

# Dr. Norbert Cheung's Lecture Series

Level 1    Topic no: 03-i

## Z Transform and Discrete-Time LTI Systems -1

### Contents

1. Using difference equation to describe a system
2. The Z Transform
3. Z Transform of some common sequences
4. Properties of Z Transform
5. Glossary

### Reference:

Signals and Systems 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition – Oppenheim, Willsky  
Schaum's Outline Series: Signals and Systems

**Email:**            [norbertcheung@szu.edu.cn](mailto:norbertcheung@szu.edu.cn)

**Web Site:**        <http://norbert.idv.hk>

**Last Updated:**    2024-05

## 1. Using difference equation to describe a system

- Analogue description:  $y(t) = F(x(t))$ . For example:  $y(t) = \sin(x(t))$
- For discrete control, we no longer have a continuous time domain function. Instead we have a series of numbers: 0, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10,.....
- Let us consider a set of real numbers with index value  $k$ , where  $k = (0, 1, 2, 3\dots)$ .

For a transfer function with input  $u(k)$ , and output  $y(k)$ :

$$u(k) = f[y(k), y(k-1), \dots, y(k-m), u(k-1), u(k-2), \dots, u(k-n)] \quad (2.2.1)$$

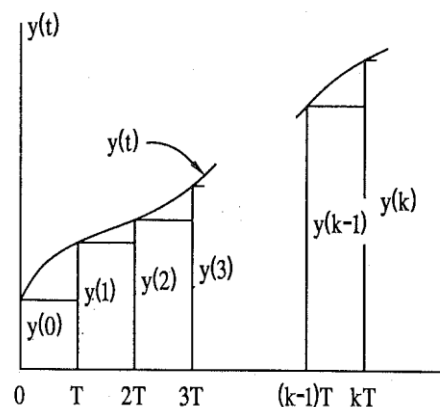
Of course there are an infinite number of ways the  $n + m + 1$  values on the right side can be combined to form  $u(k)$ , but for the majority of this book we shall be interested only in the case where the right side involves a linear combination of the measurements and past controls, or

$$u(k) = b_{n-1}u(k-1) + \dots + b_0u(k-n) + a_my(k) + a_{m-1}y(k-1) + \dots + a_0y(k-m) \quad (2.2.2)$$

$k$ : present  
 $k-1$ : previous sample  
 $a_i, b_j$ : weighing factors

For example, if we want to integrate the function of curve below by rectangular approximation:

$$x(k) = x(k-1) + y(k-1)T$$



## 1. The Z Transform

In [Sec. 2.8](#) we saw that for a discrete-time LTI system with impulse response  $h[n]$ , the output  $y[n]$  of the system to the complex exponential input of the form  $z^n$  is

$$y[n] = \mathbf{T}\{z^n\} = H(z)z^n \quad (4.1)$$

where

$$H(z) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} h[n]z^{-n} \quad (4.2)$$

### **A. Definition:**

The function  $H(z)$  in [Eq. \(4.2\)](#) is referred to as the  $z$ -transform of  $h[n]$ . For a general discrete-time signal  $x[n]$ , the  $z$ -transform  $X(z)$  is defined as

$$X(z) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} x[n]z^{-n} \quad (4.3)$$

The variable  $z$  is generally complex-valued and is expressed in polar form as

$$z = re^{j\Omega} \quad (4.4)$$

where  $r$  is the magnitude of  $z$  and  $\Omega$  is the angle of  $z$ . The  $z$ -transform defined in [Eq. \(4.3\)](#) is often called the *bilateral* (or *two-sided*)  $z$ -transform in contrast to the *unilateral* (or *one-sided*)  $z$ -transform, which is defined as

$$X_I(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x[n]z^{-n} \quad (4.5)$$

The  $x[n]$  and  $X(z)$  are said to form a  $z$ -transform pair denoted as

$$x[n] \leftrightarrow X(z) \quad (4.7)$$

### **B. The Region of Convergence:**

**EXAMPLE 4.1** Consider the sequence

$$x[n] = a^n u[n] \quad a \text{ real} \quad (4.8)$$

Then by Eq. (4.3) the z-transform of  $x[n]$  is

$$X(z) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a^n u[n] z^{-n} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (az^{-1})^n$$

For the convergence of  $X(z)$  we require that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |az^{-1}|^n < \infty$$

Thus, the ROC is the range of values of  $z$  for which  $|az^{-1}| < 1$  or, equivalently,  $|z| > |a|$ . Then

$$X(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (az^{-1})^n = \frac{1}{1 - az^{-1}} \quad |z| > |a| \quad (4.9)$$

Alternatively, by multiplying the numerator and denominator of Eq. (4.9) by  $z$ , we may write  $X(z)$  as

$$X(z) = \frac{z}{z - a} \quad |z| > |a| \quad (4.10)$$

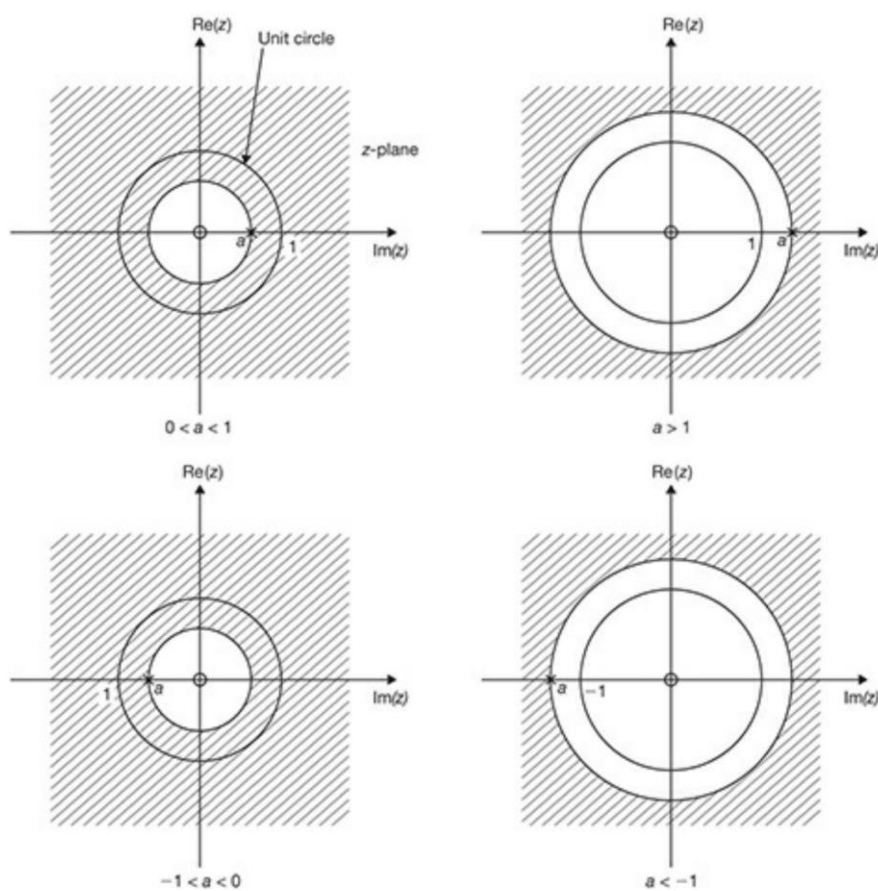


Fig. 4-1 ROC of the form  $|z| > |a|$ .

**EXAMPLE 4.2** Consider the sequence

$$x[n] = -a^n u[-n-1] \quad (4.11)$$

Its z-transform  $X(z)$  is given by (Prob. 4.1)

$$X(z) = \frac{1}{1 - az^{-1}} \quad |z| < |a| \quad (4.12)$$

Again, as before,  $X(z)$  may be written as

$$X(z) = \frac{z}{z - a} \quad |z| < |a| \quad (4.13)$$

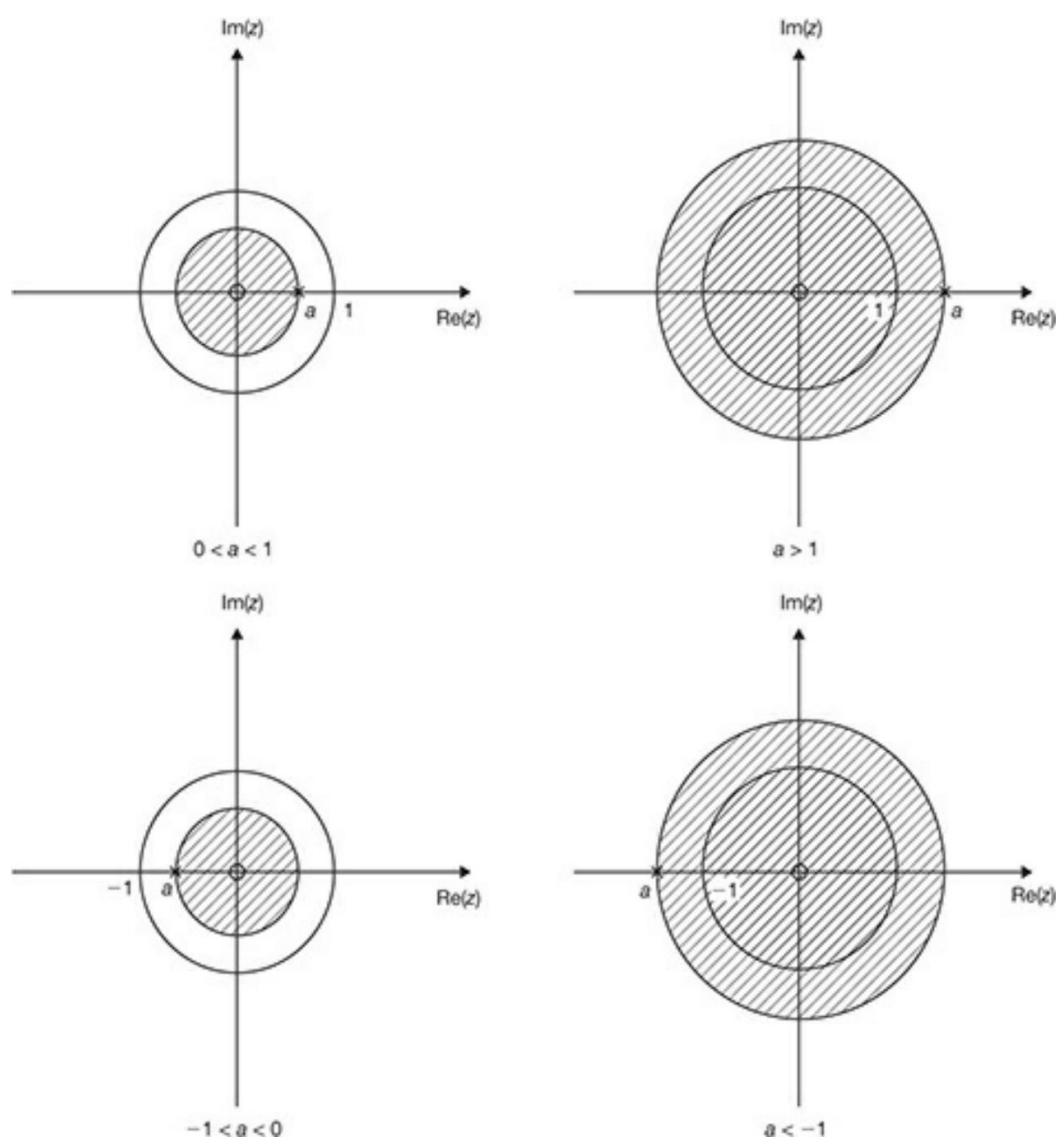


Fig. 4-2 ROC of the form  $|z| < |a|$ .

**C. Properties of the ROC:**

**Property 1:** The ROC does not contain any poles.

**Property 2:** If  $x[n]$  is a finite sequence (that is,  $x[n] = 0$  except in a finite interval  $N_1 \leq n \leq N_2$ , where  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  are finite) and  $X(z)$  converges for some value of  $z$ , then the ROC is the entire  $z$ -plane except possibly  $z = 0$  or  $z = \infty$ .

**Property 3:** If  $x[n]$  is a right-sided sequence (that is,  $x[n] = 0$  for  $n < N_1 < \infty$ ) and  $X(z)$  converges for some value of  $z$ , then the ROC is of the form

$$|z| > r_{\max} \quad \text{or} \quad \infty > |z| > r_{\max}$$

where  $r_{\max}$  equals the largest magnitude of any of the poles of  $X(z)$ . Thus, the ROC is the exterior of the circle  $|z| = r_{\max}$  in the  $z$ -plane with the possible exception of  $z = \infty$ .

**Property 4:** If  $x[n]$  is a left-sided sequence (that is,  $x[n] = 0$  for  $n > N_2 > -\infty$ ) and  $X(z)$  converges for some value of  $z$ , then the ROC is of the form

$$|z| < r_{\min} \quad \text{or} \quad 0 < |z| < r_{\min}$$

where  $r_{\min}$  is the smallest magnitude of any of the poles of  $X(z)$ . Thus, the ROC is the interior of the circle  $|z| = r_{\min}$  in the  $z$ -plane with the possible exception of  $z = 0$ .

**Property 5:** If  $x[n]$  is a two-sided sequence (that is,  $x[n]$  is an infinite-duration sequence that is neither right-sided nor left-sided) and  $X(z)$  converges for some value of  $z$ , then the ROC is of the form

$$r_1 < |z| < r_2$$

where  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  are the magnitudes of the two poles of  $X(z)$ . Thus, the ROC is an annular ring in the  $z$ -plane between the circles  $|z| = r_1$  and  $|z| = r_2$  not containing any poles.

## 2. Z Transform of some common sequences

### A. Unit Impulse Sequence $\delta[n]$ :

From definitions (1.45) and (4.3)

$$X(z) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \delta[n]z^{-n} = z^{-0} = 1 \quad \text{all } z \quad (4.14)$$

Thus,

$$\delta[n] \leftrightarrow 1 \quad \text{all } z \quad (4.15)$$

### B. Unit Step Sequence $u[n]$ :

Setting  $a = 1$  in Eqs. (4.8) to (4.10), we obtain

$$u[n] \leftrightarrow \frac{1}{1-z^{-1}} = \frac{z}{z-1} \quad |z| > 1 \quad (4.16)$$

**TABLE 4-1 Some Common z-Transform Pairs**

| $x[n]$                  | $X(z)$   | ROC  |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| $\delta[n]$             | 1  | All $z$  |
| $u[n]$                  | $\frac{1}{1-z^{-1}}, \frac{z}{z-1}$                          | $ z  > 1$  |
| $-u[-n-1]$              | $\frac{1}{1-z^{-1}}, \frac{z}{z-1}$                          | $ z  < 1$  |
| $\delta[n-m]$           | $z^{-m}$   | All $z$ except 0 if $(m > 0)$ or $\infty$ if $(m < 0)$ |
| $a^n u[n]$              | $\frac{1}{1-az^{-1}}, \frac{z}{z-a}$                         | $ z  >  a $  |
| $-a^n u[-n-1]$          | $\frac{1}{1-az^{-1}}, \frac{z}{z-a}$                         | $ z  <  a $  |
| $na^n u[n]$             | $\frac{az^{-1}}{(1-az^{-1})^2}, \frac{az}{(z-a)^2}$          | $ z  >  a $  |
| $-na^n u[-n-1]$         | $\frac{az^{-1}}{(1-az^{-1})^2}, \frac{az}{(z-a)^2}$          | $ z  <  a $  |
| $(n+1)a^n u[n]$         | $\frac{1}{(1-az^{-1})^2}, \left[\frac{z}{z-a}\right]^2$      | $ z  >  a $  |
| $(\cos \Omega_0 n)u[n]$ | $\frac{z^2 - (\cos \Omega_0)z}{z^2 - (2\cos \Omega_0)z + 1}$ | $ z  > 1$  |
| $(\sin \Omega_0 n)u[n]$ | $\frac{(\sin \Omega_0)z}{z^2 - (2\cos \Omega_0)z + 1}$       | $ z  > 1$  |

## Examples

### Assumptions:

- Only interesting in the positive time values (i.e. one-sided z-transform)
- There is some region of the complex z-plane where the series of  $F(z)$  will converge to a limit value.
- $z^{-1}$  is the previous value,  $z^{-2}$  is the previous previous value.
- Under the above assumptions, the z-transform is denoted by:

$$F(z) = \mathcal{Z}[f(k)] = f(0) + f(1)z^{-1} + f(2)z^{-2} + \dots$$

or

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

### Example 1: unit step sequence

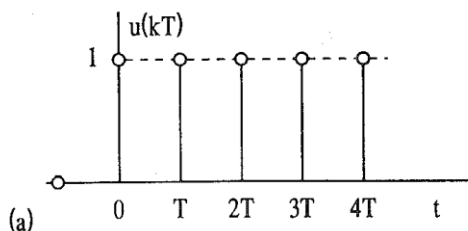
Consider the unit-step sequence of Fig. 2.2a. The function is defined as

$$u(kT) = \begin{cases} 0 & k < 0 \\ 1 & k \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (2.3.3)$$

By application of the definition of the z-transform (2.3.2) and that of the function (2.3.3) which defines the samples, we get

$$U(z) = \mathcal{Z}[u(kT)] = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} z^{-k} = 1 + \frac{1}{z} + \frac{1}{z^2} + \dots \quad (2.3.4)$$

It is clear that this series converges for  $|z| > 1$ , and a glance at a set of

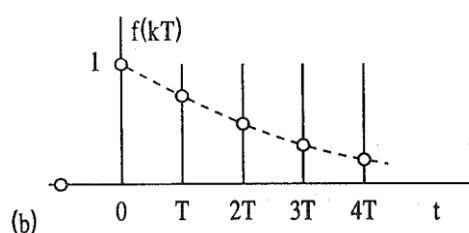


ordinary math tables will give the limiting form of such a convergent geometric series as

$$\mathcal{Z}[u(kT)] = \frac{z}{z-1} \quad \text{for } |z| > 1 \quad (2.3.5)$$

which can easily be verified by long division. The requirement that  $|z| > 1$  defines what is known as the region of convergence, which in this case is the area of the complex z-plane exterior to the unit circle.



*Example 2: exponential function*

Consider now the sampled exponential function illustrated in Fig. 2.2b. The sequence is defined by

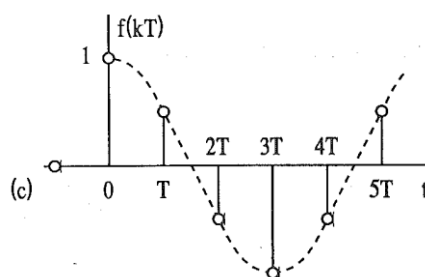
$$f(k) = f(kT) = \begin{cases} 0 & k < 0 \\ e^{-akT} & k \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (2.3.6)$$

Substitution of (2.3.6) into (2.3.3) yields

$$\mathcal{Z}[e^{-akT}] = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (e^{-aT}z^{-1})^k \quad (2.3.7)$$

and from the previous transform the limit of the series is

$$\mathcal{Z}[e^{-akT}] = \frac{z}{z - e^{-aT}} \quad \text{for } |z| > e^{-aT} \quad (2.3.8)$$

*Example 3: cosine function*

Consider the sampled cosine function of radian frequency  $\Omega$  which is shown in Fig. 2.2c. The sequence is defined by

$$f(k) = f(kT) = \begin{cases} 0 & k < 0 \\ \cos k\Omega T & k \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (2.3.13)$$

The cosine function can be rewritten using the Euler identity as

$$\cos k\Omega T = \frac{1}{2} (e^{jk\Omega T} + e^{-jk\Omega T}) \quad (2.3.14)$$

Since the  $z$ -transform of a sum is the sum of individual  $z$ -transforms, the result of (2.3.8) can be used to give

$$\mathcal{Z}[\cos k\Omega T] = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{z}{z - e^{j\Omega T}} + \frac{z}{z - e^{-j\Omega T}} \right) \quad (2.3.15)$$

and finding a common denominator yields

$$\mathcal{Z}[\cos k\Omega T] = \frac{z^2 - z \cos \Omega T}{z^2 - z \cdot 2 \cos \Omega T + 1} \quad (2.3.16)$$

The region of convergence is the region of the  $z$ -plane exterior to the unit circle. The sampled sine function will be left as an exercise for the reader but is given in Table 2.1.

*Example 4: impulse function*

Consider a sequence  $\delta(k)$  that is defined by

$$\delta(k) = \begin{cases} 1 & k = 0 \\ 0 & k \neq 0 \end{cases} \quad (2.3.17)$$

Using the definition of (2.3.2) the result is

$$\mathcal{Z}[\delta(k)] = 1 \quad (2.3.18)$$

In a similar fashion we can show that a delayed impulse function defined by

$$\delta(k - n) = \begin{cases} 0 & k \neq n \\ 1 & k = n > 0 \end{cases} \quad (2.3.19)$$

has a z-transform

$$\mathcal{Z}[\delta(k - n)] = z^{-n} \quad (2.3.20)$$

*Example 5: ramp function*

The sampled ramp function is defined by

$$f(k) = kT \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad (2.3.21)$$

and application of definition (2.3.2) yields

$$\mathcal{Z}[kT] = T \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} kz^{-k} \quad (2.3.22)$$

Again consulting a table of mathematical functions, the limit of the series is

$$\mathcal{Z}[kT] = \frac{Tz}{(z - 1)^2} \quad \text{for } |z| > 1 \quad (2.3.23)$$

### **3. Properties of Z Transform**

#### **A. Linearity:**

If

$$\begin{aligned} x_1[n] &\leftrightarrow X_1(z) & \text{ROC} = R_1 \\ x_2[n] &\leftrightarrow X_2(z) & \text{ROC} = R_2 \end{aligned}$$

then

$$a_1x_1[n] + a_2x_2[n] \leftrightarrow a_1X_1(z) + a_2X_2(z) \quad R' \supset R_1 \cap R_2 \quad (4.17)$$

where  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  are arbitrary constants.

#### **B. Time Shifting:**

If

$$x[n] \leftrightarrow X(z) \quad \text{ROC} = R$$

then

$$x[n - n_0] \leftrightarrow z^{-n_0}X(z) \quad R' = R \cap \{0 < |z| < \infty\} \quad (4.18)$$

#### **Special Cases:**

$$x[n - 1] \leftrightarrow z^{-1}X(z) \quad R' = R \cap \{0 < |z|\} \quad (4.19)$$

$$x[n + 1] \leftrightarrow zX(z) \quad R' = R \cap \{|z| < \infty\} \quad (4.20)$$

Because of these relationships [Eqs. (4.19) and (4.20)],  $z^{-1}$  is often called the *unit-delay operator* and  $z$  is called the *unit-advance operator*. Note that in the Laplace transform the operators  $s^{-1} = 1/s$  and  $s$  correspond to time-domain integration and differentiation, respectively [Eqs. (3.22) and (3.20)].

#### **C. Multiplication by $z_0^n$ :**

If

$$x[n] \leftrightarrow X(z) \quad \text{ROC} = R$$

then

$$z_0^n x[n] \leftrightarrow X\left(\frac{z}{z_0}\right) \quad R' = |z_0| R \quad (4.21)$$

In particular, a pole (or zero) at  $z = z_k$  in  $X(z)$  moves to  $z = z_0 z_k$  after multiplication by  $z_0^n$ , and the ROC expands or contracts by the factor  $|z_0|$ .

If

$$x[n] \leftrightarrow X(z) \quad \text{ROC} = R$$

then

$$z_0^n x[n] \leftrightarrow X\left(\frac{z}{z_0}\right) \quad R' = |z_0| R \quad (4.21)$$

In particular, a pole (or zero) at  $z = z_k$  in  $X(z)$  moves to  $z = z_0 z_k$  after multiplication by  $z_0^n$ , and the ROC expands or contracts by the factor  $|z_0|$ .

#### Special Case:

$$e^{j\Omega_0 n} x[n] \leftrightarrow X(e^{-j\Omega_0} z) \quad R' = R \quad (4.22)$$

In this special case, all poles and zeros are simply rotated by the angle  $\Omega_0$  and the ROC is unchanged.

#### D. Time Reversal:

If

$$x[n] \leftrightarrow X(z) \quad \text{ROC} = R$$

then

$$x[-n] \leftrightarrow X\left(\frac{1}{z}\right) \quad R' = \frac{1}{R} \quad (4.23)$$

Therefore, a pole (or zero) in  $X(z)$  at  $z = z_k$  moves to  $1/z_k$  after time reversal. The relationship  $R' = 1/R$  indicates the inversion of  $R$ , reflecting the fact that a right-sided sequence becomes left-sided if time-reversed, and vice versa.

#### E. Multiplication by $n$ (or Differentiation in $z$ ):

If

$$x[n] \leftrightarrow X(z) \quad \text{ROC} = R$$

then

$$nx[n] \leftrightarrow -z \frac{dX(z)}{dz} \quad R' = R \quad (4.24)$$

### F. Accumulation:

If

$$x[n] \leftrightarrow X(z) \quad \text{ROC} = R$$

then

$$\sum_{k=-\infty}^n x[k] \leftrightarrow \frac{1}{1-z^{-1}} X(z) = \frac{z}{z-1} X(z) \quad R' \supset R \cap \{|z| > 1\} \quad (4.25)$$

Note that  $\sum_{k=-\infty}^n x[k]$  is the discrete-time counterpart to integration in the time domain and is called the *accumulation*. The comparable Laplace transform operator for integration is  $1/s$ .

### G. Convolution:

If

$$\begin{aligned} x_1[n] &\leftrightarrow X_1(z) & \text{ROC} &= R_1 \\ x_2[n] &\leftrightarrow X_2(z) & \text{ROC} &= R_2 \end{aligned}$$

then

$$x_1[n] * x_2[n] \leftrightarrow X_1(z)X_2(z) \quad R' \supset R_1 \cap R_2 \quad (4.26)$$

This relationship plays a central role in the analysis and design of discrete-time LTI systems, in analogy with the continuous-time case.

### H. Summary of Some z-transform Properties:

For convenient reference, the properties of the z-transform presented above are summarized in [Table 4-2](#).

**TABLE 4-2. Some Properties of the z-Transform**

| PROPERTY                            | SEQUENCE                  | TRANSFORM                     | ROC                                      |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
|                                     | $x[n]$                    | $X(z)$                        | $R$                                      |
|                                     | $x_1[n]$                  | $X_1(z)$                      | $R_1$                                    |
|                                     | $x_2[n]$                  | $X_2(z)$                      | $R_2$                                    |
| Linearity                           | $a_1x_1[n] + a_2x_2[n]$   | $a_1X_1(z) + a_2X_2(z)$       | $R' \supset R_1 \cap R_2$                |
| Time shifting                       | $x[n-n_0]$                | $z^{-n_0} X(z)$               | $R' \supset R \cap \{0 <  z  < \infty\}$ |
| Multiplication by $z_0^n$           | $z_0^n x[n]$              | $X\left(\frac{z}{z_0}\right)$ | $R' =  z_0  R$                           |
| Multiplication by $e^{j\Omega_0 n}$ | $e^{j\Omega_0 n} x[n]$    | $X(e^{-j\Omega_0 z})$         | $R' = R$                                 |
| Time reversal                       | $x[-n]$                   | $X\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)$   | $R' = \frac{1}{R}$                       |
| Multiplication by $n$               | $nx[n]$                   | $-z \frac{dX(z)}{dz}$         | $R' = R$                                 |
| Accumulation                        | $\sum_{k=-\infty}^n x[k]$ | $\frac{1}{1-z^{-1}} X(z)$     | $R' \supset R \cap \{ z  > 1\}$          |
| Convolution                         | $x_1[n] * x_2[n]$         | $X_1(z)X_2(z)$                | $R' \supset R_1 \cap R_2$                |

**S3. Glossary – English/Chinese Translation**

| <b>English</b>            | <b>Chinese</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| difference equation       | 差分方程           |
| z-transform               | z 变换           |
| rectangular approximation | 矩形近似           |
| discrete time LTI system  | 离散时间 LTI 系统    |
| bilateral z-transform     | 双边 z 变换        |
| unilateral z-transform    | 单边 z 变换        |
| region of convergence     | 收敛区域           |
| unit impulse sequence     | 单位脉冲序列         |
| unit step sequence        | 单位步长序列         |

----- END -----