
MIDTERM EXAMINATION

(Closed Book)

1. A relaxed system is described by the difference equation

$$y(n) - \frac{1}{2}y(n-1) = x^2(n), \quad n \geq 0$$

where $x(n)$ denotes the input sequence and $y(n)$ denotes the output sequence. Prove or give counter-examples:

- (a) (10 PTS) Is the system linear?
- (b) (10 PTS) Is the system time-invariant?
- (c) (5 PTS) Is the system causal?
- (d) (10 PTS) Is the system BIBO stable?
- (e) (5 PTS) How would your answers to (a)-(d) change if the interval $n \geq 0$ were replaced by $n \leq 0$?

2. A causal system is described by the difference equation

$$y(n) - \frac{1}{2}y(n-1) = x^2(n), \quad n \geq 0$$

with initial condition $y(-1) = 2$, and where $x(n)$ denotes the input sequence.

- (a) (5 PTS) Draw a block diagram representation of the system.
 - (b) (5 PTS) Find the zero-input solution of the system.
 - (c) (10 PTS) Find the zero-state solution of the system corresponding to $x(n) = (1/2)^n u(n-1)$.
 - (d) (10 PTS) Find the complete solution of the system. Verify that your solution satisfies the initial condition and the difference equation.
 - (e) (15 PTS) Find the z -transform of the sequence $nx(-n) + x^2(n-2)$. Specify its region of convergence. Find also the energy of this sequence.
 - (f) (5 PTS) Plot the sequence $nx(-n) + x^2(n-2)$.
3. (10 PTS) Use the z -transform to evaluate the series

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n^2 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n u(n-1)$$

MIDTERM SOLUTIONS

1. A relaxed system is described by the difference equation

$$y(n) - \frac{1}{2}y(n-1) = x^2(n), \quad n \geq 0$$

where $x(n)$ denotes the input sequence and $y(n)$ denotes the output sequence. Prove or give counter-examples:

We can find the input–output relation of the system by iteration as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} y(0) &= x^2(0) \\ y(1) &= \frac{1}{2}x^2(0) + x^2(1) = \frac{1}{2}[x^2(0) + 2x^2(1)] \\ y(2) &= \frac{1}{4}x^2(0) + \frac{1}{2}x^2(1) + x^2(2) = \frac{1}{4}[x^2(0) + 2x^2(1) + 4x^2(2)] \\ &\vdots \\ y(n) &= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n [x^2(0) + 2x^2(1) + \dots + 2^n x^2(n)] \end{aligned}$$

Then the general form of $y(n)$ is

$$y(n) = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \sum_{i=0}^n 2^i x^2(i), \quad n \geq 0$$

- (a) (10 PTS) Is the system linear?

Let $y_1(n)$ and $y_2(n)$ denote the output sequences that correspond to an input sequences $x_1(n)$ and $x_2(n)$, respectively. Then $y_1(n)$ and $y_2(n)$ can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} y_1(n) &= \mathcal{S}[x_1(n)] = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \sum_{i=0}^n 2^i x_1^2(i), \quad n \geq 0 \\ y_2(n) &= \mathcal{S}[x_2(n)] = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \sum_{i=0}^n 2^i x_2^2(i), \quad n \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Now, the output $y(n)$ that corresponds to the linear combination $ax_1(n) + bx_2(n)$ is

$$y(n) = \mathcal{S}[ax_1(n) + bx_2(n)] = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \sum_{i=0}^n 2^i (ax_1(i) + bx_2(i))^2, \quad n \geq 0$$

whereas

$$ay_1(n) + by_2(n) = a \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \sum_{i=0}^n 2^i x_1^2(i) + b \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \sum_{i=0}^n 2^i x_2^2(i), \quad n \geq 0$$

clearly,

$$\mathcal{S}[ax_1(n) + bx_2(n)] \neq ay_1(n) + by_2(n)$$

Therefore, the system is nonlinear.

(b) (10 PTS) Is the system time-invariant?

The system response to the input $x(n - k)$ is given by

$$y_k(n) = \mathcal{S}[x(n - k)] = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \sum_{i=k}^n 2^i x^2(i - k)$$

Note that the lower limit of the sum has changed from 0 to k . The reason is that we only include the samples of $x^2(n)$ for $n \geq 0$. On the other hand the output sequence delayed by k samples, $y(n - k)$, is given by

$$y(n - k) = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n-k} \sum_{i=-k}^{n-k} 2^i x^2(i) = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \sum_{i=0}^n 2^i x^2(i - k)$$

clearly,

$$\mathcal{S}[x(n - k)] \neq y(n - k)$$

Therefore, the system is not time-invariant.

We can also show that the system is not time-invariant by using the following counter example:

Let $x(n) = \delta(n + 1) + \delta(n)$. then,

For $x(n) = \delta(n + 1) + \delta(n)$	For $x(n - 1) = \delta(n) + \delta(n - 1)$
$y(0) = 1$	$y_1(0) = 1$
$y(1) = 1/2$	$y_1(1) = 3/2$
$y(2) = 1/4$	$y_1(2) = 3/4$
$y(3) = 1/8$	$y_1(3) = 3/8$
\vdots	\vdots

Clearly, $y_1(n) \neq y(n - 1)$, then we conclude that the system is not time-invariant.

(c) (5 PTS) Is the system causal?

$y(n)$ depends on the current and previous samples of the input sequence. Therefore, the system is causal.

(d) (10 PTS) Is the system BIBO stable?

Let $y(n)$ denote the output sequence that corresponds to any bounded input sequence $x(n)$. This means that $|x(n)|$ is less than or equal to a finite positive number M .

$$|x(n)| \leq M < \infty \quad \text{for all } n$$

Now, we need to show that the output sequence is also bounded for the system to be stable. We proceed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} |y(n)| &= \left| \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \sum_{i=0}^n 2^i x^2(i) \right| \leq \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \sum_{i=0}^n 2^i |x^2(n)| \\ &\leq \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n M^2 \sum_{i=0}^n 2^i = M^2 \left(2 - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n\right) \leq 2M^2 < \infty \end{aligned}$$

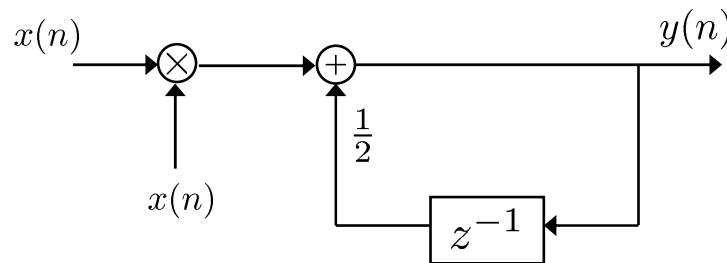
We then conclude that the system is BIBO stable.

2. A causal system is described by the difference equation

$$y(n) - \frac{1}{2}y(n-1) = x^2(n), \quad n \geq 0$$

with initial condition $y(-1) = 2$, and where $x(n)$ denotes the input sequence.

(a) (5 PTS) Draw a block diagram representation of the system.



(b) (10 PTS) Find the zero-input solution of the system.

The zero-input solution, $y_{zi}(n)$, is the solution to the homogeneous equation

$$y(n) - \frac{1}{2}y(n-1) = 0$$

subject to the $y(-1) = 2$. The characteristic equation of the system is

$$\lambda - \frac{1}{2} = 0 \quad \implies \quad \lambda = \frac{1}{2}$$

Then, $y_{zi}(n) = C \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n$. We then use the initial condition to find C :

$$y(-1) = 2 = C \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{-1} \quad \implies \quad C = 1$$

Therefore,

$$y_{zi}(n) = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n, \quad n \geq 0$$

- (c) (10 PTS) Find the zero-state solution of the system corresponding to $x(n) = (1/2)^n u(n-1)$.

Let $z(n) = x^2(n) = \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^n u(n-1)$, then the relaxed difference equation that we solve for the zero-state solution becomes

$$y(n) - \frac{1}{2}y(n-1) = z(n), \quad y(0) = 0$$

where $y(0) = 0$ is the initial condition needed for the system to be relaxed. We can now solve for the zero-state solution in many different ways. We will do it using two different methods; first by solving as $y_{zs}(n) = y_h(n) + y_p(n)$ and then by using the z -transform approach.

- (a) Using $y_{zs}(n) = y_h(n) + y_p(n)$

We can write the modified input sequence $z(n)$ as follows,

$$z(n) = x^2(n) = \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^n u(n-1) = \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^{n-1} u(n-1)$$

We first find the zero-state solution to $z'(n) = \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^n u(n)$ then we use the time invariance of the system to find the zero-state solution to $z(n)$

- Homogeneous solution $y_h(n)$ is the solution to the homogeneous equation $y(n) - \frac{1}{2}y(n-1) = 0$, that is

$$y_h(n) = C \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n, \quad \text{for all } n$$

- Particular solution: We now use the modified difference equation

$$y(n) - \frac{1}{2}y(n-1) = z'(n), \quad z'(n) = \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^n u(n)$$

The solution has the form $y_p(n) = K \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^n u(n)$. Substituting in the difference equation, we get

$$K \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^n u(n) - \frac{1}{2}K \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^{n-1} u(n-1) = \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^n u(n)$$

Solving for K , we find that $K = -1$ for $n \geq 1$ and the particular solution is

$$y_p(n) = -\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^n, \quad n \geq 1$$

Then, the zero-state solution to $z'(n)$ is given by

$$y_{zs'} = y_h(n) + y_p(n) = C \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n - \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^n, \quad n \geq 1$$

Using the relaxed initial condition $y(-1) = 0$, we find that $y(0) = 1$. Using $y(0)$, we find that $C = 2$, therefore

$$y_{zs'} = y_h(n) + y_p(n) = \left[2 \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^n - \left(\frac{1}{4} \right)^n \right] u(n)$$

Finally, we use the time-invariance property of the system to find the zero-state response to $z(n) = \frac{1}{4}z'(n-1)$ to be

$$y_{zs}(n) = \frac{1}{4}y_{zs'}(n-1) = \left[\left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^n - \left(\frac{1}{4} \right)^n \right] u(n-1)$$

(b) Using z -transform

Starting from

$$y(n) - \frac{1}{2}y(n-1) = \left(\frac{1}{4} \right)^n u(n-1)$$

We take the z -transform of both sides to get

$$Y_{zs}(z) - \frac{1}{2}z^{-1} = \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{z - 1/4}$$

Then,

$$Y_{zs}(z) = \frac{1/4 \cdot z}{(z - 1/2)(z - 1/4)}$$

Using partial fractions, we see that $Y(z)$ can be written as

$$Y_{zs}(z) = \frac{1/2}{z - 1/2} - \frac{1/4}{z - 1/4}$$

Finally, we use the inverse z -transform to obtain an expression for $y_{zs}(n)$

$$y_{zs}(n) = \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^n u(n-1) - \left(\frac{1}{4} \right)^n u(n-1)$$

(d) (10 PTS) Find the complete solution of the system. Verify that your solution satisfies the initial condition and the difference equation.

The complete solution is the sum of the zero-input solution and the zero-state solution. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} y(n) &= y_{zi}(n) + y_{zs}(n) \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^n u(n) + \left[\left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^n - \left(\frac{1}{4} \right)^n \right] u(n-1) \end{aligned}$$

To verify that the solution satisfies the initial condition and the difference equation, we evaluate a few terms of $y(n)$ using the obtained solutions and compare them to the

corresponding values that we get from iterating the difference equation. The comparison is shown below:

	Solution	Difference equation
$n = 0$	$y(0) = 1$	$y(0) = \frac{1}{2}y(-1) + x^2(0) = 1$
$n = 1$	$y(1) = \frac{3}{4}$	$y(1) = \frac{1}{2}y(0) + x^2(1) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$
$n = 2$	$y(2) = \frac{7}{16}$	$y(2) = \frac{1}{2}y(1) + x^2(2) = \frac{3}{8} + \frac{1}{16} = \frac{7}{16}$
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots

- (e) (15 PTS) Find the z -transform of the sequence $nx(-n) + x^2(n-2)$. Specify its region of convergence. Find also the energy of this sequence.

Let

$$x_1(n) = nx(-n) = n(2)^n u(-n-1)$$

and

$$x_2(n) = x^2(n-2) = \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^{n-2} u(n-3) = \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^{n-3} u(n-3)$$

The z -transform of $x_1(n)$ is found as follows:

$$2^n u(-n-1) \longleftrightarrow \frac{-z}{z-2}, \quad |z| < 2$$

$$n2^n u(-n-1) \longleftrightarrow -z \frac{d}{dz} \frac{-z}{z-2} = \frac{-2z}{(z-2)^2}, \quad |z| < 2$$

and the z -transform of $x_2(n)$ is found as follows:

$$\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^n u(n) \longleftrightarrow \frac{z}{z-1/4}, \quad |z| > \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^{n-3} u(n-3) \longleftrightarrow z^{-3} \frac{z}{z-1/4} = \frac{1}{z^2(z-1/4)}, \quad |z| > \frac{1}{4}$$

Then the z -transform of $nx(-n) + x^2(n-2)$ is

$$\frac{-2z}{(z-2)^2} + \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{z^2(z-1/4)}, \quad \frac{1}{4} < |z| < 2$$

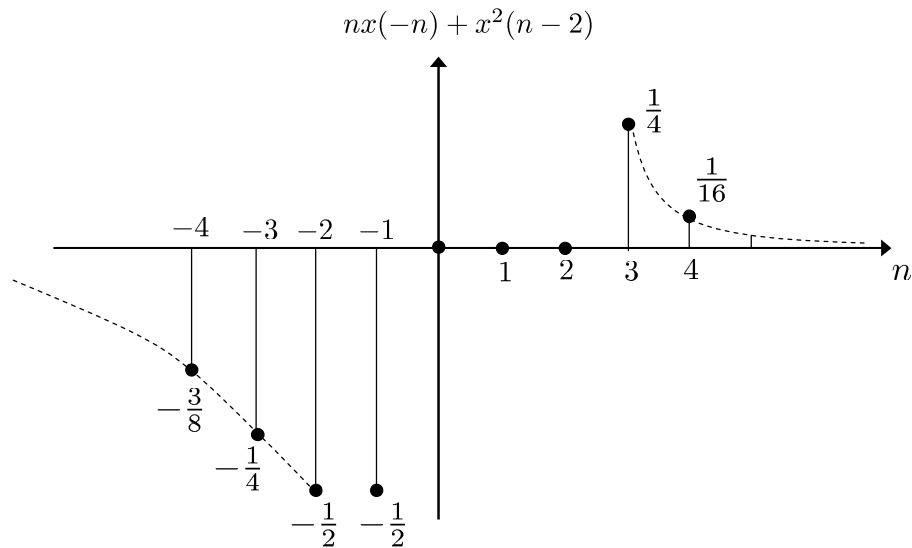
The energy of the sequence is computed as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}_x &= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} |x(n)|^2 \\ &= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \left| n(2)^n u(-n-1) + \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^{n-2} u(n-3) \right|^2 \\ &= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} n^2 (4)^n u(-n-1) + \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{16}\right)^{n-2} u(n-3) \\ &\quad + \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} n(2)^n \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^{n-2} u(n-3)u(-n-1) \end{aligned}$$

Note that the third term equals to zero since $u(n-3)u(-n-1) = 0$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}_x &= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{-1} n^2 (4)^n + \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{16}\right)^{n-2} \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^2 \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^n + \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{16}\right)^{n-2} \\ &= \frac{20}{27} + \frac{1}{15} = \frac{109}{135} = 0.8074 \end{aligned}$$

(f) (5 PTS) Plot the sequence $nx(-n) + x^2(n-2)$.



3. (10 PTS) Use the z -transform to evaluate the series

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n^2 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n u(n-1)$$

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n^2 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n u(n-1) = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n^2 (2)^{-n} u(n-1) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} n^2 u(n-2) (2)^{-n}$$

Now let $x(n) = n^2 u(n-2)$, then

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n^2 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} x(n) (2)^{-n} = X(z) |_{z=2}$$

We then calculate $X(z)$ as follows

$$\begin{aligned}u(n-2) &\longleftrightarrow z^{-2} \frac{z}{z-1} = \frac{1}{z(z-1)} \\nu(n-2) &\longleftrightarrow -z \frac{d}{dz} \frac{1}{z(z-1)} = \frac{2z-1}{z(z-1)^2} \\n^2 u(n-2) &\longleftrightarrow -z \frac{d}{dz} \frac{2z-1}{z(z-1)^2} = \frac{4z^2-3z+1}{z(z-1)^3}\end{aligned}$$

Then

$$X(z) = \frac{4z^2-3z+1}{z(z-1)^3} \implies \sum_2^{\infty} n^2 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n = X(z)|_{z=2} = \frac{11}{2}$$