

Lecture 20:  
Convolution Using The Discrete Fourier  
Transform

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Georgia Institute of Technology  
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## The Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT)

$$X[k] = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n] W_N^{kn} \quad k = 0, \dots, N-1$$

$$x[n] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} X[k] W_N^{-kn} \quad n = 0, \dots, N-1$$

where  $W_N \equiv e^{-j2\pi/N}$

- Exact representation of finite-length or periodic ( $x[n+N]=x[n]$ ) sequences.
- $X[k]$  and  $x[n]$  can be computed efficiently by the *fast Fourier transform* (FFT)
  - Gauss knew about it, Cooley and Tukey rediscovered it at just the right time

## Why Another Fourier Transform?

- DTFT:  $X(\omega) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} x[n] e^{-j\omega n}$
- The DTFT is a very fine transform, *but* ...
- We can only compute a function at a finite set of values of the independent variable – in the case of DTFT, only at a finite set of frequencies
- So we need a discrete and finite frequency variable!
- What if this set of frequencies conform to a certain regularity - the most natural being  $N$  such frequencies uniformly distributed over  $2\pi$ ?

## Terminology

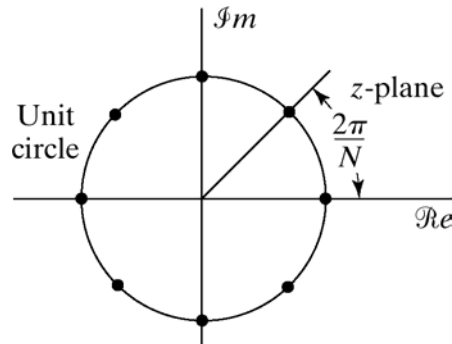
- We have defined two flavors of Fourier transforms for discrete-index signals, with a third yet to come:
  - DTFT: Discrete-Time Fourier Transform
    - continuous frequency variable
  - DFT: Discrete Fourier Transform
    - discrete frequency variable
  - FFT: Fast Fourier transform
    - *not* a different form of Fourier transform
    - just a fast *algorithm* for computing the DFT

## The DFT as a Sampled $z$ -Transform

$$X(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n]z^{-n}$$

$$z = e^{j(2\pi/N)kn},$$

$$k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N-1$$



$$X[k] = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n]e^{-j(2\pi/N)kn}$$

... assuming  $x[n]$  is a finite length sequence

$$= X(z) \Big|_{z=e^{j(2\pi/N)k}}, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N-1$$

## The DFT as a Sampled DTFT

- The DTFT of an  $N$ -point sequence is

$$X(e^{j\omega}) = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n]e^{-j\omega n}$$

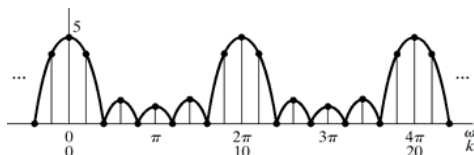
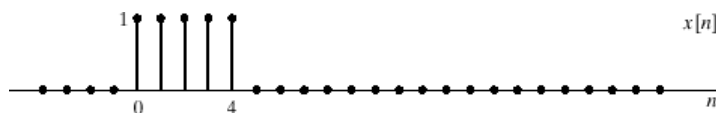
- Sample the DTFT at  $\omega_k = (2\pi/N)k, k = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$ .
- The result is identical to the DFT

$$X(e^{j\omega}) \Big|_{\omega=2\pi k/N} = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n]e^{-j(2\pi/N)kn} = X[k]$$

- If we compute the inverse DFT, we obtain

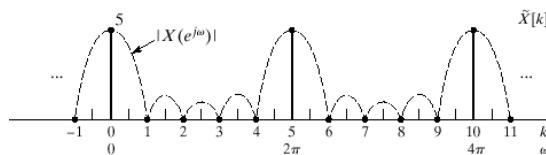
$$\tilde{x}[n] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} X(e^{j(2\pi/N)k}) e^{j(2\pi/N)kn} = \sum_{r=-\infty}^{\infty} x[n+rN]$$

## Sampled DTFT is DFT



$N = 10$  point DFT

$N = 5$  point DFT



## Sampling the DTFT Again

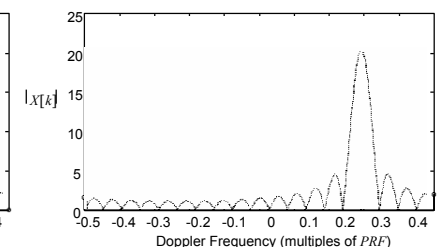
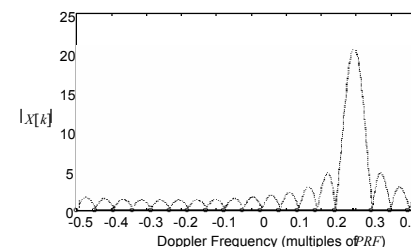
- The DFT is a sampled version of the DTFT

- to get denser set of samples, increase  $N$  (zero padding)
- sample points are fixed on the frequency axis

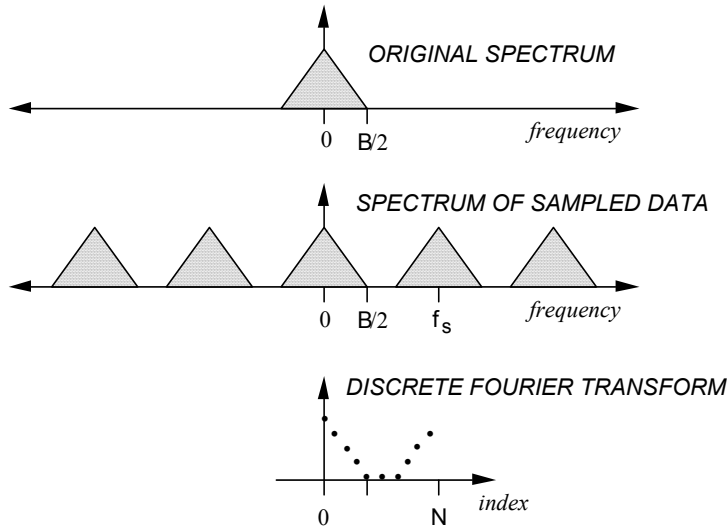
$$X[k] = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n]e^{-j2\pi nk/N}$$

- similar signals can have very different DFTs due to alignment

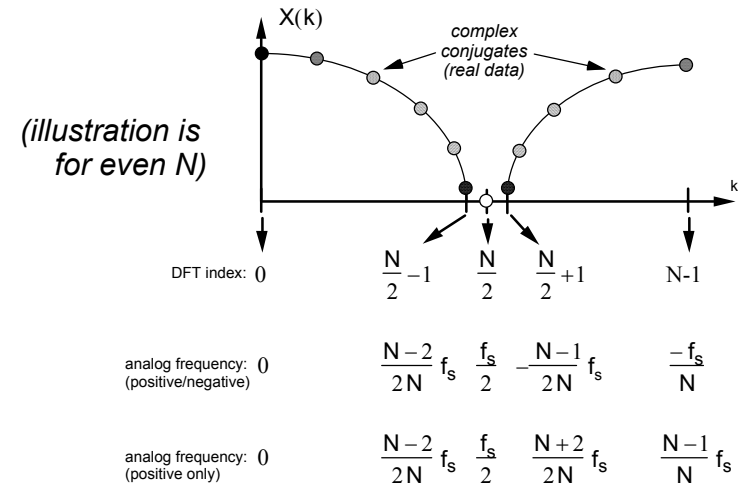
$$= X(\omega) \Big|_{\omega=2\pi k/N}$$



## Relation Between Analog and DFT Spectra



## Interpretation of DFT Frequencies



## DFT Sampling Theorem

- If we sample the DTFT of  $x[n]$  at  $N$  equally spaced frequencies, the corresponding periodic sequence (through the inverse DFT) is the time-domain aliased sequence

$$\tilde{x}[n] = \sum_{r=-\infty}^{\infty} x[n - rN]$$

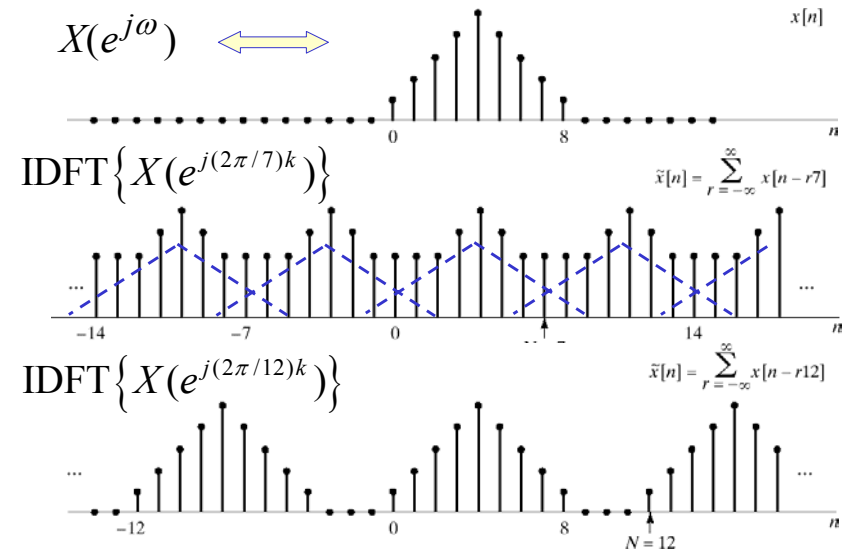
- Then if  $x[n]=0$  for  $n < 0$  and for  $n > N$ , the copies of  $x[n]$  do not overlap so we can write

$$\tilde{x}[n] = x[\langle n \rangle_N] = x[n \text{ modulo } N]$$

- Therefore:

$$x[n] = \begin{cases} \tilde{x}[n] & n = 0, 1, \dots, N-1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

## Time-Domain Replication & Aliasing



## Modulo Notation

- It is convenient sometimes to use modulo evaluation of indices to represent the periodic representation of a sequence; if

$$\tilde{x}[n] = \sum_{r=-\infty}^{\infty} x[n - rN]$$

- then we can write

$$\tilde{x}[n] = x[n \text{ modulo } N]$$

- and we denote this by

$$\tilde{x}[n] = x[n \text{ modulo } N] = x[((n))_N]$$

- Note that it follows that

$$x[((n))_N] = x[((n + lN))_N], \quad x[((-n))_N] = x[((lN - n))_N], \quad \text{etc.}$$

## Basic Properties of the DFT

- If the inverse DFT is evaluated outside of  $0 \leq n \leq N-1$ , it repeats periodically as  $\tilde{x}[n] = x[((n))_N]$ .

$$\tilde{x}[n + N] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} X[k] W_N^{-k(n+N)} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} X[k] W_N^{-kn} = \tilde{x}[n]$$

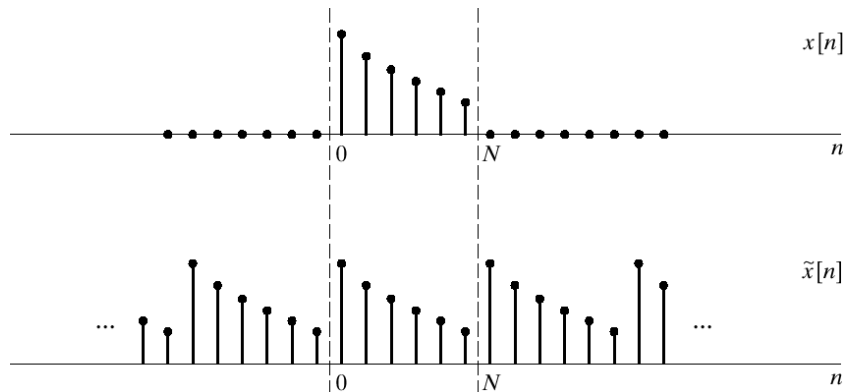
- Circular shift

$$x_1[n] = x[((n - m))_N] \Leftrightarrow X_1[k] = W_N^{km} X[k]$$

- Circular convolution

$$y[n] = \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} x[m] h[((n - m))_N] \Leftrightarrow Y[k] = X[k] H[k]$$

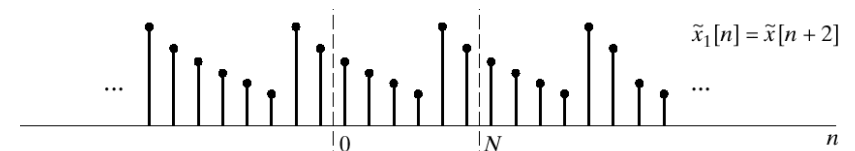
## Circular Shift - I



$$\tilde{x}[n] = \sum_{r=-\infty}^{\infty} x[n + rN] = x[((n))_N]$$

## Circular Shift - II

$$\tilde{x}_1[n] = \tilde{x}[n + 2] = \sum_{r=-\infty}^{\infty} x[n + 2 + rN]$$

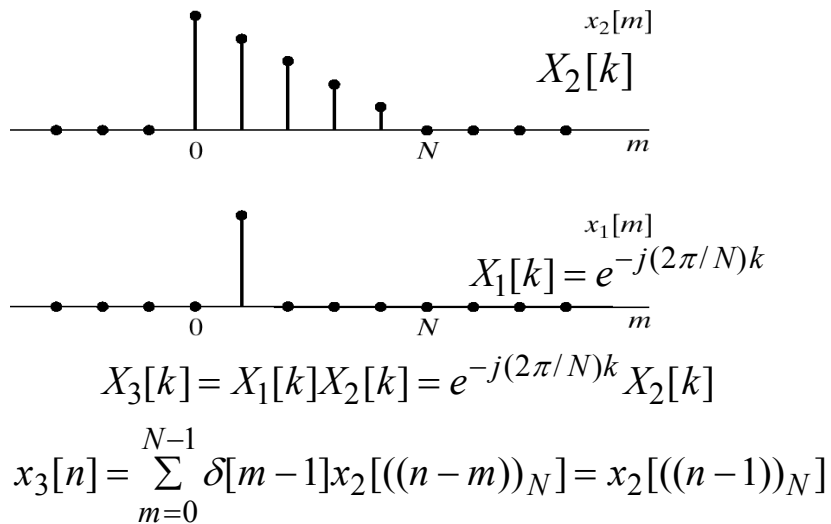


$$x_1[n] = x[((n + 2))_N]$$

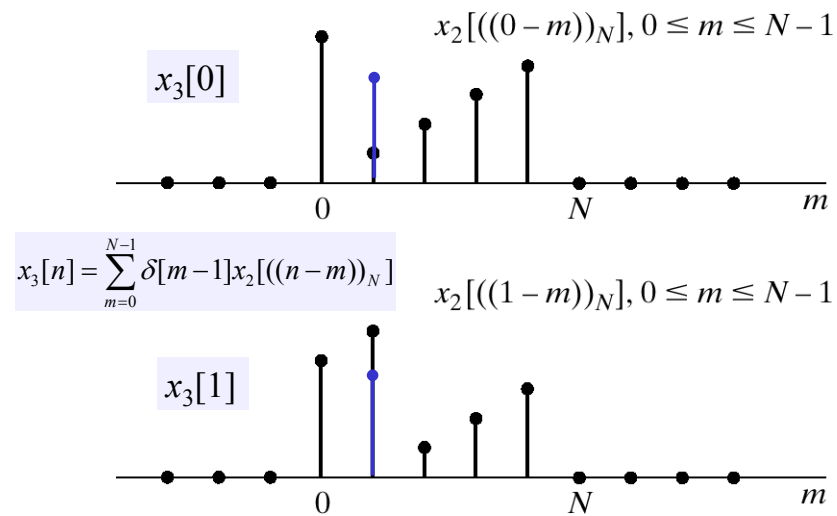
$$x_1[n] = \begin{cases} \tilde{x}_1[n], & 0 \leq n \leq N-1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



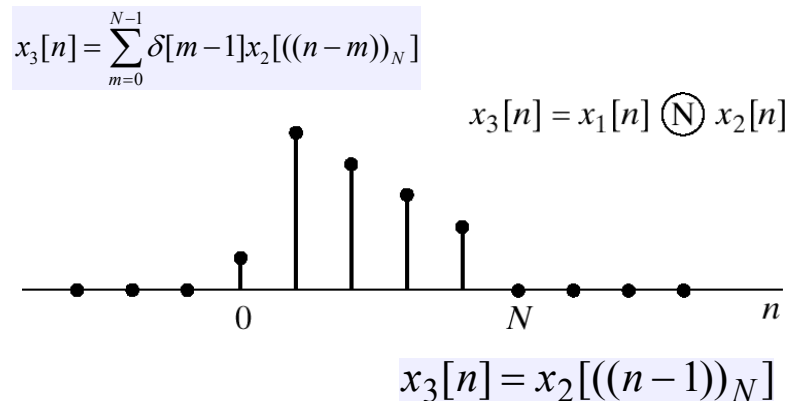
### Circular Convolution Example



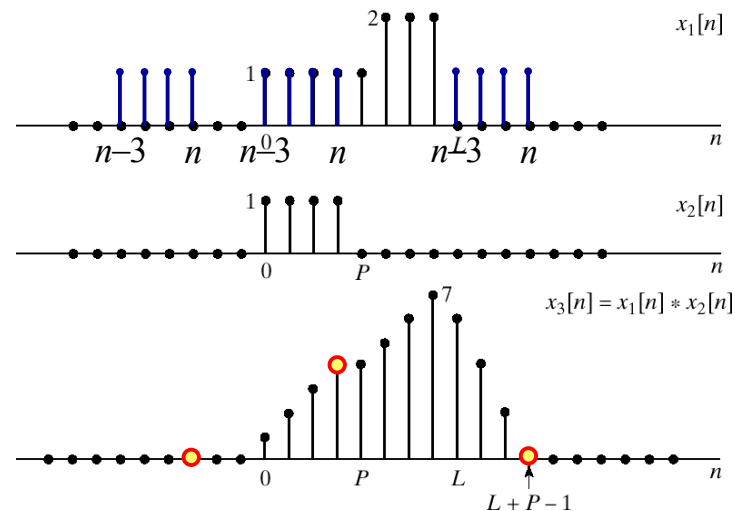
### Circular Flipping and Shifting



### Circular Convolution Example, concluded



### Linear Convolution



## If We Use a Big Enough DFT, We Can Compute a Linear Convolution ...

## Analysis for Convolution - 1

- If the DTFT of a sequence is the product of two other DTFTs (convolution):

$$x_3[n] = \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} x_1[m]x_2[n-m] \Leftrightarrow X_3(e^{j\omega}) = X_1(e^{j\omega})X_2(e^{j\omega})$$

- ... then its DFT will be the product of the corresponding DFTs:

$$X_3(e^{j(2\pi/N)k}) = X_1(e^{j(2\pi/N)k})X_2(e^{j(2\pi/N)k}) \\ \Rightarrow X_3[k] = X_1[k]X_2[k]$$

## Analysis for Convolution - 2

- The sequence obtained by an inverse  $N$ -point DFT will be periodic (repeated) with period  $N$ :

$$\tilde{x}_3[n] = \sum_{r=-\infty}^{\infty} x_3[n-rN] = x_3[n \text{ modulo } N] = x_3[((n))_N]$$

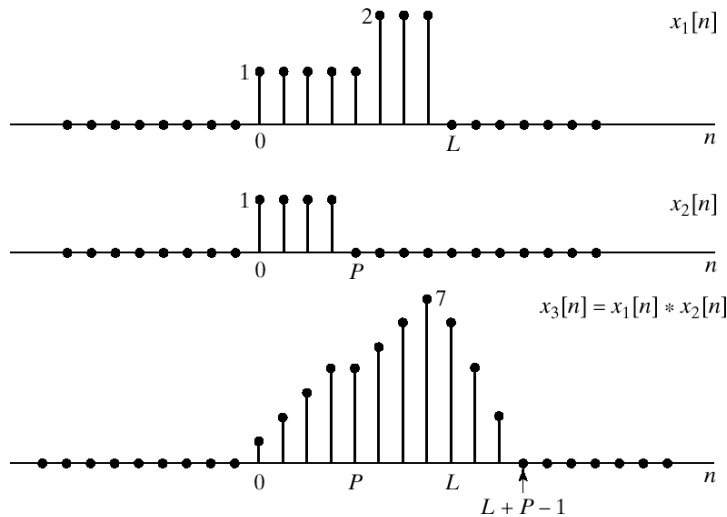
- We can pick out the desired linear convolution from the principal period:

$$x_3[n] = \tilde{x}_3[n], \quad n = 0, \dots, N-1$$

- ... provided that the replicas do not overlap, *i.e.*  $N \geq L+P-1$

## In an Aliased Convolution, Some Parts of the Output Equal the Linear Convolution, and Some Don't ...

## Linear Convolution Example Again



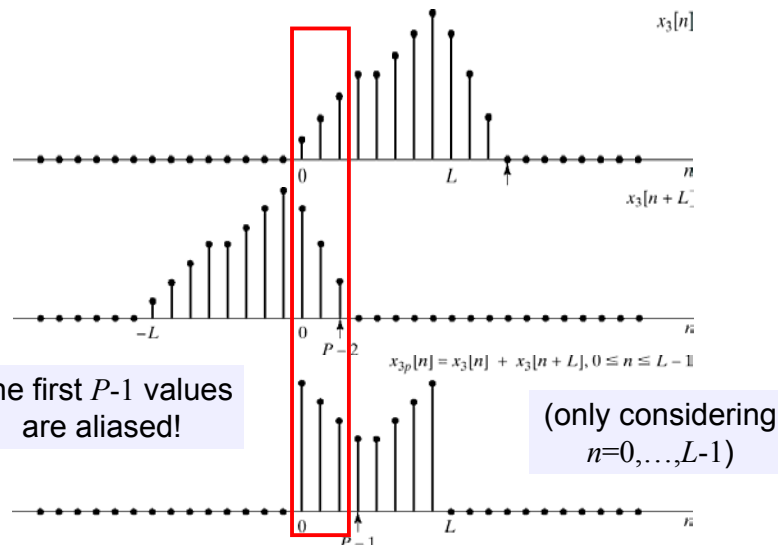
## Aliased Convolution - 1

- If we tried to implement the convolution on the previous slide by multiplying the  $L$ -point DFTs of the two sequences, the output would be the linear convolution, but repeated (aliased) every  $L$  samples:

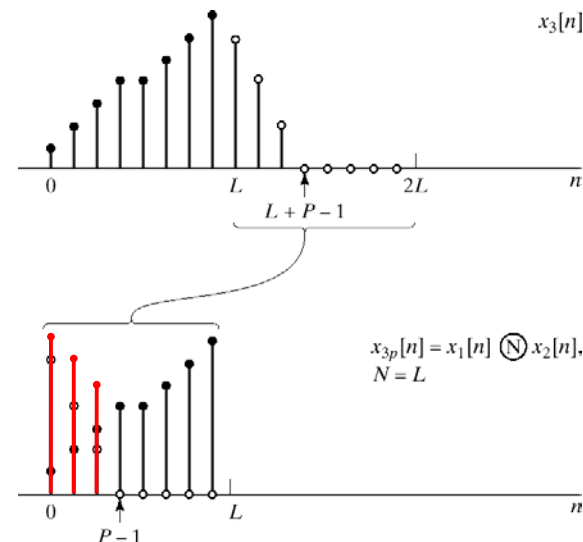
$$\tilde{x}_3[n] = \sum_{r=-\infty}^{\infty} x_3[n - rN] = x_3[n \text{ modulo } N] = x_3[\langle (n) \rangle_N]$$

- If we examine the values in the principal interval of  $n=0, \dots, L-1$ , what do we find?

## Aliased Convolution - 2



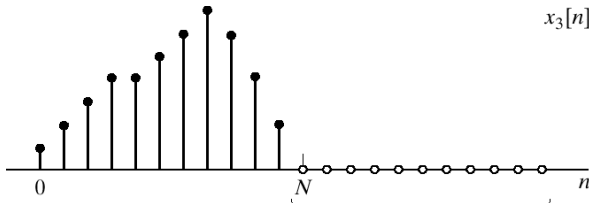
## Aliased Convolution - 3



Another way to view it: the second block of  $L$  samples is aliased back onto the first block of  $L$  samples

## Aliased Convolution - 4

$x_3[n]$



If the DFT is big enough, namely  $N \geq L + P - 1$ , then the “aliasing” simply overlaps zeroes onto the principal interval

$$x_{3p}[n] = x_1[n] \circledast x_2[n],$$

$$N = L + P - 1$$

