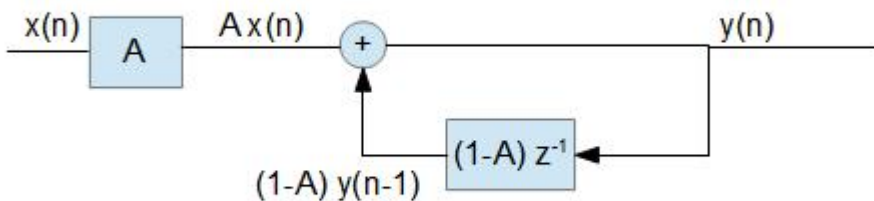


Simple Low Pass IIR Filter Implementation Using the C Language

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[2020-09-01 Weimich](#)

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1. Abbreviation

IIR – Infinite Impulse Response Filter

RISC – Reduced Instruction Set Computing

2. Introduction

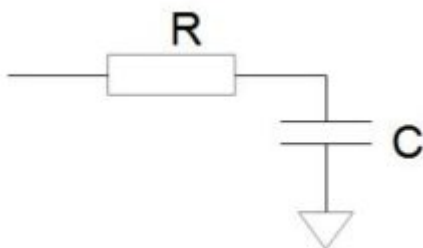


Figure 1: RC analog first order low pass filter with the $T=RC$

The linear analog circuit is described with the linear differential equation or with the Laplace transformation (s plane). For example: the RC circuit (low pass filter) is described with the first

order differential equation:

$$u_{input}(t) = RC \frac{du_{out}(t)}{dt} + u_{out}(t) \quad (1)$$

or in the Laplace form:

$$H(s) = \frac{1}{1 + sRC} \quad (2)$$

The analog method experience can be used for the digital technical. The linear digital methods are used the difference equation and z transformation (z plane).

$$y(n) = \sum_{i=0}^M b_i \cdot x(n-i) + \sum_{k=1}^N a_k \cdot y(n-k) \quad (3)$$

$$H(z) = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^M b_i \cdot z^{-i}}{1 - \sum_{k=1}^N a_k \cdot z^{-k}} \quad (4)$$

There are few transformation methods of the s-plane (analog space) to z-plane (digital space): backward Euler, impulse invariance, bilinear. The article is described the simple first order filter. Backward Euler method is suitable for the case.

$$s = \frac{1}{T_s} (1 - z^{-1}) \quad (5) \text{ where } T_s \text{-sampling time}$$

Insert the (5) in the (2)

$$H(z) = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{T_s} (1 - z^{-1}) RC} = \frac{T_s}{T_s + R \cdot C} \cdot \frac{1}{1 - \frac{R \cdot C}{T_s + R \cdot C} \cdot z^{-1}} \quad (6)$$

Specify

$$A = \frac{T_s}{T_s + R \cdot C} \quad (7)$$

Then the z-transformation

$$H(z) = \frac{A}{1 - (1 - A) \cdot z^{-1}} \quad (8)$$

And the difference equation

$$y(n) = (1 - A) \cdot y(n - 1) + A \cdot x(n) = y(n - 1) + A \cdot (x(n) - y(n - 1)) \quad (9)$$

3. First Order Digital IIR Filter

The low pass IIR filter first order using the backward Euler (or impulse invariance) transformation is described with the (8) and (9).

Example of the A value calculation

Sampling $f_s = 20\text{kHz}$

Filter passband $f_b = 1\text{kHz}$

Then

$$RC = 1/(2\pi f_b) = 1/(2 \cdot 3.14 \cdot 1000\text{Hz}) \approx 1.6e-4\text{s}$$

$$T_s = 1/f_s = 1/20000\text{Hz} = 0.5e-4\text{s}$$

$$A = T_s/(T_s + RC) = 0.5e-4/(0.5e-4 + 1.6e-4) \approx 0.24$$

$$y(n) = y(n-1) + 0.24 \cdot (x(n) - y(n-1))$$

Notes

1. The value A is less as 1 $\Rightarrow A < 1$
2. The filter can be interpreted as weighting filter: $y(n) = (1 - A)y(n-1) + Ax(n)$. The input $x(n)$ signal will be taken with weight A and previous history $y(n-1)$ with the weight (1-A). If the input $x(n)$ signal is not trusted then the value A shall be taken lower value.
3. The filter can be realized only with the one multiplication: $y(n) = y(n-1) + A(x(n) - y(n-1))$
4. IIR filter realization with fixed point arithmetic: output history $y(n-1)$ shall be saved with the double accuracy

3.1 First Order Digital IIR Filter. Fixed Point Realization with the One Multiplication.

Fixed point realization shall be scaled. For example: input x and output y will be used signed 16 bits, scaling $S=2^{16}=0x10000=65536$ and history $Sy(n-1)$ will be saved signed 32 bits

$$S_y(n) = S_y(n-1) + SA(x(n) - y(n-1)) \quad (10)$$

Output value without scaling:

$$y(n) = S_y(n-1) + SA(x(n) - y(n-1)) \pm 0.5 \cdot S / S \quad (11) \text{ where } 0.5S \text{ is round value}$$

C-Code:

```
sint16 IIR_Filter_First_Order(sint16 x_input)
{
    sint32 sy_round;
    sy_round = ROUND_MACRO(sy_history);
    sy_history = sy_history + SA_VALUE*((sint32)(x_input - (sy_round>>SCALING_SHIFT)));
    sy_round = ROUND_MACRO(sy_history);
    return ((sint16)(sy_round>>SCALING_SHIFT));
}
```

3.2 First Order Digital IIR Filter. Fixed Point Realization with the Shift Operation.

Instead of the multiplication can be used the arithmetic shift operation (multiplication/division on the 2^k). The A value shall be taken 2^{-k} . Then the (9) can be written

$$y(n) = (1 - 2^{-k}) \cdot y(n-1) + 2^{-k} \cdot x(n) = y(n-1) + 2^{-k} \cdot (x(n) - y(n-1)) \quad (11)$$

Using the scaling $S=2^k$ in the (10)

$$2^k y(n) = 2^k y(n-1) + 2^k 2^{-k} (x(n) - y(n-1)) = 2^k y(n-1) + (x(n) - y(n-1)) \quad (12)$$

The method can be used for example for the RISC microprocessor which has not the multiplication instruction in the assembler.

C-Code:

```
sint16 IIR_Filter_First_Order(sint16 x_input)
{
    sint32 sy_round;
    sy_round = ROUND_MACRO(sy_history);
    sy_history = sy_history + ((sint32)(x_input - (sy_round>>K_VALUE)));
    sy_round = ROUND_MACRO(sy_history);
    return ((sint16)(sy_round>>K_VALUE));
}
```

3.3 First Order Digital IIR Filter. Float Arithmetic.

The equation (9) shall be used in the case.

C-Code:

```
sint16 IIR_Filter_First_Order(sint16 x_input)
```

```
{  
  sint16 y_round;  
  y_history = y_history + A_VALUE*((float)x_input - y_history);  
  y_round = ROUND_MACRO(y_history);  
  return y_round;  
}
```

4. Appendix. Solution of the differential and difference first order equations

*Consider the (1) differential equation with the input step signal:

•

$u_{input}(t) = 1(t)$ where

$$\begin{cases} \text{if } t < 0 \text{ then } 1(t) = 0 \\ \text{if } t \geq 0 \text{ then } 1(t) = 1 \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

Then the solution of the differential equation:

$$u_{out}(t) = 1 - e^{-\frac{t}{RC}} \quad (14)$$

Consider the (9) difference equation with the input step signal:

$x_{input}(n) = 1(n)$ where

$$\begin{cases} \text{if } n < 0 \text{ then } 1(n) = 0 \\ \text{if } n \geq 0 \text{ then } 1(n) = 1 \end{cases} \quad (15)$$

Then the solution of the difference equation:

$$y(n) = 1 - (1 - A)^n = 1 - e^{n \cdot \ln(1 - A)} \quad (16)$$

5. Appendix. C-Source Codes

You can use the follow C-Source codes for your applications:

IIRfirstOrderFixedPoint.c/h – implementation with single multiplication and fixed point arithmetic

IIRfirstOrderFloat.c/h – implementation with single multiplication and float point arithmetic

IIRfirstOrderShift.c/h – implementation with shift operation instead of multiplication and fixed point arithmetic

[Download](#)

6. Literature / References

[1] Harry Y.-F. Lam „Analog and digital filters: design and realization“, Prentice-Hall Inc, 1979

[2] Lawrence R. Rabiner, Bernard Gold „Theory and application of digital signal processing“, Prentice-Hall Inc, 1975