

The Laplace Transform[†]



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[†] Chapter 7 in the textbook.

Transform of a Function

- Some operators transform a function into another function:

Differentiation: $\frac{d}{dx} x^2 = 2x$, or $Dx^2 = 2x$

Indefinite Integration: $\int x^2 dx = \frac{x^3}{3} + c$

Definite Integration: $\int_0^3 x^2 dx = 9$

→ A function may have nicer property in the transformed domain!

Integral Transform

- If $f(x, y)$ is a function of two variables, then a definite integral of f w.r.t. one of the variable leads to a function of the other variable.

Example:
$$\int_1^2 2xy^2 dx = 3y^2$$

- Improper integral of a function defines how integration can be calculated over an infinite interval:

$$\int_0^{\infty} K(s, t) f(t) dt \equiv \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^b K(s, t) f(t) dt$$

Laplace Transform

- **Definition:** Let f be a function defined for $t \geq 0$, then the integral

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt$$

is said to be the **Laplace transform** of f , provided the integral converges.

The result of the Laplace transform is a function of s , usually referred to as $F(s)$.

Example: $\mathcal{L}\{1\}$

□ By definition:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}(1) &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} (1) dt = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^b e^{-st} dt \\ &= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left. \frac{-e^{-st}}{s} \right|_0^b = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-e^{-sb} + 1}{s} = \frac{1}{s},\end{aligned}$$

provided $s > 0$. The integral diverges for $s < 0$.

Example: $\mathcal{L}\{t\}$

□ By definition:
$$\mathcal{L}(t) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} t dt$$

Using integration by parts and apply l'Hospital's rule to get $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} t e^{-st} = 0, s > 0$, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{t\} &= \left. \frac{-te^{-st}}{s} \right|_0^{\infty} + \frac{1}{s} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{s} \mathcal{L}\{1\} = \frac{1}{s} \left(\frac{1}{s} \right) = \frac{1}{s^2}\end{aligned}$$

Example: $\mathcal{L}\{e^{at}\}$

□ By definition:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{e^{at}\} &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} e^{at} dt = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-(s-a)t} dt \\ &= \left. \frac{-e^{-(s-a)t}}{s-a} \right|_0^{\infty} \\ &= \frac{1}{s-a}, s > a\end{aligned}$$

Example: $\mathcal{L}\{t^n\}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$

□ Similarly, let $u = t^n$, $dv = e^{-st} dt$,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{t^n\} &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} t^n dt = -\frac{t^n}{s} e^{-st} \Big|_0^{\infty} + \int_0^{\infty} \frac{n}{s} e^{-st} t^{n-1} dt \\ &= \frac{n}{s} \mathcal{L}\{t^{n-1}\} = \frac{n(n-1)}{s^2} \mathcal{L}\{t^{n-2}\} = \dots = \frac{n(n-1)\cdots 2}{s^{n-1}} \mathcal{L}\{t\} \\ &= \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}, \quad s > 0.\end{aligned}$$

Example: $\mathcal{L}\{\sin 2t\}$

□ By definition:

$$\mathcal{L}\{\sin 2t\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} \sin 2t \, dt = \left. \frac{-e^{-st} \sin 2t}{s} \right|_0^{\infty} + \frac{2}{s} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} \cos 2t \, dt$$

$$= \frac{2}{s} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} \cos 2t \, dt, \quad s > 0$$

$$= \frac{2}{s} \left[\left. \frac{-e^{-st} \cos 2t}{s} \right|_0^{\infty} - \frac{2}{s} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} \sin 2t \, dt \right]$$

$$= \frac{2}{s^2} - \frac{4}{s^2} \mathcal{L}\{\sin 2t\} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}\{\sin 2t\} = \frac{2}{s^2 + 4}, \quad s > 0$$

Linearity of $\mathcal{L}\{\}$

- For a sum of functions, we can write

$$\int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} [\alpha f(t) + \beta g(t)] dt = \alpha \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt + \beta \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} g(t) dt$$

whenever both integrals converge for $s > c$, where c is some constant.

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{L}\{\alpha f(t) + \beta g(t)\} \\ &= \alpha \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} + \beta \mathcal{L}\{g(t)\} \\ &= \alpha F(s) + \beta G(s) \end{aligned}$$

Example: $\mathcal{L}\{3e^{2t} + 2\sin^2 3t\}$

$$\begin{aligned}\square \mathcal{L}\{3e^{2t} + 2\sin^2 3t\} &= 3\mathcal{L}\{e^{2t}\} + \mathcal{L}\{2\sin^2 3t\} \\ &= 3/(s - 2) + \mathcal{L}\{1 - \cos 6t\} \\ &= 3/(s - 2) + [1/s - s/(s^2 + 36)], s > 2.\end{aligned}$$

Transform of Basic Functions

$$\square \quad \mathcal{L}\{1\} = \frac{1}{s}$$

$$\square \quad \mathcal{L}\{t^n\} = \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$\square \quad \mathcal{L}\{\sin kt\} = \frac{k}{s^2 + k^2}$$

$$\square \quad \mathcal{L}\{\sinh kt\} = \frac{k}{s^2 - k^2}$$

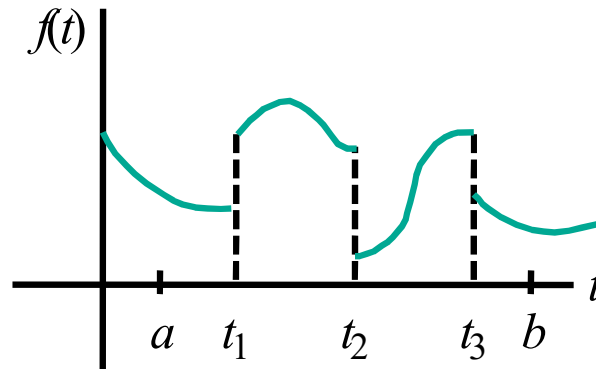
$$\square \quad \mathcal{L}\{e^{at}\} = \frac{1}{s-a}, \quad s > a$$

$$\square \quad \mathcal{L}\{\cos kt\} = \frac{s}{s^2 + k^2}$$

$$\square \quad \mathcal{L}\{\cosh kt\} = \frac{s}{s^2 - k^2}$$

Existence of $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$

- **Theorem:** If f is piecewise continuous on $[0, \infty)$, and that f is of exponential order for $t > T$, where T is a constant, then $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$ converges.

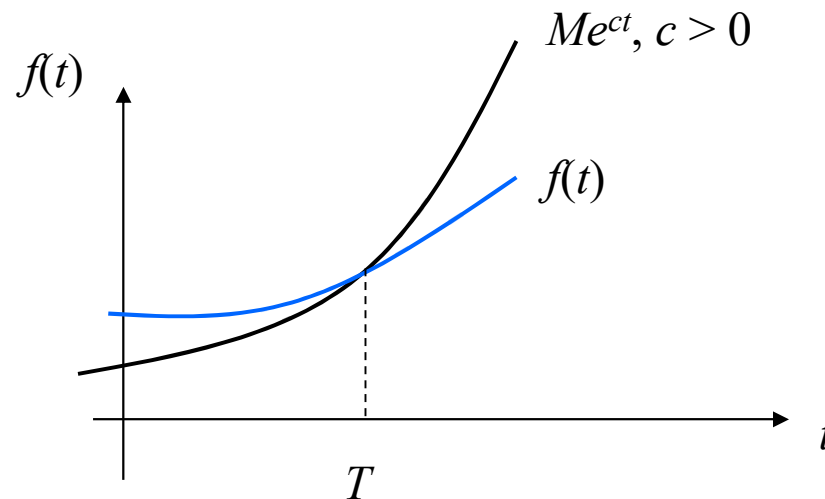


- **Definition:** A function f is said to be of exponential order c if there exists constants c , $M > 0$, and $T > 0$ such that $|f(t)| \leq Me^{ct}$ for all $t > T$.

Examples: Exponential Order

- The functions $f(t) = t$, $f(t) = e^{-t}$, and $f(t) = 2 \cos t$ are all of exponential order $c = 1$ for $t > 0$, since we have

$$|t| \leq e^t, |e^{-t}| \leq e^t, |2 \cos t| \leq 2e^t.$$



Proof of Existence of $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$

- By the additive interval property of definite integrals,

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \int_0^T e^{-st} f(t) dt + \int_T^\infty e^{-st} f(t) dt = I_1 + I_2$$

The integral I_1 exists (finite interval, f piecewise continuous). Now,

$$\begin{aligned} |I_2| &\leq \int_T^\infty |e^{-st} f(t)| dt \leq M \int_T^\infty e^{-st} e^{ct} dt \\ &= M \int_T^\infty e^{-(s-c)t} dt = -M \frac{e^{-(s-c)t}}{s-c} \Big|_T^\infty = M \frac{e^{-(s-c)T}}{s-c}, \quad s > c. \end{aligned}$$

→ I_2 exists as well → $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$ converges.

Example: Transform of Piecewise $f(t)$

□ Evaluate $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$ for

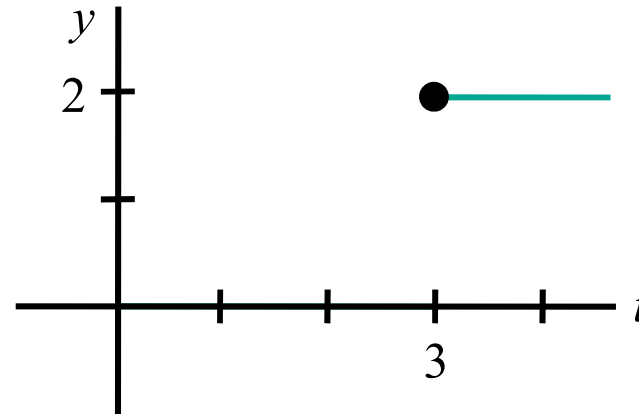
$$f(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 \leq t < 3 \\ 2, & t \geq 3. \end{cases}$$

Solution:

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt$$

$$= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt = \int_0^3 (e^{-st} \cdot 0) dt + \int_3^{\infty} 2e^{-st} dt$$

$$= -\frac{2e^{-st}}{s} \Big|_3^{\infty} = \frac{2e^{-3s}}{s}, \quad s > 0.$$



Behavior of $F(s)$ as $s \rightarrow \infty$

- If f is piecewise continuous on $[0, \infty)$ and of exponential order for $t > T$, then $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = 0$.

Proof:

Since $f(t)$ is piecewise continuous on $0 \leq t \leq T$, it is necessarily bounded on the interval. That is

$|f(t)| \leq M_1 e^{0t}$. Also, $|f(t)| \leq M_2 e^{\gamma t}$ for $t > T$. If M denotes the maximum of $\{M_1, M_2\}$ and c denotes the maximum of $\{0, \gamma\}$, then for $s > c$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} &\leq \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} |f(t)| dt \leq M \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} \cdot e^{ct} dt \\ &= -M \frac{e^{-(s-c)t}}{s-c} \Big|_0^{\infty} = \frac{M}{s-c} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } s \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Inverse Laplace Transform

- If $F(s)$ is the Laplace transform of a function $f(t)$, namely, $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = F(s)$, then we say that $f(t)$ is the inverse Laplace transform of $F(s)$, that is,

$$f(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)\}.$$

- Example:

$$1 = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{1/s\}, \quad t = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{1/s^2\}, \quad \text{and} \quad e^{-3t} = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{1/(s+3)\}.$$

Examples: Inverse Transforms

- Evaluate $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{1/s^5\}$

Solution:

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s^5}\right\} = \frac{1}{4!} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{4!}{s^5}\right\} = \frac{1}{24} t^4$$

- Evaluate $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{1/(s^2 + 7)\}$

Solution:

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s^2 + 7}\right\} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{7}} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{\sqrt{7}}{s^2 + 7}\right\} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{7}} \sin \sqrt{7}t$$

Linearity of $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{\}$

- The inverse Laplace transform is also a linear transform; that is, for constant α and β ,

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{\alpha F(s) + \beta G(s)\} = \alpha \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)\} + \beta \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{G(s)\}$$

- Example: Evaluate $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{(-2s + 6) / (s^2 + 4)\}$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{-2s + 6}{s^2 + 4}\right\} &= \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{-2s}{s^2 + 4} + \frac{6}{s^2 + 4}\right\} \\ &= -2\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s}{s^2 + 4}\right\} + \frac{6}{2}\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{2}{s^2 + 4}\right\} \\ &= -2\cos 2t + 3\sin 2t\end{aligned}$$

Example: Partial Fractions (1/2)

□ Evaluate

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{s^2 + 6s + 9}{(s-1)(s-2)(s+4)} \right\}$$

Solution:

There exists unique constants A, B, C such that:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{s^2 + 6s + 9}{(s-1)(s-2)(s+4)} &= \frac{A}{s-1} + \frac{B}{s-2} + \frac{C}{s+4} \\ &= \frac{A(s-2)(s+4) + B(s-1)(s+4) + C(s-1)(s-2)}{(s-1)(s-2)(s+4)} \end{aligned}$$

By comparing terms, we have

Example: Partial Fractions (2/2)

Partial fractions:

$$\frac{s^2 + 6s + 9}{(s-1)(s-2)(s+4)} = \frac{\frac{16}{5}}{(s-1)} + \frac{\frac{25}{6}}{(s-2)} + \frac{\frac{1}{30}}{(s+4)}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{s^2 + 6s + 9}{(s-1)(s-2)(s+4)} \right\} \\ &= -\frac{16}{5} \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s-1} \right\} + \frac{25}{6} \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s-2} \right\} + \frac{1}{30} \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s+4} \right\} \\ &= -\frac{16}{5} e^t + \frac{25}{6} e^{2t} + \frac{1}{30} e^{-4t} \end{aligned}$$

Partial Fraction Decompositions

- Inverse Laplace transform usually involves partial fractions decomposition, let $P(s)$ be a polynomial function with degree less than n :

- Linear factor decomposition:

$$\frac{P(s)}{(s-a)^n} = \frac{A_1}{s-a} + \frac{A_2}{(s-a)^2} + \dots + \frac{A_n}{(s-a)^n},$$

where A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n are constants.

- Quadratic factor decomposition

$$\frac{P(s)}{[(s-a)^2 + b^2]^n} = \frac{A_1s + B_1}{(s-a)^2 + b^2} + \frac{A_2s + B_2}{[(s-a)^2 + b^2]^2} + \dots + \frac{A_ns + B_n}{[(s-a)^2 + b^2]^n},$$

where A_1, \dots, A_n and B_1, \dots, B_n are constants.

Transforming a Derivative

- What is the Laplace transform of $f'(t)$?

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{f'(t)\} &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f'(t) dt = e^{-st} f(t) \Big|_0^{\infty} + s \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt \\ &= -f(0) + s\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\mathcal{L}\{f'(t)\} = sF(s) - f(0)$$

→ Note that this derivation only works if $f'(t)$ is a continuous function

Derivative Transform Theorem

- **Theorem:** If the function $f(t)$ is continuous and piecewise smooth for $t \geq 0$ and is of exponential order as $t \rightarrow +\infty$, so that there exist nonnegative constants M , c , and T such that

$$|f(t)| \leq Me^{ct} \quad \text{for } t \geq T.$$

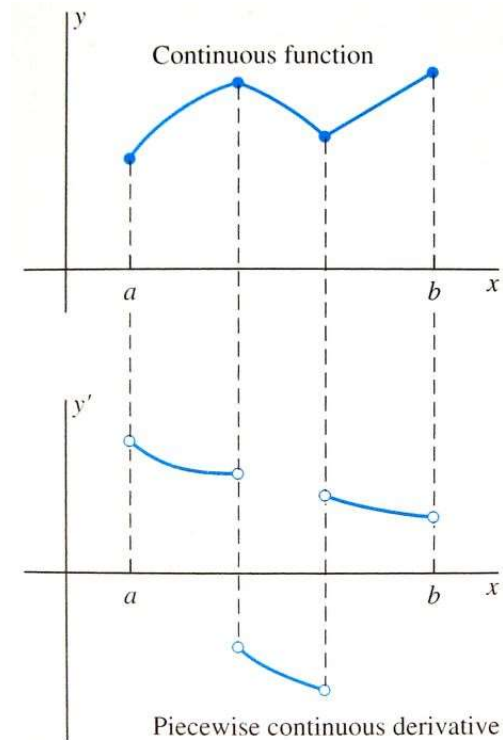
Then $\mathcal{L}\{f'(t)\}$ exists for $s > c$, and

$$\mathcal{L}\{f'(t)\} = sF(s) - f(0).$$

Proof:

Perform (finite) piece-by-piece integration of

$$\int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f'(t) dt$$



General Derivative Transform

- **Theorem:** If $f, f', \dots, f^{(n-1)}$ are continuous on $[0, \infty)$ and are of exponential order and if $f^{(n)}(t)$ is piecewise continuous on $[0, \infty)$, then

$$\mathcal{L}\{f^{(n)}(t)\} = s^n F(s) - s^{n-1} f(0) - s^{n-2} f'(0) - \dots - f^{(n-1)}(0),$$

where $F(s) = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$.

Solving Linear IVPs (1/2)

- The Laplace transform of a linear DE with constant coefficients becomes an algebraic equation in $X(s)$.

That is,

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{a_n \frac{d^n x}{dt^n} + a_{n-1} \frac{d^{n-1} x}{dt^{n-1}} + \cdots + a_0 x\right\} = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$$

becomes

$$a_n \mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{d^n x}{dt^n}\right\} + a_{n-1} \mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{d^{n-1} x}{dt^{n-1}}\right\} + \cdots + a_0 \mathcal{L}\{x\} = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\},$$

or

$$a_n [s^n X(s) - s^{n-1}x(0) - s^{n-2}x'(0) - \cdots - x^{(n-1)}(0)] \\ + a_{n-1} [s^{n-1}X(s) - s^{n-2}x(0) - \cdots - x^{(n-2)}(0)] + \cdots + a_0 X(s) = F(s)$$

Solving Linear IVPs (2/2)

- Given initial conditions $x(0) = x_0, x'(0) = x_1, \dots, x^{(n-1)}(0) = x_{n-1}$, we have $Z(s)X(s) = I(s) + F(s)$, or

$$X(s) = \underbrace{\frac{I(s)}{Z(s)}}_{\text{transient behavior}} + \underbrace{\frac{F(s)}{Z(s)}}_{\text{steady state behavior}}$$

where $Z(s) = a_n s^n + a_{n-1} s^{n-1} + \dots + a_0$ and

$$\begin{aligned} I(s) = & (a_n s^{n-1} + a_{n-1} s^{n-2} + \dots + a_1)x(0) \\ & + (a_n s^{n-2} + a_{n-1} s^{n-3} + \dots + a_2)x'(0) \\ & + \dots + a_n x^{(n-1)}(0). \end{aligned}$$

Example: $\frac{dy}{dt} + 3y = 13 \sin 2t$, $y(0) = 6$ (1/2)

□ Since

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{dy}{dt}\right\} + 3\mathcal{L}\{y\} = 13\mathcal{L}\{\sin 2t\},$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{dy/dt\} = sY(s) - y(0) = sY(s) - 6, \text{ and}$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{\sin 2t\} = 2/(s^2 + 4), \text{ we have}$$

$$sY(s) - 6 + 3Y(s) = \frac{26}{s^2 + 4},$$

or

$$(s + 3)Y(s) = 6 + \frac{26}{s^2 + 4},$$

$$\rightarrow Y(s) = \frac{6}{(s + 3)} + \frac{26}{(s + 3)(s^2 + 4)} = \frac{6s^2 + 50}{(s + 3)(s^2 + 4)}.$$

Example: $\frac{dy}{dt} + 3y = 13 \sin 2t$, $y(0) = 6$ (2/2)

Assume that

$$\frac{6s^2 + 50}{(s + 3)(s^2 + 4)} = \frac{A}{s + 3} + \frac{Bs + C}{s^2 + 4},$$

we have $A = 8$, $B = -2$, $C = 6$. Therefore

$$y(t) = 8\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s + 3}\right\} - 2\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s}{s^2 + 4}\right\} + 3\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{2}{s^2 + 4}\right\}$$

$$\rightarrow y(t) = 8e^{-3t} - 2 \cos 2t + 3 \sin 2t$$

Example: $y'' - 3y' + 2y = e^{-4t}$, $y(0) = 1$, $y'(0) = 5$

□ Solution:

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{d^2y}{dt^2}\right\} - 3\mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{dy}{dt}\right\} + 2\mathcal{L}\{y\} = \mathcal{L}\{e^{-4t}\}$$

$$s^2Y(s) - sy(0) - y'(0) - 3[sY(s) - y(0)] + 2Y(s) = \frac{1}{s+4}$$

$$Y(s) = \frac{s+2}{s^2-3s+2} + \frac{1}{(s^2-3s+2)(s+4)}$$

$$= \frac{s^2+6s+9}{(s-1)(s-2)(s+4)}$$

$$\rightarrow y(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{Y(s)\} = -\frac{16}{5}e^t + \frac{25}{6}e^{2t} + \frac{1}{30}e^{-4t}$$

s -axis Translation Theorem

- **Theorem:** If $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = F(s)$ and a is any real number, then

$$\mathcal{L}\{e^{at}f(t)\} = F(s - a).$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{e^{at}f(t)\} &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} e^{at} f(t) dt \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-(s-a)t} f(t) dt, \quad s > a \\ &= F(s - a), \quad s > a.\end{aligned}$$

Example: $\mathcal{L}\{e^{5t}t^3\}$ and $\mathcal{L}\{e^{-2t}\cos 4t\}$

□ Solution:

$$\mathcal{L}\{e^{5t}t^3\} = \mathcal{L}\{t^3\}_{s \rightarrow s-5} = \frac{3!}{s^4} \Big|_{s \rightarrow s-5} = \frac{6}{(s-5)^4}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{e^{-2t}\cos 4t\} &= \mathcal{L}\{\cos 4t\}_{s \rightarrow s-(-2)} \\ &= \frac{s}{s^2 + 16} \Big|_{s \rightarrow s+2} = \frac{s+2}{(s+2)^2 + 16} \end{aligned}$$

Inverse of s -axis Translation

- The inverse Laplace transform of $F(s - a)$, can be computed multiplying $f(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)\}$ by e^{at} :

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s - a)\} = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)|_{s \rightarrow s-a}\} = e^{at} f(t)$$

- Example: Compute $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{(2s+5)/(s-3)^2\}$.

Since $\frac{2s+5}{(s-3)^2} = \frac{2s+11}{s^2} \Big|_{s \rightarrow s-3}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{2s+11}{s^2} \Big|_{s \rightarrow s-3}\right\} &= 2\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s} \Big|_{s \rightarrow s-3}\right\} + 11\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s^2} \Big|_{s \rightarrow s-3}\right\} \\ &= 2e^{3t} + 11e^{3t}t. \end{aligned}$$

Example: $y'' - 6y' + 9y = t^2 e^{3t}$

- Solve the DE with initial conditions $y(0) = 2, y'(0) = 17$.

$$s^2 Y(s) - sy(0) - y'(0) - 6(sY(s) - y(0)) + 9Y(s) = \frac{2!}{(s-3)^3}$$

$$\begin{aligned} Y(s) &= \frac{2s+5}{(s-3)^2} + \frac{2}{(s-3)^5} \\ &= \frac{2s+11}{s^2} \Big|_{s \rightarrow s-3} + \frac{2}{s^5} \Big|_{s \rightarrow s-3} \end{aligned}$$

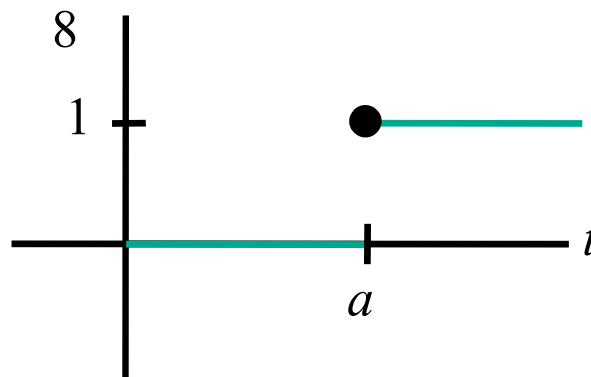
$$\begin{aligned} y(t) &= 2\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s} \Big|_{s \rightarrow s-3} \right\} + 11\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s^2} \Big|_{s \rightarrow s-3} \right\} + \frac{2}{4!} \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{4!}{s^5} \Big|_{s \rightarrow s-3} \right\} \\ &= 2e^{3t} + 11te^{3t} + \frac{1}{12}t^4 e^{3t}. \end{aligned}$$

Unit Step Function

- The unit step function $u(t - a)$ is defined to be

$$u(t - a) = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 \leq t < a \\ 1, & t \geq a \end{cases}$$

$u(t - a)$ is often denoted as $u_a(t)$. Note that $u_a(t)$ is only defined on the non-negative axis since the Laplace transform is only defined on this domain.



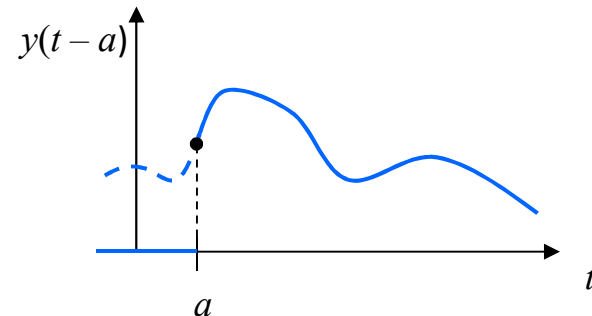
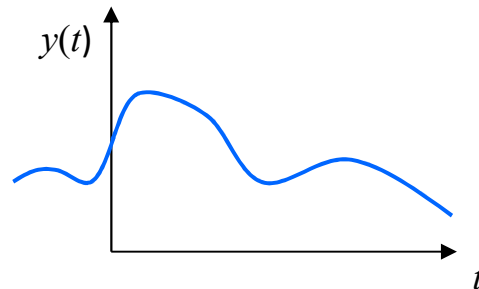
Rewrite of a Piecewise Function

- A piecewise defined function can be rewritten in a compact form using $u(t - a)$.

For example,

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} g(t), & 0 \leq t < a \\ h(t), & t \geq a \end{cases}$$

is the same as $f(t) = g(t) - g(t)u(t - a) + h(t)u(t - a)$.



Laplace Transform of $u(t - a)$, $a > 0$

□ By definition,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{u(t - a)\} &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} u(t - a) dt = \int_a^{\infty} e^{-st} dt \\ &= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[-\frac{e^{-st}}{s} \right]_{t=a}^b.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\mathcal{L}\{u(t - a)\} = \frac{e^{-as}}{s} \quad (s > 0, a > 0).$$

t -axis Translation Theorem

□ **Theorem:** If $F(s) = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$ and $a > 0$, then
 $\mathcal{L}\{f(t-a)u(t-a)\} = e^{-as}F(s)$.

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t-a)u(t-a) dt \\ &= \int_0^a e^{-st} f(t-a)u(t-a) dt + \int_a^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t-a)u(t-a) dt \\ &= \int_a^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t-a) dt \end{aligned}$$

Let $v = t - a$, $dv = dt$,

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t-a)u(t-a)\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-s(v+a)} f(v) dv = e^{-as} \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$$

Inverse of t -axis Translation

- If $f(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)\}$ and $a > 0$, the inverse form of the t -axis translation theorem is:

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{e^{-as}F(s)\} = f(t-a)u(t-a).$$

- Example:

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{e^{-as}}{s^3}\right\} = u(t-a)\frac{1}{2}(t-a)^2 = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } t < a \\ \frac{1}{2}(t-a)^2, & \text{if } t \geq a \end{cases}$$

Alternative Form of t -axis Translation

- For $g(t)u(t - a)$, we can derive an alternative form:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{g(t)u(t - a)\} &= \int_a^\infty e^{-st} g(t) dt = \int_0^\infty e^{-s(v+a)} g(v+a) dv \\ &= e^{-sa} \int_0^\infty e^{-sv} g(v+a) dv = e^{-as} \mathcal{L}\{g(t+a)\}\end{aligned}$$

$$\rightarrow \mathcal{L}\{g(t)u(t - a)\} = e^{-as} \mathcal{L}\{g(t+a)\}.$$

- Example: Since $g(t + \pi) = \cos(t + \pi) = -\cos t$,

$$\mathcal{L}\{\cos t u(t - \pi)\} = e^{-\pi s} \mathcal{L}\{-\cos t\} = -\frac{s}{s^2 + 1} e^{-\pi s}.$$

Example: $y' + y = f(t)$, $y(0) = 5$, $f(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 \leq t < \pi \\ 3 \cos t, & t \geq \pi \end{cases}$

- Note that $f(t) = 3 \cos t u(t - \pi)$, we have
 $\mathcal{L}\{y'\} + \mathcal{L}\{y\} = 3 \mathcal{L}\{\cos t u(t - \pi)\}$,

$$Y(s) = \frac{5}{s+1} - \frac{3}{2} \left[-\frac{1}{s+1} e^{-\pi s} + \frac{1}{s^2+1} e^{-\pi s} + \frac{s}{s^2+1} e^{-\pi s} \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) &= 5e^{-t} + \left[\frac{3}{2} e^{-(t-\pi)} - \frac{3}{2} \sin(t-\pi) - \frac{3}{2} \cos(t-\pi) \right] u(t-\pi) \\ &= 5e^{-t} + \left[\frac{3}{2} e^{-(t-\pi)} + \frac{3}{2} \sin(t) + \frac{3}{2} \cos(t) \right] u(t-\pi). \end{aligned}$$

Derivatives of Transforms

- **Theorem:** If $f(t)$ is piecewise continuous and $f(t)$ is of exponential order, then

$$\mathcal{L}\{-tf(t)\} = \frac{d}{ds} \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = F'(s).$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{ds} F(s) &= \frac{d}{ds} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\partial}{\partial s} [e^{-st} f(t)] dt \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} -e^{-st} t f(t) dt = \mathcal{L}\{-tf(t)\} \end{aligned}$$

#

Note:

$$\mathcal{L}\{tf(t)\} = -\frac{d}{ds} \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} \rightarrow f(t) = -\frac{1}{t} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F'(s)\}$$

n th-Order Derivatives of Transforms

□ **Theorem:** If $F(s) = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$ and $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, then

$$\mathcal{L}\{t^n f(t)\} = (-1)^n \frac{d^n}{ds^n} F(s)$$

Proof:

The proof can be done by mathematical induction. Here, we only check the 2nd-order case.

$$\mathcal{L}\{t^2 f(t)\} = \mathcal{L}\{t \cdot tf(t)\} = -\frac{d}{ds} \mathcal{L}\{tf(t)\} = \frac{d^2}{ds^2} \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$$

□ **Example:** Compute $\mathcal{L}\{t \sin kt\}$.

$$\mathcal{L}\{t \sin kt\} = -\frac{d}{ds} \mathcal{L}\{\sin kt\} = -\frac{d}{ds} \left(\frac{k}{s^2 + k^2} \right) = \frac{2ks}{(s^2 + k^2)^2}$$

Convolution of Two Functions

- If f and g are piecewise continuous on $[0, \infty)$, then a special product, denoted by $f * g$, is defined by the integral

$$f * g = \int_0^t f(\tau)g(t-\tau)d\tau$$

and is called the convolution of f and g . The convolution is a function of t . Note that $f * g = g * f$.

- Example:

$$e^t * \sin t = \int_0^t e^\tau \sin(t-\tau)d\tau = \frac{1}{2}(-\sin t - \cos t + e^t).$$

Convolution Theorem

- **Theorem:** If $f(t)$ and $g(t)$ are piecewise continuous on $[0, \infty)$ and of exponential order, then

$$\mathcal{L}\{f * g\} = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}\mathcal{L}\{g(t)\} = F(s)G(s).$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} F(s)G(s) &= \left(\int_0^{\infty} e^{-s\tau} f(\tau) d\tau \right) \left(\int_0^{\infty} e^{-s\beta} g(\beta) d\beta \right) \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} f(\tau) \left(\int_0^{\infty} e^{-s(\tau+\beta)} g(\beta) d\beta \right) d\tau. \end{aligned}$$

Let $t = \tau + \beta$, $dt = d\beta$, so that

$$F(s)G(s) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} \left(\int_0^{\infty} f(\tau) g(t - \tau) d\tau \right) dt = \mathcal{L}\{f * g\}.$$

Example: Compute $\mathcal{L}\left\{\int_0^t e^\tau \sin(t-\tau)d\tau\right\}$

□ Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\left\{\int_0^t e^\tau \sin(t-\tau)d\tau\right\} &= \mathcal{L}\{e^t\} \cdot \mathcal{L}\{\sin t\} \\ &= \frac{1}{s-1} \cdot \frac{1}{s^2+1} = \frac{1}{(s-1)(s^2+1)}\end{aligned}$$

Inverse Form of Convolution

□ **Theorem:**

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)G(s)\} = f * g.$$

□ **Example:** $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{(s^2 + k^2)^2}\right\}$

Let $F(s) = G(s) = 1/(s^2 + k^2)$,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{(s^2 + k^2)^2}\right\} &= \frac{1}{k^2} \int_0^t \sin k\tau \sin k(t - \tau) d\tau, \\ &= \frac{1}{2k^2} \int_0^t [\cos k(2\tau - t) - \cos kt] d\tau = \frac{\sin kt - kt \cos kt}{2k^3}.\end{aligned}$$

† $\sin A \sin B = [\cos(A - B) - \cos(A + B)]/2$.

Transforms of Integrals

- **Theorem:** The Laplace transform of the integral of a piecewise continuous function $f(t)$ of exponential order is

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{\int_0^t f(\tau)d\tau\right\} = \frac{F(s)}{s}.$$

The inverse form is:

$$\int_0^t f(\tau)d\tau = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{F(s)}{s}\right\}.$$

(Recall that: $\mathcal{L}\{f'(t)\} = sF(s) - f(0)$).

Proof of Transform of Integrals

- Since $f(t)$ is piecewise continuous, by fundamental theorem of calculus, if $g(t) = \int_0^t f(\tau) d\tau$, $g(t)$ is continuous and $g'(t) = f(t)$ where $f(t)$ is continuous. Because $f(t)$ is of exponential order, there exists constants M and c such that

$$|g(t)| \leq \int_0^t |f(\tau)| d\tau \leq M \int_0^t e^{c\tau} d\tau = \frac{M}{c} (e^{ct} - 1) < \frac{M}{c} e^{ct}.$$

→ $g(t)$ is of exponential order as $t \rightarrow +\infty$.

Thus, $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \mathcal{L}\{g'(t)\} = s\mathcal{L}\{g(t)\} - g(0)$.

But $g(0) = 0$, therefore,

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{\int_0^t f(\tau) d\tau\right\} = \mathcal{L}\{g(t)\} = \frac{F(s)}{s}.$$

Example: Inverse by Integration

□ Starting with $f(t) = \sin t$, $F(s) = 1/(s^2+1)$ we have:

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s(s^2+1)}\right\} = \int_0^t \sin \tau \, d\tau = 1 - \cos t,$$

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s^2(s^2+1)}\right\} = \int_0^t (1 - \cos \tau) \, d\tau = t - \sin t,$$

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s^3(s^2+1)}\right\} = \int_0^t (\tau - \sin \tau) \, d\tau = \frac{1}{2}t^2 - 1 + \cos t.$$

Integral Equations

- We can use convolution theorem to solve differential equations as well as “integral equations”.

For example, the Volterra integral equation:

$$f(t) = g(t) + \int_0^t f(\tau)h(t-\tau) d\tau,$$

where $g(t)$ and $h(t)$ are known.

Example: $f(t) = 3t^2 - e^{-t} - \int_0^t f(\tau)e^{t-\tau} d\tau.$

- Solution: notice that $h(t) = e^t$. Take the Laplace transform of each term:

$$\begin{aligned} F(s) &= 3 \cdot \frac{2}{s^3} - \frac{1}{s+1} - F(s) \cdot \frac{1}{s-1} \\ &= \frac{6}{s^3} - \frac{6}{s^4} + \frac{1}{s} - \frac{2}{s+1}. \end{aligned}$$

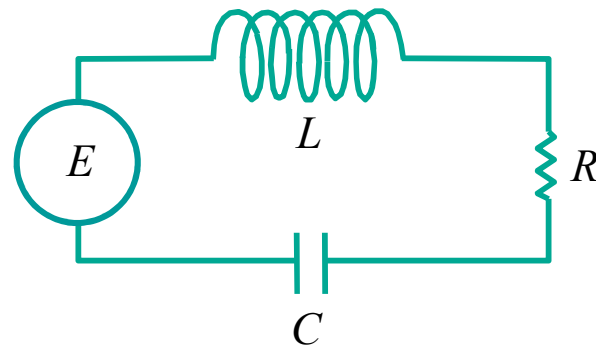
The inverse transform then gives:

$$f(t) = 3t^2 - t^3 + 1 - 2e^{-t}.$$

Series Circuits

- The current in a circuit is governed by the integrodifferential equation

$$L \frac{di(t)}{dt} + Ri(t) + \frac{1}{C} \int_0^t i(\tau) d\tau = E(t).$$



Example: Single-loop LRC Circuit

- Given $L = 0.1\text{h}$, $R = 2\Omega$, $C = 0.1\text{f}$, $i(0) = 0$, and $E(t) = 120t - 120t\mathcal{U}(t - 1)$, find $i(t)$.

Solution:

Since
$$0.1 \frac{di}{dt} + 2i + 10 \int_0^t i(\tau) d\tau = 120t - 120t\mathcal{U}(t - 1),$$

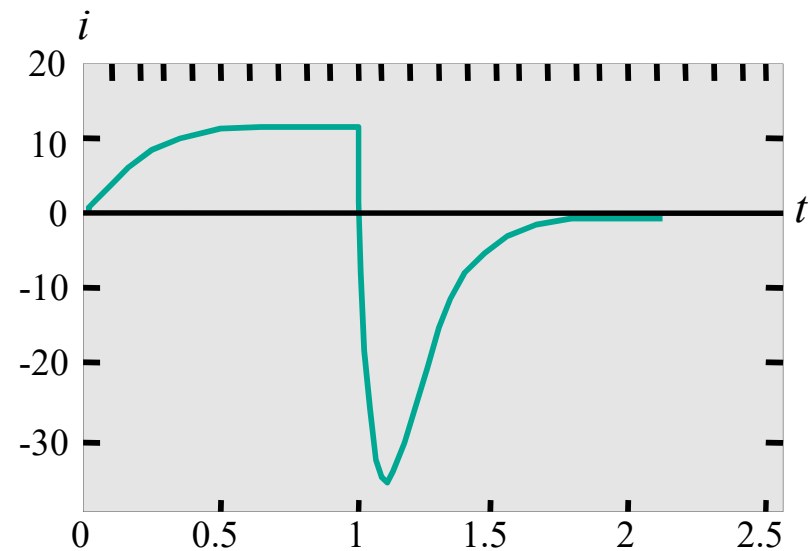
and $\mathcal{L}\left\{\int_0^t i(\tau) d\tau\right\} = I(s)/s$, we have

$$0.1sI(s) + 2I(s) + 10 \frac{I(s)}{s} = 120 \left[\frac{1}{s^2} - \frac{1}{s^2} e^{-s} - \frac{1}{s} e^{-s} \right].$$

$$\rightarrow I(s) = 1200 \left[\frac{1}{s(s+10)^2} - \frac{1}{s(s+10)^2} e^{-s} - \frac{1}{(s+10)^2} e^{-s} \right].$$

Example: continued

$$\rightarrow \begin{cases} 12 - 12e^{-10t} - 120te^{-10t}, & 0 \leq t < 1 \\ -12e^{-10t} + 12e^{-10(t-1)} - 120te^{-10t} - 1080(t-1)e^{-10(t-1)}, & t \geq 1 \end{cases}$$



Transform of a Periodic Function

- If a periodic function f has period T , $T > 0$, then $f(t + T) = f(t)$. The Laplace transform of a periodic function can be obtained by integration over one period.
- **Theorem:** If $f(t)$ is piecewise continuous on $[0, \infty)$, of exponential order, and periodic with period T , then

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \frac{1}{1 - e^{-sT}} \int_0^T e^{-st} f(t) dt.$$

Proof of Periodic Transform Theorem

□ **Proof:**

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \int_0^T e^{-st} f(t) dt + \int_T^\infty e^{-st} f(t) dt,$$

let $t = u + T$, then the 2nd term becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \int_T^\infty e^{-st} f(t) dt &= \int_0^\infty e^{-s(u+T)} f(u+T) du \\ &= e^{-sT} \int_0^\infty e^{-su} f(u) du = e^{-sT} \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \int_0^T e^{-st} f(t) dt + e^{-sT} \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$$

$$\rightarrow \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \frac{1}{1 - e^{-sT}} \int_0^T e^{-st} f(t) dt.$$

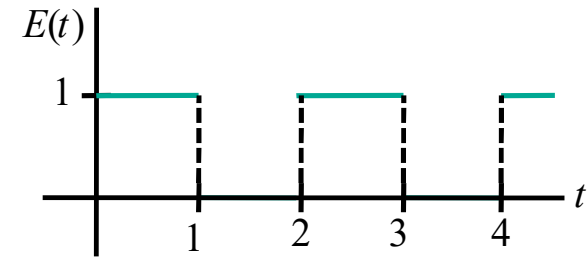
Example: Square-Wave Transform

- Find the transform of a square-wave.

Solution:

One period of $E(t)$ can be defined as:

$$E(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & 0 \leq t < 1 \\ 0, & 1 \leq t < 2 \end{cases}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{E(t)\} &= \frac{1}{1-e^{-2s}} \int_0^2 e^{-st} E(t) dt \\ &= \frac{1}{1-e^{-2s}} \left[\int_0^1 e^{-st} \cdot 1 dt + \int_1^2 e^{-st} \cdot 0 dt \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{1-e^{-2s}} \cdot \frac{1-e^{-s}}{s} = \frac{1}{s(1+e^{-s})}. \end{aligned}$$

Example: Periodic Input Voltage (1/3)

- The DE for $i(t)$ in a single-loop LR series circuit is

$$L \frac{di}{dt} + Ri = E(t).$$

Determine $i(t)$ when $i(0) = 0$ and $E(t)$ is the square-wave as in the previous example.

Solution:

$$LsI(s) + RI(s) = \frac{1}{s(1+e^{-s})} \rightarrow I(s) = \frac{1/L}{s(s+R/L)} \cdot \frac{1}{(1+e^{-s})}$$

Since

$$\frac{1}{1+x} = 1 - x + x^2 - x^3 + \dots \rightarrow \frac{1}{1+e^{-s}} = 1 - e^{-s} + e^{-2s} - e^{-3s} + \dots$$

Example: Periodic Input Voltage (2/3)

Since
$$\frac{1}{s(s + R/L)} = \frac{L/R}{s} - \frac{L/R}{s + R/L},$$

we have

$$I(s) = \frac{1}{R} \left(\frac{1}{s} - \frac{1}{s + R/L} \right) (1 - e^{-s} + e^{-2s} - e^{-3s} + \dots).$$

By applying the t -axis translation theorem:

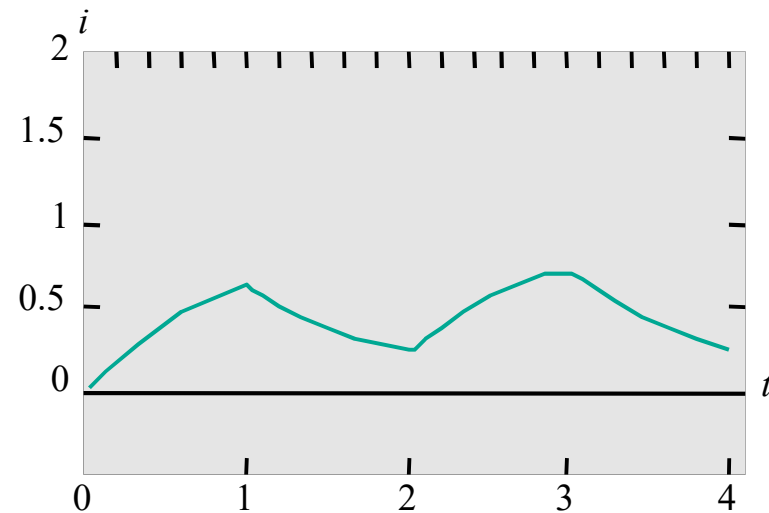
$$i(t) = \frac{1}{R} (1 - u(t-1) + u(t-2) - u(t-3) + \dots) \\ - \frac{1}{R} (e^{-Rt/L} - e^{-R(t-1)/L} u(t-1) + e^{-R(t-2)/L} u(t-2) - \dots)$$

Example: Periodic Input Voltage (3/3)

Therefore

$$i(t) = \frac{1}{R} (1 - e^{-Rt/L}) + \frac{1}{R} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n (1 - e^{-R(t-n)/L}) u(t-n).$$

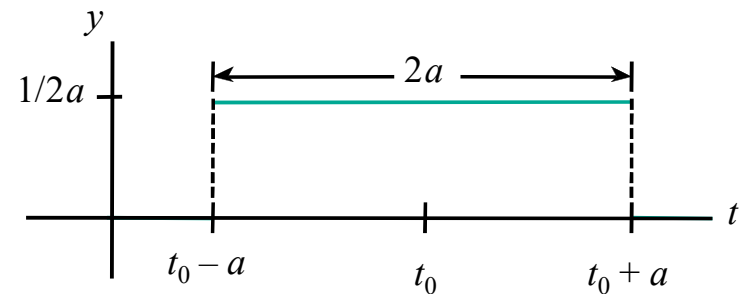
For example, if $R = 1$, $L = 1$, and $0 \leq t < 4$, we have



Unit Impulse

- Quite often, the input to a physical system is a short period, large magnitude function. This type of function can be described by

$$\delta_a(t-t_0) = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 \leq t < t_0 - a \\ \frac{1}{2a}, & t_0 - a \leq t < t_0 + a \\ 0, & t \geq t_0 + a \end{cases}$$



The function $\delta_a(t-t_0)$ is called unit impulse because

$$\int_0^{\infty} \delta_a(t-t_0) dt = 1.$$

Dirac Delta Function

- Define $\delta(t - t_0) = \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} \delta_a(t - t_0)$. The function $\delta(t - t_0)$ is called Dirac delta function. $\delta(t - t_0)$ is characterized by:

$$(i) \delta(t - t_0) = \begin{cases} \infty, & t = t_0 \\ 0, & t \neq t_0 \end{cases},$$

$$(ii) \int_0^{\infty} \delta(t - t_0) dt = 1.$$

Transform of $\delta(t - t_0)$

□ **Theorem:** For $t > 0$, $\mathcal{L}\{\delta(t - t_0)\} = e^{-st_0}$.

Proof:

$$\delta_a(t - t_0) = \frac{1}{2a} [u(t - (t_0 - a)) - u(t - (t_0 + a))],$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{\delta_a(t - t_0)\} = \frac{1}{2a} \left[\frac{e^{-s(t_0 - a)}}{s} - \frac{e^{-s(t_0 + a)}}{s} \right] = e^{-st_0} \left(\frac{e^{sa} - e^{-sa}}{2sa} \right),$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{\delta(t - t_0)\} = \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{L}\{\delta_a(t - t_0)\} = e^{-st_0} \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{e^{sa} - e^{-sa}}{2sa} \right) = e^{-st_0}.$$

Note that $\mathcal{L}\{\delta(t)\} = 1$. $\delta(t)$ is not a “normal” function since $\mathcal{L}\{\delta(t)\} \rightarrow 1$ as $s \rightarrow \infty$.

Example: Two IVPs (1/2)

- Solve $y'' + y = 4\delta(t - 2\pi)$, with initial conditions
(a) $y(0) = 1, y'(0) = 0$, and (b) $y(0) = 0, y'(0) = 0$.

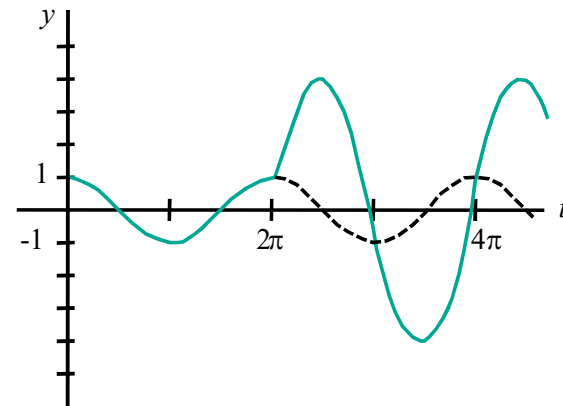
Solution (a):

The Laplace transform is: $s^2 Y(s) - s + Y(s) = 4e^{-2\pi s}$,

$$Y(s) = \frac{s}{s^2 + 1} + \frac{4e^{-2\pi s}}{s^2 + 1}.$$

$$\rightarrow y(t) = \cos t + 4 \sin(t - 2\pi)u(t - 2\pi).$$

$$\rightarrow y(t) = \begin{cases} \cos t, & 0 \leq t < 2\pi \\ \cos t + 4 \sin t, & t \geq 2\pi \end{cases}.$$



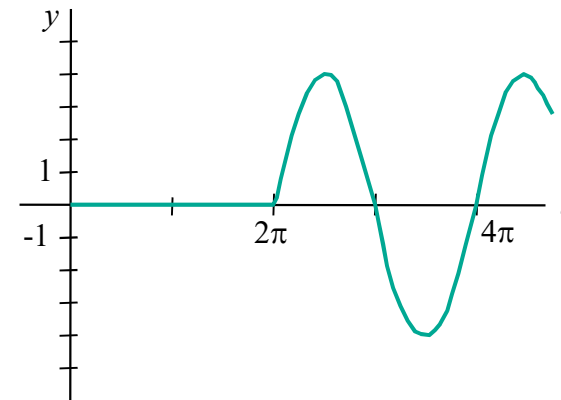
Example: Two IVPs (2/2)

- Solution (b)

The Laplace transform is $Y(s) = \frac{4e^{-2\pi s}}{s^2 + 1}$.

Therefore,

$$y(t) = 4 \sin(t - 2\pi)u(t - 2\pi) \\ = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 \leq t < 2\pi \\ 4 \sin t, & t \geq 2\pi \end{cases}.$$



Impulse Response

- Consider a 2nd-order linear system with unit impulse input at $t = 0$:

$$a_2x'' + a_1x' + a_0x = \delta(t), \quad x(0) = 0, \quad x'(0) = 0.$$

Applying Laplace transform to the system:

$$X(s) = \frac{1}{a_2s^2 + a_1s + a_0} = \frac{1}{Z(s)} = W(s) \rightarrow x(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{Z(s)}\right\} = w(t).$$

$w(t)$ is the zero-state response of the system to a unit impulse, therefore, $w(t)$ is called the impulse response of the system.

Linear Dynamic Systems

- Recall that for a general linear dynamic system, we have

$$X(s) = \frac{F(s)}{Z(s)} + \frac{I(s)}{Z(s)}.$$

$W(s) = 1/Z(s)$ is called the transfer function of the system. Note that

$$x(t) = \underbrace{\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{W(s)F(s)\}}_{\text{zero-state response}} + \underbrace{\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{W(s)I(s)\}}_{\text{zero-input response}}.$$

zero-state response

zero-input response