

# Differential Equations

## Lecture Set 07

### The Laplace Transform

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# Integral Transform (1/2)

A definite integral such as

$$\int_a^b K(s, t)f(t)dt$$

transforms a function  $f$  of the variable  $t$  into a function  $F$  of the variable  $s$ .

For an **integral transform**, the interval of integration is the *unbounded* interval  $[0, \infty)$ . □

## Integral Transform (2/2)

If  $f(t)$  is defined for  $t \geq 0$ , then the *improper integral*  $\int_0^\infty K(s, t)f(t)dt$  is defined as a limit:

$$\int_0^\infty K(s, t)f(t)dt = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^b K(s, t)f(t)dt \quad (1)$$

If the limit exists, then the integral exists or is **convergent**; if the limit does not exist, the integral does not exist and is **divergent**. □

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The function  $K(s, t)$  in Eq. (1) is called the **kernel** of the transform. The choice

$$K(s, t) = e^{-st}$$

as the kernel gives us an especially important integral transform. □

# Laplace Transform

## Definition (7.1.1: Laplace Transform)

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 that the integral converges.

## Example 1: Applying Definition 7.1.1

Evaluate  $\mathcal{L}\{1\}$ .

## Example 2: Applying Definition 7.1.1

Evaluate  $\mathcal{L}\{t\}$ .

## Example 3: Applying Definition 7.1.1

Evaluate  $\mathcal{L}\{e^{-3t}\}$ .

## Example 4: Applying Definition 7.1.1

Evaluate  $\mathcal{L}\{\sin 2t\}$ .



# $\mathcal{L}$ Is a Linear Transform

For a linear combination 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  $s > c$ .

Hence it follows that

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

Because of the linearity property,  $\mathcal{L}$  is said to be a **linear transform**.

## Example

$$\mathcal{L}\{1 + 5t\} = \mathcal{L}\{1\} + 5\mathcal{L}\{t\} = \frac{1}{s} + \frac{5}{s^2}$$

# Transforms of Some Basic Functions

## Theorem (7.1.1: Transforms of Some Basic Functions)

$$\mathcal{L}\{\delta(t)\} = 1$$

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

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

$$\mathcal{L}\{e^{at}\} = \frac{1}{s-a}$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{te^{at}\} = \frac{1}{(s-a)^2}$$

$$\cosh x = \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2}$$

$$\sinh x = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2}$$

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

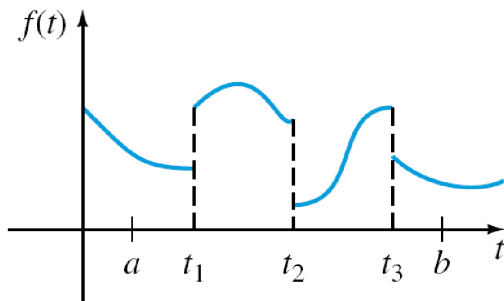
$$\mathcal{L}\{\cos kt\} = \frac{s}{s^2 + k^2}$$

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

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

# Piecewise Continuous

A function  $f$  is **piecewise continuous** on  $[0, \infty)$  if, in any interval  $0 \leq a \leq t \leq b$ , there are at most a *finite* number of points  $t_k$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$  at which  $f$  has *finite* discontinuities and is continuous on each open interval  $t_{k-1} < t < t_k$ .



# Exponential Order

## Definition (7.1.2: Exponential Order)

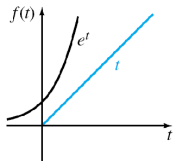
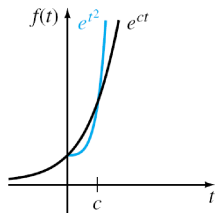
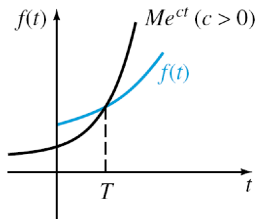
A function  $f$  is said to be of **exponential order**  $c$  if there exist constants  $c$ ,  $M > 0$ , and  $T > 0$  such that

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

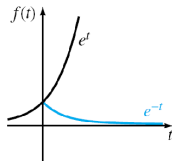
## Remark

*If  $f$  is an increasing function, then the condition  $|f(t)| \leq Me^{ct}$ ,  $t > T$ , simply states that the graph of  $f$  on the interval  $(T, \infty)$  does not grow faster than the graph of the exponential function  $Me^{ct}$ , where  $c$  is a positive constant.*

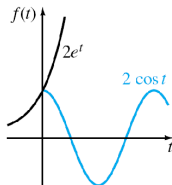
# Example



(a)



(b)



(c)

# Sufficient Conditions for Existence

## Theorem (7.1.2: Sufficient Conditions for Existence)

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

### Proof.

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \underbrace{\int_0^T e^{-st}f(t)dt}_{\text{exists}} + \underbrace{\int_T^\infty e^{-st}f(t)dt}_{\text{exists?}} \quad (2)$$

Since  $f$  is of exponential order,  $\Rightarrow \exists c, M > 0, T > 0$  s.t.  $|f(t)| \leq Me^{ct}$  for  $t > T$

$$|\int_T^\infty e^{-st}f(t)dt| \leq \int_T^\infty |e^{-st}||f(t)|dt \leq M \int_T^\infty e^{-(s-c)t}dt = M \frac{e^{-(s-c)T}}{s-c} \text{ for } s > c.$$

$\Rightarrow \int_T^\infty e^{-st}f(t)dt$  is bounded and exists for  $s > c$ .

Thus,  $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$  exists by Eq. (2). □

## Example 5: Transform of a Piecewise Continuous Function

Evaluate  $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$  where

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

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

## Theorem (7.1.3: Behavior of $F(s)$ as $s \rightarrow \infty$ )

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

### Proof.

$f$  is of exponential order  $c$ ,  $\Rightarrow \exists \gamma, M_1 > 0, T > 0$  s.t.  $|f(t)| \leq M_1 e^{\gamma t}$  for  $t > T$ .

$f$  is piecewise continuous on  $[0, T]$ ,

$\Rightarrow f$  is bounded on  $[0, T] \Rightarrow |f(t)| \leq M_2 = M_2 e^{0t}$ .

Let  $M = \max\{M_1, M_2\}$  and  $c = \max\{\gamma, 0\}$ , then

$$|F(s)| \leq \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} |f(t)| dt \leq M \int_0^{\infty} e^{-(s-c)t} dt = \frac{M}{s-c} \text{ for } s > c.$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} |F(s)| = 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} F(s) = 0. \quad \square$$



# The Inverse Problem

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

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

## Remark

*In the application of the Laplace transform to equations we are not able to determine an unknown function  $f(t)$  directly; rather, we are able to solve for the Laplace transform  $F(s)$  of  $f(t)$ ; but from that knowledge we ascertain  $f$  by computing  $f(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)\}$ .*

# Some Inverse Transforms

## Theorem (7.2.1: Some Inverse Transforms)

$$1 = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s} \right\}$$

$$t^n = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}} \right\}$$

$$e^{at} = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s-a} \right\}$$

$$\sin kt = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{k}{s^2 + k^2} \right\}$$

$$\cos kt = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{s}{s^2 + k^2} \right\}$$

$$\sinh kt = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{k}{s^2 - k^2} \right\}$$

$$\cosh kt = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{s}{s^2 - k^2} \right\}$$

## Example 1: Applying Theorem 7.2.1

Evaluate (a)  $\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s^5} \right\}$  (b)  $\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s^2 + 7} \right\}$ .

## Example 2: Termwise Division and Linearity

Evaluate  $\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{-2s + 6}{s^2 + 4} \right\}$ .

## Example 3: Partial Fractions: Distinct Linear Factors

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

# Rational Function

A **rational function** of  $s$  is the ratio of two *polynomials*

$$F(s) = \frac{a_m s^m + a_{m-1} s^{m-1} + \cdots + a_0}{b_n s^n + b_{n-1} s^{n-1} + \cdots + b_0} = \frac{N(s)}{D(s)}$$

The rational function is *proper* if  $n > m$ .

The objective is to break  $F(s)$  into *simple* rational functions.

- The first step is to factor  $D(s)$  into its elementary factors

$$D(s) = b_n (s - p_1)(s - p_2) \cdots (s - p_n)$$

If all  $b_i$ 's are real, then each  $p_k$  is either real or appears in complex conjugate pairs.

# Partial Fraction Expansion: Case I

For the rational function

$$F(s) = \frac{a_m s^m + a_{m-1} s^{m-1} + \cdots + a_0}{b_n s^n + b_{n-1} s^{n-1} + \cdots + b_0} = \frac{N(s)}{D(s)}$$

with  $n > m$ , and all poles are *simple*, then

$$F(s) = \frac{A_1}{s - p_1} + \frac{A_2}{s - p_2} + \cdots + \frac{A_n}{s - p_n}$$

where

$$A_k = (s - p_k)F(s)|_{s=p_k}$$

The inverse Laplace transform is then

$$f(t) = A_1 e^{p_1 t} + A_2 e^{p_2 t} + \cdots + A_n e^{p_n t}$$

## Partial Fraction Expansion: Case II (1/2)

For the rational function

$$\begin{aligned} F(s) &= \frac{a_m s^m + a_{m-1} s^{m-1} + \cdots + a_0}{b_n s^n + b_{n-1} s^{n-1} + \cdots + b_0} \\ &= \frac{a_m s^m + a_{m-1} s^{m-1} + \cdots + a_0}{b_n (s - p_1)^{n_1} (s - p_2)^{n_2} \cdots (s - p_k)^{n_k}} \end{aligned}$$

with  $n > m$ , and we allow *multiple poles*, then

$$F(s) = \frac{A_{11}}{(s - p_1)^{n_1}} + \frac{A_{12}}{(s - p_1)^{n_1-1}} + \cdots + \frac{A_{1n}}{s - p_1} + \text{other fractions}$$



## Partial Fraction Expansion: Case II (2/2)

where

$$A_{11} = (s - p_1)^{n_1} F(s)|_{s=p_1}, \quad A_{12} = \frac{d}{ds} (s - p_1)^{n_1} F(s)|_{s=p_1},$$

$$A_{13} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2}{ds^2} (s - p_1)^{n_1} F(s)|_{s=p_1}, \quad \dots$$

$$A_{1n_1} = \frac{1}{n_1 - 1} \frac{d^{n_1-1}}{ds^{n_1-1}} (s - p_1)^{n_1} F(s)|_{s=p_1}$$

The inverse Laplace transform is then given by

$$f(t) = A_{11} \frac{t^{n_1-1}}{(n_1 - 1)!} e^{p_1 t} + A_{12} \frac{t^{n_1-2}}{(n_1 - 2)!} e^{p_1 t} + \dots$$

# Transform of a Derivative

## Theorem (7.2.2: Transform of a Derivative)

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  $F(s) = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$ . □

For example,

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

Similarly,

$$\mathcal{L}\{f''(t)\} = s^2 F(s) - sf(0) - f'(0)$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{f'''(t)\} = s^3 F(s) - s^2 f(0) - sf'(0) - f''(0)$$

# Example

Verify that

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

$$\mathcal{L}\{f''(t)\} = s^2F(s) - sf(0) - f'(0)$$

## Solving Linear ODEs (1/2)

From the result given in Theorem 7.2.2,  $\mathcal{L}\{d^n y/dx^n\}$  depends on  $Y(s) = \mathcal{L}\{y(t)\}$  and the  $n - 1$  derivatives of  $y(t)$  evaluated at  $t = 0$ .

This property makes Laplace transform ideally suited for solving linear IVP in which the DE has *constant coefficients*.

Such a DE is simply a linear combination of terms  $y, y', y'', \dots, y^{(n)}$ :

$$a_n \frac{d^n y}{dt^n} + a_{n-1} \frac{d^{n-1} y}{dt^{n-1}} + \cdots + a_0 y = g(t)$$
$$y(0) = y_0, y'(0) = y_1, \dots, y^{(n-1)}(0) = y_{n-1}$$

where the  $a_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  and  $y_0, y_1, \dots, y_{n-1}$  are constants.

## Solving Linear ODEs (2/2)

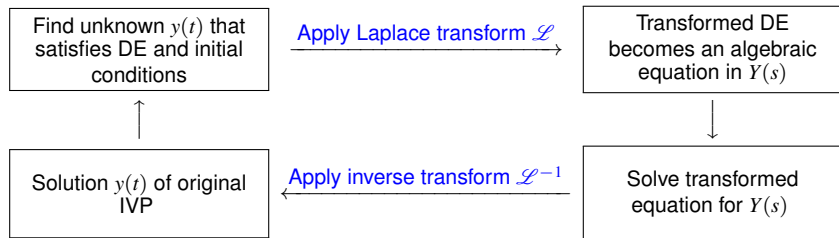
By the linearity property of Laplace transform and Theorem 7.2.2, we have

$$a_n[s^n Y(s) - s^{n-1}y(0) - \dots - y^{(n-1)}(0)] \\ + a_{n-1}[s^{n-1}Y(s) - s^{n-2}y(0) - \dots - y^{(n-2)}(0)] + \dots + a_0Y(s) = G(s)$$

where  $\mathcal{L}\{y(t)\} = Y(s)$  and  $\mathcal{L}\{g(t)\} = G(s)$ .

In other words, *the Laplace transform of a linear differential equation with constant coefficients becomes an algebraic equation in  $Y(s)$ .*

# Laplace Transform Diagram



## Example 4: Solving a First-Order IVP

Use the Laplace transform to solve the initial-value problem

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

## Example 5: Solving a Second-Order IVP

Solve

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



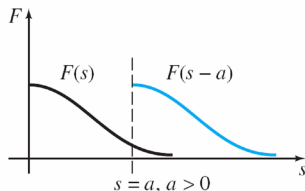
# First Translation Theorem (1/2)

## Theorem (7.3.1: First Translation Theorem)

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

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

It is sometimes written as  $\mathcal{L}\{e^{at}f(t)\} = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}|_{s \rightarrow s-a}$



(Multiplication in time domain implies translation in  $s$  domain.)

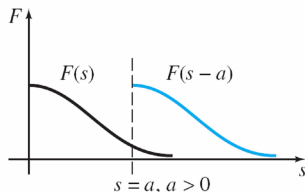
# First Translation Theorem (2/2)

## Remark (Inverse Transform)

The inverse transform of  $F(s - a)$  is given by

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

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



# Example 1: Using the First Translation Theorem

Evaluate (a)  $\mathcal{L}\{e^{5t}t^3\}$  (b)  $\mathcal{L}\{e^{-2t}\cos 4t\}$ .

## Example 2: Partial Fraction: Repeated Linear Factors

Evaluate (a)  $\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{2s + 5}{(s - 3)^2} \right\}$  (b)  $\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{s/2 + 5/3}{s^2 + 4s + 6} \right\}$ .

## Example 3: An Initial-Value Problem

Solve

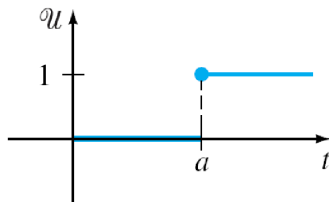
$$y'' - 6y' + 9y = t^2 e^{3t}, \quad y(0) = 2, \quad y'(0) = 17$$

# Unit Step Function

## Definition (7.3.1: Unit Step Function)

The **unit step function** or **Heaviside function**  $\mathcal{U}(t - a)$  is defined to be

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



## Example 5: A Piecewise-Defined Function

Express

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} 20t, & 0 \leq t < 5 \\ 0, & t \geq 5 \end{cases}$$

in terms of unit step functions. Graph.

# Second Translation Theorem (1/2)

## Theorem (7.3.2: Second Translation Theorem)

If  $F(s) = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$  and  $a > 0$ , then

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

## Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{f(t-a)\mathcal{U}(t-a)\} &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st}f(t-a)\mathcal{U}(t-a)dt = \int_a^{\infty} e^{-st}f(t-a)dt \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-s(u+a)}f(u)du = e^{-as} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-su}f(u)du \\ &= e^{-as} \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}\end{aligned}$$





## Second Translation Theorem (2/2)

### Remark (Inverse Transform)

If  $f(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)\}$  and  $a > 0$ , the inverse form is given by

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{e^{-as}F(s)\} = f(t-a)\mathcal{U}(t-a) \quad (3)$$

## Example 6: Using Formula (3)

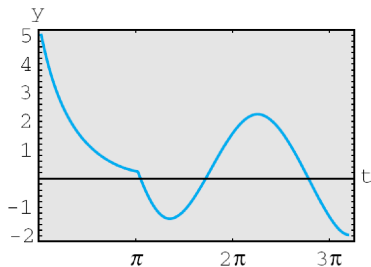
Evaluate (a)  $\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s-4} e^{-2s} \right\}$  (b)  $\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{s}{s^2+9} e^{-\frac{\pi s}{2}} \right\}$ .

## Example 7: Second Translation Theorem – Alternative Form

Evaluate  $\mathcal{L}\{\cos t \mathcal{U}(t - \pi)\}$ .

## Example 8: An Initial-Value Problem

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



# Derivatives of Transforms (1/2)

## Theorem (7.4.1: Derivatives of Transforms)

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

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

For example,

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

Similarly,

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

## Derivatives of Transforms (2/2)

### Remark

$$\text{By definition } F(s) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt$$

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

$$\frac{d}{ds} F(s) = \int_0^{\infty} (-t) e^{-st} f(t) dt = - \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} tf(t) dt = -\mathcal{L} \{tf(t)\} \quad \square$$

## Example 1: Using Theorem 7.4.1

Evaluate  $\mathcal{L}\{t \sin kt\}$ .

## Example 2: An Initial-Value Problem

Solve

$$x'' + 16x = \cos 4t, \quad x(0) = 0, x'(0) = 1$$



# Convolution (1/2)

If functions  $f$  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  $g$ .

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The convolution of two functions is commutative:  $f * g = g * f$ . That is,

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

It is *not* true that the integral of a product of functions is the product of the integrals.

## Convolution (2/2)

The convolution  $f * g$  is a function of  $t$ .

### Example

Verify that

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

# Convolution Theorem

## Theorem (7.4.2: Convolution Theorem)

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

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

Likewise,

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

## Proof.

Please check the textbook, page 308. □

## Example 3: Transform of a Convolution

Evaluate  $\mathcal{L} \left\{ \int_0^t e^{\tau} \sin(t - \tau) d\tau \right\}$ .

## Example 4: Inverse Transform as a Convolution

Evaluate  $\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{(s^2 + k^2)^2} \right\}$ .

# Transform of an Integral

When  $g(t) = 1$  and  $\mathcal{L}\{g(t)\} = G(s) = 1/s$ , the convolution theorem implies that the Laplace transform of the integral  $f$  is

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\left\{\int_0^t f(\tau)d\tau\right\} &= \mathcal{L}\left\{\int_0^t 1 \cdot f(\tau)d\tau\right\} = \mathcal{L}\left\{\int_0^t g(t-\tau) \cdot f(\tau)d\tau\right\} \\ &= \mathcal{L}\{g(t-\tau) = 1\} \cdot \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \frac{F(s)}{s}\end{aligned}$$

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The corresponding inverse form

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

can be used in lieu of partial fractions when  $s^n$  is a factor of the denominator and  $f(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)\}$  is easy to integrate.

# Example

Given  $f(t) = \sin t$  and  $F(s) = 1/(s^2 + 1)$ , find

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

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

(c)  $\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s^3(s^2 + 1)} \right\}$ .

## Example 5: An Integral Equation

Solve

$$f(t) = 3t^2 - e^{-t} - \int_0^t f(\tau)e^{t-\tau}d\tau \quad \text{for } f(t)$$



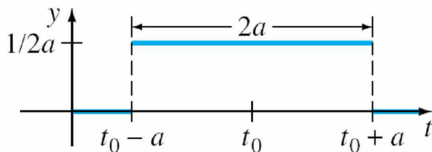
# Unit Impulse Function

The function

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

is called a **unit impulse**, because it possesses the integration property

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



(a) graph of  $\delta_a(t - t_0)$

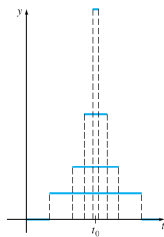
# Dirac Delta Function

A “function” that approximates  $\delta_a(t - t_0)$  and is defined by the limit

$$\delta(t - t_0) = \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} \delta_a(t - t_0)$$

is called the **Dirac delta function**. It has the following two properties:

$$\delta(t - t_0) = \begin{cases} \infty, & t = t_0 \\ 0, & t \neq t_0 \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad \int_0^{\infty} \delta(t - t_0) dt = 1$$



(b) behavior of  $\delta_a$  as  $a \rightarrow 0$

# Transform of Dirac Delta Function

## Theorem (7.5.1: Transform of Dirac Delta Function)

For  $t_0 > 0$ ,

$$\mathcal{L} \{ \delta(t - t_0) \} = e^{-st_0}$$

Furthermore,

$$\mathcal{L} \{ \delta(t) \} = 1$$

**Proof.**

By definition. □

# Example 1: Two Initial-Value Problem

Solve  $y'' + y = 4\delta(t - 2\pi)$  subject to

(a)  $y(0) = 1, y'(0) = 0$

(b)  $y(0) = 0, y'(0) = 0$

# Systems of Linear Differential Equations

Solve

$$x_1'' + 10x_1 - 4x_2 = 0$$

$$-4x_1 + x_2'' + 4x_2 = 0$$

subject to  $x_1(0) = 0, x_1'(0) = 1, x_2(0) = 0, x_2'(0) = -1$ .

# Homework

- Exercises 7.1: 4, 13, 26, 37.
- Exercises 7.2: 9, 24, 33, 38, 41.
- Exercises 7.3: 5, 16, 23, 32, 39, 55, 66.
- Exercises 7.4: 5, 10, 27, 41, 50.
- Exercises 7.5: 5, 12.
- Exercises 7.6: 4.