

★ Chapter 7: Laplace Transform Methods

7.1: Laplace Transforms & Inverse Transforms

Let's go back to linear scalar ODE like:

$$mx'' + \gamma x' + kx = F(t) \quad \text{mass on a spring}$$

In MA 266, we were able to solve these ODE by guessing solutions like $x(t) = e^{rt}$ or using the forcing term $F(t)$ to inform an educated guess

In this chapter, we will use Laplace Transforms to solve many more types of problems.

I. Definition:

The Laplace Transform of a function $f(t)$ is:

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = F(s) = \int_0^{\infty} \underbrace{e^{-st}}_{\text{"kernel" of the transform}} f(t) dt$$

Note: The kernel is an exponential function e^{-st}

In MA 266 we saw that e^t shows up in a lot of solutions of linear ODE, so this is a good choice for the kernel.

In this lecture, we will practice doing a lot of Laplace Transforms.

Next lecture we will see how to use it to solve ODE.

Ex: Find the L.T. of $f(t) = 1$

$$\mathcal{L}\{1\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} (1) dt = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} dt$$

indefinite integral

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^b e^{-st} dt$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{e^{-st}}{-s} \right]_0^b = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{e^{-bs}}{-s} - \frac{1}{-s} \right]$$

this converges to 0 if $s > 0$

$$\mathcal{L}\{1\} = \frac{1}{s} \quad \text{if } s > 0$$

Ex: Find the L.T. of $f(t) = 3$

$$\mathcal{L}\{3\} = \int_0^{\infty} 3e^{-st} dt = 3 \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} dt$$

$$= 3 \mathcal{L}\{1\} = \frac{3}{s}$$

$$\text{so } \mathcal{L}\{3\} = \frac{3}{s} \quad \text{if } s > 0$$

$$\text{so } \mathcal{L}\{a f(t)\} = a \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$$

Ex: Find the L.T. of $f(t) = e^{at}$

$$\mathcal{L}\{e^{at}\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} e^{at} dt = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^b e^{-(s-a)t} dt$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{e^{-(s-a)t}}{-(s-a)} \right]_0^b = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{e^{-(s-a)b}}{-(s-a)} - \frac{1}{-(s-a)} \right]$$

Converges to 0
if $s-a > 0$

$$\boxed{\mathcal{L}\{e^{at}\} = \frac{1}{s-a} \quad \text{if } s > a}$$

II. Linearity:

Ex: Find the L.T. of $f(t) = 1 + e^{-3t}$

$$\mathcal{L}\{1 + e^{-3t}\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} (1 + e^{-3t}) dt$$

$$= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} dt + \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} e^{-3t} dt$$

$$= \mathcal{L}\{1\} + \mathcal{L}\{e^{-3t}\}$$

$$= \frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{s+3}$$

$$\boxed{\mathcal{L}\{1 + e^{-3t}\} = \frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{s+3} \quad \text{if } s > 0}$$

So the Laplace Transform satisfies:

$$\mathcal{L}\{af(t)\} = a \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t) + g(t)\} = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} + \mathcal{L}\{g(t)\}$$

So the Laplace Transform is linear

(Note: this is NOT true for multiplication)

III. More Transforms

Ex: Find the L.T. of $f(t) = \cos(t)$

$$\text{Recall that } \cos(t) = \frac{1}{2}(e^{it} + e^{-it})$$

Then

$$\mathcal{L}\{\cos(t)\} = \mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{1}{2}e^{it} + \frac{1}{2}e^{-it}\right\}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{L}\{e^{it}\} + \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{L}\{e^{-it}\}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{s-i}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{s+i}\right)$$

if $s > \operatorname{Re}(i) = 0$ if $s > \operatorname{Re}(-i) = 0$

$$= \frac{1}{2}\left[\frac{1}{s-i} \frac{(s+i)}{(s+i)} + \frac{1}{s+i} \frac{(s-i)}{(s-i)}\right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}\left[\frac{s+i+s-i}{s^2 + \cancel{is} - \cancel{is} + 1}\right] = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{2s}{s^2+1}\right) = \frac{s}{s^2+1}$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{\cos(t)\} = \frac{s}{s^2+1} \quad \text{if } s > 0$$

Ex: Find the L.T. of $f(t) = st$

$$\mathcal{L}\{st\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} (st) dt = s \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^b e^{-st} t dt$$

Use Integration By Parts

$$u = t \quad dv = e^{-st} dt \\ du = dt \quad v = \frac{e^{-st}}{-s}$$

$$= s \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[\left(\frac{t e^{-st}}{-s} \right)_0^b - \int_0^b \frac{e^{-st}}{-s} dt \right]$$

$$= s \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[\left(\frac{t e^{-st}}{-s} \right)_0^b - \left(\frac{e^{-st}}{s^2} \right)_0^b \right]$$

$$= s \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{b e^{-bs}}{-s} - \frac{0 e^0}{-s} - \frac{e^{-sb}}{s^2} + \frac{1}{s^2} \right]$$

converges to 0
if $s > 0$

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if $s > 0$

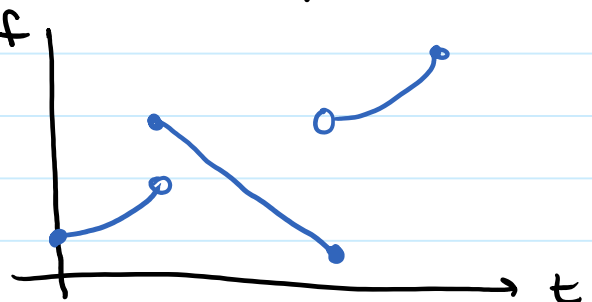
$$= s \left(\frac{1}{s^2} \right)$$

So $\mathcal{L}\{st^2\} = \frac{5}{s^2}$ if $s > 0$

IV. Piecewise Linear Functions

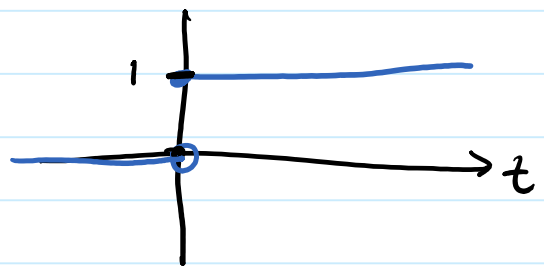
Laplace Transforms also work for piecewise continuous functions

$f(t)$ has finitely
many jumps.



$$\text{Ex: } u(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & t < 0 \\ 1 & t \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

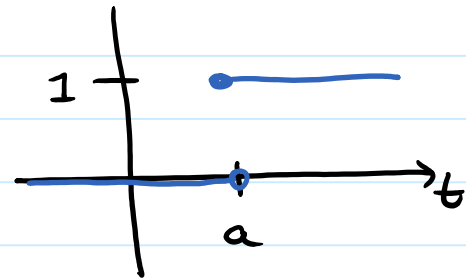
this is called the unit step function



$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{u(t)\} &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} u(t) dt = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} dt \\ &= \mathcal{L}\{1\} = \frac{1}{s} \end{aligned}$$

because $u(t) = 1$ on $t \geq 0$
if $s > 0$

$$\text{Ex: } u_a(t) = u(t-a) = \begin{cases} 0 & t < a \\ 1 & t \geq a \end{cases}$$



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

because $u_a(t) = 0$ if $t < a$
 $u_a(t) = 1$ if $t \geq a$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_a^b e^{-st} dt = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{e^{-st}}{-s} \right]_a^b$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{e^{-sb}}{-s} - \frac{e^{-sa}}{-s} \right] = \frac{e^{-as}}{s} \quad \begin{matrix} s > 0 \\ a > 0 \end{matrix}$$

converges to 0
if $s > 0$
and $a > 0$

$$\boxed{\mathcal{L}\{u_a(t)\} = \frac{e^{-as}}{s} \quad \text{if } \begin{matrix} a > 0 \\ s > 0 \end{matrix}}$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{u_a(t)\} = \frac{e^{-as}}{s} \quad \text{if } \begin{matrix} a > 0 \\ s > 0 \end{matrix}$$

V. Inverse Transform:

If $F(s) = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$ then we call $f(t)$ the inverse Laplace Transform of $F(s)$

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

Ex: $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s+3}\right\} = e^{-3t}$

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

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

In practice, we generally use a Table of Laplace Transforms to solve ODEs:

see table on next page

$f(t)$	$F(s)$	
1	$\frac{1}{s}$	$s > 0$
t	$\frac{1}{s^2}$	$s > 0$
$t^n (n \geq 0)$	$\frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}$	$s > 0$
e^{at}	$\frac{1}{s-a}$	$s > a$
$\cos(kt)$	$\frac{s}{s^2+k^2}$	$s > 0$
$\sin(kt)$	$\frac{k}{s^2+k^2}$	$s > 0$
$\cosh(kt)$	$\frac{s}{s^2-k^2}$	$s > k $
$\sinh(kt)$	$\frac{k}{s^2-k^2}$	$s > k $
$u(t-a)$	$\frac{e^{-as}}{s}$	$s > 0$ $a > 0$

$$\text{Ex: } \mathcal{L}\{3e^{2t} + 2\sin^2(3t)\}$$

$$2\sin^2\theta = 1 - \cos(2\theta)$$

$$\theta = 3t$$

$$= \mathcal{L}\{3e^{2t} + 1 - \cos(6t)\}$$

$$= 3\mathcal{L}\{e^{2t}\} + \mathcal{L}\{1\} - \mathcal{L}\{\cos(6t)\}$$

$$= 3\left(\frac{1}{s-2}\right) + \frac{1}{s} - \frac{s}{s^2+36}$$

$$= \frac{3s^3 + 144s - 72}{s(s-2)(s^2+36)}$$

← after finding common denominator and simplifying

because
 $\mathcal{L}\{3\}$ is
linear