

3 Convolution

$$f(t) \leftrightarrow F(s)$$

$$g(t) \leftrightarrow G(s)$$

- "Convolution" of $f(t)$ and $g(t)$ is defined as:

$$f(t) * g(t) \triangleq \int_0^t f(\xi) \cdot g(t-\xi) d\xi \quad (1)$$

- From earlier lectures:

$$f(t) * g(t) \leftrightarrow F(s) \cdot G(s) \quad (2)$$

- Convolution in the time-domain corresponds to multiplication in the s-domain.
- This offers an alternative technique to find the inverse Laplace transform of $F(s) \cdot G(s)$!
- This approach comes in very handy especially in cases where we work with transfer functions $H(s)$ and the circuit under scrutiny is in its zero-state, when its s-domain response is:

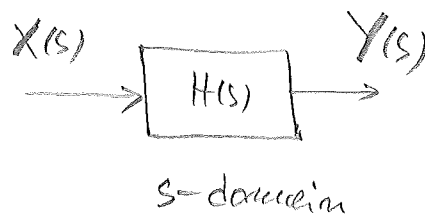
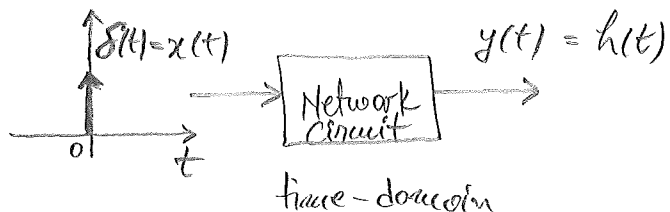
$$Y(s) = H(s) \cdot X(s) \quad (3)$$

OBS. Zero-state is when reactive elements have zero initial conditions! and the $Y_{\text{natural}}(s)$ component of the complete response is zero!

- In this case, the forced response is:

$$y(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \{ H(s) \cdot X(s) \} \quad (4)$$

Special particular case: response to the unit impulse



$$Y(s) = H(s) \cdot X(s) = H(s) \cdot 1 = H(s)$$

$y(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \{ H(s) \} = h(t)$: called the unit-impulse response function, or the impulse response

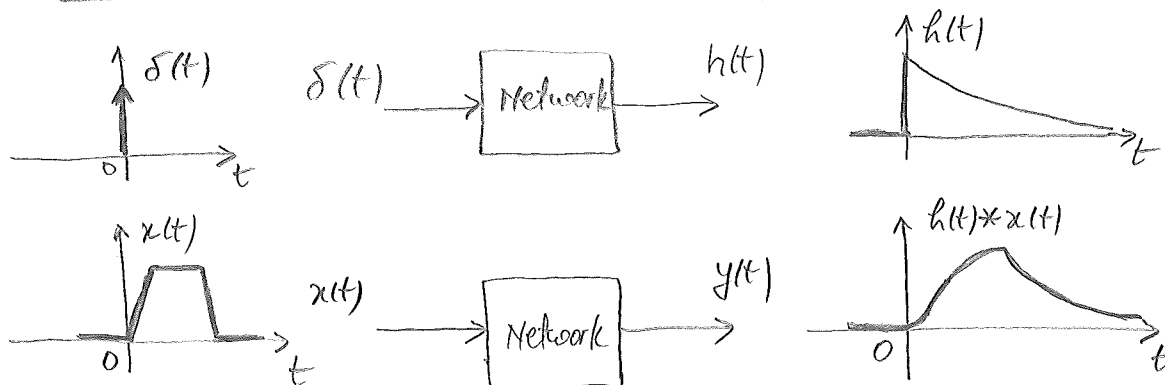
$$y(t) = h(t) \quad (5)$$

It is a very important descriptive property of a circuit.

That is because if we know $h(t)$, then, we can compute the response of the Network to a new forcing function $x(t)$

as:

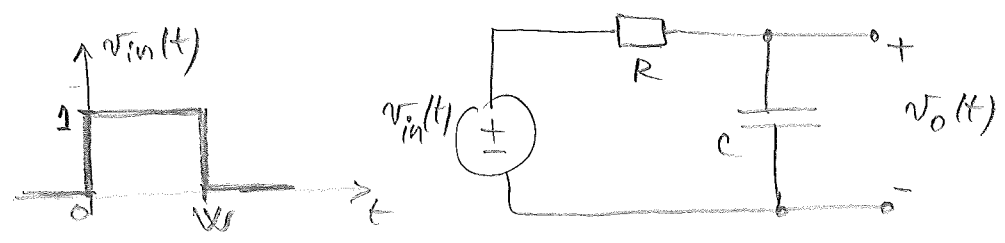
$$y(t) = h(t) * x(t) = x(t) * h(t) \quad (6)$$



Convolve $h(t)$ with $x(t)$ to find $y(t)$!

- This is especially useful when for example the applied signal $x(t)$ or the impulse-response $h(t)$ are known only through experimental data and may thus lack explicit Laplace transforms. In such cases, it is easier to do the convolution operation in the time domain!

Example 1: Find the response of the RC circuit to a unity pulse of width W . Use convolution!
(Note: see also example #2 from lecture week #8, Mon)



Applied input: $v_{in}(t) = u(t) - u(t - W)$ [V]
Impulse response: $h(t) = \frac{1}{\tau} \cdot e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$ [V] where $\tau = RC$
prove it!

Use convolution:

$$v_o(t) = v_{in}(t) * h(t) = \int_0^t v_{in}(\xi) \cdot h(t - \xi) d\xi$$

Case 1: $t \leq 0$, $v_o(t) = 0$ because $v_{in}(t)$ and $h(t)$ are causal!

Case 2: $0 \leq t \leq W$

$$v_o(t) = \int_0^t 1 \times \frac{1}{\tau} e^{-(t-\xi)/\tau} d\xi = \frac{1}{\tau} e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} \cdot \left(\tau \cdot e^{\xi/\tau} \Big|_0^t \right) =$$

$$v_o(t) = 1 - e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} \text{ [V]}$$

Case 3: $t \geq W$

$$v_o(t) = \int_0^W 1 \times e^{-(t-\xi)/\tau} d\xi = \frac{1}{\tau} e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} \left(\tau e^{\xi/\tau} \Big|_0^W \right) = \left(e^{\frac{W}{\tau}} - 1 \right) e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} \text{ [V]}$$

