

Section 7.1: The Laplace Transform

Definition: Let $f(t)$ be defined on $[0, \infty)$. The Laplace transform of f is denoted and defined by

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

The domain of the transformation $F(s)$ is the set of all s such that the integral is convergent.

Note: The kernel for the Laplace transform is $K(s, t) = e^{-st}$.

Find the Laplace transform of $f(t) = 1$

By definition

$$\mathcal{L}\{1\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} \cdot 1 \, dt$$

If $s=0$, then $e^{-st} = e^0 = 1$ and $\int_0^{\infty} dt$ which diverges

For $s \neq 0$

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

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^b e^{-st} \, dt = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left. \frac{1}{-s} e^{-st} \right|_0^b$$

$$= -\frac{1}{s} \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} (e^{-sb} - e^0)$$

Diverges
if
 $s < 0$

$$\text{for } s > 0 = -\frac{1}{s} (0 - 1)$$

$$= \frac{1}{s} \text{ for } s > 0$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{1\} = \frac{1}{s} \text{ with domain } s > 0.$$

Find the Laplace transform of $f(t) = t$

By definition

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

is $s=0$, $e^{-st}=1$ and $\int_0^{\infty} t \, dt$ is divergent.

For $s \neq 0$

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

$$= -\frac{1}{s} t e^{-st} \Big|_0^{\infty} + \frac{1}{s} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} \, dt$$

Int by parts

$$u = t \quad du = dt$$

$$v = \frac{1}{s} e^{-st} \quad dv = e^{-st} \, dt$$

$$\text{for } s > 0 \quad = -\frac{1}{s} (0 - 0 \cdot e^0) + \frac{1}{s} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} dt$$

$\nwarrow \mathcal{L}\{1\}$

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

$$\text{So } \mathcal{L}\{t\} = \frac{1}{s^2}, \text{ for } s > 0.$$

Find the Laplace transform of $f(t) = e^{at}$, $a \neq 0$

By definition

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

If $s = a$, $e^{-(s-a)t} = e^0 = 1$ and the integral diverges

For $s \neq a$

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

$$= \frac{1}{-(s-a)} e^{-(s-a)t} \Big|_0^{\infty}$$

$$\text{For } s-a > 0 \quad = \frac{-1}{s-a} (0 - e^0) = \frac{1}{s-a}$$

$$\text{Hence } \mathcal{L}\{e^{at}\} = \frac{1}{s-a}, \text{ for } s > a$$

Find the Laplace transform¹ of $f(t) = \sin t$

By definition

$$\mathcal{L}\{\sin t\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} \sin t \, dt$$

If $s=0$, $\int_0^{\infty} \sin t \, dt$ diverges

For $s \neq 0$

$$\mathcal{L}\{\sin t\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} \sin t \, dt$$

¹The following is immensely useful!

$$\int e^{\alpha t} \sin(\beta t) \, dt = \frac{e^{\alpha t}}{\alpha^2 + \beta^2} (\alpha \sin(\beta t) - \beta \cos(\beta t)).$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{\sin t\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} \sin t \, dt$$

$$= \frac{e^{-st}}{(-s)^2 + 1^2} (-s \sin t - \cos t) \Big|_0^{\infty}$$

for

$s > 0$

$$= 0 - \frac{e^0}{s^2 + 1} (-s \sin 0 - \cos 0)$$

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

Hence $\mathcal{L}\{\sin t\} = \frac{1}{s^2 + 1}, \quad s > 0$

A piecewise defined function

Find the Laplace transform of f defined by

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} 2t, & 0 \leq t < 10 \\ 0, & t \geq 10 \end{cases}$$

By definition

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

$$= \int_0^{10} e^{-st} f(t) dt + \int_{10}^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt$$

$$= \int_0^{10} e^{-st} (2t) dt + \int_{10}^{\infty} e^{-st} \cdot 0 dt$$

$$= -\frac{2t}{s} e^{-st} \Big|_0^{10} + \frac{2}{s} \int_0^{10} e^{-st} dt$$

Int. by parts

$$u = 2t \quad du = 2 dt$$

$$v = \frac{-1}{s} e^{-st} \quad dv = e^{-st} dt$$

for $s \neq 0$

$$= -\frac{2t}{s} e^{-st} - \frac{2}{s^2} e^{-st} \Big|_0^{10}$$

$$= -\frac{20}{s} e^{-10s} - \frac{2}{s^2} e^{-10s} - \left(0 - \frac{2}{s^2} e^0 \right)$$

$$= \frac{2}{s^2} - \frac{20}{s} e^{-10s} - \frac{2}{s^2} e^{-10s} \quad \text{for } s \neq 0$$

If $s=0$,

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \int_0^{10} 2t \, dt = t^2 \Big|_0^{10} = 100 - 0 = 100$$

The Laplace Transform is a Linear Transformation

Some basic results include:

- ▶ $\mathcal{L}\{\alpha f(t) + \beta g(t)\} = \alpha F(s) + \beta G(s)$
- ▶ $\mathcal{L}\{1\} = \frac{1}{s}, \quad s > 0$
- ▶ $\mathcal{L}\{t^n\} = \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}, \quad s > 0 \text{ for } n = 1, 2, \dots$
- ▶ $\mathcal{L}\{e^{at}\} = \frac{1}{s-a}, \quad s > a$
- ▶ $\mathcal{L}\{\cos kt\} = \frac{s}{s^2+k^2}, \quad s > 0$
- ▶ $\mathcal{L}\{\sin kt\} = \frac{k}{s^2+k^2}, \quad s > 0$

Use the Table to Evaluate $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$

(a) $f(t) = 2t^2 + e^{6t}$

$$\mathcal{L}\{2t^2 + e^{6t}\} = 2\mathcal{L}\{t^2\} + \mathcal{L}\{e^{6t}\}$$

$$= 2 \left(\frac{2!}{s^3} \right) + \frac{1}{s-6} = \frac{4}{s^3} + \frac{1}{s-6} \quad \text{for } s > 6$$

$s > 0$

$s > 6$

(b) $f(t) = \cos 2t - \sin 3t$

$$\mathcal{L}\{\cos 2t - \sin 3t\} = \mathcal{L}\{\cos 2t\} - \mathcal{L}\{\sin 3t\}$$

$$= \frac{s}{s^2 + 2^2} - \frac{3}{s^2 + 3^2} = \frac{s}{s^2 + 4} - \frac{3}{s^2 + 9}, \quad s > 0$$

$s > 0$

$s > 0$

$$(c) \quad f(t) = (2-t)^2 = 4 - 4t + t^2$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{(2-t)^2\} = \mathcal{L}\{4 - 4t + t^2\} = 4\mathcal{L}\{1\} - 4\mathcal{L}\{t\} + \mathcal{L}\{t^2\}$$

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

for $s > 0$.

$s > 0 \quad s > 0 \quad s > 0$

$$(d) \quad f(t) = \sin^2 5t \quad (\text{In the interest of completeness})$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \cos 10t$$

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \cos 10t\right\} = \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{L}\{1\} - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{L}\{\cos 10t\} \quad \text{for } s > 0$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{s}\right) - \frac{1}{2} \frac{s}{s^2 + 10^2} = \frac{1}{2s} - \frac{s}{2(s^2 + 100)}$$