2. Continuous-time systems

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System

a *system* is an entity that processes input signals to provide output signals

- a system that operates on CT-signals is a *continuous-time systems*
- to excite a system means to apply energy that causes it to respond
- a system can have multiple inputs and multiple outputs (MIMO)

Examples

- **a** *amplifier:* $y(t) = \alpha x(t)$
- *integrator:* $y(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{t} x(\tau) d\tau$
- *RC-circuit*

the input current $x(t)$ and output voltage $y(t)$ are related by:

$$
y(t) = Rx(t) + v_C(t_0) + \frac{1}{C} \int_{t_0}^t x(\tau) d\tau, \quad t \ge t_0
$$

System analysis and design

the study of systems consists of three major areas:

- **system modeling:** the mathematical equations relating the outputs to the inputs are called the *system model*
- **system analysis:** how to determine the system outputs for the given inputs and a given mathematical model of the system
- **system design (synthesis):** how to construct a system that will produce a desired set of outputs for the given inputs

Block diagrams

in system analysis it is common and useful to represent systems by *block diagrams*

Single-input single-output

- **u** input $x(t)$ is operated on by operator H to produce the output signal $y(t)$
- \blacksquare the operator H could perform just about any operation imaginable

Interconnected systems

a system is often described and analyzed as an assembly of **components**

- a component is a smaller, simpler system
	- to a circuit designer, components are resistors, capacitors, inductors, operational amplifiers and so on, and systems are power amplifiers, A/D converters, modulators, filters and so forth
	- to an automobile designer components are wheels, engines, bumpers, lights, seats and the system is the automobile
- by knowing the mathematical model of the components, an engineer can predict the behavior (output) of the system

Common block diagram operations

Amplifier (scalar multiplication)

Summation (addition)

Integrator

$$
\frac{dy^2}{dt^2} = a\big(x(t) - \big[b\frac{dy}{dt} + cy(t)\big]\big)
$$

$$
\frac{dy^2}{dt^2} + (ab)\frac{dy}{dt} + (ac)y(t) = ax(t)
$$

or

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Linear systems

a system H is

- **•** *homogeneous* if $x \to y$, then $\alpha x \to \alpha y$ for any number α
- **a** *additive* if $x_1 \rightarrow y_1$, and $x_2 \rightarrow y_2$, then $x_1 + x_2 \rightarrow y_1 + y_2$

Linear systems: a system is *linear* if it is both homogeneous and additive

 $x_1 \rightarrow y_1$ $x_2 \rightarrow y_2$

then for any numbers α_1, α_2

$$
\alpha_1 x_1 + \alpha_2 x_2 \longrightarrow \alpha_1 y_1 + \alpha_2 y_2
$$

the above is called the *superposition property*

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determine whether the following systems are linear or nonlinear

(a)
$$
\frac{dy(t)}{dt} + 3y(t) = x(t)
$$

\n(b) $y(t) \frac{dy(t)}{dt} + 3y(t) = x(t)$
\n(c) $y(t) = e^{x(t)}$

Solution:

(a) let $y_1(t)$ and $y_2(t)$ to be the outputs for inputs $x_1(t)$ and $x_2(t)$; then,

$$
\frac{dy_1(t)}{dt} + 3y_1(t) = x_1(t) \qquad \frac{dy_2(t)}{dt} + 3y_2(t) = x_2(t)
$$

multiplying the first equation by α_1 and the second by α_2 and adding, gives

$$
\frac{d}{dt}[\alpha_1y_1(t) + \alpha_2y_2(t)] + 3[\alpha_1y_1(t) + \alpha_2y_2(t)] = \alpha_1x_1(t) + \alpha_2x_2(t),
$$

which is the system equation with

$$
x(t) = \alpha_1 x_1(t) + \alpha_2 x_2(t), \qquad y(t) = \alpha_1 y_1(t) + \alpha_2 y_2(t)
$$

hence, superposition is satisfied and the system is linear

(b) if $x(t) \rightarrow y(t)$, then we have

$$
y(t)\frac{dy(t)}{dt} + 3y(t) = x(t)
$$

multiplying by α , we have

$$
\alpha y(t) \frac{dy(t)}{dt} + 3\alpha y(t) = \alpha x(t),
$$

which is not equal to

$$
\alpha y(t) \frac{d[\alpha y(t)]}{dt} + 3\alpha y(t) = \alpha x(t)
$$

hence, the system is nonlinear

(c) for input $\alpha x(t)$, we have $y(t) = e^{\alpha x(t)} \neq \alpha y(t)$

Total response of a linear system

Decomposition property of linear systems

total response = zero-input response + zero-state response

Zero-input response (ZIR)

- ZIR is the output that results only from initial conditions at $t = 0$
- with zero input $x(t) = 0$ for $t \ge 0$

Zero-state response (ZSR)

- ZSR is the output that results from input $x(t)$ for $t \geq 0$
- with zero initial conditions
- when all the initial conditions are zero, the system is said to be in *zero state*

Example: for the circuit in slide 2.3 (with $t_0 = 0$)

we have

$$
y(t) = \underbrace{v_C(t_0)}_{\text{ZIR}} + \underbrace{Rx(t) + \frac{1}{C} \int_{t_0}^t x(\tau) d\tau}_{\text{ZSR}}, \quad t \ge 0
$$

Linearity implication

if we can write $x(t)$ as

$$
x(t) = \alpha_1 x_1(t) + \alpha_2 x_2(t) + \cdots + \alpha_m x_m(t)
$$

then if the system is linear, the output is

$$
y(t) = \alpha_1 y_1(t) + \alpha_2 y_2(t) + \cdots + \alpha_m y_m(t)
$$

- $y_k(t)$ is the zero-state response to input $x_k(t)$
- we can find $y(t)$ by finding responses $y_k(t)$ to the "simpler" components $x_k(t)$

Linearity implication

any signal can be approximated by a sum of rectangular pulses or step-functions

if we know the system response to a unit impulse or unit step input, we can compute the system response to any arbitrary input

Time-invariant systems

a system is *time invariant* if for input-output $x(t) \rightarrow y(t)$, we have

$$
x(t - t_o) \to y(t - t_o)
$$

for any arbitrary t_o (assuming initial conditions are also delayed by t_o)

- a system is *time-varying* if the the above does not hold
- CT system that is linear and time-invariant is called *linear-time-invariant continuous system* (LTIC)

determine the time invariance of the following systems

(a)
$$
y(t) = x(t)u(t)
$$

\n(b) $y(t) = \frac{d}{dt}x(t)$
\n(c) $y(t) = e^{-t}x(t)$
\n(d) $y(t) = e^{x(t)}$

Solution:

(a) input is modified by a time-dependent function $u(t)$ so the system is time-varying; we can show this through a counterexample:

$$
x_1(t) = \delta(t+1) \implies y_1(t) = 0
$$

$$
x_2(t) = x_1(t-2) = \delta(t-1) \implies y_2(t) = \delta(t-1)
$$

since $y_2(t) \neq y_1 (t - 2) = 0$, the system is time-varying

(b) for input $x(t - t_o)$, we have output

$$
y(t-t_o) = \frac{d}{d(t-t_o)}x(t-t_o) = \frac{d}{dt}x(t-t_o),
$$

which is the output to a delayed input $x(t - t_o)$; hence, the system is time invariant

- (c) the output with delayed input is $e^{-t}x(t-t_o)$, which is not equal to the delayed output $e^{-(t-t_o)}x(t-t_o)$; hence, system is time-varying
- (d) for input $x(t t_o)$, output is $e^{x(t t_o)} = y(t t_o)$; hence system is time invariant

Instantaneous and dynamic systems

Instantaneous (memoryless, static) system

- \bullet output at any time t depends only on its input(s) at the same time t
- does not depend on any past or future values of the input(s)

Dynamic systems (with memory)

- output depends on future or past values of input(s)
- **a** a *finite-memory system with a memory* T is a system whose output at t depends only on the input signals over the past T seconds (from $t - T$ to t)

determine whether the following systems are memoryless:

(a)
$$
y(t-1) = 2x(t-1)
$$

\n(b) $y(t) = \frac{d}{dt}x(t)$
\n(c) $y(t) = (t-1)x(t)$

Solution:

- (a) memoryless since the output at any time depends on the input at the same time
- (b) using the derivative definition

$$
y(t) = \lim_{T \to 0} \frac{x(t) - x(t - T)}{T}
$$

not memoryless since the output at t depends on more than just the input at t (c) memoryless since the output at t depends only on the input at the same time

Causal and noncausal systems

Causal systems

- output at t_0 depends only on the input $x(t)$ for $t \leq t_0$
- output does not depend on future input

Noncausal systems

- system that violates the condition of causality (*i.e.*, output depend on future input)
- unrealizable in *real time* but can be realizable with time delay; for example, we can prerecord data; in such cases, the input's future values are available to us

determine whether the following systems are causal

- (a) $y(t) = x(-t)$
- (b) $y(t) = x(t + 1)$
- (c) $y(t + 1) = x(t)$

Solution:

- (a) output at $t = -1$, $y(-1) = x(1)$ depends on future input; hence not causal
- (b) output at time t depends on input at future $t + 1$; thus, the system is not causal
- (c) output at time $t + 1$ depends only on past input; hence, causal

Invertible and noninvertible systems

Invertible systems: a system is *invertible* if we can find the input $x(t)$ from the corresponding output $y(t)$

■ system that achieves the inverse operation is the *inverse system* for S

■ every input have a unique output (one-to-one mapping between input and output)

Noninvertible systems

- a system is *noninvertible* when it is impossible to obtain the input from the output (several different inputs result in the same output)
- examples: two inputs give same output
	- rectifier: $y(t) = |x(t)|$
	- $v(t) = \sin(x(t))$

determine whether the following systems are invertible

(a) $y(t) = x(-t)$ (b) $y(t) = tx(t)$ (c) $y(t) = \frac{d}{dt}$ $\frac{d}{dt}x(t)$ (d) $y(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{t} x(\tau) d\tau$

Solution:

- (a) since $x(t) = y(-t)$ for all t, the system is invertible
- (b) we have $x(t) = \frac{1}{t}y(t)$ for all t except $t = 0$; system is noninvertible since we cannot recover $x(0)$
- (c) since the derivative of constants are equal, the system is noninvertible; for example, both $x_1 (t) = t + 1$ and $x_2 (t) = t - 5$ give the same output
- (d) invertible because the input can be obtained by taking the derivative of the output; hence, the inverse system equation is $y(t) = dx/dt$

BIBO stable systems

a system is *bounded-input-bounded-output (BIBO) stable* (*externally stable*) if every bounded input results in a bounded output

Example: determine whether the following systems are BIBO-stable

- (a) $y(t) = x^2(t)$
- (b) $y(t) = tx(t)$
- (c) $y(t) = \frac{d}{dt}x(t)$

Solution:

- (a) system $y(t) = x^2(t)$ is BIBO stable: if the input is bounded $|x(t)| \le M_x < \infty$, then $|y(t)| = |x^2(t)| = |x(t)|^2 \le M_x^2 < \infty$
- (b) the bounded-amplitude input $x(t) = u(t)$ produces the output $y(t) = tu(t)$, which grows to infinity as $t \to \infty$; thus system is a BIBO-unstable system
- (c) the bounded-amplitude input $x(t) = u(t)$ produces the output $y(t) = \delta(t)$ whose amplitude is infinite at $t = 0$; thus, the system is a BIBO-unstable

Linear differential system

$$
a_0 \frac{d^N y(t)}{dt^N} + a_1 \frac{d^{N-1} y(t)}{dt^{N-1}} + \dots + a_N y(t)
$$

= $b_0 \frac{d^M x(t)}{dt^M} + b_1 \frac{d^{M-1} x(t)}{dt} + \dots + b_M x(t)$

- \blacksquare order is highest derivative of output N
- the system described by differential equation of the above form is linear
- **■** the system is time-invariant if a_i, b_i are constants (independent of time)
- many practical systems can be modeled by linear differential equations
- we assume that $a_0 = 1$ (if not, then we can always divide both sides by a_0)

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Differentiation notations

■ the are several notation for differentiation:

$$
\dot{y}(t) = y'(t) := \frac{dy(t)}{dt}, \quad \ddot{y}(t) = y''(t) := \frac{d^2y(t)}{dt^2}, \quad \dots, \quad y^{(N)} := \frac{d^Ny(t)}{dt^N}
$$

■ for convenience, we often use D instead of d/dt :

$$
\frac{dy(t)}{dt} := Dy(t), \quad \frac{d^2y(t)}{dt^2} := D^2y(t), \quad \dots, \quad \frac{d^Ny(t)}{dt^N} := D^Ny(t)
$$

■ using the above, the linear differential system becomes

$$
(a_0D^N + a_1D^{N-1} + \dots + a_N)y(t) = (b_0D^M + b_1D^{M-1} + \dots + b_M)x(t)
$$

Integration operation

$$
\int_{-\infty}^{t} y(\tau) d\tau := \frac{1}{D} y(t)
$$

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Basic electrical elements laws

Resistor

$$
v_R = i_R R
$$

Capacitor

$$
i_C = C \frac{dv_C}{dt}
$$

$$
v_C(t) = \frac{1}{C} \int_{t_0}^t i_C d\tau + v_C(t_0)
$$

 \boldsymbol{R}

 i_R

 V_R

Inductor

$$
v_L = L \frac{di_L}{dt}
$$

$$
i_L(t) = \frac{1}{L} \int_{t_0}^t v_L d\tau + i(t_0)
$$

find the input-output equation relating the input voltage $x(t)$ to the output current (loop current) $y(t)$

Solution: KVL, gives

$$
v_L(t) + v_R(t) + v_C(t) = x(t)
$$

using voltage current-law for each element we obtain:

$$
\frac{dy(t)}{dt} + 3y(t) + 2\int_{-\infty}^{t} y(\tau)d\tau = x(t)
$$

differentiating both sides, we get the input-output relation:

$$
\frac{d^2y(t)}{dt^2} + 3\frac{dy(t)}{dt} + 2y(t) = \frac{dx(t)}{dt}
$$

we can write the above as

$$
(D2 + 3D + 2)y(t) = Dx(t)
$$

if the inductor voltage $v_L(t)$ is taken as the output, then

$$
(D^2 + 3D + 2)v_L(t) = D^2x(t)
$$

[modeling of basic systems](#page-29-0) $\mathbb{S}A - \mathbb{E} \mathbb{E}312$ 2.31 2.31

find the equation relating input-output if the input is the voltage $x(t)$ and output is

- (a) the loop current $i(t)$
- (b) the capacitor voltage $y(t)$

Solution:

(a) the loop equation is

$$
15i(t)+5\int_{-\infty}^t i(\tau)d\tau=x(t)
$$

in operator notation, we have

$$
15i(t) + \frac{5}{D}i(t) = x(t)
$$

 $(15D + 5)i(t) = Dx(t)$

multiplying both sides by D (*i.e.*, differentiating the equation), we obtain

(b) using
$$
i(t) = C \frac{dy(t)}{dt} = \frac{1}{5}Dy(t)
$$
, we get
\n $(3D+1)y(t) = x(t)$

if the capacitor voltage $v_C(t)$ is taken as the output, then

$$
(D^2 + 3D + 2)v_C(t) = 2x(t)
$$

Mechanical translational laws

the basic elements used in modeling translational systems (moving along a straight line) are ideal masses, linear springs, and dashpots providing viscous damping

Newton's law of motion: a force $x(t)$ on *mass M* causes a motion $y(t)$ and acceleration $\ddot{v}(t)$

$$
x(t) = M\ddot{y}(t) = MD^2y(t)
$$

 \sim \sim

Linear spring: force $x(t)$ required to stretch (or compress) a linear spring with *stiffness* K by amount $y(t)$

$$
x(t) = Ky(t)
$$

 λ

Linear dashpot: the force $x(t)$ moving the dashpot with *damping coefficient* B is proportional to the relative velocity $\dot{v}(t)$ of one surface with respect to the other

$$
x(t) = B\dot{y}(t) = BDy(t)
$$

find the input-output relationship for the translational mechanical system shown below; the input is the force $x(t)$, and the output is the mass position $y(t)$

Solution: in mechanical systems it is helpful to draw a free-body diagram of each junction, which is a point at which two or more elements are connected

from Newton's second law, the net force must be

$$
M\ddot{y}(t) = -B\dot{y}(t) - Ky(t) + x(t)
$$

or

$$
(MD2 + BD + K)y(t) = x(t)
$$

Example 2.10 (car suspension system)

- \blacksquare input $x(t)$ is vertical displacement of pavement (relative to ground level)
- \bullet output $y(t)$ is vertical displacement of the car chassis from its equilibrium position
- \blacksquare *M* is one-fourth of the car's mass, because the car has four wheels
- **•** forces exerted by the spring F_s and shock absorber F_d depend on the relative displacement $(y - x)$ of the car relative to the pavement
- when $(y x)$ is positive (car mass moving away from the pavement), the spring force F_s is directed downward; hence, $F_s = -K(y - x)$

$$
\bullet \text{ similarly, } F_d = -B\frac{d}{dt}(y - x)
$$

■ using Newton's law, $F_c = Ma = M\frac{d^2y}{dt^2}$, the force equation is $F_c = F_s + F_d$ or

$$
M\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} = -K(y-x) - B\frac{d}{dt}(y-x)
$$

which can be written as

$$
\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + \frac{B}{M}\frac{dy}{dt} + \frac{K}{M}y = \frac{B}{M}\frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{K}{M}x
$$

this is a second-order linear differential system

References

- ■ B.P. Lathi, *Linear Systems and Signals*, Oxford University Press.
- M. J. Roberts, *Signals and Systems: Analysis Using Transform Methods and MATLAB*, McGraw Hill.