

1.27 Prove that the following system is linear:

$$y[n] = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x[n - i]$$

where the coefficients a_i are constants.

First, check to see if $y[n]$ is additive:

$$\text{For input } x_1[n], y_1[n] = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x_1[n - i] .$$

$$\text{For input } x_2[n], y_2[n] = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x_2[n - i] .$$

For input $x_1[n] + x_2[n]$,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{y}[n] &= \sum_{i=0}^n a_i (x_1[n - i] + x_2[n - i]) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x_1[n - i] + a_i x_2[n - i] \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x_1[n - i] + \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x_2[n - i] = y_1[n] + y_2[n] \end{aligned}$$

\Rightarrow $y[n]$ is additive.

Next, check to see if $y[n]$ is homogeneous:

$$\text{For input } a x[n], \tilde{y}[n] = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i (a x[n - i]) = a \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x[n - i] = a y[n] .$$

\Rightarrow $y[n]$ is homogeneous.

Since $y[n]$ is additive and homogeneous, the system is linear.