



# Lecture6 Linear Constant Coefficient Difference Equations With Limitation on Using them Causally

General scope and formulation  
Fibonacci Sequence as an Example

## Lecture 6: Linear Constant Coefficient Difference Equations With Limitation on Using them Causally

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EE3660 Introduction to Digital Signal Processing  
National Tsing Hua University  
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General scope and formulation  
Fibonacci Sequence as an Example





General scope and formulation  
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Definition and Notations

The following equation defines a causal LTI system with input  $x[n]$  and output  $y[n]$ :

$$y[n] = \sum_{k=1}^M a_k y[n-k] + \sum_{k=0}^N b_k x[n-k], \quad (1)$$

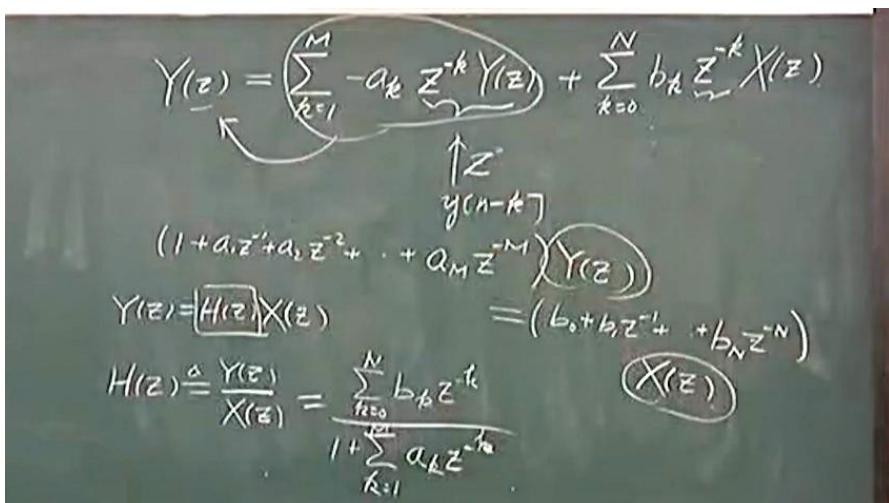
where coefficients  $a_k$ 's and  $b_k$ 's are real-valued constants. We call this a *linear constant coefficient difference equation* (LCCDE).

We can take the z-transform on both side, and define a *system function* as follows,

$$H(z) := \frac{Y(z)}{X(z)} = \frac{b_0 + b_1 z^{-1} + \dots + b_N z^{-N}}{1 + a_1 z^{-1} + \dots + a_M z^{-M}} \equiv \frac{B(z)}{A(z)}. \quad (2)$$

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Key questions

- Given  $a_k$ 's and  $b_k$ 's, how do we calculate the impulse response of this system?
- How do we ensure that the system is *stable*, in a certain sense?

The answer to the second question is that the roots for the polynomial 多項式  $A(z) = 0$  all need to be inside the *unit circle*; that is, if  $A(z_p) = 0$ , we must have  $|z_p| < 1$ . We will explain by examples.

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**Solution by z-transform tricks**

Consider the system  $y[n] = y[n-1] + y[n-2] + x[n]$ . Let's calculate its impulse response  $h[n]$ . By definition, we can write

$$h[n] = h[n-1] + h[n-2] + \delta[n].$$

By z-transform, we have

$$H(z)(1 - z^{-1} - z^{-2}) = 1.$$

Thus,

$$H(z) = \frac{1}{1 - z^{-1} - z^{-2}} = \frac{1}{(1 - p_1 z^{-1})(1 - p_2 z^{-1})}, \quad (3)$$

where  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  are the two roots to  $A(z) = 1 - z^{-1} - z^{-2}$ .

**Exercise:** Calculate  $p_1$  and  $p_2$ .

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$$(1 - p_1 z^{-1} - p_2 z^{-2}) = (1 - p_1 z^{-1})(1 - p_2 z^{-1})$$

$$p_{1,2} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$= \frac{-(-1) \pm \sqrt{(-1)^2 - 4(1)(-1)}}{2 \cdot 1}$$

$$= \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$$




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Solution by z-transform tricks (Cont'd)

The next trick is to perform *partial fractional decomposition*—if  $A(z)$  does not have any *multiple root* 重根 and  $B(z)$ 's *order* 階數 is lower than that of  $A(z)$ , then  $B(z)/A(z)$  can be written in the following form,

$$\frac{B(z)}{A(z)} = \sum_{k=1}^M \frac{\alpha_k}{1-p_k z^{-1}},$$

where  $p_k$ 's are the roots of  $A(z)$  and  $\alpha_k$ 's need to be determined.<sup>1</sup>

**Exercise:** Calculate  $\alpha_k$ 's for the case  $B(z) = 1$  and  $A(z) = 1 - z^{-1} - z^{-2}$ .

<sup>1</sup>The situation is a bit more complicated if  $A(z)$  has any multiple roots.

$$\begin{aligned} 1 - z^{-1} - z^{-2} &= ((1 - p_1 z^{-1})(1 - p_2 z^{-1})) \\ p_{1,2} &= \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \\ b &= -(-1) \pm \sqrt{(-1)^2 - 4(1)(-1)} \\ c &= 2 \cdot 1 \\ &= \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2} \\ H(z) &= \frac{1}{(1 - p_1 z^{-1})(1 - p_2 z^{-1})} = \frac{\alpha_1}{1 - p_1 z^{-1}} + \frac{\alpha_2}{1 - p_2 z^{-1}} \end{aligned}$$

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Standard trick:

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Sol 2: Both sides  $\times (1 - p_1 z^{-1})$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{1 - p_2 z^{-1}} = \alpha_1 + \frac{\alpha_2 (1 - p_1 z^{-1})}{1 - p_2 z^{-1}}$$

Then, consider  $|z = p_1|$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{1 - \frac{p_2}{p_1}} = \alpha_1 + \frac{\alpha_2 (1 - p_1/p_1)}{1 - p_2/p_1}$$

SM. 1:  $P_{1,2} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$   $\alpha_1 = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} z^{-1}}$

$$H(z) = \frac{(1 - p_1 z^{-1})(1 - p_2 z^{-1})}{(1 - p_1 z^{-1})(1 - p_2 z^{-1})} = \frac{\alpha_1 (1 + \sqrt{5})/2 \sqrt{5} - (1 - \sqrt{5})/2 \sqrt{5} \alpha_2}{1 - p_1 z^{-1} (1 + \sqrt{5})/2 \sqrt{5} - (1 - \sqrt{5})/2 \sqrt{5} p_2 z^{-1}}$$

$$= \frac{\alpha_1 (1 - p_2 z^{-1}) + \alpha_2 (1 - p_1 z^{-1})}{(1 - p_1 z^{-1})(1 - p_2 z^{-1})} \text{ naive 天真}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = 1 \\ \alpha_1 p_2 + \alpha_2 p_1 = 0 \end{cases}$$

Forcing an equality after partial fractional decomposition

Now, the next trick is to apply the following identity (with a leap of faith),

$$\frac{\alpha_k}{1 - p_k z^{-1}} \equiv \alpha \left( 1 + p_k z^{-1} + p_k^2 z^{-2} + p_k^3 z^{-3} \dots \right) \quad (4)$$

The equality will hold as long as  $|z| > |p_k|$ . Applying this to Eq. (3), we have

$$H(z) = \frac{(1 + \sqrt{5})/2 \sqrt{5}}{1 - \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}\right) z^{-1}} - \frac{(1 - \sqrt{5})/2 \sqrt{5}}{1 - \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2}\right) z^{-1}} \quad (5)$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2 \sqrt{5}} p_1^n - \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2 \sqrt{5}} p_2^n \right) z^{-n} \quad (6)$$

$$\equiv \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} h[n] z^{-n} \quad (7)$$

$H(z) = \frac{1}{1 - z^{-1} - z^2} = \frac{\alpha_1}{1 - p_1 z^{-1}} + \frac{\alpha_2}{1 - p_2 z^{-1}}$

where  $P_{1,2} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$

$\alpha_1 = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2 \sqrt{5}}, \alpha_2 = \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2 \sqrt{5}}$  級數

$H(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \underbrace{(\square - \square)}_{\text{power-series}} z^{-n}$

$= \sum_n h[n] z^{-n}$

$\Rightarrow h[n] = \begin{cases} \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2 \sqrt{5}} \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n - \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2 \sqrt{5}}\right) \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n, & n \geq 0 \\ 0, & n < 0 \end{cases}$





$$H(z) = \frac{1}{1 - z^{-1} - z^2} = \frac{\alpha_1}{1 - p_1 z^{-1}} + \frac{\alpha_2}{1 - p_2 z^{-1}}$$

where  $p_{1,2} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$

$y(n) = y(n-1) + y(n-2) + x(n)$

$H(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (h(n)z^{-n})$  Power-series

$= \sum_n (h(n)z^{-n})$

$$\Rightarrow h(n) = \begin{cases} \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}} \left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n - \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}}\right) \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n, & n \geq 0 \\ 0, & n < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$h(n) = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}} \left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n - \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}} \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n, \quad n \geq 0$$

Check:

$n=0, \quad h(0) = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}} ( )^0 - \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}} ( )^0$

$$h(0) = \frac{1+\sqrt{5} - (1-\sqrt{5})}{2\sqrt{5}} = 1$$

$n=1, \quad h(1) = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}} \left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right) - \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}} \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)$

$$= \frac{(1+\sqrt{5})^2 - (1-\sqrt{5})^2}{4\sqrt{5}} = \frac{6+2\sqrt{5} - (6-2\sqrt{5})}{4\sqrt{5}} = 1$$

$$H(z) = \frac{1}{1 - z^{-1} - z^2} = \frac{\alpha_1}{1 - p_1 z^{-1}} + \frac{\alpha_2}{1 - p_2 z^{-1}}$$

where  $p_{1,2} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$

$y(n) = y(n-1) + y(n-2) + x(n)$

$H(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (h(n)z^{-n})$  Power-series

$= \sum_n (h(n)z^{-n})$

$$\Rightarrow h(n) = \begin{cases} \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}} \left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n - \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}}\right) \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n, & n \geq 0 \\ 0, & n < 0 \end{cases}$$





Discussion: Region of Convergence (ROC)

- What we have obtained is an expansion of  $H(z)$  as a *power series* of  $z^{-1}$ .
- Eq. (6) holds over the region  $|z| > \max\{|p_1|, |p_2|\} = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$ .
- By comparing the coefficients on the two sides<sup>2</sup> of Eq. (7), we have a general expression for  $h[n]$ .
- The region  $\{|z| > \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\} \subseteq \mathbb{C}$  is called the *region of convergence (ROC)* of this causal system.
- Note that the ROC does not include the unit circle  $\{|z| = 1\}$ . In other words, the Fourier transform of  $h[n]$  does not exist.

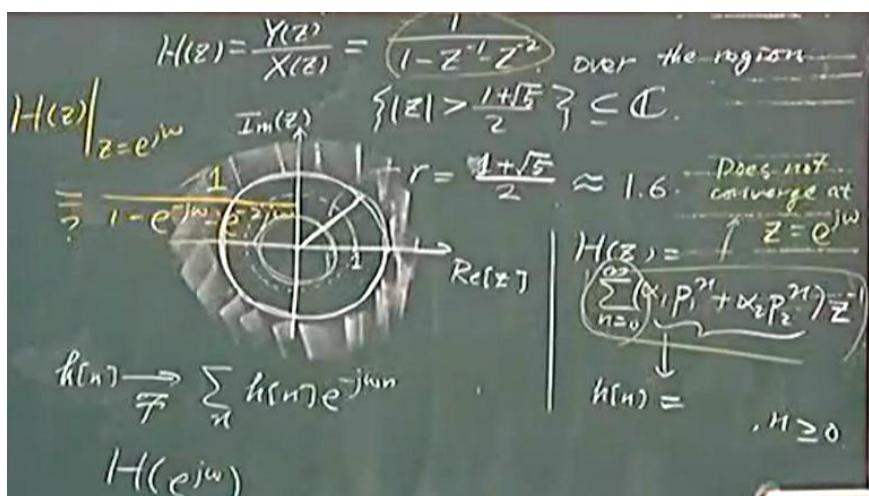
<sup>2</sup>this is a basic property of power series.

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$$\begin{aligned}
 H(z) &= \frac{1}{1 - p_1 z^{-1} - p_2 z^{-2}} = \frac{\alpha_1}{1 - p_1 z^{-1}} + \frac{\alpha_2}{1 - p_2 z^{-2}} \\
 &\text{where } P_{1,2} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2} \\
 y(n) &= y(n-1) + \underbrace{y(n-2)}_{\substack{+ x(n) \\ \text{+ } x(n-1)}} \quad \alpha_1 = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}}, \quad \alpha_2 = \frac{-(1-\sqrt{5})}{2\sqrt{5}} \quad \text{累級數} \\
 H(z) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\alpha_1 p_1^n + \alpha_2 p_2^n) z^{-n} \quad \text{power-series} \\
 &= \sum_n (h(n) z^{-n}) \quad |p_1 z^{-1}| < 1, |p_2 z^{-2}| < 1 \\
 &\Rightarrow h(n) = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}} \left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n - \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}}\right) \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n, \quad n \geq 0 \\
 &\quad 0, \quad n < 0
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 H(z) &= \frac{Y(z)}{X(z)} = \frac{1}{1 - z^{-1} - z^{-2}}, \quad \text{over the region} \\
 &\quad \left\{ |z| > \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \right\} \subseteq \mathbb{C} \\
 &\quad \text{Im}(z) \quad r = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \approx 1.6 \dots \\
 &\quad \text{Re}(z) \\
 h(n) &\Rightarrow \sum_n h(n) e^{-j\omega n} \quad H(e^{j\omega}) \\
 &\quad \left| \begin{array}{l} H(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\alpha_1 p_1^n + \alpha_2 p_2^n) z^{-n} \\ h(n) = \dots, \quad n \geq 0 \end{array} \right.
 \end{aligned}$$





Remarks on stability

Note that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} h[n]$  does not converge. Therefore, the system is not stable in the *bounded-input bounded-output* (BIBO) sense.

Even though Fibonacci sequence is fun to study, in principle we avoid designing an LTI system that is not BIBO stable.

Therefore, when given an LCCDE in the form of Eq. (1), we want to check if any of the roots  $p_j$  of  $A(z)$  is outside the unit circle. If  $|p_j| > 1$  for a certain  $j$ , the LCCDE will have a diverging impulse response as  $n$  approaches infinity.

The roots of  $A(z)$  are called the *poles* 極點 of the system.

Exercise

Suppose that we have an LTI system with impulse response  $h[n]$  and system function  $H(z) = B(z)/A(z)$  where  $B(z)$  and  $A(z)$  are polynomials of  $z^{-1}$ . Assume that the system is causal and BIBO stable. Which of the following statements are true?

- ① All the poles of the system are inside the unit circle.
- ② The Fourier transform of  $h[n]$  exists.
- ③  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} h[n] = 0$ .
- ④  $H(z)$  converges over the entire complex plane except at  $z = 0$ .





$$\begin{aligned}
 H(z) &= \frac{1}{1 - z^{-1} - z^{-2}} = \frac{\alpha_1}{1 - p_1 z^{-1}} + \frac{\alpha_2}{1 - p_2 z^{-1}} \\
 y[n] &= -\sum_{k=1}^{M-1} a_k y[n-k] + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} b_k x[n-k] \\
 H(z) &= \frac{B(z)}{A(z)} = \frac{b_0 + b_1 z^{-1} + \dots + b_N z^{-N}}{1 + a_1 z^{-1} + \dots + a_M z^{-M}} \\
 &= \frac{(1 - g_1 z^{-1})}{(1 - p_1 z^{-1})(1 - p_2 z^{-1}) \dots (1 - p_M z^{-1})} \\
 p_1, \dots, p_M &: \text{"poles", 極點} \\
 g_1, \dots, g_N &: \text{"zeros", 零點}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 H(z) &= \frac{Y(z)}{X(z)} = \frac{1}{1 - z^{-1} - z^{-2}} \text{ over the region} \\
 H(z) \Big|_{z=e^{j\omega}} &= \frac{1}{1 - e^{-j\omega} - e^{-j2\omega}} \quad \left\{ |z| > \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \right\} \subseteq \mathbb{C} \\
 &= \frac{1}{1 - e^{-j\omega} - e^{-j2\omega}} + r = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \approx 1.6 \quad \text{Does not converge at } z=e^{j\omega} \\
 h[n] &\rightarrow \sum_n h[n] e^{-j\omega n} \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} H(z) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h[n] e^{jn\omega} \\ \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\alpha_1 p_1^{n-1} + \alpha_2 p_2^{n-1}) z^{-n} \right) \end{array} \right. \\
 H(e^{j\omega}) &
 \end{aligned}$$

This is not recommended: Let the time go backward

If we begin with  $y[n] = y[n-1] + y[n-2] + x[n]$ , we can re-organize it as  $y[n-2] = y[n] - y[n-1] - x[n]$ . Since the equation holds for all  $n$ , you can substitute  $n$  by  $n+2$  and obtain the following result:

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

Mathematically this is not wrong; it is just not "recommended" because it can lead to a problematic interpretation in terms of programming. This line of "code" requires that the present output  $y[n]$  depends on future output samples  $y[n+1]$  and  $y[n+2]$  as well as the future input sample  $x[n+2]$ . In other words, the same equation also defines a non-causal system.

In this course, we will not further develop this way of rewriting an LCCDE because it is impractical in my opinion.





$H(z) = \frac{Y(z)}{X(z)} = \frac{1}{1 - z^{-1}Z^{-2}}$  over the region  
 $|z| > \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \approx 1.6$  Does not converge at  $z = 0$   
 $H(z) \Big|_{z=e^{j\omega}} = \frac{1}{1 - e^{-j\omega}Z^{-2}}$   
 $\Rightarrow r = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \approx 1.6$  converges at  $z = e^{j\omega}$   
 $h(n) \rightarrow \sum_n h(n) e^{-j\omega n}$   
 $H(e^{j\omega}) \triangleq \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} h(n) e^{-jn\omega}$

This is not recommended: Let the time go backward

If we begin with  $y[n] = y[n-1] + y[n-2] + x[n]$ , we can re-organize it as  $y[n-2] = y[n] - y[n-1] - x[n]$ . Since the equation holds for all  $n$ , you can substitute  $n$  by  $n+2$  and obtain the following result:

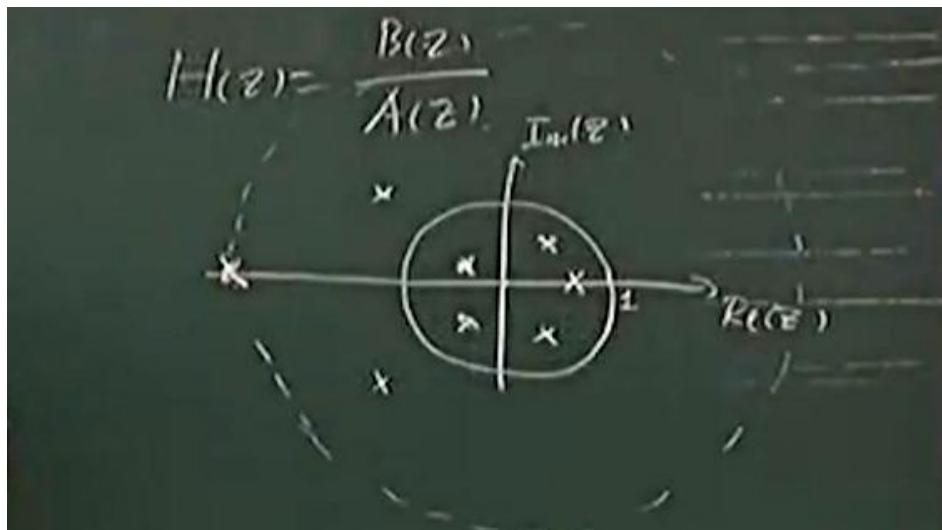
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In this course, we will not further develop this way of rewriting an LCCDE because it is impractical in my opinion.

$y[n] = y[n-1] + y[n-2] + x[n], \forall n$   
 Let  $n' = n+2$   
 $y[n'] = y[n+2] = y[n+1] + \underline{y[n]} + x[n+2]$   
 $\Rightarrow y[n+2] - y[n+1] - x[n+2] = y[n]$   
 $y[n] = y[n+2] - y[n+1] - x[n+2]$





## Overview of Lecture 7,8,& 9: Filter Design Methods

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EE3660 Introduction to Digital Signal Processing  
National Tsing Hua University

April 10, 2025

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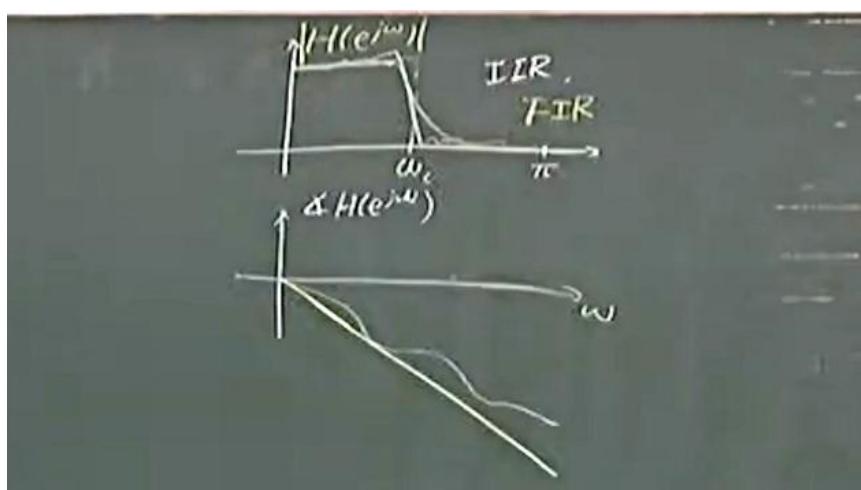
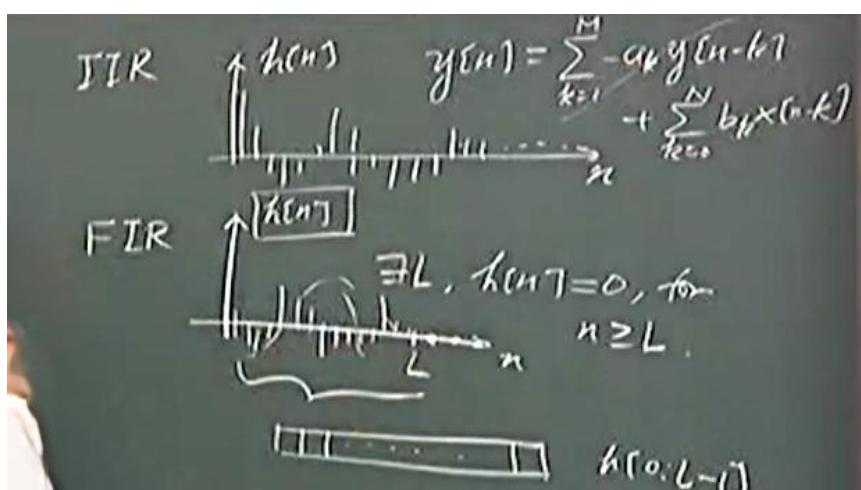
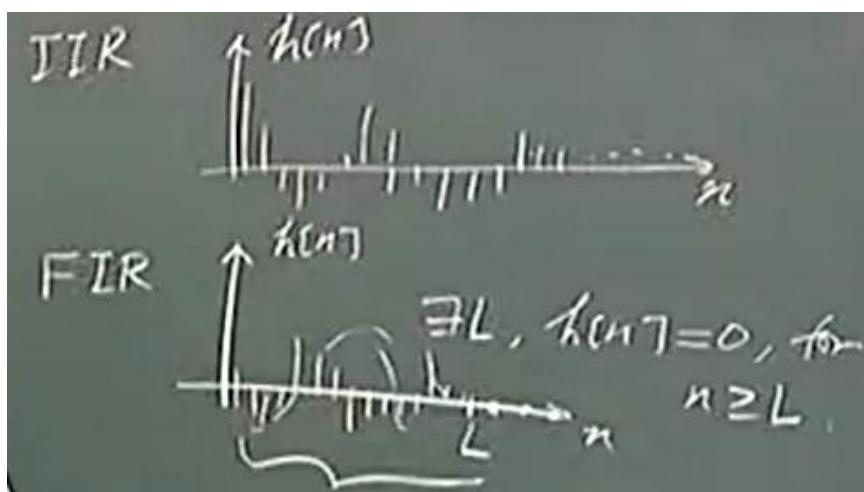
## Filter categories and their advantages

- ① *Infinite impulse response (IIR) filters*
  - Implemented by LCCDE
  - Advantage: Usually has a smaller computation load than FIR filters that meet the same *specification* (to be elaborated later)
  - Drawback: Group delay is not constant #dispersion
- ② *Finite impulse response (FIR) filters*
  - Implemented by convolution; computation load can be reduced via *fast Fourier transform (FFT)*
  - Two methods will be covered: the window method, and the optimal method
  - Commonly used windows also include two kinds: the cosine family, and the Kaiser family.
  - Advantage: *Linear-phase* design, i.e., constant group delay

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### IIR preview: The key technique

The idea is to borrow from an *analog prototype* using *bilinear transformation*.

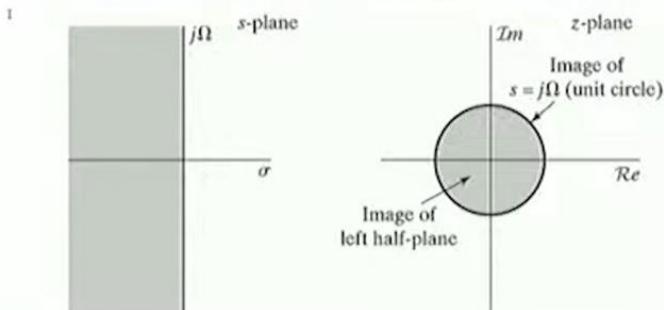


Figure 1: A mapping between the  $s$ -domain and the  $z$ -domain;  $s = s(z)$

### IIR preview: An example

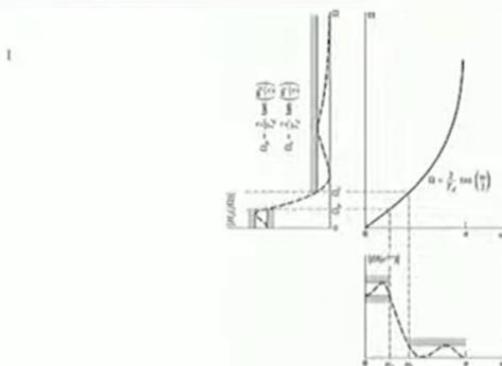
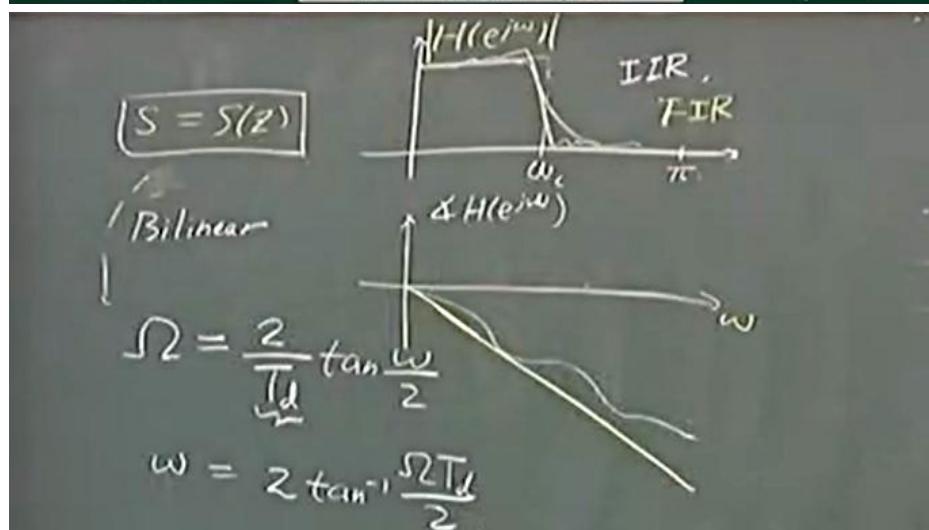


Figure 2: Note that  $\Omega \in [0, \infty)$  is mapped to  $0 \leq \omega < \pi$ .



## FIR overview: the first step

The idea is to approximate the ideal filter, but make its length finite. In Homework 2 Problem 1, you have seen that

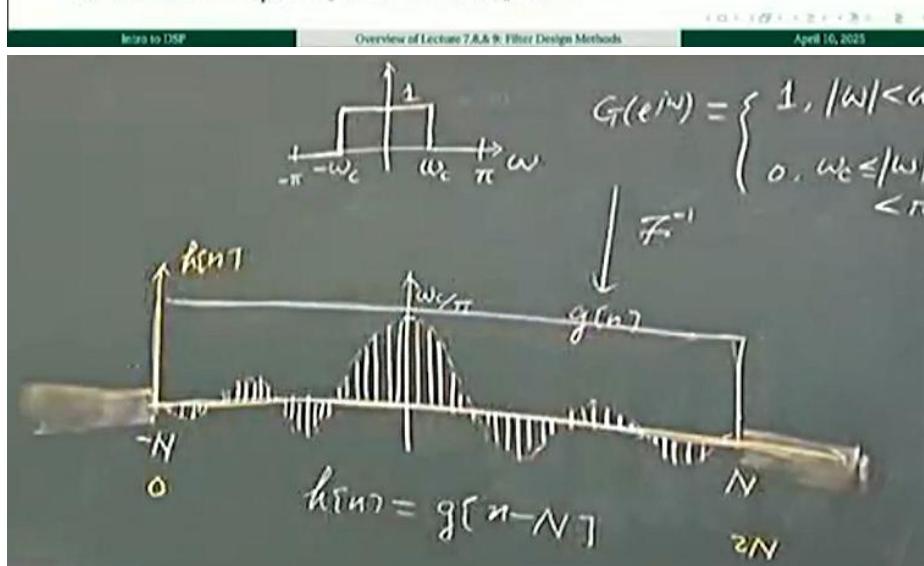
$$g[n] = \begin{cases} \frac{\sin \omega_c n}{\pi n}, & n \neq 0 \\ \frac{\omega_c}{\pi}, & n = 0 \end{cases}$$

is the impulse response for an ideal low-pass filter with a cutoff frequency at  $\omega_c$ .

Then, truncate  $g[n]$  at  $-N \leq n \leq N$ ; that is, let's define

$$h_N[n] = \begin{cases} g[n], & -N \leq n \leq N \\ 0, & \text{elsewhere.} \end{cases}$$

This can already be called a "design", but we can do better by multiplying  $h_N[n]$  with a window function  $w_{zp}[n]$ . (zp stands for "zero-phase")



## FIR: Commonly used windows

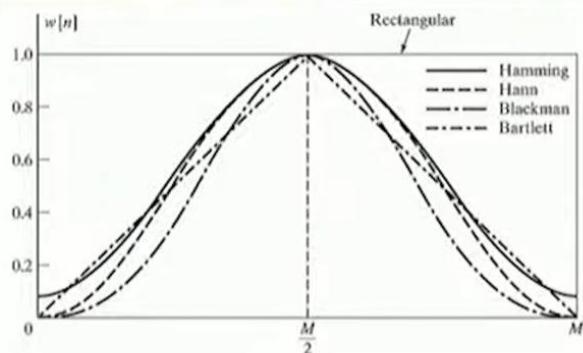
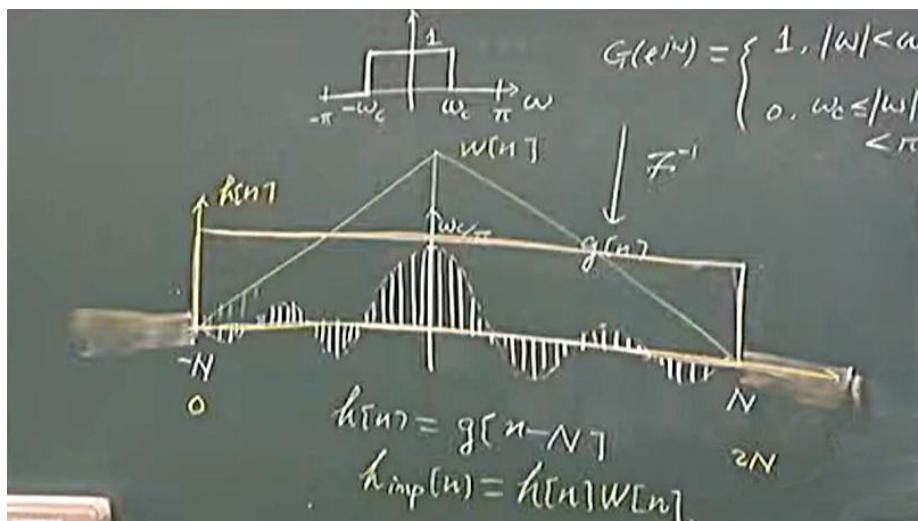


Figure 3: Here,  $M = 2N$ , and  $w_{zp}[n] = w[n - N]$ .





### Filter design specs tradeoffs

Question: How do we state the design goal(s)?

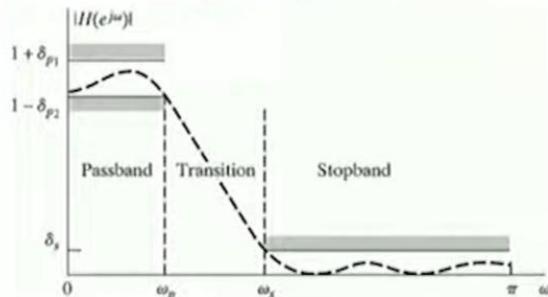


Figure 4: Tolerance scheme and design parameters.  $\delta_{p1}, \delta_{p2}$ : Passband tolerance.  $\delta_s$ : stopband tolerance.  $\omega_p$ : edge frequency.

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### Optimal FIR filter design

It turns out that filter design can be formulated as minimax problem:

Find (i.e., design)  $\{h[0], h[1], \dots, h[L]\}$  such that

$$\max_{\omega \in F} |E(\omega)|$$

is minimized, where  $E(\omega)$  denotes a user-defined error function.

The optimization process requires applying the *alternation theorem* in polynomial theory, and a clever use of the Chebyshev polynomial  $T_n(x) := \cos(n \cos^{-1} x)$ .

Intro to DSP

Overview of Lecture 7 & 9: Filter Design Methods

April 16, 2025



