



# Lecture 5 Linear Time-invariant Systems and z-Transform

Terminologies for linear and time invariant systems  
Causality

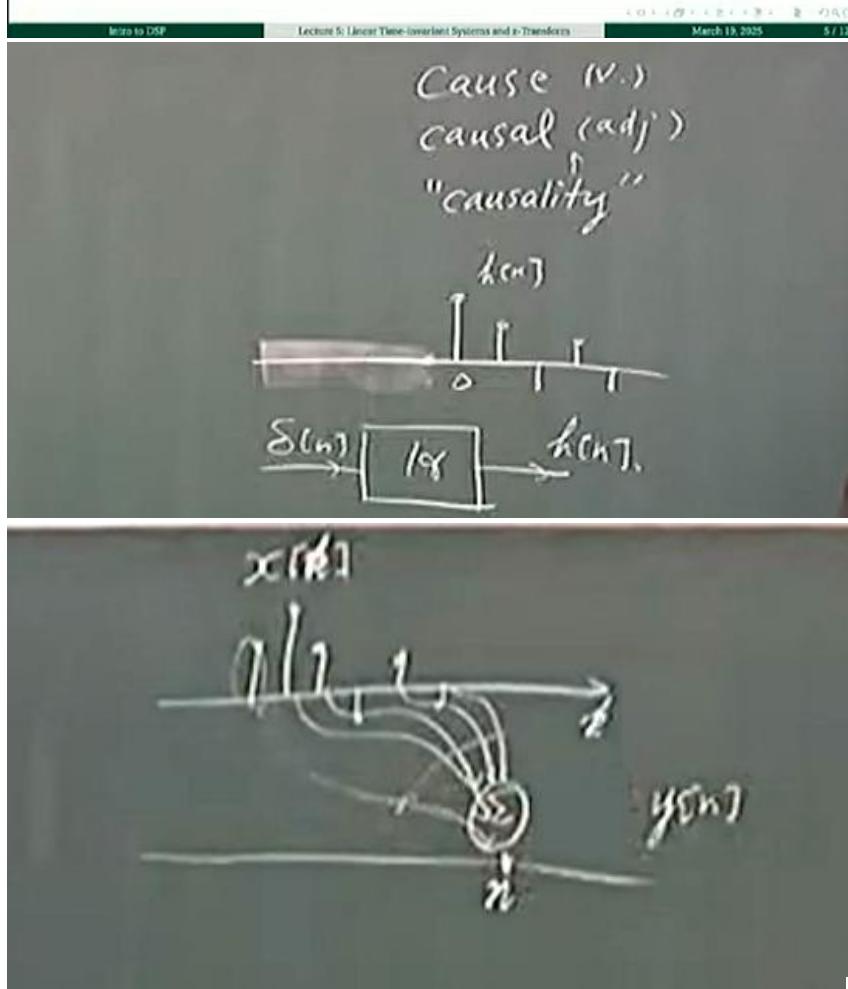
The z-transform: its usages and properties

**Definition:** A system is called *causal* if  $h[n] = 0$  for all  $n < 0$ .

In this course, we are mostly interested in systems that are causal. We will learn how to analyze a causal system, as well as how to design a causal system that meets certain performance specifications.

**Note:** If an LTI system is causal, then we have

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





Terminologies for linear and time invariant systems  
The z-transform: Its usages and properties

## Examples of a causal LTI system

We can specify an important class of causal LTI systems by *difference equations*. An example would be

$$y[n] = y[n-1] + y[n-2] + x[n]$$

implemented iteratively in time, perhaps using a while loop, assuming that  $y[n] = 0$  for  $n < 0$ .

**Exercise:** Is this system linear, time-invariant, and causal?

More generally, we will study all *linear constant-coefficient difference equations* (LCCDEs) in the next lecture.

Intro to DSP Lecture 5: Linear Time-Invariant Systems and z-Transform March 19, 2025 6 / 12

Terminologies for linear and time invariant systems  
The z-transform: Its usages and properties

① Terminologies for linear and time invariant systems

② The z-transform: Its usages and properties

Terminologies for linear and time invariant systems  
The z-transform: Its usages and properties

## Z-transform

**Definition:** For any given sequence  $\{p[n], n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ , one can attempt to evaluate the following expression

$$P(z) := \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} p[n]z^{-n} \quad (2)$$

on the complex plane  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .  $P(z)$  is called the *z-transform* of  $p[n]$  which is well-defined over the region where Eq. (2) converges.



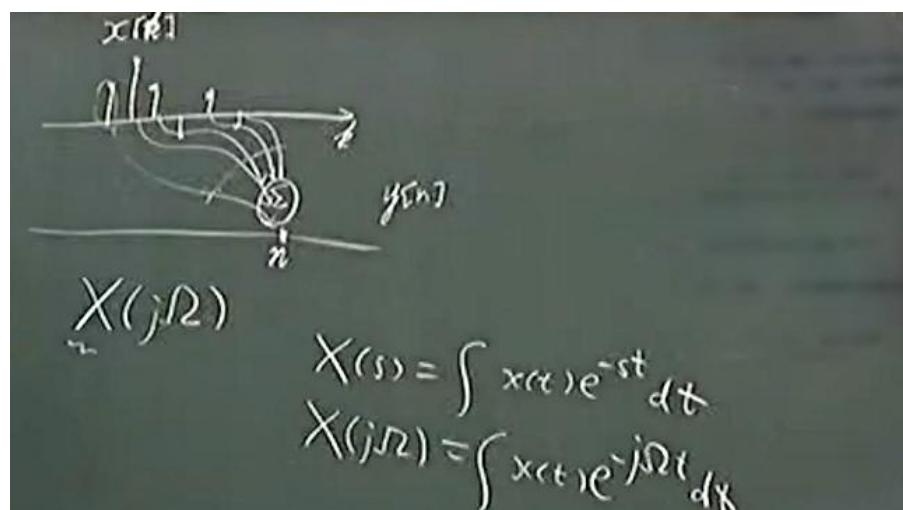
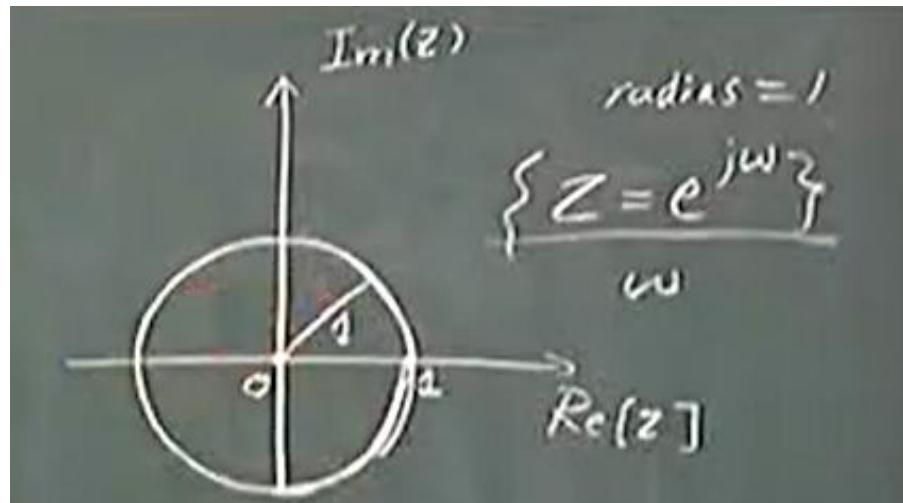
## A remark about the notation

When the DTFT of a signal exists, it is equal to the signal's z-transform evaluated on *the unit circle* ( $z = e^{j\omega}$ ); that is,

$$\text{DTFT}\{x[n]\} \equiv \sum_n x[n] e^{-j\omega n} = \left( \sum_n x[n] z^{-n} \right) \Big|_{z=e^{j\omega}}.$$

This explains why the text book denotes DTFT as  $X(e^{j\omega})$ , so we have unified notation for z-transform and Fourier transform.

lecture 5: Linear Time-Invariant Systems and z-Transform  
March 15, 2025



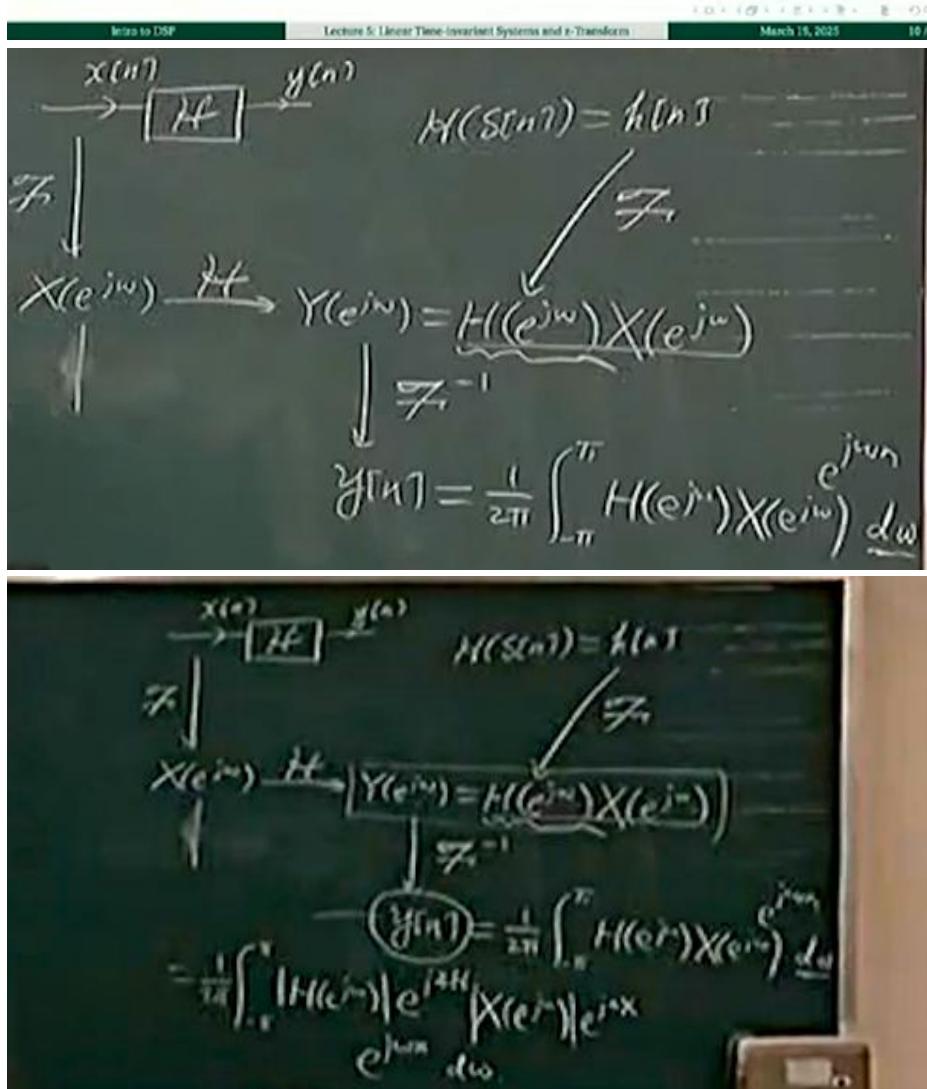


The Fourier transform of the impulse response is called the frequency response

**(Convolution theorem):** If  $y[n] = (h * x)[n]$  where  $h[n]$  denotes the impulse response of an LTI system, then  $Y(z) = H(z)X(z)$ .

Here,  $H(z)$  is called the *system function*, and  $H(e^{j\omega})$  is called the *frequency response* of the system if it exists.

**Meanings:** When we write  $Y(e^{j\omega}) = H(e^{j\omega})X(e^{j\omega})$ ,  $|H(e^{j\omega})|$  means the gain a signal will receive at frequency  $\omega$ , and  $\angle H(e^{j\omega})$  means the phase shift that the system will introduce, as a function of  $\omega$ . They are called the *magnitude response* and the *phase response*, respectively.





Terminologies for linear and time invariant systems  
The z-transform: Its usages and properties

Example: Numerical differentiation

Assume that a discrete-time system is defined by the following equation:

$$y[n] = \frac{x[n] - x[n-1]}{T},$$

where  $T$  denotes the sampling period for A/D and D/A conversion. Is the system causal? Draw a sketch of the system's impulse response. Does the frequency response exist? If so, sketch out its magnitude response and phase response.

Block diagram: Input  $\xrightarrow{\text{SUS}} \boxed{H} \xrightarrow{\text{?}}$

$n=0: h(0) = \frac{\delta(0) - \delta(-1)}{T} = \frac{1}{T}$

$n=1: h(1) = \frac{\delta(1) - \delta(0)}{T} = \frac{-1}{T}$

$n=2: h(2) = \frac{\delta(2) - \delta(1)}{T} = \frac{1}{T}$

$n=3: h(3) = \frac{\delta(3) - \delta(2)}{T} = \frac{-1}{T}$

Graph of  $h(n)$  vs  $n$ :



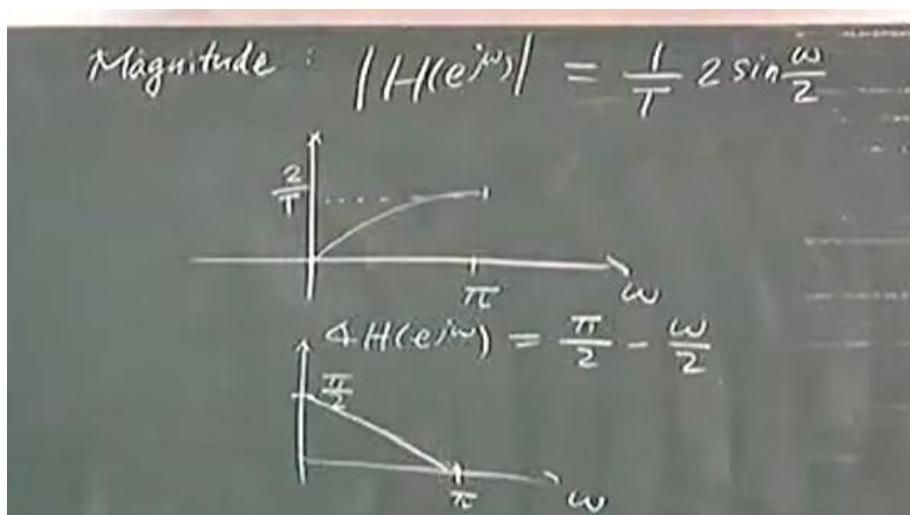


$$\begin{aligned}
 H(e^{j\omega}) &= \sum_n h(n)e^{-j\omega n} & \xrightarrow{\text{sum}} H[n] \xrightarrow{?} & \\
 &= h(0)e^{-j\omega 0} + h(1)e^{-j\omega 1} & n=0: h(0) = \frac{\delta(0) - \delta(-1)}{T} &= \frac{1}{T} \\
 &= \frac{1}{T} (1 - \frac{1}{T} e^{-j\omega}) & n=1: h(1) = \frac{\delta(1) - \delta(0)}{T} &= \frac{-1}{T} \\
 &= \frac{1}{T} (1 - e^{-j\omega}) & h(n) & \\
 & & \uparrow & \\
 & & \circ & \\
 & & \downarrow \frac{1}{T} & n
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Sol 2} \quad y[n] &= \frac{x[n] - x[n-1]}{T} \\
 &|z \\
 Y(z) &= \frac{1}{T} (X(z) - z^{-1} X(z)) \\
 &= \frac{1}{T} (1 - z^{-1}) X(z) \\
 H(z) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} H(z) X(z) \\
 H(e^{j\omega}) &= \frac{1}{T} \frac{1 - e^{-j\omega}}{1 - e^{j\omega}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 1 - \cos \omega &= 2 \sin^2 \frac{\omega}{2} \\
 \sin \omega &= 2 \sin \frac{\omega}{2} \cos \frac{\omega}{2} \\
 \hline
 H(e^{j\omega}) &= \frac{1}{T} (1 - \frac{1}{T} e^{-j\omega}) \\
 &= \frac{1}{T} (1 - e^{-j\omega}) \\
 &= \frac{1}{T} (1 - \underbrace{\cos \omega}_{\in \mathbb{R}} + j \underbrace{\sin \omega}_{\in \mathbb{R}})
 \end{aligned}
 \quad \left| \begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{1}{T} 2 \sin \frac{\omega}{2} \\
 &\quad \left( \sin \frac{\omega}{2} + j \cos \frac{\omega}{2} \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{T} 2 \sin \frac{\omega}{2} e^{j(\frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\omega}{2})}
 \end{aligned} \right.$$



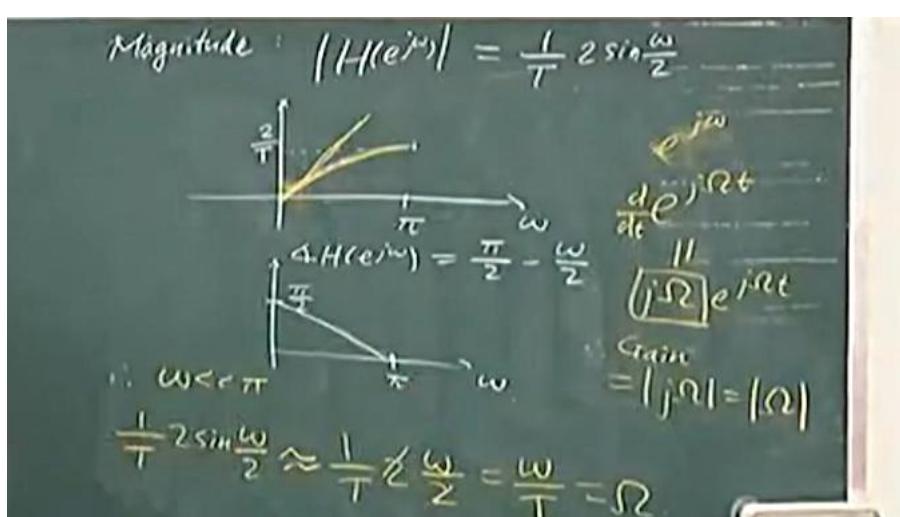


$$\begin{aligned} 1 - \cos \omega &= 2 \sin^2 \frac{\omega}{2} \\ \sin \omega &= 2 \sin \frac{\omega}{2} \cos \frac{\omega}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} H(e^{j\omega}) &= \frac{1}{T} 1 - \frac{1}{T} e^{-j\omega} \\ &= \frac{1}{T} (1 - e^{-j\omega}) \\ &= \frac{1}{T} (1 - \underline{\cos \omega} + j \underline{\sin \omega}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{T} 2 \sin \frac{\omega}{2} \left( \sin \frac{\omega}{2} + j \cos \frac{\omega}{2} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{T} 2 \sin \frac{\omega}{2} e^{j\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\omega}{2}\right)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) &= \frac{x(t) - x(t-\tau)}{\tau} \\ &= \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} \\ \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} &= \frac{dx}{dt} \end{aligned}$$





1. The next lecture will be about *difference equations* 差分方程, and solving them using z-transform.

2. You can find Prof. Liu on Instagram and Threads ( ID='lineartimeinvariant' )

