Impulse Response

$$u \xrightarrow{\qquad \qquad } \overbrace{\begin{array}{c} \dot{x} = Ax + Bu \\ y = Cx \end{array}}^{i} y$$

zero initial condition: x(0) = 0

Consider the input

$$u(t) = \delta(t - \tau)$$
 unit impulse applied at $t = \tau$

The system is *linear* and *time-invariant* (LTI), with zero I.C.:

$$u(t) = \delta(t - \tau) \qquad \xrightarrow{x(0)=0; \text{ LTI system}} \qquad y(t) = h(t - \tau)$$

The function h is the impulse response of the system.