

Solution of Linear Constant-Coefficient Difference Equations

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Solution of Linear Constant-Coefficient Difference Equations

Two methods
Direct method
Indirect Method (z-transform)

Direct solution Method:

The total solution is the sum of two parts
Part 1 homogeneous solution
Part 2 particular solution

The Homogeneous solution

Assuming that the input is zero, this gives us the **zero-input response** of the system

$$\sum_{k=0}^N a_k y(n-k) = 0$$

Solution of Linear Constant-Coefficient Difference Equations

The solution is the form of an exponential

$$y_h(n) = \lambda^n$$

substitute this in the previous equation.

$$\lambda^n + a_1 \lambda^{n-1} + a_2 \lambda^{n-2} + \dots + a_{N-1} \lambda^{n-(N-1)} + a_N \lambda^{n-N} = 0$$

$$\lambda^{n-N} (\lambda^N + a_1 \lambda^{N-1} + a_2 \lambda^{N-2} + \dots + a_{N-1} \lambda + a_N) = 0$$

This is called characteristic polynomial of the system. It has N roots and denotes by $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_N$

The roots can be real or complex or some roots are identical.

ECE 308-8 3

Solution of Linear Constant-Coefficient Difference Equations

Let assume that roots are real and not identical, the solution becomes

$$y_h(n) = C_1 \lambda_1^n + C_2 \lambda_2^n + \dots + C_N \lambda_N^n$$

The coefficients $C_i, i=1, 2, \dots, N$ are determined from the initial conditions.

If there are two identical roots, the solution becomes

$$y_h(n) = C_1 \lambda_1^n + C_1 n \lambda_1^n + C_2 \lambda_2^n + \dots + C_N \lambda_N^n$$

ECE 308-8 4

Solution of Linear Constant-Coefficient Difference Equations

Example:

Find the zero-input response for the second-order difference equation

$$y(n) - 3y(n-1) - 4y(n-2) = 0$$

The homogeneous solution form $y_h(n) = \lambda^n$

$$\lambda^n - 3\lambda^{n-1} - 4\lambda^{n-2} = 0$$

$$\lambda^{n-2}(\lambda^2 - 3\lambda - 4) = 0$$

$$\lambda_1 = -1, \lambda_2 = 4$$

The homogenous solution is

$$\begin{aligned} y_h(n) &= C_1 \lambda_1^n + C_2 \lambda_2^n \\ &= C_1 (-1)^n + C_2 4^n \end{aligned}$$

ECE 308-8 5

Solution of Linear Constant-Coefficient Difference Equations

The Particular solution:

Causal system is the output is depends only on present and past input signal

Input Signal $x(n)$	Particular Solution $y_p(n)$
A (constant)	K
AM^n	KM^n
An^M	$K_0 n^M + K_1 n^{M-1} + \dots + K_M$
$A^n n^M$	$A^n (K_0 n^M + K_1 n^{M-1} + \dots + K_M)$
$\begin{Bmatrix} A \cos \omega_0 n \\ A \sin \omega_0 n \end{Bmatrix}$	$K_1 \cos \omega_0 n + K_2 \sin \omega_0 n$

ECE 308-8 6

Solution of Linear Constant-Coefficient Difference Equations

Example:

Find the particular solution for

$$y(n) = \frac{5}{6}y(n-1) - \frac{1}{6}y(n-2) + x(n) \quad x(n) = 2^n, n \geq 0$$

The particular solution form

$$y_p(n) = K2^n u(n)$$

$$y_p(n) = K2^n, n \geq 0$$

$$K2^n u(n) = \frac{5}{6}K2^{n-1}u(n-1) - \frac{1}{6}K2^{n-2}u(n-2) + 2^n u(n)$$

Evaluate the equation for $n \geq 2$

$$4K = \frac{5}{6}2K - \frac{1}{6}K + 4 \quad \Rightarrow \quad K = \frac{8}{5}$$

Therefore, the particular solution is

$$y_p(n) = \frac{8}{5}2^n, n \geq 0$$

ECE 308-8 7

Solution of Linear Constant-Coefficient Difference Equations

The total solution of the difference equation

$$y(n) = y_h(n) + y_p(n)$$

ECE 308-8 8