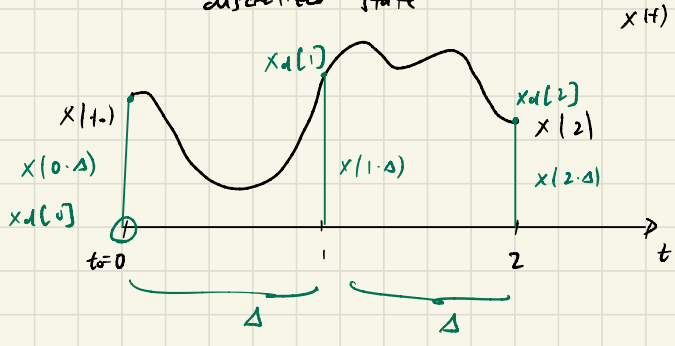
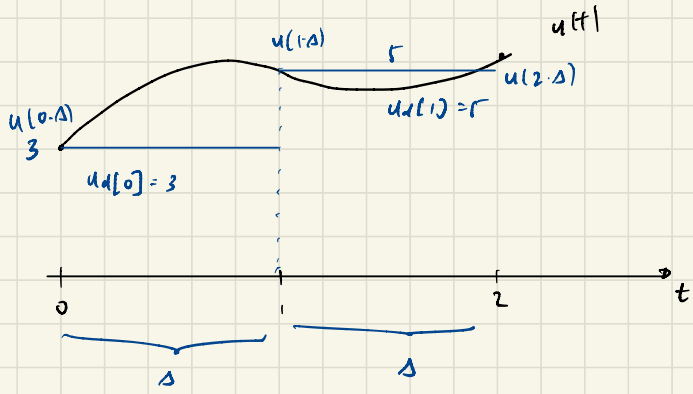


discretized state



$$\frac{d}{dt} x(t) = ax(t) + bu(t)$$

interval  $\Delta = 1$



$$\frac{d}{dt} x(t) = ax(t) + bu(t)$$

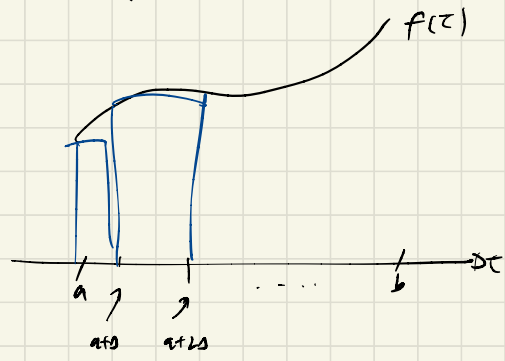
$$x(t) = x_0$$

$$x(t) \quad \forall t \in [i\Delta, (i+1)\Delta)$$

$$x(t_0)$$

$$x(t_0)$$

$$\int_a^b f(\tau) d\tau$$



The following notes are useful for this discussion: [Note 9](#).

### 1. Translating System of Differential Equations from Continuous Time to Discrete Time

Oftentimes, we wish to apply controls model on a computer. However, modeling a continuous time system on a computer is a nontrivial problem. Hence, we turn to discretizing our controls problem. That is, we define a discretized state  $\vec{x}_d[i]$  and a discretized input  $\vec{u}_d[i]$  that we “sample” every  $\Delta$  seconds.

(a) Consider the scalar system below:

$$\frac{dx(t)}{dt} = \lambda x(t) + bu(t). \tag{1}$$

where  $x(t)$  is our state and  $u(t)$  is our control input. Let  $\lambda \neq 0$  be an arbitrary constant. Further suppose that our input  $u(t)$  is piecewise constant, and that  $x(t)$  is differentiable everywhere (and thus, continuous everywhere). That is, we define an interval  $t \in [i\Delta, (i+1)\Delta)$  such that  $u(t)$  is constant over this interval. Mathematically, we write this as

$$u(t) = u(i\Delta) = u_d[i] \text{ if } t \in [i\Delta, (i+1)\Delta). \tag{2}$$

The now-discretized input  $u_d[i]$  is the same as the original input where we only “observe” a change in  $u(t)$  every  $\Delta$  seconds. Similarly, for  $x(t)$ ,

$$x(t) = x(i\Delta) = x_d[i] \tag{3}$$

Let’s revisit the solution for eq. (1), when we’re given the initial conditions at  $t_0$ , i.e we know the value of  $x(t_0)$  and want to solve for  $x(t)$  at any time  $t \geq t_0$ :

$$x(t) = e^{\lambda(t-t_0)}x(t_0) + b \int_{t_0}^t u(\theta)e^{\lambda(t-\theta)} d\theta \tag{4}$$

**Given that we start at  $t = i\Delta$ , where  $x(t) = x_d[i]$  is known, and satisfy eq. (1), where do we end up at  $x_d[i+1]$ ? (HINT): Think about the initial condition here. Where does our solution “start”?**

$$t \in [i\Delta, (i+1)\Delta)$$

start  $t_0 = i\Delta$

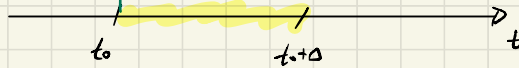
$$x(t_0) = x_d[i] \text{ is known}$$

$$u(t) = u_d[i]$$

where do we end up at  $x_d[i+1] = x((i+1)\Delta) = x(i\Delta + \Delta) = x(t_0 + \Delta)$

$$x_d[i] = x(i\Delta) = x(t_0)$$

$$x_d[i+1] = x((i+1)\Delta)$$



$$x(t) = e^{\lambda(t-t_0)} x(t_0) + b \int_{t_0}^t u(\theta) e^{\lambda(t-\theta)} d\theta$$

$$b \int_{t_0}^t u(\theta) e^{\lambda t} e^{-\lambda\theta} d\theta$$

$$x(t) = e^{\lambda(t-t_0)} x(t_0) + b e^{\lambda t} \int_{t_0}^t u(\theta) e^{-\lambda\theta} d\theta$$

$$x_d[i+1] = x((i+1)\Delta)$$

$$= x(i\Delta + \Delta)$$

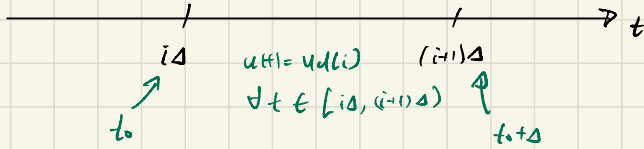
$$= x(t_0 + \Delta)$$

$$x(t_0 + \Delta) = e^{\lambda((t_0 + \Delta) - t_0)} x(t_0) + b e^{\lambda(t_0 + \Delta)} \int_{t_0}^{t_0 + \Delta} u(\theta) e^{-\lambda\theta} d\theta$$

over  $t \in [i\Delta, (i+1)\Delta)$

$$u(t) = u_d[i]$$

$$x(t_0 + \Delta) = e^{\lambda((t_0 + \Delta) - t_0)} x(t_0) + b e^{\lambda(t_0 + \Delta)} \int_{t_0}^{t_0 + \Delta} u_d[i] e^{-\lambda\theta} d\theta$$



$$x(t_0 + \Delta) = e^{\lambda(t_0 + \Delta) - t_0} x(t_0) + b e^{\lambda(t_0 + \Delta)} \int_{t_0}^{t_0 + \Delta} u_d(i) e^{-\lambda \theta} d\theta$$

$$x(t_0 + \Delta) = e^{\lambda \Delta} x(t_0) + b e^{\lambda(t_0 + \Delta)} u_d(i) \int_{t_0}^{t_0 + \Delta} e^{-\lambda \theta} d\theta$$

$$\left[ \frac{1}{-\lambda} e^{-\lambda \theta} \right]_{t_0}^{t_0 + \Delta}$$

$$-\frac{1}{\lambda} \left[ e^{-\lambda \theta} \right]_{t_0}^{t_0 + \Delta}$$

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} \left[ e^{-\lambda \theta} \right]_{t_0 + \Delta}^{t_0}$$

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} \left[ e^{-\lambda t_0} - e^{-\lambda(t_0 + \Delta)} \right]$$

$$x(t_0 + \Delta) = e^{\lambda \Delta} x(t_0) + b e^{\lambda(t_0 + \Delta)} u_d(i) \cdot \frac{1}{\lambda} \left[ e^{-\lambda t_0} - e^{-\lambda(t_0 + \Delta)} \right]$$

$$+ \frac{b u_d(i)}{\lambda} \left[ e^{\lambda \Delta} - 1 \right]$$

$$e^{\lambda(t_0 + \Delta)} e^{-\lambda t_0} = e^{(\lambda t_0 + \lambda \Delta) - \lambda t_0} = e^{\lambda \Delta}$$

$$e^{\lambda(t_0 + \Delta)} e^{-\lambda(t_0 + \Delta)} = e^0 = 1$$

$$x(t_0 + \Delta) = e^{\lambda \Delta} x(t_0) + b e^{\lambda(t_0 + \Delta)} u_d(i) \cdot \frac{1}{\lambda} \left[ e^{-\lambda t_0} - e^{-\lambda(t_0 + \Delta)} \right]$$

$$+ \frac{b u_d(i)}{\lambda} \left[ e^{\lambda \Delta} - 1 \right]$$

$$e^{\lambda(t_0 + \Delta)} e^{-\lambda t_0} = e^{(\lambda t_0 + \lambda \Delta) - \lambda t_0} = e^{\lambda \Delta}$$

$$e^{\lambda(t_0 + \Delta)} e^{-\lambda(t_0 + \Delta)} = e^0 = 1$$

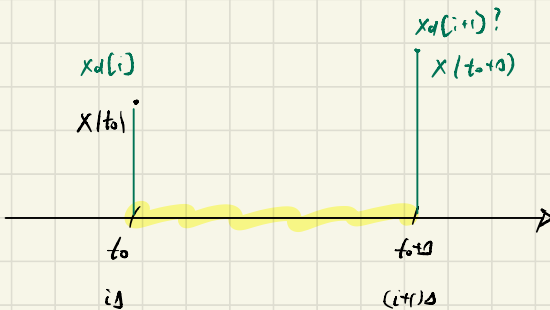
$$\overset{x_d(i+1)}{\underbrace{x(t_0 + \Delta)}} = e^{\lambda \Delta} \overset{x_d(i)}{\underbrace{x(t_0)}} + b u_d(i) \left[ \frac{e^{\lambda \Delta} - 1}{\lambda} \right]$$

$x_d[i+1], x_d[i]$

$$x_d(i+1) = x((i+1)\Delta) = x(i\Delta + \Delta) = x(t_0 + \Delta)$$

$$x_d(i) = x(i \cdot \Delta) = x(t_0)$$

$$x_d[i+1] = e^{\lambda \Delta} x_d[i] + b u_d(i) \left[ \frac{e^{\lambda \Delta} - 1}{\lambda} \right]$$



\* DISCRETIZATION \*

- (b) Suppose we now have a continuous-time system of differential equations, that forms a vector differential equation. We express this with an input in vector form:

$$\frac{d\vec{x}(t)}{dt} = A\vec{x}(t) + \vec{b}u(t) \quad (5)$$

where  $\vec{x}(t)$  is  $n$ -dimensional. Suppose further that the matrix  $A$  has distinct and non-zero eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$ , with corresponding eigenvectors  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ . We collect the eigenvectors together and form the matrix  $V = [\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n]$ .

We now wish to find a matrix  $A_d$  and a vector  $\vec{b}_d$  such that

$$\vec{x}_d[i+1] = A_d\vec{x}_d[i] + \vec{b}_d u_d[i] \quad (6)$$

where  $\vec{x}_d[i] = \vec{x}(i\Delta)$ .

Firstly, define terms

$$e^{\Lambda\Delta} = \begin{bmatrix} e^{\lambda_1\Delta} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & e^{\lambda_n\Delta} \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

$$\Lambda^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\lambda_1} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & \frac{1}{\lambda_n} \end{bmatrix} \quad (8)$$

$$\vec{u}_d[i] = V^{-1}\vec{b}u_d[i] \quad (9)$$

Note that the term  $e^{\Lambda\Delta}$  is just a label for our intents and purposes — this is not the same as applying  $e^x$  to every element in the matrix  $\Lambda$ .

**Complete the following steps to derive a discretized system:**

- i. **Diagonalize the continuous time system using a change of variables (change of basis) to achieve a new system for  $\vec{y}(t)$ .**
- ii. **Solve the diagonalized system. Remember that we only want a solution over the interval  $t \in [i\Delta, (i+1)\Delta)$ . Use the value at  $t = i\Delta$  as your initial condition.**
- iii. **Discretize the diagonalized system to obtain  $\vec{y}_d[i]$ . Show that**

$$\vec{y}_d[i+1] = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} e^{\lambda_1\Delta} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & e^{\lambda_n\Delta} \end{bmatrix}}_{e^{\Lambda\Delta}} \vec{y}_d[i] + \begin{bmatrix} \frac{e^{\lambda_1\Delta}-1}{\lambda_1} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & \frac{e^{\lambda_n\Delta}-1}{\lambda_n} \end{bmatrix} \vec{u}_d[i] \quad (10)$$

Then, show that the matrix  $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{e^{\lambda_1\Delta}-1}{\lambda_1} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & \frac{e^{\lambda_n\Delta}-1}{\lambda_n} \end{bmatrix}$  can be compactly written as  $\Lambda^{-1}(e^{\Lambda\Delta} - I)$ .

$$\frac{dx(t)}{dt} = Ax(t) + bu(t)$$

$$x = Vy$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} Vy = AVy + bu(t)$$

$$V \frac{d}{dt} y = AVy + bu(t)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} y = \underbrace{V^{-1}AV}_A y + V^{-1}bu(t)$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = Ay + \underbrace{V^{-1}bu(t)}_{\tilde{u}(t)}$$

only care

about  $t \in [i\Delta, (i+1)\Delta)$

assume  $u(t) = u_d(i) \quad \forall t \in [i\Delta, (i+1)\Delta)$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = Ay + \tilde{u}_d(i)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{u}_{d_1}(i) \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{u}_{d_n}(i) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} y_j = \lambda_j y_j + \tilde{u}_{d_j}(i)$$

SLEEPY

only care about  $t \in [i\Delta, (i+1)\Delta)$

we know  $y_j(i\Delta)$

assume  $\tilde{u}_{d_j}(i)$  is constant over this interval

rules: <https://ece.rice.edu/~mima-dj>

$$y_{d_j}(i+1) = e^{\lambda_j \Delta} y_{d_j}(i) + \frac{e^{\lambda_j \Delta} - 1}{\lambda_j} \tilde{u}_{d_j}(i)$$

$$y_d \rightarrow x_d$$

$$x_d(i+1) = Vy_d(i+1)$$

VDE

→ diagonalization

$$\frac{d\vec{x}(t)}{dt} = A\vec{x}(t)$$

n rows  
coupled

$$\frac{d\vec{y}}{dt} = D\vec{y}$$

n rows  
decoupled

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{dy_i}{dt} = \lambda_i y_i$$

scalar

$\vec{x}(t)$





- iv. **Undo the change of variables on the discretized diagonal system to get the discretized solution of the original system.**

(c) Consider the discrete-time system

$$\vec{x}_d[i+1] = A_d \vec{x}_d[i] + \vec{b}_d u_d[i] \quad (11)$$

Suppose that  $\vec{x}_d[0] = \vec{x}_0$ . **Unroll the implicit recursion and show that the solution follows the form in eq. (12).**

$$\vec{x}_d[i] = A_d^i \vec{x}_d[0] + \left( \sum_{j=0}^{i-1} u_d[j] A_d^{i-1-j} \right) \vec{b}_d \quad (12)$$

You may want to verify that this guess works by checking the form of  $\vec{x}_d[i+1]$ . You don't need to worry about what  $A_d$  and  $\vec{b}_d$  actually are in terms of the original parameters.

*(Hint: If we have a scalar difference equation, how would you solve the recurrence? Try writing  $\vec{x}_d[i]$  in terms of  $\vec{x}_d[0]$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$  and look for a pattern.)*

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