

Examples

yes $y(t) = x^2(t)$ Squarer

yes $y[n] = x^2[n]$

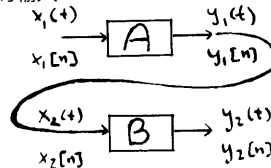
No $y(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t x^2(\tau) d\tau$

有延迟就有记忆 $y[n] = x[n-1]$

Unit delay

可逆性 INVERTIBILITY

如果已知系统输出就可以计算出唯一的输入



$$x_2 = y_1$$

If $\beta = \text{Inverse of } A$

Then $y_2 = x_1$

Identity

恒等系统

System A: 积分电路系统是可逆系统

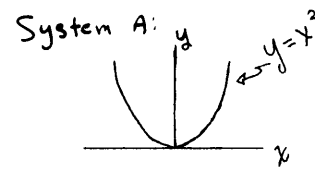
$$y_1(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t x_1(\tau) d\tau$$

Integrator

System A⁻¹: 微分电路系统不是可逆系统

$$y_2(t) = \frac{dx_1(t)}{dt}$$

differentiator



Invertible? No

Memoryless? yes

MARKERBOARD 3.2

因果属性

Causality

任何时间点上的输出只取决于等于或先于该时间点的输入

Output at any time depends only on input prior or equal to that time

or:

System can't anticipate "future" inputs

or:

$$x_1(t) \rightarrow y_1(t)$$

$$x_2(t) \rightarrow y_2(t)$$

If:

$$x_1(t) = x_2(t) \quad t < t_0$$

Then:

$$y_1(t) = y_2(t) \quad t < t_0$$

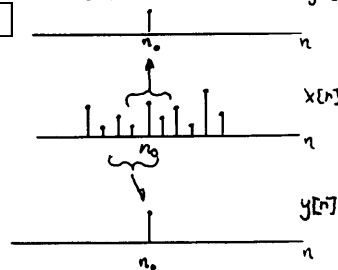
Same for discrete Time

Example:

Not causal

$$y[n] = \frac{1}{3} \{x[n-1] + x[n] + x[n+1]\}$$

滑动平均系统 \rightarrow Moving Average



$$y[n] = \frac{1}{3} \{x[n-2] + x[n-1] + x[n]\}$$

causal

Stability

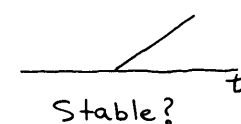
\Rightarrow For every bounded input the output is bounded

bounded 有界输出-有界输入的稳定性

Example

$$y(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t x(\tau) d\tau$$

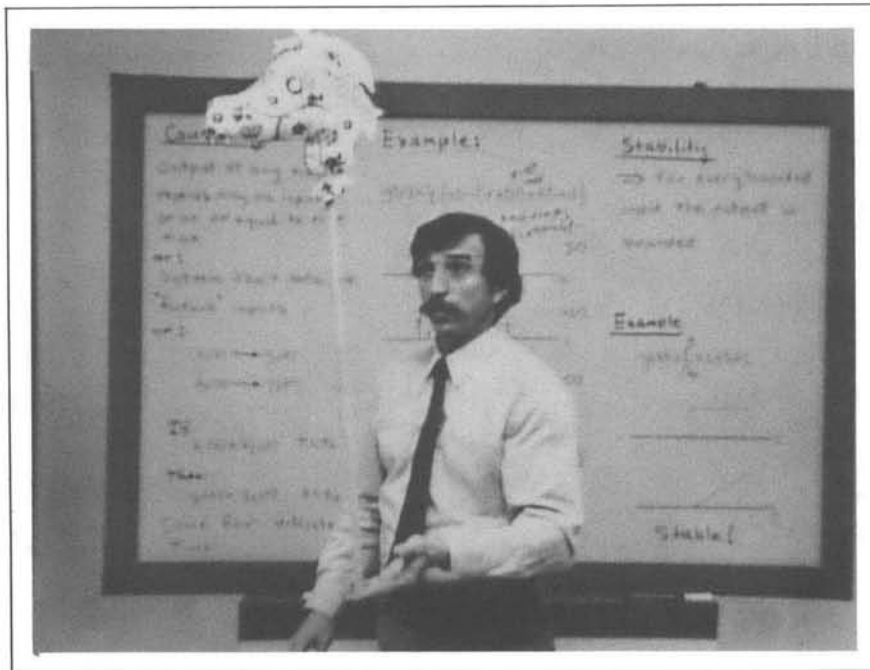
not stable



DEMONSTRATION

3.1

Illustration of an unstable system.



MARKERBOARD

3.3

Time Invariance

C-T:

$$x(t) \rightarrow y(t)$$

Then

$$x(t-t_0) \rightarrow y(t-t_0)$$

D-T:

$$x[n] \rightarrow y[n]$$

Then

$$x[n-n_0] \rightarrow y[n-n_0]$$

Example

$$y[n] = \sum_{k=-\infty}^n x[k]$$

Time Invariant?

yes

累加器

Accumulation

Example

$$y(t) = (\sin t)x(t)$$

$$x(t) \rightarrow (\sin t)x(t)$$

$$x(t-t_0) \rightarrow (\sin t)x(t-t_0)$$

≠

$$y(t-t_0) = \sin(t-t_0)x(t-t_0)$$

Time Invariant? No

Linearity

C.T & D.T

$$x_1(t) \rightarrow y_1(t)$$

$$x_2(t) \rightarrow y_2(t)$$

Then:

$$ax_1(t) + bx_2(t) \rightarrow ay_1(t) + by_2(t)$$

Examples

$$y(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t x(\tau) d\tau \quad \text{yes}$$

$$y[n] = 2x[n] + 3 \quad \text{No}$$

$$y[n] = x^2[n] \quad \text{Not}$$



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Resource: Signals and Systems
Professor Alan V. Oppenheim

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