Impulse Response

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

zero initial condition: x(0) = 0

Conclusion so far: for zero initial conditions, the output is the convolution of the input with the system impulse response:

$$y(t) = u(t) \star h(t) = h(t) \star u(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u(\tau)h(t-\tau)d\tau$$

Q: Does this formula provide a *practical* way of computing the output y for a given input u?

A: Not directly (computing convolutions is not exactly pleasant), but ...we can use Laplace transforms.