## ELT2035 Signals & Systems

## Lesson 12: The z-Transform

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## Introduction

- Fourier representations of DT signals and LTI systems are based on superpositions of complex sinusoids
  - The DTFT does not exist for signals that are not absolutely summable;
  - The DTFT cannot be *easily* used to analyze unstable or even marginally stable systems.
- z-transform provides a broader characterization of discrete time signals and LTI systems than Fourier methods
  - > Based on superpositions of continuous time complex exponentials of the form  $e^{(\sigma+j\Omega)k}$  rather than complex sinusoids  $e^{j\Omega k}$ .
  - The z-transform exists for signals that do not have a DTFT by selecting a proper value for σ.



## The z-transform

- Consider the Fourier transform of  $f(t)e^{-\sigma t}$  ( $\sigma$  real)
  - $\succ \mathcal{F}\{f[k]e^{-\sigma k}\} = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} f[k]e^{-\sigma k}e^{-j\Omega k} = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} f[k]e^{-(\sigma+j\Omega)k} = F(e^{\sigma+j\Omega})$
  - > The inverse DTFT of  $F(e^{\sigma+j\Omega})$  is  $f[k]e^{-\sigma k} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} F(e^{\sigma+j\Omega})e^{j\Omega k} d\Omega$ . Multiplying both sides with  $e^{\sigma k}$  yields  $f[k] = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} F(e^{\sigma+j\Omega})e^{(\sigma+j\Omega)k} d\Omega$ .
  - Changing variable Ω to  $z = e^{\sigma + j\Omega} = re^{j\Omega}$  with  $r = e^{\sigma}$  yields bilateral z-transform pair, notice that  $\ln z = \sigma + j\Omega$  and  $\frac{1}{z}dz = jd\Omega$ .

Bilateral z-transform pair

$$F(z) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} f[k] z^{-k}$$
(1)  
$$f[k] = \frac{1}{2\pi j} \oint F(z) z^{k-1} dz$$
(2)

- As  $\Omega$  varies from  $-\pi$  to  $\pi$ , *z* completes exactly one rotation in counterclockwise direction on a circle of radius  $r \rightarrow$  the integral in Eq. (2) is a contour integral around a circle of radius *r* in counterclockwise direction.
- In practice, we usually do not evaluate (2) directly but use a z-transform table.
- ▶ If we let  $\sigma = 0$ ,  $F(z) = F(e^{j\Omega}) \rightarrow$  the DTFT is a special case of the z-transform obtained by letting  $z = e^{j\Omega}$  (i.e. z circumnavigates along the *unit circle* on the z-plane).

## The z-plane illustration





$$z = e^{\sigma + j\Omega} = r e^{j\Omega}$$

 $X(e^{j\Omega}) = X(z)|_{z=e^{j\Omega}}$ 

## The z-transform and the DTFT

**EXAMPLE 7.1 THE Z-TRANSFORM AND THE DTFT** Determine the z-transform of the signal

$$x[n] = \begin{cases} 1, & n = -1 \\ 2, & n = 0 \\ -1, & n = 1 \\ 1, & n = 2 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Use the z-transform to determine the DTFT of x[n].

#### SOLUTION

- ►  $X(z) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x[k] z^{-k} = z + 2 z^{-1} + z^{-2}$
- Substituting  $z = e^{j\Omega}$  to X(z) yields  $X(e^{j\Omega}) = e^{j\Omega} + 2 e^{-j\Omega} + e^{-2j\Omega}$

## Region of convergence (ROC)

- The ROC for *F(z)* is a set of values of *z* (a region in the z-plane) for which the infinite sum in Eq. (1) converges.
  - ▶ A necessary condition for convergence is absolute summability of  $x[n]z^n$ . Since  $|x[n]z^{-n}| = |x[n]r^{-n}|$ , we must have  $\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} |x[n]r^{-n}| < \infty$ .
  - For bilateral z-transform, it is possible that two different signals have the same *F(z)* but with different ROC. In other words, there is no 1-to-1 correspondence between *F(z)* and *f[k]* unless the ROC is specified.

> **Example**: Find the z-transform and ROC for  $x[k] = \alpha^k u[k]$ 

> Solution:

$$X(z) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \alpha^{k} u[k] z^{-k} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\alpha}{z}\right)^{k}$$

• For  $|z| > |\alpha|$ , the sum converges to

$$X(z) = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{\alpha}{z}} = \frac{z}{z - \alpha}.$$

• For  $|z| \le |\alpha|$ , the sum does not converge. Hence, the ROC of X(z) is the shaded region outside the circle of radius  $|\alpha|$ , centred at the origin in the z-plane.



## Poles and zeros

Like in the CT case, it is useful to express  $X(z) = \frac{\tilde{b} \prod_{k=1}^{M} (1-c_k z^{-1})}{\prod_{k=1}^{M} (1-d_k z^{-1})}$ 

- > The roots of the numerator polynomial,  $c_k$ , are termed the **zeros** of X(z).
- > The roots of the numerator polynomial,  $d_k$ , are termed the **poles** of X(z).

### Example:

Find the z-transform of the signal  $x[k] = -\alpha^k u[-k-1]$ . Depict the ROC and locations of poles, zeros of X(z) in the z-plane.

#### **SOLUTION:**

$$X(z) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} -\alpha^k u [-k-1] z^{-k} = -\sum_{k=-\infty}^{-1} \left(\frac{\alpha}{z}\right)^k$$
$$= -\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{z}{\alpha}\right)^n = 1 - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{z}{\alpha}\right)^n$$

For  $|z| > |\alpha|$ , the sum does not converge. For  $|z| < |\alpha|$ , the sum converges to  $X(z) = 1 - \frac{\alpha}{\alpha - z} = \frac{z}{z - \alpha}$ . The ROC of X(z) is the shaded region inside the circle of radius  $|\alpha|$ , centered at the origin in the z-plane.

The signal has one zero at z = 0 and one pole at  $z = \alpha$ .



## Properties of the ROC

- The ROC cannot contain any pole.
  - Suppose *d* is a pole of  $X(z) \rightarrow X(d) = \pm \infty \rightarrow X(z)$  does not converge at  $d \rightarrow d$  cannot lie in the ROC.
- □ The ROC for a finite-duration signal includes the entire z-plane, except possibly z = 0 or  $|z| = \infty$  (or both).
- □ Suppose that x[n] satisfies  $|x[n]| \le A_-(r_-)^n$ , n < 0;  $|x(t)| \le A_+(r_+)^n$ ,  $n \ge 0$  (i.e. x[n] grows no faster than  $(r_+)^n$  and  $(r_-)^n$  for positive and negative *n*, respectively)
  - ▶ If  $r_+ < |z| < r_-$  then X(z) converges. If  $r_+ > r_-$ , X(z) does not converge.
- □ For *x*[*n*] satisfies *exponentially bounded* conditions above
  - If x[n] is a right-sided signal (i.e. x[n] = 0 for n < 0), then the ROC of x[n] is of the form |z| > r<sub>+</sub>.
  - If x[n] is a left-sided signal (i.e. x[n] = 0 for n ≥ 0), then the ROC of x[n] is of the form |z| < r\_.</p>
  - ▶ If x[n] is a exponential two-sided signal (i.e. x[n] infinitely extends in both directions), then the ROC of x[n] is of the form  $r_+ < |z| < r_-$ .

## Example

Determine the z-transform and ROC for:

$$x[n] = -u[-n-1] + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n u[n].$$

Solution:  

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

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n} z^{-n} - \sum_{n=-\infty}^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n}$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{2z}\right)^{n} + 1 - \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} z^{k}$$

Both sums must converge in order for X(z) to converge → |z| > 1/2 & |z| < 1.</p>

For 
$$1/2 < |z| < 1$$
  $X(z) = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{2z}} + 1 - \frac{1}{1 - z} = \frac{z(2z - \frac{3}{2})}{(z - \frac{1}{2})(z - 1)}$ .



## ROC for exponentially bounded signals



## Properties of the z-transform

Linearity:

 $ax[n] + by[n] \xleftarrow{z} aX(z) + bY(z)$ , with ROC at least  $R_x \cap R_y$ .

Time reversal:

$$x[-n] \xleftarrow{z} X\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)$$
, with  $\operatorname{ROC}\frac{1}{R_x}$ .

Time shifting:

 $x[n - n_o] \xleftarrow{z} z^{-n_o} X(z)$ , with ROC  $R_x$ , except possibly z = 0 or  $|z| = \infty$ .

Multiplication by an exponential sequence:

$$\alpha^n x[n] \xleftarrow{z} X\left(\frac{z}{\alpha}\right)$$
, with ROC  $|\alpha| R_x$ .

> The notation  $|\alpha|R_x$  means that the ROC boundaries are multiplied by  $|\alpha|$ : if  $R_x$  is a < |z| < b, then the new ROC is  $|\alpha|a < |z| < |\alpha|b$ .

## Properties of the z-transform (cont.)

Convolution:

 $x[n] * y[n] \xleftarrow{z} X(z)Y(z)$ , with ROC at least  $R_x \cap R_y$ .

Differentiation in the z-domain:

$$nx[n] \xleftarrow{z}{\longrightarrow} -z \frac{d}{dz} X(z), \text{ with ROC } R_x.$$

**Example:** Find the z-transform of  $x[n] = a^n \cos \Omega_0 n u[n]$  with  $a \in R^+$ **SOLUTION** 

- $\blacktriangleright \quad \text{We have } x[n] = \frac{1}{2} e^{j\Omega_0 n} y[n] + \frac{1}{2} e^{-j\Omega_0 n} y[n], \text{ where } y[n] = a^n u[n] \stackrel{z}{\leftrightarrow} \frac{z}{z-a}$ with ROC |z| > a.
- Applying the property of multiplication by an exponential sequence  $X(z) = \frac{1}{2}Y(e^{-j\Omega_0}z) + \frac{1}{2}Y(e^{j\Omega_0}z) = \frac{1-a\cos\Omega_0z^{-1}}{1-2a\cos\Omega_0z^{-1}+a^2z^{-2}}, \text{ ROC } |z| > a.$

## Some common z-transform pairs

Signal	Transform	ROC
1. $\delta[n]$	1	All z
2. $u[n]$	$\frac{1}{1-z^{-1}}$	z  > 1
3. $-u[-n-1]$	$\frac{1}{1-z^{-1}}$	z  < 1
4. $\delta[n-m]$	$z^{-m}$	All z except 0 (if $m > 0$ ) or $\infty$ (if $m < 0$ )
5. $\alpha^n u[n]$	$\frac{1}{1-\alpha z^{-1}}$	$ z  >  \alpha $
6. $-\alpha^n u[-n-1]$	$\frac{1}{1-\alpha z^{-1}}$	$ z  <  \alpha $

## Some common z-transform pairs (cont.)

Signal	Transform	ROC
7. $n\alpha^n u[n]$	$\frac{\alpha z^{-1}}{(1-\alpha z^{-1})^2}$	$ z  >  \alpha $
8. $-n\alpha^n u[-n-1]$	$\frac{\alpha z^{-1}}{(1-\alpha z^{-1})^2}$	$ z  <  \alpha $
9. $[\cos \omega_0 n] u[n]$	$\frac{1 - [\cos \omega_0] z^{-1}}{1 - [2 \cos \omega_0] z^{-1} + z^{-2}}$	z  > 1
10. $[\sin \omega_0 n] u[n]$	$\frac{[\sin\omega_0]z^{-1}}{1 - [2\cos\omega_0]z^{-1} + z^{-2}}$	z  > 1
11. $[r^n \cos \omega_0 n] u[n]$	$\frac{1 - [r\cos\omega_0]z^{-1}}{1 - [2r\cos\omega_0]z^{-1} + r^2z^{-2}}$	z  > r
12. $[r^n \sin \omega_0 n] u[n]$	$\frac{[r\sin\omega_0]z^{-1}}{1 - [2r\cos\omega_0]z^{-1} + r^2 z^{-2}}$	z  > r

## Inversion of the z-transform

#### Partial fraction expansion:

- > Bring X(z) of the form  $\frac{b_M z^{-M} + b_{M-1} z^{-(M-1)} + \dots + b_1 z^{-1} + b_0}{a_0 \prod_{k=1}^N 1 d_k z^{-1}}$  to  $X(s) = \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{A_k}{1 d_k z^{-1}}$  if all the poles  $d_k$  are distinct.
- ▶ If a pole  $d_i$  is repeated *r* times, then there are *r* terms in the partial fraction expansion associated with that pole:  $\frac{A_{i1}}{1-d_k z^{-1}}, \frac{A_{i2}}{(1-d_k z^{-1})^2}, \cdots, \frac{A_{ir}}{(1-d_k z^{-1})^r}$ .
- Depending on the ROC, the inverse z-transform associated with each term is then determined by using the appropriate transform pair:

$$\begin{split} A_k(d_k)^n u[n] &\stackrel{z}{\leftrightarrow} \frac{A_k}{1-d_k z^{-1}} \text{ with ROC } |z| > d_k; \text{ or} \\ -A_k(d_k)^n u[-n-1] &\stackrel{z}{\leftrightarrow} \frac{A_k}{1-d_k z^{-1}} \text{ with ROC } |z| < d_k; \text{ or} \\ A \frac{(n+1)\cdots(n+m-1)}{(m-1)!} (d_k)^n u[n] &\stackrel{z}{\leftrightarrow} \frac{A_k}{(1-d_k z^{-1})^m} \text{ with ROC } |z| > d_k; \text{ or} \\ -A \frac{(n+1)\cdots(n+m-1)}{(m-1)!} (d_k)^n u[-n-1] &\stackrel{z}{\leftrightarrow} \frac{A_k}{(1-d_k z^{-1})^m} \text{ with ROC } |z| < d_k \end{split}$$

➤ The linearity property indicates that the ROC of X(z) is the intersection of the ROCs associated with the individual terms in the partial fraction expansion → we must infer the ROC of each term from the ROC of X(z) to obtain the correct inverse transform.

## Example

EXAMPLE 7.9 INVERSION BY PARTIAL-FRACTION EXPANSION Find the inverse z-transform of

$$X(z) = \frac{1 - z^{-1} + z^{-2}}{\left(1 - \frac{1}{2}z^{-1}\right)\left(1 - 2z^{-1}\right)\left(1 - z^{-1}\right)}, \text{ with ROC } 1 < |z| < 2.$$

Solution: We use a partial-fraction expansion to write

$$X(z) = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{2}z^{-1}} + \frac{2}{1 - 2z^{-1}} - \frac{2}{1 - z^{-1}}.$$

Now we find the inverse z-transform of each term, using the relationship between the locations of the poles and the ROC of X(z), each of which is depicted in Fig. 7.12. The figure shows that the ROC has a radius greater than the pole at  $z = \frac{1}{2}$ , so this term has the right-sided inverse transform

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n u[n] \xleftarrow{z} \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{2}z^{-1}}.$$

The ROC also has a radius less than the pole at z = 2, so this term has the left-sided inverse transform

$$-2(2)^n u[-n-1] \xleftarrow{z} \frac{2}{1-2z^{-1}}.$$



FIGURE 7.12 Locations of poles and ROC for Example 7.9.



FIGURE 7.12 Locations of poles and ROC for Example 7.9.

Finally, the ROC has a radius greater than the pole at z = 1, so this term has the right-sided inverse z-transform

$$-2u[n] \xleftarrow{z}{-\frac{2}{1-z^{-1}}}.$$

Combining the individual terms gives

$$x[n] = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n u[n] - 2(2)^n u[-n-1] - 2u[n].$$

## Inversion of the z-transform (cont.)

#### Power series expansion:

- Bring X(z) to the form of a power series in z<sup>1</sup> or z, then the values of x[n] are the coefficients associated with z<sup>n</sup>.
- ➤ This inversion method is limited to one-sided signals only, i.e. signals with ROCs of the form |z| > a or |z| < a. If the ROC is  $|z| > a \rightarrow$  express X(z) as a power series in  $z^1 \rightarrow$  right-sided x[n], and vice versa.
- Example: Find the inverse z-transform of  $X(z) = e^{z^2}$ , with ROC all z except  $|z| = \infty$ .

□ <u>Solution</u>:

> Using the power series representation for  $e^a$ , viz.  $e^a = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{a^k}{k!}$ , we have

$$X(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(z^2)^k}{k!} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^{2k}}{k!}$$

> On the other hand, as  $X(z) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} x[n]z^{-n}$  by definition, we conclude that  $x[n] = \begin{cases} 0, & n < 0 \text{ or } n \text{ odd} \\ \frac{1}{\left(\frac{-n}{2}\right)!}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ 

## The transfer function

Derived in a similar manner to that of CT LTI systems.

>  $H(z) = \frac{Y(z)}{X(z)}$  and is called the *transfer function* of the DT LTI system.

▶ 
$$h[n] = Z^{-1}[H(z)] = Z^{-1}\left[\frac{Y(z)}{X(z)}\right], y[n] = Z^{-1}[H(z)X(z)]$$

- In order to uniquely determine h[n], we must know the ROC. If the ROC is not known, other system characteristics such as stability or causality must be known.
- The transfer function can be obtained directly from the difference equation that describes the system.
  - > Assume that the system is described by  $\sum_{k=0}^{N} a_k y[n-k] = \sum_{k=0}^{M} b_k x[n-k]$ . Taking *z*-transform of both sides yields  $\sum_{k=0}^{N} a_k z^{-k} Y(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{M} b_k z^{-k} X(z)$ .
  - > Rational transfer function:  $H(z) = \frac{Y(z)}{X(z)} = \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{M} b_k z^{-k}}{\sum_{k=0}^{N} a_k z^{-k}}$
  - > The poles and zeros of a rational transfer function are found by factoring the numerator and denominator  $H(z) = \frac{\tilde{b} \prod_{k=1}^{M} (1-c_k z^{-1})}{\prod_{k=1}^{M} (1-d_k z^{-1})}$ .

## Causality and stability

- □ Causality: a DT LTI system is causal if  $h[n] = 0 \forall n < 0 \rightarrow$  the impulse response of a causal DT LTI system is determined from its transfer function by using right-sided inverse transform.
- Stability: a DT LTI system is causal if its impulse response is summable → the DTFT of the impulse response exists → the ROC must includes the unit circle in the z-plane.
- □ If a system is causal:
  - ➤  $\frac{A_k}{1-d_kz^{-1}} \stackrel{z}{\leftrightarrow} A_k(d_k)^n u[n] \rightarrow$  the system is stable if **all** the poles are **inside** the unit circle in the *z*-plane. If there's at least one pole outside the unit circle  $\rightarrow$  unstable.
- If the system is anti-causal:
  - > h[n] is the left-sided inverse z-transform of H(z).
  - A<sub>k</sub> → A<sub>k</sub> → A<sub>k</sub> (d<sub>k</sub>)<sup>n</sup>u[-n-1] → the system is stable if all the poles are outside the unit circle in the z-plane. If there's at least one pole inside the unit circle → unstable.

# Pole locations and impulse response for causal systems



(a)



**(b)** 

FIGURE 7.14 The relationship between the location of a pole and the impulse response characteristics for a causal system. (a) A pole inside the unit circle contributes an exponentially decaying term to the impulse response. (b) A pole outside the unit circle contributes an exponentially increasing term to the impulse response.

# Pole locations and impulse response for stable systems



**(b)** 

FIGURE 7.15 The relationship between the location of a pole and the impulse response characteristics for a stable system. (a) A **pole inside** the unit circle contributes a right-sided term to the impulse response. (b) A pole outside the unit circle contributes a left-sided term to the impulse response.

## Block diagram representations of DT-LTI systems

- A block diagram describes how the system's internal *elementary* operations are ordered.
  - The block diagram description of a system is <u>NOT</u> unique.
  - > **Example**:  $y[n] + a_1y[n-1] + a_2y[n-2] = b_0x[n] + b_1x[n-1] + b_2x[n-2]$
  - > <u>Solution</u>:  $(1 + a_1 z^{-1} + a_2 z^{-2})Y(z) = (b_0 + b_1 z^{-1} + b_2 z^{-2})X(z)$



 $\checkmark z^{-1}$  represents the shift operator.

## The direct form II

- Derived by writing the difference equation as two coupled difference equations involving an intermediate signal f[n].
  - ► Let  $H_1(z) = b_0 + b_1 z^{-1} + b_2 z^{-2}$ ,  $H_2(z) = \frac{1}{1 + a_1 z^{-1} + a_2 z^{-2}}$ , and  $F(z) = H_2(z)X(z)$ , it's obvious that  $Y(z) = H_1(z)F(z)$ .



## Determining the frequency response from poles and zeros

$$\square \quad \text{Let } H(z) = \frac{\tilde{b}z^{-p} \prod_{k=1}^{M-p} (1 - c_k z^{-1})}{z^{-l} \prod_{k=1}^{N-l} (1 - d_k z^{-1})} \to H(e^{j\Omega}) = \frac{\tilde{b}e^{-jp\Omega} \prod_{k=1}^{M-p} (1 - c_k e^{-j\Omega})}{e^{-jl\Omega} \prod_{k=1}^{N-l} (1 - d_k e^{-j\Omega})}.$$

> The magnitude of  $H(e^{j\Omega})$  at some fixed value of  $\Omega$ , say,  $\Omega_0$ , is defined by:  $|H(e^{j\Omega_0})| = \frac{|\tilde{b}| \prod_{k=1}^{M-p} |e^{j\Omega_0} - c_k|}{\prod_{k=1}^{N-l} |e^{j\Omega_0} - d_k|}$ 

In the *z*-plane, each of the complex number  $e^{j\Omega_0}$ ,  $c_k$ ,  $d_k$  is represented by a vector from the origin to the to the corresponding point  $\rightarrow e^{j\Omega_0} - g$  is a vector from the point *g* to the point  $e^{j\Omega_0}$  (*g* can be either a pole or zero).

> The frequency response is evaluated by the contribution of all vectors  $e^{j\Omega_0} - g$ . Im{z}



## Example

Sketch the magnitude response for  $H(z) = \frac{1+z^{-1}}{(1-0.9e^{j\frac{\pi}{4}z^{-1}})(1-0.9e^{-j\frac{\pi}{4}z^{-1}})}$ .

### ❑ Solution:

- > One zero at z = -1 and two poles at  $z = 0.9e^{j\frac{\pi}{4}}$  and  $z = 0.9e^{-j\frac{\pi}{4}}$ .
- The contribution of the zero to the magnitude response can be evaluated as follows



## **Example solution**



## Unilateral z-transform

- There are many applications where the signals involved are causal
  - It is advantageous to define the unilateral z-transform that works only on the non-negative time portion of the signal → no need to consider the ROC.
- Definition

$$F(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} f[k] z^{-k}$$
 (3)

The inverse transform remains the same as in the bilateral case.

- Properties: similar to those of the bilateral transform  $\rightarrow$  self-study.
  - One important exception is the <u>time shift property</u>. The unilateral version for a delayed signal is

$$x[n-k] \stackrel{z_u}{\longleftrightarrow} x[-k] + x[-k+1]z^{-1} + \dots + x[-1]z^{-k+1} + z^{-k}X(z)$$
 for  $k > 0$ 

and for an advanced signal is

 $x[n+k] \stackrel{z_u}{\longleftrightarrow} - x[0]z^k - x[1]z^{k-1} - \dots - x[k-1]z + z^k X(z) \text{ for } k > 0$ 

> Application: solving difference equations with initial conditions.

## Solving difference equations with initial conditions via unilateral z-transform

- Taking unilateral z-transform of both sides of a difference equation
  - Use algebra to obtain the z-transform of the solution, and then find the inverse z-transform.
- Consider  $\sum_{k=0}^{N} a_k y[n-k] = \sum_{k=0}^{M} b_k x[n-k]$ 
  - Taking unilateral z-transform:

$$Y(z) \underbrace{\sum_{k=0}^{N} a_{k} z^{-k}}_{A(z)} + \underbrace{\sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \sum_{k=m+1}^{N} a_{k} y[-k+m] z^{-m}}_{C(z)} = X(z) \underbrace{\sum_{k=0}^{M} b_{k} z^{-k}}_{B(z)}$$

Solving for z-transform of the solution:  $Y(z) = \frac{B(z)}{A(z)} - \frac{C(z)}{A(z)}$ 

- Find  $\mathcal{Z}^{-1}[Y(z)]$  by partial fraction expansion or power series expansion.
- **Example**: find the forced and natural responses of the system y[n] + 3y[n-1] = x[n] + x[n-1]

if the input is  $x[n] = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n u[n]$  and the initial condition is y[-1] = 2

## **Example solution**

Taking unilateral *z*-transform of both sides of a difference equation  $Y(z)\underbrace{(1+3z^{-1})}_{A(z)} + \underbrace{3y[-1]}_{C(z)} = X(z)\underbrace{(1+z^{-1})}_{B(z)}$ 

Solving for z-transform of the solution:

$$Y(z) = \frac{1+z^{-1}}{1+3z^{-1}} \frac{1}{1-\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)z^{-1}} - \frac{6}{1+3z^{-1}}$$

Taking partial fraction expansion for Y(z):  $Y(z) = \left(\frac{4/7}{1+3z^{-1}} + \frac{3/7}{1-(\frac{1}{2})z^{-1}}\right) - \frac{6}{1+3z^{-1}}$ 

- Taking inverse z-transform of Y(z) yields
  - ► Forced response  $y^{(f)}[n] = \frac{4}{7}(-3)^n u[n] + \frac{3}{7} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n u[n]$
  - > Natural response  $y^{(n)}[n] = -6(-3)^n u[n]$

> Total response 
$$y[n] = -\frac{38}{7}(-3)^n u[n] + \frac{3}{7} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n u[n]$$