

Nuno Vasconcelos UCSD

Images

- the incident light is collected by an image sensor
 - that transforms it into a 2D signal \mathbf{V}^{E}



2D-DSP

- in summary:
 - image is a *N x M* array of pixels
 - each pixel contains three colors
 - overall, the image is a 2D discrete-space signal
 - each entry is a 3D vector

$$X[n_1, n_2] = (r, g, b), n_1 \in \{0, ..., N\}$$

 $n_2 \in \{0, ..., M\}$

 for simplicity, we consider only single channel images

$$X[n_1, n_2], n_1 \in \{0, ..., N\}$$

 $n_2 \in \{0, ..., M\}$



- but everything extends to color in a straightforward manner

Separable sequences

- a trivial concept,
 - but probably the only real novelty in this lecture
 - very important in practice, because it reduces 2D problem to collection on 1D problems

• **Definition:** a sequence is separable if and only if

 $x[n_1, n_2] = f[n_1] \times g[n_2]$

where *f[.]* and *g[.]* are 1D functions

- note: there are many examples of separable sequences
- but most sequences are not separable

Linear Shift Invariant (LSI) systems

- straightforward extension of LTI systems
- Definition: a system T that maps x[n₁,n₂] into y[n₁,n₂] is LSI if and only if
 - it is linear

$$T\{ax_{1}[n_{1}, n_{2}] + bx_{2}[n_{1}, n_{2}]\} =$$

= $aT\{x_{1}[n_{1}, n_{2}]\} + bT\{x_{2}[n_{1}, n_{2}]\}$
= $ay_{1}[n_{1}, n_{2}] + by_{2}[n_{1}, n_{2}]$

- it is shift invariant

$$T\{x[n_1-m_1,n_2-m_2]\}=y[n_1-m_1,n_2-m_2]$$

the operation

$$y[n_1, n_2] = \sum_{k_1 = -\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_2 = -\infty}^{\infty} x[k_1, k_2] h[n_1 - k_1, n_2 - k_2]$$

is the 2D convolution of x and h

- we will denote it by

$$y[n_1, n_2] = x[n_1, n_2] * h[n_1, n_2]$$

- this is of great practical importance:
 - for an LSI system the response to any input can be obtained by the convolution with this impulse response
 - the IR fully characterizes the system
 - it is all that I need to measure

- has various properties of interest
- but these are the ones that you have already seen in 1D (check handout)
- some of the more important:
 - commutative:
 - associative:

$$(X * Y) * Z = X * (Y * Z)$$

X * V = V * X

- distributive:

$$X * (Y + Z) = X * Y + X * Z$$

- convolution with impulse:

$$X[n_1, n_2] * \delta[n_1 - m_1, n_2 - m_2] = X[n_1 - m_1, n_2 - m_2]$$

- as in 1D, it is most easily done in graphical form
- e.g. how do we convolve these two sequences?

$$y[n_1, n_2] = \sum_{k_1 = -\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_2 = -\infty}^{\infty} x[k_1, k_2] h[n_1 - k_1, n_2 - k_2]$$



• we need four steps

• step 1): express sequences in terms of (k_1, k_2)

$$y[n_1, n_2] = \sum_{k_1 = -\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_2 = -\infty}^{\infty} x[k_1, k_2] h[n_1 - k_1, n_2 - k_2]$$







step 3): shift g(k₁, k₂) by (n₁, n₂)

$$y[n_1, n_2] = \sum_{k_1 = -\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_2 = -\infty}^{\infty} x[k_1, k_2] h[n_1 - k_1, n_2 - k_2]$$



 $g[k_1, k_2] = h[-k_1, -k_2]$

 $g[k_1 - n_1, k_2 - n_2] = h[n_1 - k_1, n_2 - k_2]$

• step 4): point-wise multiply the two signals and sum

$$\boldsymbol{y}[\boldsymbol{n}_1, \boldsymbol{n}_2] = \sum_{k_1 = -\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_2 = -\infty}^{\infty} \boldsymbol{x}[k_1, k_2] \boldsymbol{h}[\boldsymbol{n}_1 - \boldsymbol{k}_1, \boldsymbol{n}_2 - \boldsymbol{k}_2]$$

- e.g. for
$$(n_1, n_2) = (1, 0)$$



• step 4): point-wise multiply the two signals and sum

$$\boldsymbol{y}[\boldsymbol{n}_1, \boldsymbol{n}_2] = \sum_{k_1 = -\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_2 = -\infty}^{\infty} \boldsymbol{x}[k_1, k_2] \boldsymbol{h}[\boldsymbol{n}_1 - \boldsymbol{k}_1, \boldsymbol{n}_2 - \boldsymbol{k}_2]$$

- e.g. for
$$(n_1, n_2) = (2, 0)$$



- is this the only way to look at convolution? •
 - any signal can be written as



• we combine this

$$\boldsymbol{X}[\boldsymbol{n}_{1},\boldsymbol{n}_{2}] = \sum_{k_{1}=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_{2}=-\infty}^{\infty} \boldsymbol{X}[\boldsymbol{k}_{1},\boldsymbol{k}_{2}] \boldsymbol{\mathcal{S}}[\boldsymbol{n}_{1}-\boldsymbol{k}_{1},\boldsymbol{n}_{2}-\boldsymbol{k}_{2}]$$

with the properties of the convolution

- commutative:
$$X * Y = Y * X$$

associative:

$$(X * Y) * Z = X * (Y * Z)$$

$$(x * (y + z) = x * y + x * z)$$

- convolution with impulse:

 $X[n_1, n_2] * \delta[n_1 - m_1, n_2 - m_2] = X[n_1 - m_1, n_2 - m_2]$

• to obtain another interpretation

• it is done like this

$$y[n_1, n_2] = x[n_1, n_2] * h[n_1, n_2]$$
$$= \left(\sum_{k_1 = -\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_2 = -\infty}^{\infty} x[k_1, k_2] \delta[n_1 - k_1, n_2 - k_2]\right) * h[n_1, n_2]$$

$$y[n_1, n_2] = \sum_{k_1 = -\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_2 = -\infty}^{\infty} x[k_1, k_2] (\delta[n_1 - k_1, n_2 - k_2] * h[n_1, n_2])$$

note that this is just our definition of convolution

$$\boldsymbol{x}[\boldsymbol{n}_{1},\boldsymbol{n}_{2}] = \sum_{k_{1}=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_{2}=-\infty}^{\infty} \boldsymbol{x}[\boldsymbol{k}_{1},\boldsymbol{k}_{2}] \delta[\boldsymbol{n}_{1}-\boldsymbol{k}_{1},\boldsymbol{n}_{2}-\boldsymbol{k}_{2}]$$

(no surprises here)

but we want to think about it like this, not like this

we can think of

$$y[n_1, n_2] = \sum_{k_1 = -\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_2 = -\infty}^{\infty} x[k_1, k_2] (\delta[n_1 - k_1, n_2 - k_2] * h[n_1, n_2])$$

as the following sequence of operations

- 1. set $y[n_1, n_2] = 0$, for all (n_1, n_2)
- 2. for each (k_1, k_2) such that $x[k_1, k_2]$ is not zero
 - set $\alpha = x[k_1, k_2]$
 - shift $h[n_1, n_2]$ by (k_1, k_2)
 - multiply the entire sequence by α

$$z[n_1, n_2] = \alpha \big(\delta[n_1 - k_1, n_2 - k_2] * h[n_1, n_2] \big)$$

• add the entire sequence to $y[n_1, n_2]$

$$y[n_1, n_2] = y[n_1, n_2] + z[n_1, n_2]$$









 $y[n_1, n_2]$ $y[n_1, n_2]$ $h[n_1 - k_1, n_2 - k_2]$

n₁

n₁

• note the differences with the previous convolution

- before we were computing one $y[n_1, n_2]$ at a time



$$x[k_1, k_2]$$
 $h[n_1 - k_1, n_2 - k_2]$ $y[n_1, n_2]$

now we update the entire sequence at a time



- When do I use the serial vs parallel method?
 - serial always works
 - parallel is useful when one of the sequences is small
 - example





• parallel



• parallel



• **Definition:** a system is separable if and only if its impulse response is a separable sequence

$$h[n_1, n_2] = h_1[n_1] \times h_2[n_2]$$

• note that, in this case the convolution simplifies

$$\begin{aligned} y[n_{1},n_{2}] &= \sum_{k_{1}=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_{2}=-\infty}^{\infty} x[k_{1},k_{2}] h[n_{1}-k_{1},n_{2}-k_{2}] \\ &= \sum_{k_{1}=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_{2}=-\infty}^{\infty} x[k_{1},k_{2}] h_{1}[n_{1}-k_{1}]h_{2}[n_{2}-k_{2}] \\ &= \sum_{k_{1}=-\infty}^{\infty} h_{1}[n_{1}-k_{1}] \sum_{k_{2}=-\infty}^{\infty} x[k_{1},k_{2}] h_{2}[n_{2}-k_{2}] \\ &= \sum_{k_{1}=-\infty}^{\infty} h_{1}[n_{1}-k_{1}]f[k_{1},n_{2}] \end{aligned}$$

• the convolution simplifies to

$$y[n_1, n_2] = \sum_{k_1 = -\infty}^{\infty} h_1[n_1 - k_1]f[k_1, n_2]$$

with

$$f[k_1, n_2] = \sum_{k_2 = -\infty}^{\infty} x[k_1, k_2] h_2[n_2 - k_2]$$

- note that:
 - for a fixed k_1 , $f[k_1, n_2]$ is 1D convolution of $x[k_1, n_2]$ and $h_2[n_2]$

$$f[k_1, n_2] = x[k_1, n_2] * h_2[n_2]$$

- for a fixed n_2 , $y[n_1, n_2]$ is 1D convolution of $f[n_1, n_2]$ and $h_1[n_1]$

 $\gamma[n_1, n_2] = f[n_1, n_2] * h_1[n_1]$

- the convolution simplifies to a sequence of 1D steps
- **step1)** for every k_1 ,
 - $f[k_1, n_2]$ is 1D convolution of $x[k_1, n_2]$ and $h_2[n_2]$

$$f[k_1, n_2] = x[k_1, n_2] * h_2[n_2]$$

 which means: "convolve the columns of x with h₂ to obtain columns of f"



- **step2)** for every *n*₂,
 - $y[n_1, n_2]$ is 1D convolution of $f[n_1, n_2]$ and $h_1[n_1]$

$$y[n_1, n_2] = f[n_1, n_2] * h_1[n_1]$$

- which means: "convolve the rows of f with h_1 to obtain rows of y"



• in summary, if we have a separable system

$$h[n_1, n_2] = h_1[n_1] \times h_2[n_2]$$

to convolve with $x[n_1, n_2]$ we:

- 1) "convolve the columns of x with h_2 to create f"

$$f[k_1, n_2] = x[k_1, n_2] * h_2[n_2]$$

- 2) "convolve the rows of f with h_1 to obtain y"

 $y[n_1, n_2] = f[n_1, n_2] * h_1[n_1]$

The Discrete-Space Fourier Transform

- as in 1D, an important concept in linear system analysis is that of the Fourier transform
- the Discrete-Space Fourier Transform is the 2D extension of the Discrete-Time Fourier Transform

$$X(\omega_{1},\omega_{2}) = \sum_{n_{1}} \sum_{n_{2}} X[n_{1},n_{2}]e^{-j\omega_{1}n_{1}}e^{-j\omega_{2}n_{2}}$$
$$X[n_{1},n_{2}] = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{2}} \iint X(\omega_{1},\omega_{2})e^{j\omega_{1}n_{1}}e^{j\omega_{2}n_{2}}d\omega_{1}d\omega_{2}$$

- note that this is a continuous function of frequency
- the nomenclature distinguishes it from the 2D Discrete Fourier transform (we will get back to this)
- what does the DSFT of an image look like?

Image spectrum

• two images, the magnitude, and phase of their FTs



Phase and Magnitude

- curious fact
 - all natural images have about the same magnitude transform
 - monotonically decaying with frequency

$$X(\omega_1,\omega_2) \propto \frac{1}{\omega_1^2 + \omega_2^2}$$

- hence, phase seems to matter, but magnitude largely doesn't
- we can see this through the following experiment
- take two pictures, swap the phase transforms, compute the inverse
- here is what you get

The importance of phase

Reconstruction with zebra phase, cheetah magnitude

Reconstruction with cheetah phase, zebra magnitude





LSI systems

- why do we care so much about Fourier transforms?
- note that when we convolve a sequence with a complex exponential,

$$x[n_1, n_2] = e^{j\varpi_1n_1}e^{j\varpi_2n_2}$$

we get

$$y[n_1, n_2] = \sum_{k_1 = -\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_2 = -\infty}^{\infty} h[k_1, k_2] x[n_1 - k_1, n_2 - k_2]$$

=
$$\sum_{k_1 = -\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_2 = -\infty}^{\infty} h[k_1, k_2] e^{j\varpi_1(n_1 - k_1)} e^{j\varpi_2(n_2 - k_2)}$$

=
$$e^{j\varpi_1 n_1} e^{j\varpi_2 n_2} H(\varpi_1, \varpi_2)$$

=
$$x[n_1, n_2] H(\varpi_1, \varpi_2)$$

LSI systems

- but we have seen that, for an LSI system
 - the output in response to $x[n_1, n_2]$
 - is the convolution with the impulse response $h[n_1, n_2]$
 - hence, the response to

$$x[n_1, n_2] = e^{j \sigma_1 n_1} e^{j \sigma_2 n_2}$$

– is

$$y[n_1, n_2] = x[n_1, n_2]H(\boldsymbol{\varpi}_1, \boldsymbol{\varpi}_2)$$

- this means that complex exponentials are the eigenfunctions of LSI systems
- when we input an eigenfunction, we get back the same function
- but scaled by $H(\omega_1, \omega_2)$
- this is called the frequency response of the system

LSI systems

- this is remarkable, since
 - we know that any signal can be represented as a weighted sum of complex exponentials

$$X(\omega_{1},\omega_{2}) = \sum_{n_{1}} \sum_{n_{2}} X[n_{1},n_{2}]e^{-j\omega_{1}n_{1}}e^{-j\omega_{2}n_{2}}$$
$$X[n_{1},n_{2}] = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{2}} \iint X(\omega_{1},\omega_{2})e^{j\omega_{1}n_{1}}e^{j\omega_{2}n_{2}}d\omega_{1}d\omega_{2}$$

- when the signal is fed to an LSI system, each exponential is scaled by $H(\omega_1, \omega_2)$
- hence, the frequency response completely characterizes the system
- and the DSFT of the output is just the product of the two

$$Y(\omega_1, \omega_2) = H(\omega_1, \omega_2) X(\omega_1, \omega_2)$$

- the system with impulse response on the left
- has frequency response

$$H(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \sum_{n_1} \sum_{n_2} h[n_1, n_2] e^{-j\omega_1 n_1} e^{-j\omega_2 n_2}$$

$$=\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6}e^{-j\varpi_{1}} + \frac{1}{6}e^{-j\varpi_{2}} + \frac{1}{6}e^{j\varpi_{1}} + \frac{1}{6}e^{j\varpi_{2}}$$
$$=\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3}\cos \varpi_{1} + \frac{1}{3}\cos \varpi_{2}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \left(\frac{1}{3}\right) \\ \left(\frac{1}{6}\right) \\ \left(\frac{1}{6}\right) \\ \left(\frac{1}{6}\right) \\ \left(\frac{1}{6}\right) \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{n}_{1} \\ \left(\frac{1}{6}\right) \end{array}$$



- note that:
 - the response is 1 at DC
 - lower for high frequencies
 - this system is a low-pass filter

WARNING

- WARNING, WARNING, WARNING!
- the equivalence

$$\frac{e^{-jn\varpi_1} + e^{jn\varpi_1}}{2} = \cos n\,\varpi_1$$

- is the oldest trick in the DSP book!
- please do not fall for it
 - you can "read" the sequence that has this DSFT

$$H(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3}\cos \omega_1 + \frac{1}{3}\cos \omega_2$$

by applying this trick and the definition of DSFT!

n₁

 n_2

 $\left(\frac{1}{6}\right)$

 $\left(\frac{1}{6}\right)$

 $\left(\frac{1}{6}\right)$

 $\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)$

 $\left(\frac{1}{6}\right)$

WARNING

• Quizz: which on the left is the DSFT of this image?









WARNING

the way to think about this is the

following:

1004		100					
100	-	1000	-	100	ente		1
		101		17130			8
Sell.	-		- 24-	-	-	100	r-
1	0.2		10.55	1.2			
531.	12		11-11				
	12.1					12474	
	Dillo.	10.01			-		

- this image has low frequencies horizontally (ω_1)
- high frequencies vertically (ω_2)
- the spectrum is a delta function along (ω_1) and harmonics along (ω_2)
- the spectrum is this
- wrong way: "because image is horizontal spectrum must be too"





- these are extremely important, but straightforward extension of what you have seen in 1D
- only novelty is separability (homework):
 - the DSFT of a separable sequence is itself separable
 - it is the product of the DTFTs of the 1D sequences that make up the 2D sequence

$$\boldsymbol{X}[\boldsymbol{n}_1,\boldsymbol{n}_2] = \boldsymbol{X}_1[\boldsymbol{n}_1]\boldsymbol{X}_2[\boldsymbol{n}_2] \leftrightarrow \boldsymbol{X}(\boldsymbol{\omega}_1,\boldsymbol{\omega}_2) = \boldsymbol{X}_1(\boldsymbol{\omega}_1)\boldsymbol{X}_2(\boldsymbol{\omega}_2)$$

• all other properties carry from 1D to 2D

$$\begin{split} & x(n_1, n_2) \longleftrightarrow X(\omega_1, \omega_2) \\ & y(n_1, n_2) \longleftrightarrow Y(\omega_1, \omega_2) \end{split}$$

$$Property 1. \underbrace{Linearity}_{ax(n_1, n_2)} + by(n_1, n_2) \longleftrightarrow aX(\omega_1, \omega_2) + bY(\omega_1, \omega_2)$$

$$Property 2. \underbrace{Convolution}_{x(n_1, n_2) * y(n_1, n_2)} \longleftrightarrow X(\omega_1, \omega_2) Y(\omega_1, \omega_2)$$

$$Property 3. \underbrace{Multiplication}_{x(n_1, n_2)y(n_1, n_2)} \longleftrightarrow X(\omega_1, \omega_2) \textcircled{O} Y(\omega_1, \omega_2)$$

$$= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int_{\theta_1 = -\pi}^{\pi} \int_{\theta_2 = -\pi}^{\pi} X(\theta_1, \theta_2) Y(\omega_1 - \theta_1, \omega_2 - \theta_2) \ d\theta_1 \ d\theta_2$$

$$Property 4. \underbrace{Separable Sequence}_{x(n_1, n_2) = x_1(n_1)x_2(n_2)} \longleftrightarrow X(\omega_1, \omega_2) = X_1(\omega_1)X_2(\omega_2)$$

$$Property 5. \underbrace{Shift of a Sequence and a Fourier Transform}_{(a) \ x(n_1 - m_1, n_2 - m_2)} \longleftrightarrow X(\omega_1 - \nu_1, \omega_2 - \nu_2)$$

$$Property 6. \underbrace{Differentiation}_{(a) \ -jn_1x(n_1, n_2)} \longleftrightarrow \frac{\partial X(\omega_1, \omega_2)}{\partial \omega_1}$$

$$(b) \ -jn_2x(n_1, n_2) \longleftrightarrow \frac{\partial X(\omega_1, \omega_2)}{\partial \omega_2}$$

Property 7. Initial Value and DC Value Theorem (a) $x(0, 0) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int_{\omega_1 = -\pi}^{\pi} \int_{\omega_2 = -\pi}^{\pi} X(\omega_1, \omega_2) d\omega_1 d\omega_2$ (b) $X(0, 0) = \sum_{n_1 = -\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{n_2 = -\infty}^{\infty} x(n_1, n_2)$ Property 8. Parseval's Theorem (a) $\sum_{n_1=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{n_2=-\infty}^{\infty} x(n_1, n_2) y^*(n_1, n_2)$ $= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} X(\omega_1, \omega_2) Y^*(\omega_1, \omega_2) d\omega_1 d\omega_2$ (b) $\sum_{n_1=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{n_2=-\infty}^{\infty} |x(n_1, n_2)|^2 = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int_{\omega_1=-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{\omega_2=-\pi}^{\pi} |X(\omega_1, \omega_2)|^2 d\omega_1 d\omega_2$



• consider the separable impulse response



• frequency response

$$H(\omega_1, \omega_2) = H_1(\omega_1)H_2(\omega_2)$$
$$= (3 - 2\cos \omega_1)(3 - 2\cos \omega_2)$$

- note that:
 - this system is a high-pass filter
 - "diagonal" frequencies are enhanced



- what do filtered images look like?
 - here is a noisy image
 - a light square against dark background, plus noise





- what do filtered images look like?
 - here is the magnitude of its DSFT (origin at center), it contains:
 - a peak at the center,
 - some background signal at all frequencies,
 - a cross-like pattern that goes from low to high frequencies
 - why does it look like this?





- one way to find out is to filter and reconstruct the image
 - we simulate the ideal low-pass filter by
 - removing all signal components outside a circle in the frequency domain
 - this is what the spectrum looks like
 - this gets rid of the background signal that covers all frequencies





- this is the resulting image
 - the component we removed was due to the noise
 - "white" noise has energy at all frequencies
 - notice that there are some artifacts (i.e. ringing) in the reconstructed image



- what about the stuff other than noise?
 - let's high-pass by removing everything inside the circle





- this is the resulting image
 - we now get mostly noise, as expected
 - note that the square has mostly gone away
 - this means that the flat part is low-frequency
 - but we can still see the edges



- this is interesting
 - the edges are not only low-pass
 - maybe they are the reason for the cross-shaped pattern
 - to check we band-pass





- this is the resulting image
 - we now get mostly the edges
 - we were right, the edges cause the cross-shaped pattern
 - note that the edges are very hard to filter out



- this is one of the fundamental properties of images:
 - edges have energy at all frequencies



The z transform

- once again, it is a straightforward extension of 1D
- **Definition:** the z-transform of the sequence $x[n_1, n_2]$ is

$$X(z_1, z_2) = \sum_{n_1} \sum_{n_2} x[n_1, n_2] z_1^{-n_1} z_2^{-n_2}$$

- the region of the (z₁, z₂) plane where this sum is finite is called the Region of Convergence (ROC)
- it turns out that:
 - in 2D the ROC is much more complicated than in 1D
 - while in 1D the ROC is bounded by poles (0D subspace of the 2D complex plane)
 - in 2D is bounded by pole surfaces (2D subspaces of the 4D space of two complex variables)

The z-transform

- computation is also much harder:
 - as you might remember from 1D
 - most useful tool in computing z-transforms is polynomial factorization
 - z-transform is a ratio of two polynomials

$$Y(z) = \frac{N(z)}{D(z)}$$

- we factor in to a sum of low order terms, e.g.

$$Y(z) = \sum_{i} \frac{1}{1 - a_i z^{-1}}$$

– and then invert each of the terms to get y[n]

z-transform

- in 2D we only have one of two situations
- 1) the sequence is separable, in which case everything reduces to the 1D case

$$x[n_1, n_2] = x_1[n_1]x_2[n_2] \leftrightarrow X(z_1, z_2) = X_1(z_1)X_2(z_2)$$

$$ROC : |z_1| \in ROC \text{ of } X_1(z_1) \text{ and}$$

$$|z_2| \in ROC \text{ of } X_2(z_2)$$

the proof is identical to that of the DSFT

- 2) the signal is not separable
 - here our polynomials are of the form z₁^mz₂ⁿ and, in general, it is not know how to factor them
 - we can solve only if sequence is simple enough that we can do it by inspection (from the definition of the z-transform)

• consider the sequence

 $x[n_1, n_2] = a^{n_1} b^{n_2} u[n_1, n_2]$

• the z-transform is

$$\begin{aligned} X(z_1, z_2) &= \sum_{n_1=0}^{\infty} \sum_{n_2=0}^{\infty} (a z_1^{-1})^{n_1} (a z_2^{-1})^{n_2} \\ &= \sum_{n_1=0}^{\infty} (a z_1^{-1})^{n_1} \sum_{n_2=0}^{\infty} (a z_2^{-1})^{n_2} \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - a z_1^{-1}} \frac{1}{1 - b z_2^{-1}}, \quad |z_1| > a, |z_2| > b \end{aligned}$$



