



Course of "Industrial Automation"  
2023/24

# Discrete equivalents – Digital control design

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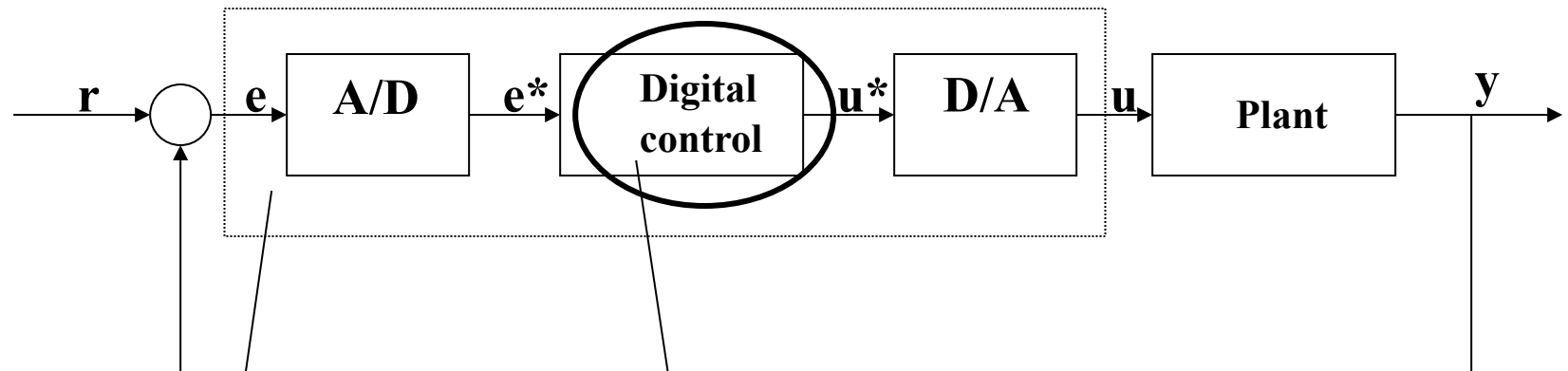
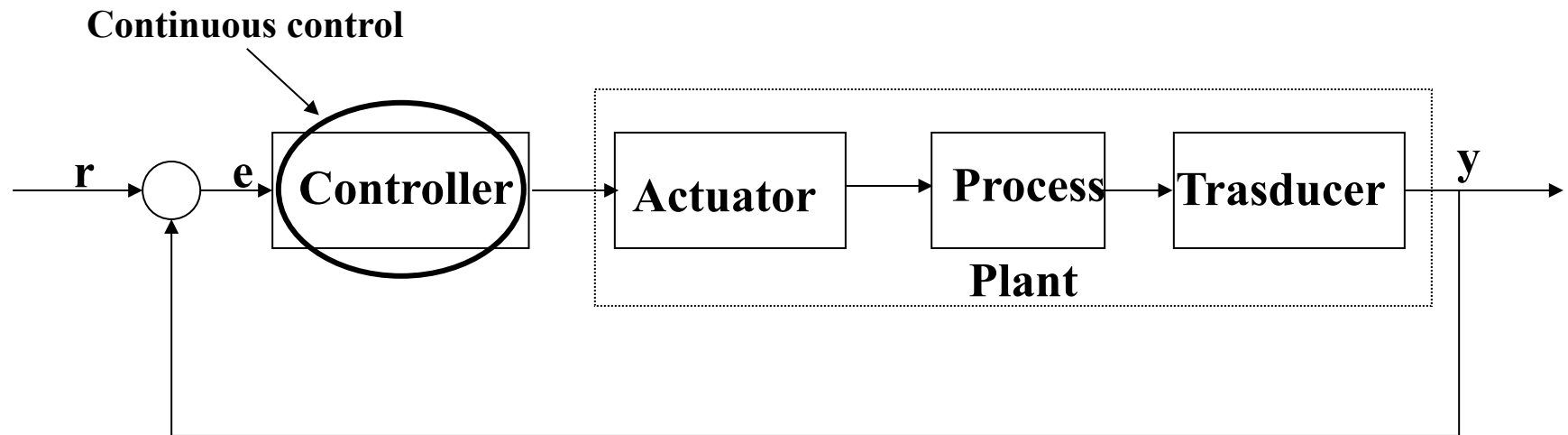
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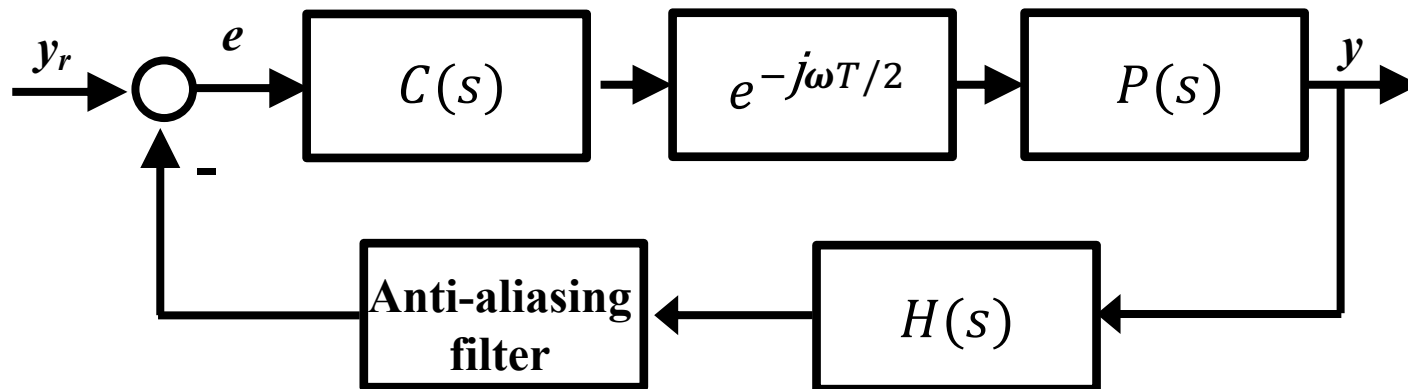
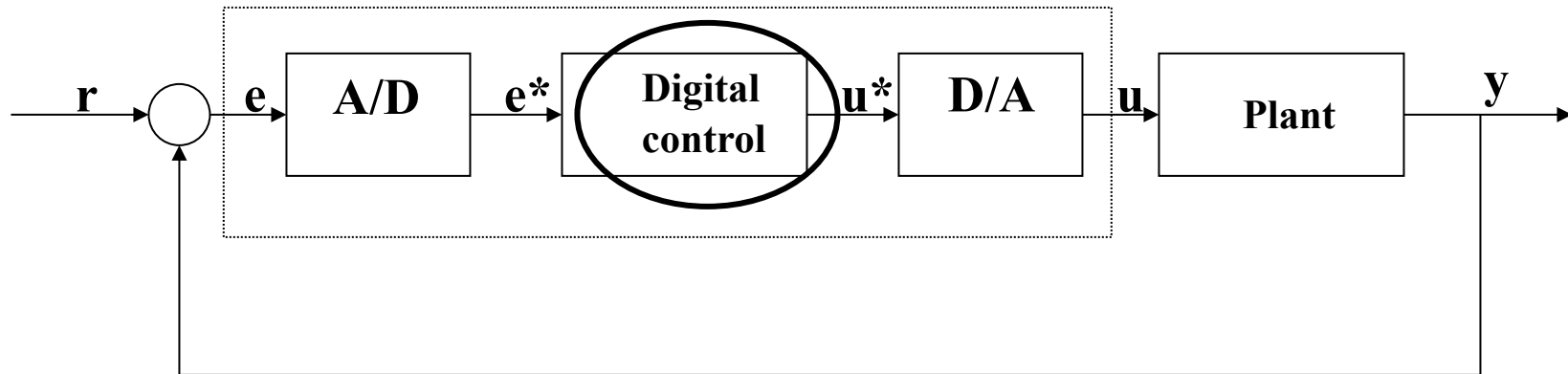
# Continuous vs. digital



**Continuous-time system**

**Discrete-time system**

# Scheme of the digital control system in continuous-time



- From  $C(s)$  we want to find a discrete equivalent  $D(z)$ :
- A transformation ( $\mathbf{s} \rightarrow \mathbf{z}$ ) allows the transition from continuous time to discrete time such that

*same static and dynamic performance*

- Same static performance:

$$\mathbf{D}(z)|_{z=1} \cong \mathbf{C}(s)|_{s=0}$$

- Same dynamic performance, i.e.,  $\mathbf{D}(z)$  with same frequency behavior of  $\mathbf{C}(s)$  in a given range of  $\omega$  :

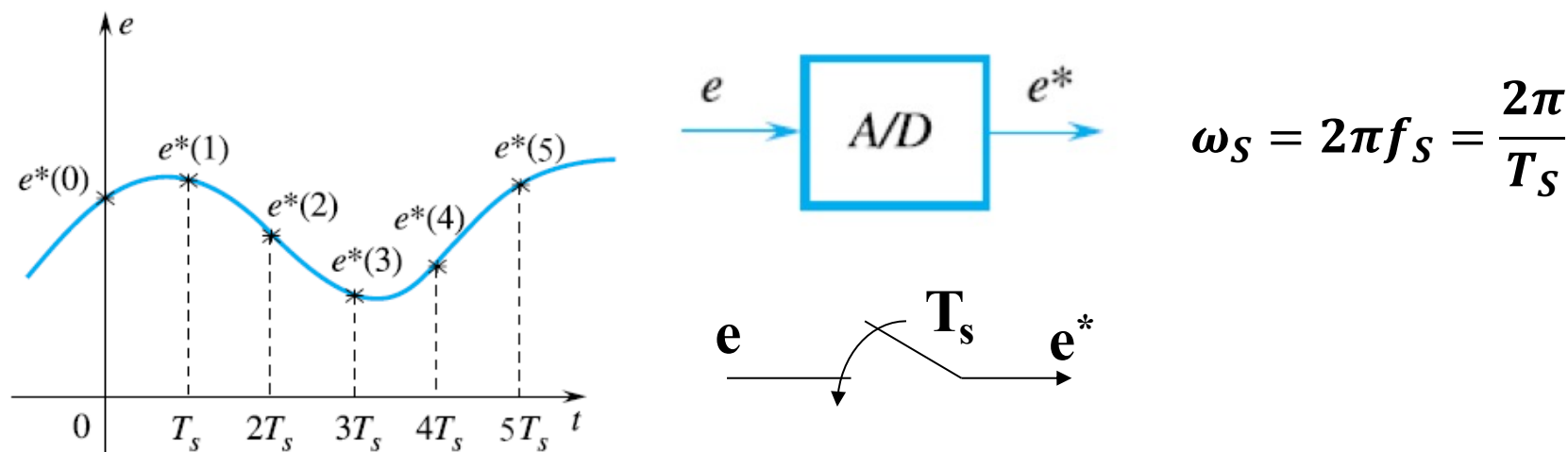
$$\mathbf{D}(z)|_{z=e^{j\omega T}} \cong \mathbf{C}(s)|_{s=j\omega}$$

# Introduction - 2

The transformation from continuous to discrete time domain is given by

$$z = e^{sT}$$

Indeed, we use the impulse modulation as the mathematical representation of the sampling operation as it follows:

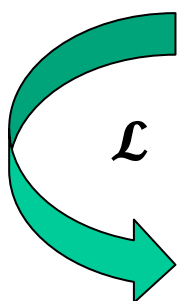


$$\omega_s = 2\pi f_s = \frac{2\pi}{T_s}$$

$$e_s(t) = e(t) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \delta(t - kT_s) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} e(kT_s) \delta(t - kT_s)$$

Then, assuming  $x_s(t)$  the sampled representation of a continuous-time signal  $x(t)$  :

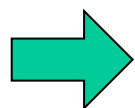
$$x_s(t) = x(t) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \delta(t - kT_s) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x(kT_s) \delta(t - kT_s)$$



$$\mathcal{L}(x_s(t)) = \int_0^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x(kT_s) \delta(\tau - kT_s) e^{-s\tau} d\tau$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} x(kT_s) \delta(\tau - kT_s) e^{-s\tau} d\tau =$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x(kT_s) e^{-skT_s} = X(z)|_{z=e^{sT_s}}$$



$$X_s(s) = X(z)|_{z=e^{sT_s}}$$



# Introduction - 4

Therefore, we could assume the inverse transformation

$$s = \frac{1}{T} \ln z,$$

But we get:

- a function  **$D(z)$**  which is not rational, and cannot be associated with a finite-dimensional discrete-time system

Basically, design of discrete equivalents via **numerical integration**



# Numerical Integration - 1

Let us consider a continuous Linear Time Invariant (LTI) system in the form:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) &= \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{B}u(t) \\ y(t) &= \mathbf{C}\mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{D}u(t)\end{aligned}$$

By integrating the state equation between  $kT$  and  $(k+1)T$  and denoting with  $\mathbf{x}^*(k) = \mathbf{x}(kT)$  the state vector at the instant time  $kT$ :

$$\mathbf{x}^*(k+1) - \mathbf{x}^*(k) = \mathbf{A} \int_{kT}^{(k+1)T} \mathbf{x}(t) dt + \mathbf{B} \int_{kT}^{(k+1)T} u(t) dt.$$

By exploiting the following formula for the numerical integration  $\mathbf{f}(t)$ :

$$\int_{kT}^{(k+1)T} \mathbf{f}(t) dt \cong [(\mathbf{1} - \alpha)\mathbf{f}(kT) + \alpha\mathbf{f}((k+1)T)]T$$

with  $\mathbf{0} \leq \alpha \leq \mathbf{1}$



We obtain:

$$\mathbf{x}^*(k+1) - \mathbf{x}^*(k) = A[(1-\alpha)\mathbf{x}^*(k) + \alpha\mathbf{x}^*(k+1)]T \\ + B[(1-\alpha)\mathbf{u}^*(k) + \alpha\mathbf{u}^*(k+1)]T$$

$$\mathbf{y}^*(k) = \mathbf{C}\mathbf{x}^*(k) + \mathbf{D}\mathbf{u}^*(k).$$

where  $\mathbf{u}^*(k) = \mathbf{u}(kT)$

By applying zeta-Transform:

$$\left[ \frac{1}{T} \frac{z-1}{\alpha z + 1 - \alpha} I - A \right] \mathbf{X}^*(z) = \mathbf{B}\mathbf{U}^*(z)$$

and

$$\frac{\mathbf{Y}^*(z)}{\mathbf{U}^*(z)} = \mathbf{G}^*(z) = \mathbf{C} \left[ \frac{1}{T} \frac{z-1}{\alpha z + 1 - \alpha} I - A \right]^{-1} \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{D}$$



# Numerical Integration - 3

Recall the tf of a continuous LTI a tempo continuo,

$$G(s) = C(sI - A)^{-1}B + D,$$

the discrete equivalent tf  $G^*(z)$ ,

$$G^*(z) = C \left[ \frac{1}{T} \frac{z-1}{\alpha z + 1 - \alpha} I - A \right]^{-1} B + D$$

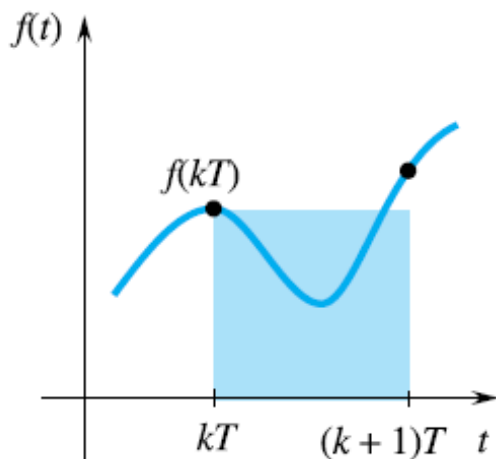
is given by

$$G^*(z) = G \left( \frac{1}{T} \frac{z-1}{\alpha z + 1 - \alpha} \right)$$

by exploiting the following transformation

$$s = \frac{1}{T} \frac{z-1}{\alpha z + 1 - \alpha}$$

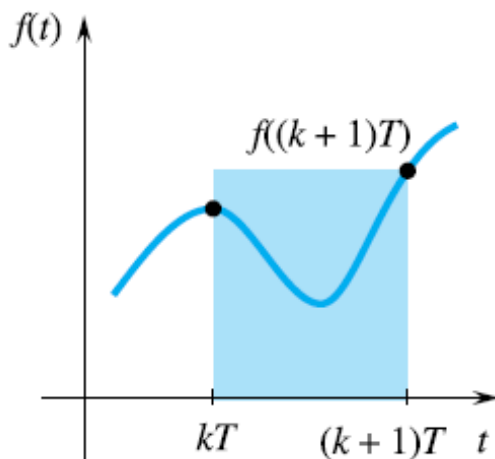
# Geometric interpretation



a)

**Forward rule**  
(Euler's method,  $\alpha=0$ )

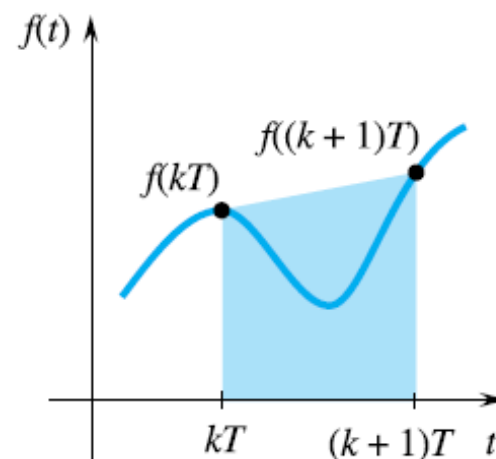
$$s = \frac{z - 1}{T}$$



b)

**Backward rule**  
( $\alpha=1$ )

$$s = \frac{z - 1}{zT}$$



c)

**Trapezoid rule**  
(Tustin,  $\alpha=0.5$ )

$$s = \frac{T}{2} \frac{z + 1}{z - 1}$$

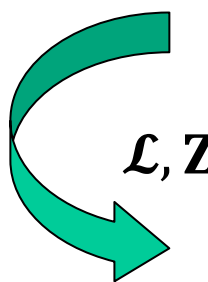


# By approximating the differential equation via difference equation – Euler's method

From the definition of a derivative

$$\dot{y} = \lim_{\delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\delta y}{\delta t}$$

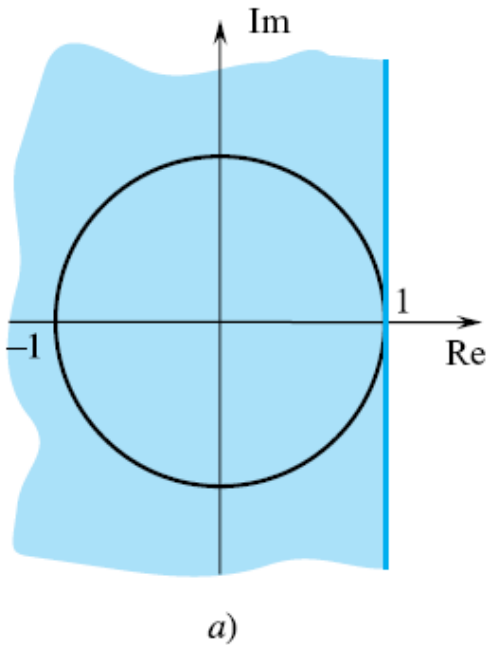
Even if  $\delta t$  is not quite equal to zero


$$\dot{y}(k) = \dot{y}(kT) \cong \frac{y((k+1)T) - y(kT)}{(k+1)T - kT} = \frac{y(k+1) - y(k)}{T}$$

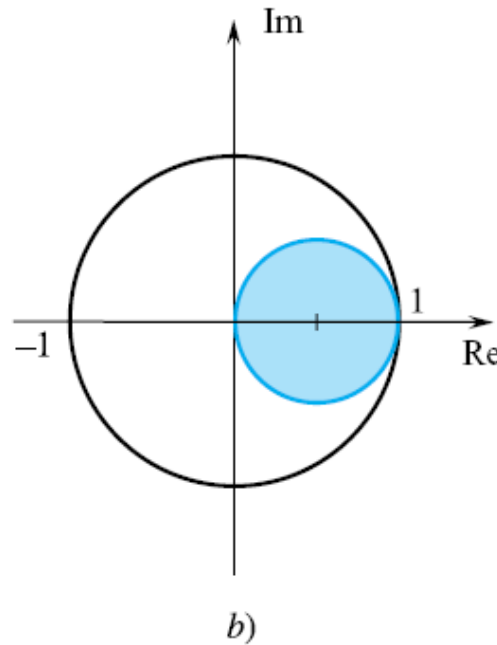
$$sY(s) \cong \frac{z-1}{T} Y(z)$$

$$s = \frac{z-1}{T}$$

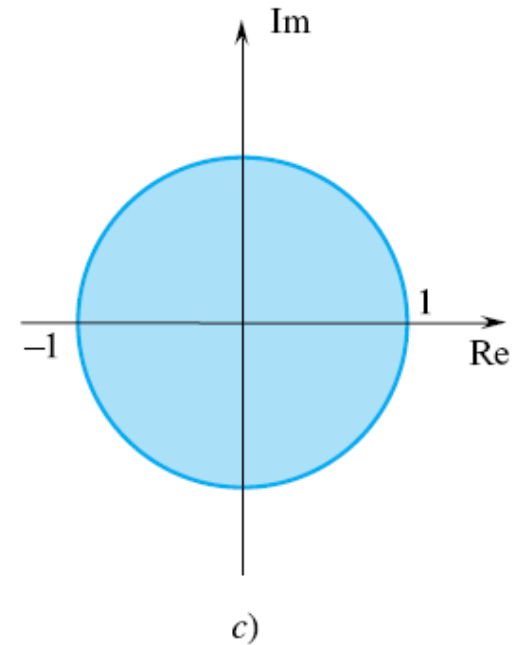
# A map from the left-half of the s-plane ( $s < 0$ ) to the z-plane



**Forward rule**  
**(Euler's method,  $\alpha=0$ )**



**Backward rule**  
**( $\alpha=1$ )**



**Trapezoid rule**  
**(Tustin,  $\alpha=0.5$ )**

**Inverse  
transformation:**

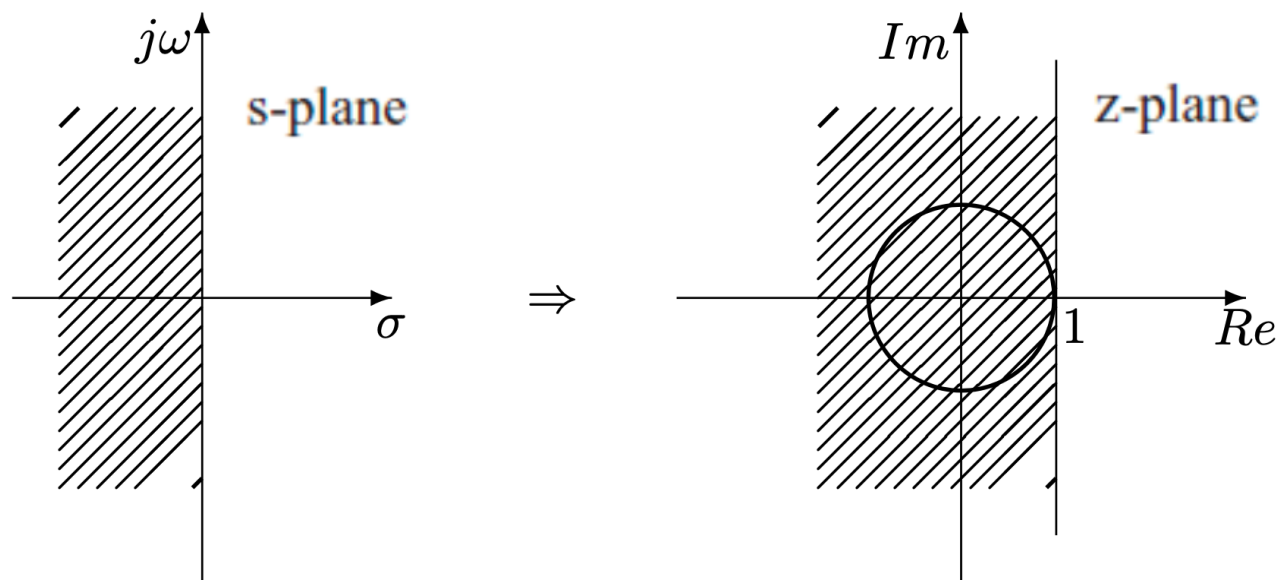
$$z = \frac{1 + (1 - \alpha) Ts}{1 - \alpha Ts}$$

# Map from s to z: $s < 0$ for forward rule

Forward rule:  $z = 1 + sT \leftrightarrow s = \frac{z-1}{T}$

By approximating  $z = e^{sT}$

$$z = e^{sT} \cong 1 + sT$$



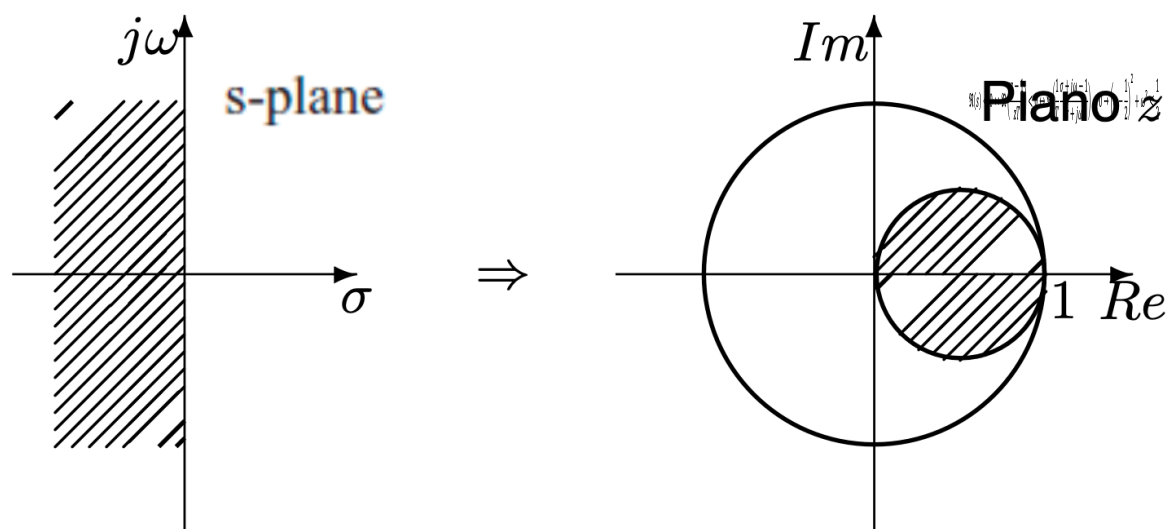
$$\Re(s) < 0 \leftrightarrow \Re\left(\frac{z-1}{T}\right) < 0 \leftrightarrow \Re(z) < 1$$

Then it is possible to achieve unstable  $G^*(z)$  from stable  $G(s)$ .

# Map from s to z: $s < 0$ for backward rule

Backward rule:  $z = \frac{1}{1-sT} \leftrightarrow s = \frac{z-1}{zT}$

By approximating:  $z = e^{sT} = \frac{1}{e^{-sT}} \cong \frac{1}{1-sT}$



$$\Re(s) < 0 \leftrightarrow \Re\left(\frac{z-1}{zT}\right) < 0 \leftrightarrow \Re\left(\frac{1}{T} \frac{\sigma + j\omega - 1}{\sigma + j\omega}\right) < 0 \rightarrow \left(\sigma - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + \omega^2 < \frac{1}{2}$$

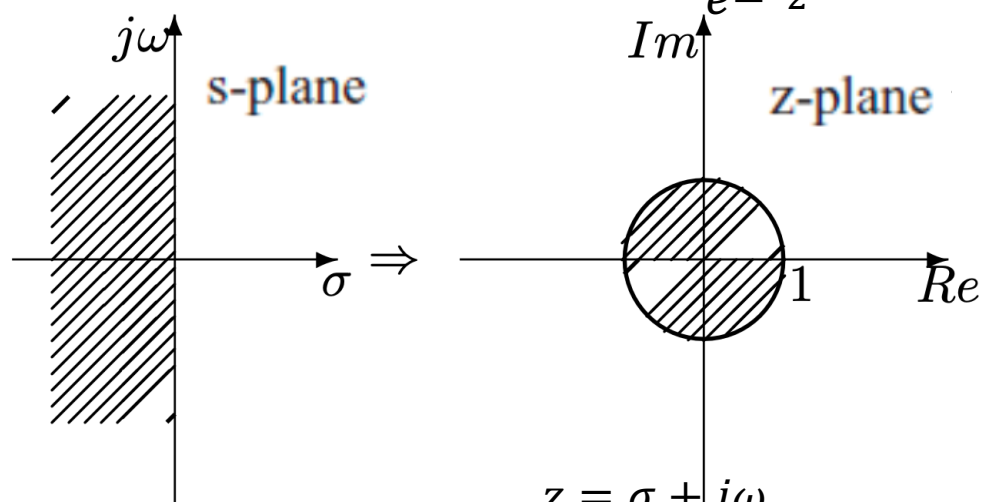
➡ All z points inside the radius circle with  $r = 1/2$  and center  $(1/2, 0)$ .

Stable  $G(s)$  systems correspond to stable  $G^*(z)$  system. However, there is the chance to achieve stable  $G^*(z)$  systems from unstable  $G(s)$ .

# Map from s to z: $s < 0$ for Tustin

Tustin:  $z = \frac{1+s\frac{T}{2}}{1-s\frac{T}{2}} \leftrightarrow s = \frac{2}{T} \frac{z-1}{z+1}$

By approximating:  $z = e^{sT} = \frac{e^{s\frac{T}{2}}}{e^{-s\frac{T}{2}}} \cong \frac{1+s\frac{T}{2}}{1-s\frac{T}{2}}$



$$z = e^{j\omega T} \Big|_{\omega=\frac{\omega_s}{2}} = -1$$

$$z \cong \frac{2j\omega - 1}{Tj\omega + 1} \Big|_{\omega=\frac{\omega_s}{2}}$$

$$= \begin{cases} |z| = 1 \\ \arg(z) = 115^\circ \end{cases}$$

i.e. frequency compression

$$\Re(s) < 0 \leftrightarrow \Re\left(\frac{2z-1}{Tz+1}\right) < 0 \leftrightarrow \Re\left(\frac{2\sigma + j\omega - 1}{T\sigma + j\omega + 1}\right) < 0 \rightarrow \sigma^2 + \omega^2 < 1$$

➡ All z points inside the radius circle with  $r=1$  and center  $(0, 0)$ .

The stability of the system is preserved: stable systems  $G(s)$  in continuous time are transformed into stable systems  $G^*(z)$  in discrete time (and vice versa)





# Frequency behavior– Tustin

$$\mathbf{G}^*(\mathbf{z})|_{\mathbf{z}=e^{j\omega T}} \cong \mathbf{G}(s)|_{s=j\omega}$$

By using **Tustin**:

$$\mathbf{G}^*(\mathbf{z}) \cong \mathbf{G}(s)|_{s=\frac{2z-1}{Tz+1}}$$

In terms of frequency:

$$\mathbf{G}^*(\mathbf{z} = e^{j\omega T}) \cong \mathbf{G}\left(\frac{2}{T} \frac{e^{j\omega T} - 1}{e^{j\omega T} + 1}\right) = \mathbf{G}\left(j \frac{2}{T} \tan \frac{\omega T}{2}\right)$$

Then

$$\mathbf{G}^*(e^{j\omega T}) \cong \mathbf{G}(j\omega) \leftrightarrow j \frac{2}{T} \tan \frac{\omega T}{2} = j\omega \text{ iff } \frac{\omega T}{2} \ll 1 \leftrightarrow \omega \ll \frac{\omega_s}{8}$$

with  $\omega_s = \frac{2\pi}{T}$

# Tustin/ bilinear transformation with prewarping

If we want that at a given frequency  $\omega_1$

$$\mathbf{G}^*(e^{j\omega_1 T}) = G(j\omega_1),$$

then it is sufficient to employ this transformation

$$\mathbf{G}^*(e^{j\omega_1 T}) = G\left(\frac{\omega_1}{\tan \frac{\omega_1 T}{2}} \frac{2z-1}{Tz+1}\right)$$

where

$$s = \frac{\omega_1}{\tan \frac{\omega_1 T}{2}} \frac{2z-1}{Tz+1}$$

represents the bilinear transformation with prewarping.



# zeta-Transform method: hold equivalent – impulse invariant discretization

This discretization method allows maintaining unchanged the impulse response of the discrete equivalent  $\mathbf{G}^*(\mathbf{z})$  of the continuous-time system  $\mathbf{G}(s)$ .

By definition  $\mathbf{G}^*(\mathbf{z})$  is the zeta-Transform of output sequence  $y_\delta^*$  in response to the unit pulse  $\delta(k)$ .

$$\mathbf{G}^*(\mathbf{z}) = Z(y_\delta^*) = Z\left(\mathcal{L}^{-1}(G(s))\Big|_{t=KT}\right)$$

$\mathbf{G}^*(\mathbf{z})$  is given by the the zeta-Transform of the response to the ideal pulse  $\mathbf{G}(s)$  ( $y_\delta(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}(G(s))$ ) sampled at multiple instants of the sampling period  $T$ ,  $y_\delta^*(k) = y_\delta(KT)$ .



# zeta-Transform method: hold equivalent – impulse invariant discretization

Given the continuous LTI system defined by the transfer function  $\mathbf{G}(s)$ ,

$$\mathbf{G}(s) = \frac{\mathbf{1}}{s(s + \mathbf{1})}$$

determine the discrete equivalent  $\mathbf{G}^*(z)$  by using zeta-Transform method

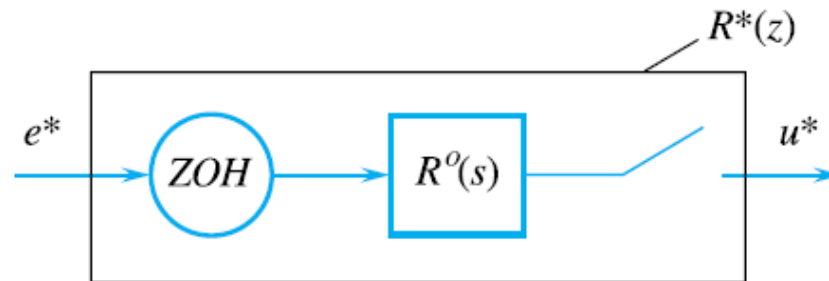
Solution:

$$1. \quad y_{\delta}(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}(G(s)) = 1(t) - e^{-t}1(t) = (1 - e^{-t})1(t)$$

$$2. \quad y_{\delta}^*(kT) = (1 - e^{-kT})1(kT)$$

$$3. \quad G^*(z) = Z(y_{\delta}^*) = \frac{z}{z-1} - \frac{z}{z-e^{-T}} = \frac{z(1-e^{-T})}{(z-1)(z-e^{-T})}$$

# Sampled-data system (ZOH equivalent)

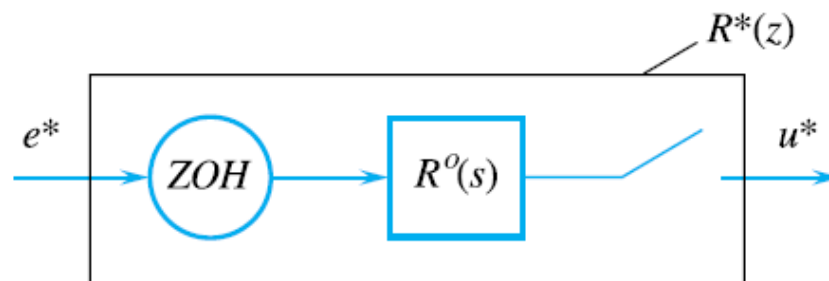


$$R^*(z) = U_{\delta}^*(z) = \frac{z-1}{z} U(z) = \frac{z-1}{z} Z \left( \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left( \frac{R^o(s)}{s} \right) \Big|_{t=KT} \right)$$

Summarizing, by this procedure it is possible to obtain the discrete tf of the digital controller,  $R^*(z)$  :

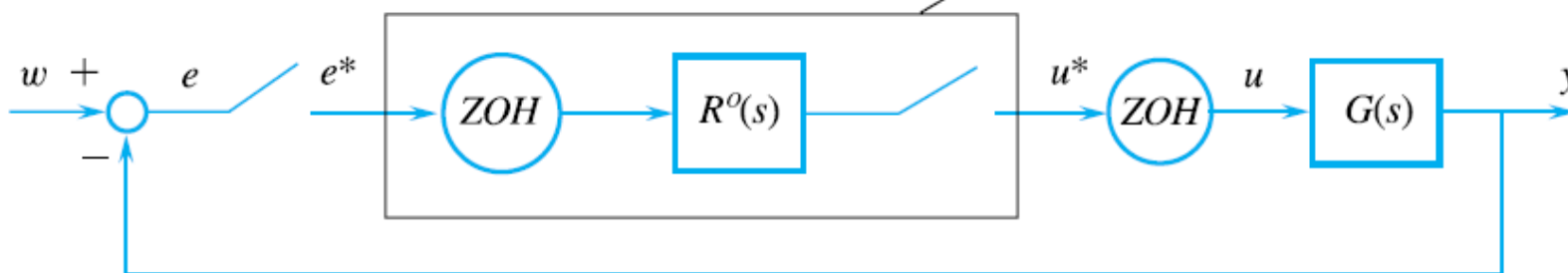
1. Determine the step response of the continuous controller in the Laplace domain,  $U_s(s) = \frac{R^o(s)}{s}$ .
2. Antitransform  $U_s(s)$  thereby determining the samples of the controller output  $u_s(kT)$ .
3. Compute the z-transform of the output samples  $u_s(kT)$ :  $Z(u_s(kT))$
4. Determine the tf of  $R^*(z) = \frac{z-1}{z} Z(u_s(kT))$

# Sampled-data system (ZOH equivalent)



$R^o(s)$ , analog controller -  $R^*(z)$ , digital controller by sampled-data model (ZOH method)

$$R^*(z)|_{z=e^{j\omega T}} \cong R^*(s)e^{-\frac{sT}{2}}|_{s=j\omega}$$



i.e., double pair of sampler and hold devices



# Zero-pole matching equivalents

The technique consists of a set of heuristic rules for locating the zeros and poles according to the sampling transformation

The discrete equivalent  $G^*(z)$  can be obtained as it follows:

1. the transformation of the individual poles and zeros is carried out using the sampling transformation  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{e}^{sT}$ ;
2. introduce as many zeros into  $\mathbf{z} = -\mathbf{1}$  as there are poles of  $G(s)$  in excess of the finite zeros;
3. the static gain is compensated.

# Zero-pole matching equivalents - Example

**Example:**  $G(s) = \frac{10(s + 5)}{(1 + 10s)(s + 1)}$

For the zero in  $s = -5$ ,  $(s + 5) \rightarrow \left(1 - \frac{e^{-5T}}{z}\right)$

$n - m = 1 \rightarrow$  One zero in  $z = -1$

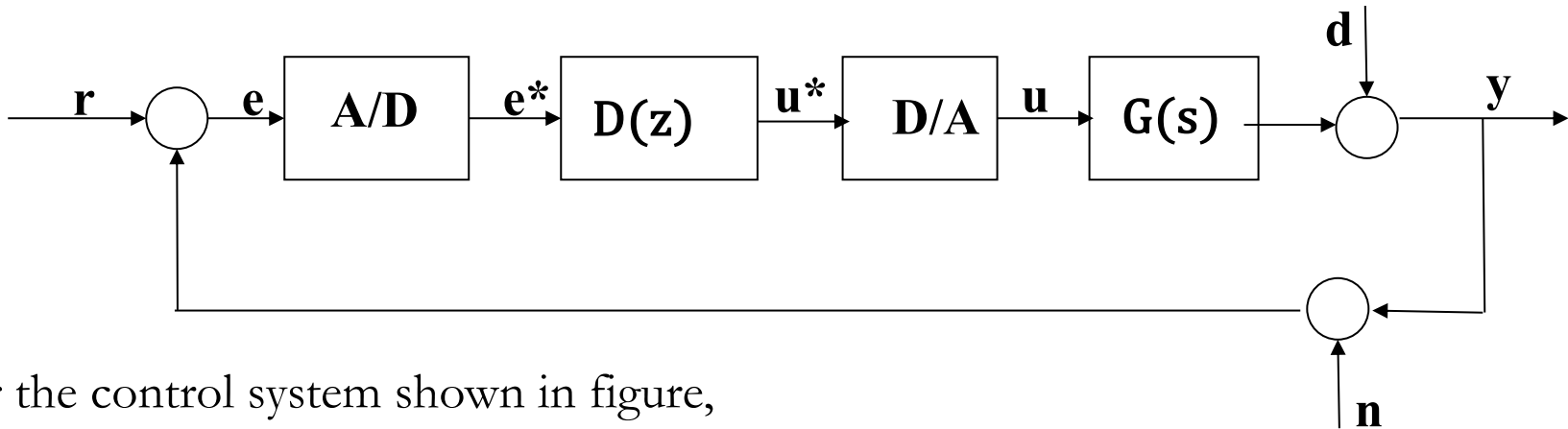
$\rightarrow G^*(z) = k \frac{(z + 1)(z - e^{-5T})}{(z - e^{-T})(z - e^{-0.1T})}$

$$G^*(1) = 2k \frac{(1 - e^{-5T})}{(1 - e^{-T})(1 - e^{-0.1T})} = G(0) = 50$$

$$k = \frac{50}{2} \frac{(1 - e^{-T})(1 - e^{-0.1T})}{(1 - e^{-5T})}$$



# Problem - 1



For the control system shown in figure,  
where

$$G(s) = \frac{1}{s(s+1)},$$

design a digital control  $D(z)$  by emulation of a continuous design (i.e. by computing the discrete equivalent using Tustin) in order to satisfy the following requirements

- $e_{\infty} = 0$  wrt to a step disturbance  $d$
- $s \leq 15\%$
- $t_{a5\%} < 300$  ms
- $T = 30$  ms

Discuss the action to be implemented for reducing the effect of high-frequency noise  $n$  (i.e.,  $n_1(t) = 0.1\sin(400t)$ ,  $n_2(t) = 0.1\sin(500t)$ )

# Problem - 1

- $e_{\infty} = 0$  wrt to a step disturbance  $d$   
 $\Rightarrow$  one integrator in the open loop function  $F(s)$  (i.e., one pole in zero)
- $s \leq 15\%$   
 $\Rightarrow \zeta \geq 0.5$ , where  $\zeta$  is the damping factor of the closed-loop system ( $\varphi_m > 50^\circ$ )
- $t_{a5\%} < 300$  ms  
 $\Rightarrow \frac{3}{\zeta\omega_n} < \frac{3}{10} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \zeta\omega_n > 10 \\ \omega_c \cong \omega_n \end{cases} \Rightarrow \omega_c > 20$  rad/s, where  $\omega_c$  is the crossing frequency of the open-loop function,  $F(s)$ , and  $\omega_n$  is the natural frequency of the second order approximation of the closed loop system.
- $T = 30$  ms ( $\omega_s = \frac{2\pi}{T}$ )  
 $\Rightarrow$  delay at  $\omega_c \Rightarrow$  in terms of phase,  $-\frac{\omega_c T}{2} \Rightarrow \varphi_m > 50^\circ + \left(\frac{\omega_c T}{2}\right)^\circ$
- See the relative Matlab code and the scheme implemented in Simulink

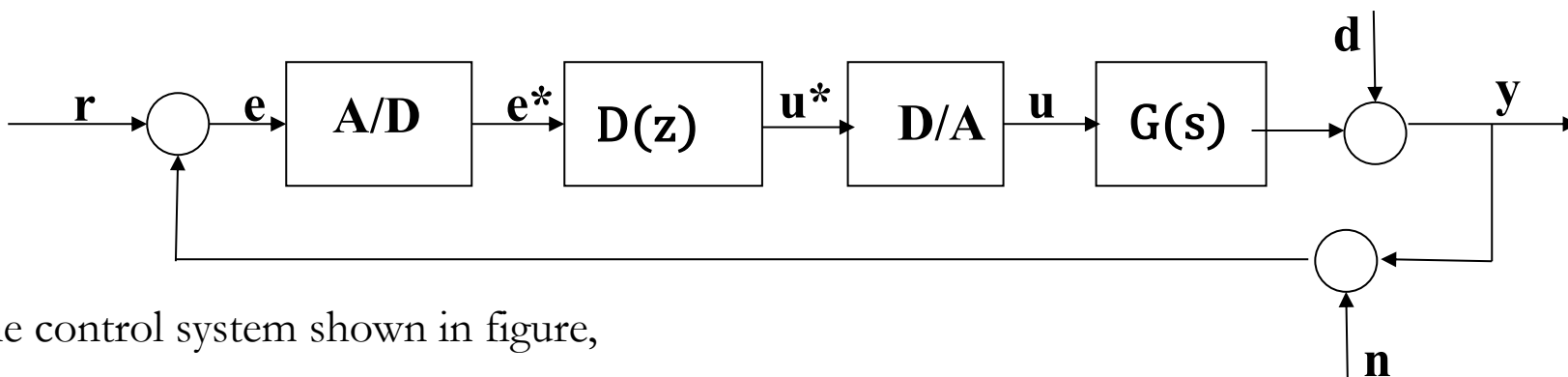


# Problem - 1

Discuss the action to be implemented for reducing the effect of high-frequency noise  $n$  (i.e.,  $n_1(t) = 0.1\sin(400t)$ ,  $n_2(t) = 0.1\sin(500t)$ )

$\Rightarrow$  anti-aliasing filter with  $\omega_f < \frac{\omega_s}{2}$  and  $\omega_f \gg \omega_c$

## Problem - 2



For the control system shown in figure,  
where

$$G(s) = \frac{1}{(s + 10)},$$

the following continuous controller has been designed:

$$C(s) = \frac{10(s + 10)}{s(s/50 + 1)}$$

Then, a digital controller has been implemented by discretization using ZOH method with  $T = 50$  ms.

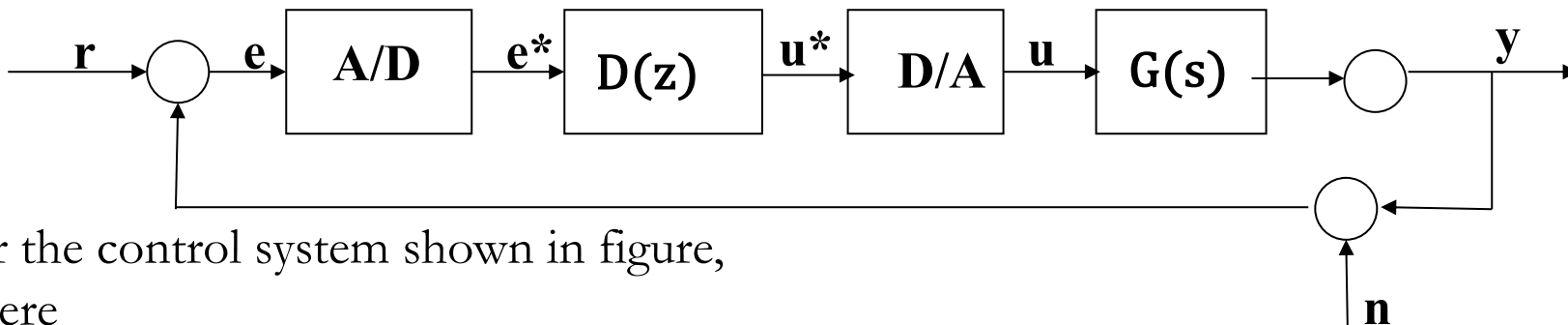
- Evaluate the performance achieved by the continuous controller
- Evaluate the performance achieved by the digital controller
- By assuming a high-frequency noise  $n$  (i.e.,  $n_1(t) = 0.5\sin(400t)$ ), compare the performance obtained by the analog and digital controllers
- For the digital controller discuss the action to be implemented for reducing the effect of  $n$ .
- Evaluate the performance of the digital controller by using  $T = 25$  ms.



## Problem - 2

- Implement the controller: give the difference equation that corresponds to  $D(z)$  for both the values of  $T$

# Problem - 3



For the control system shown in figure,  
where

$$G(s) = \frac{1}{(s + 2)},$$

- a. Design a digital control  $D(z)$  by emulation of a continuous design (i.e. by computing the discrete equivalent using ZOH and/or Tustin)
- by setting opportunely the sampling time  $T$ ,
  - in order to satisfy the following requirements:
    - $e_{\infty} = 0$  to a step disturbance  $d$
    - $e_{\infty} \leq 0.1$  to a ramp signal of slope 0.5.
    - $s \leq 20\%$  to a step input  $r$
    - $t_{a5\%} < 1s$
    - attenuation factor  $\geq 20$  dB for multi-frequency noise in the range  $[50 + \infty]$  rad/s



## Problem - 3

- b. Discuss the action to be implemented for reducing the effect of high-frequency noise  $n$  (i.e.,  $n_1(t) = 0.2\sin(50t)$ ,  $n_2(t) = 0.2\sin(100t)$ )
- c. Implement the controller: give the difference equation that corresponds to  $D(z)$  for both cases (Tustin and ZOH)

## Problem - 3

### For the continuous design:

- $e_{\infty} = 0$  wrt to a step disturbance  $d$   
 $\Rightarrow$  one integrator in the open loop function  $F(s) = C(s)G(s)$  (i.e., one pole in zero)  
 Then  $C(s) = \frac{k_0}{s}$
- $e_{\infty} \leq 0.1$  to a ramp signal of slope  $R_0$  equal to 0.5,  $r(t) = 0.5t \cdot 1(t)$  ( $R_0=0.5$ )  
 $\Rightarrow e_{\infty} = \frac{R_0}{F_0}$ , with  $F_0 = k_0 G(0) = \frac{k_0}{2} \Rightarrow e_{\infty} = \frac{R_0}{F_0} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{\frac{k_0}{2}} \leq \frac{1}{10} \Rightarrow k_0 \geq 10$
- $s \leq 20\%$   
 $\Rightarrow \zeta \geq 0.45$ , where  $\zeta$  is the damping factor of the closed-loop system ( $\varphi_m > 45^\circ$ )
- $t_{a5\%} < 1 \text{ s}$   
 $\Rightarrow \frac{3}{\zeta\omega_n} < 1 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \zeta\omega_n > 3 \\ \omega_c \cong \omega_n \end{cases} \Rightarrow \omega_c > 6.6 \text{ rad/s}$ , where  $\omega_c$  is the crossing frequency of the open-loop function,  $F(s)$ , and  $\omega_n$  is the natural frequency of the second order approximation of the closed loop system  $\Rightarrow C(s) = \frac{k_0}{s} \frac{(s+1)}{(\frac{s}{30}+1)}$
- attenuation factor  $\geq 20\text{dB}$  for noise in the range  $[50 + \infty] \text{ rad/s}$





## Problem - 3

See the relative Matlab code and the scheme implemented in Simulink.