# Signals and Systems

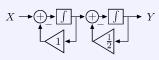
Lecture 5: Laplace Transform

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03/06/2025
Partly adapted from the materials provided on the MIT OpenCourseWare

Multiple representations of CT systems.

#### **Block Diagram**



### **System Functional**

$$\frac{Y}{X} = \frac{2\mathcal{A}^2}{2 + 3\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A}^2}$$

#### **Impulse Response**

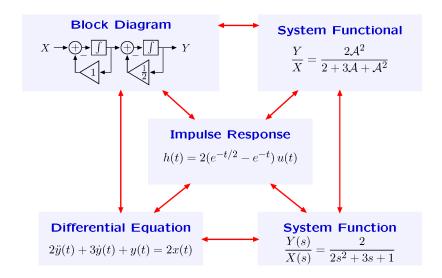
$$h(t) = 2(e^{-t/2} - e^{-t}) \, u(t)$$

#### **Differential Equation**

$$2\ddot{y}(t) + 3\dot{y}(t) + y(t) = 2x(t)$$

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

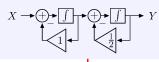
Relations among representations.







#### **Block Diagram**



### **System Functional**

$$\frac{Y}{X} = \frac{2A^2}{2 + 3A + A^2}$$



#### **Impulse Response**

$$h(t) = 2(e^{-t/2} - e^{-t}) u(t)$$

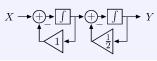
#### **Differential Equation**

$$2\ddot{y}(t) + 3\dot{y}(t) + y(t) = 2x(t)$$

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

Relation between System Functional and System Function.

#### **Block Diagram**



### **System Functional**

$$\frac{Y}{X} = \frac{2\mathcal{A}^2}{2 + 3\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A}^2}$$

#### **Impulse Response**

$$h(t) = 2(e^{-t/2} - e^{-t}) u(t)$$



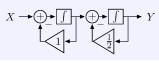
#### **Differential Equation**

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How to determine impulse response from system functional?

#### **Block Diagram**



### **System Functional**

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$$h(t) = 2(e^{-t/2} - e^{-t}) u(t)$$

#### **Differential Equation**

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

How to determine impulse response from system functional?

Expand functional using partial fractions:

$$\frac{Y}{X} = \frac{2\mathcal{A}^2}{2+3\mathcal{A}+\mathcal{A}^2} = \frac{\mathcal{A}^2}{(1+\frac{1}{2}\mathcal{A})(1+\mathcal{A})} = \frac{2\mathcal{A}}{1+\frac{1}{2}\mathcal{A}} - \frac{2\mathcal{A}}{1+\mathcal{A}}$$

Recognize forms of terms: each corresponds to an exponential.

Alternatively, expand each term in a series:

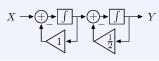
$$\frac{Y}{X} = 2\mathcal{A}\left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{A} + \frac{1}{4}\mathcal{A}^2 - \frac{1}{8}\mathcal{A}^3 + \cdots\right) - 2\mathcal{A}\left(1 - \mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A}^2 - \mathcal{A}^3 + \cdots\right)$$

Let  $X = \delta(t)$ . Then

$$Y = 2\left(1 - \frac{1}{2}t + \frac{1}{8}t^2 - \frac{1}{48}t^3 + \cdots\right)u(t) - 2\left(1 - t + \frac{1}{2}t^2 - \frac{1}{3!}t^3 + \cdots\right)u(t)$$
$$= 2\left(e^{-t/2} - e^{-t}\right)u(t)$$

How to determine impulse response from system functional?

#### **Block Diagram**



#### **System Functional**

$$\frac{Y}{X} = \frac{2\mathcal{A}^2}{2 + 3\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A}^2}$$

series partial fractions

#### **Impulse Response**

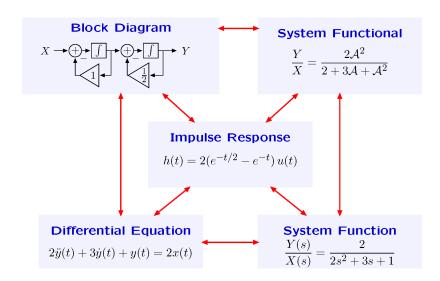
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#### **Differential Equation**

$$2\ddot{y}(t) + 3\dot{y}(t) + y(t) = 2x(t)$$

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

Today: new relations based on Laplace transform.



# Laplace Transform: Definition

Laplace transform maps a function of time t to a function of s.

$$X(s) = \int x(t)e^{-st}dt$$

There are two important variants:

Unilateral (18.03)

$$X(s) = \int_0^\infty x(t)e^{-st}dt$$

Bilateral (6.003)

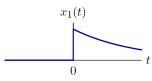
$$X(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(t)e^{-st}dt$$

Both share important properties — will discuss differences later.

# Laplace Transforms

Example: Find the Laplace transform of  $x_1(t)$ :

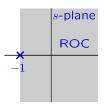
$$x_1(t) = \begin{cases} e^{-t} & \text{if } t \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



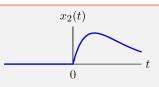
$$X_1(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x_1(t)e^{-st}dt = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-t}e^{-st}dt = \left. \frac{e^{-(s+1)t}}{-(s+1)} \right|_0^{\infty} = \frac{1}{s+1}$$

provided Re(s+1) > 0 which implies that Re(s) > -1.

$$\frac{1}{s+1} \; ; \quad \operatorname{Re}(s) > -1$$



$$x_2(t) = \left\{ \begin{aligned} e^{-t} - e^{-2t} & \text{ if } t \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{ otherwise} \end{aligned} \right.$$



Which of the following is the Laplace transform of  $x_2(t)$ ?

1. 
$$X_2(s) = \frac{1}{(s+1)(s+2)}$$
; Re(s) > -1

2. 
$$X_2(s) = \frac{1}{(s+1)(s+2)}$$
; Re(s) > -2

3. 
$$X_2(s) = \frac{s}{(s+1)(s+2)}$$
; Re(s) > -1

4. 
$$X_2(s) = \frac{s}{(s+1)(s+2)}$$
; Re(s) > -2

5. none of the above

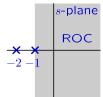
$$X_2(s) = \int_0^\infty (e^{-t} - e^{-2t})e^{-st}dt$$

$$= \int_0^\infty e^{-t}e^{-st}dt - \int_0^\infty e^{-2t}e^{-st}dt$$

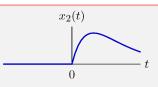
$$= \frac{1}{s+1} - \frac{1}{s+2} = \frac{(s+2) - (s+1)}{(s+1)(s+2)} = \frac{1}{(s+1)(s+2)}$$

These equations converge if  $\mathrm{Re}(s+1)>0$  and  $\mathrm{Re}(s+2)>0$ , thus  $\mathrm{Re}(s)>-1$ .

$$\frac{1}{(s+1)(s+2)}$$
; Re(s) > -1



$$x_2(t) = \left\{ \begin{aligned} e^{-t} - e^{-2t} & \text{ if } t \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{ otherwise} \end{aligned} \right.$$



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4. 
$$X_2(s) = \frac{s}{(s+1)(s+2)}$$
; Re(s) > -2

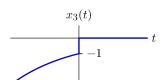
5. none of the above

# Regions of Convergence

Left-sided signals have left-sided Laplace transforms (bilateral only).

Example:

$$x_3(t) = \begin{cases} -e^{-t} & \text{if } t \le 0\\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



$$X_3(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x_3(t)e^{-st}dt = \int_{-\infty}^{0} -e^{-t}e^{-st}dt = \frac{-e^{-(s+1)t}}{-(s+1)} \Big|_{-\infty}^{0} = \frac{1}{s+1}$$

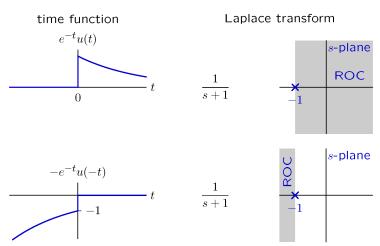
provided Re(s+1) < 0 which implies that Re(s) < -1.

$$\frac{1}{s+1} ; \operatorname{Re}(s) < -1$$



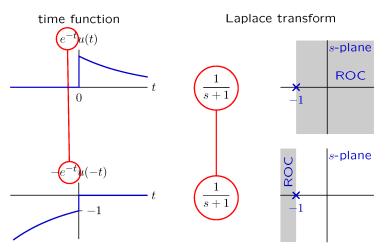
# Left- and Right-Sided ROCs

Laplace transforms of left- and right-sided exponentials have the same form (except -); with left- and right-sided ROCs, respectively.

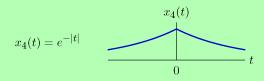


## Left- and Right-Sided ROCs

Laplace transforms of left- and right-sided exponentials have the same form (except -); with left- and right-sided ROCs, respectively.



Find the Laplace transform of  $x_4(t)$ .

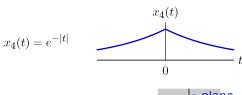


- 1.  $X_4(s) = \frac{2}{1-s^2}$ ;  $-\infty < \text{Re}(s) < \infty$
- 2.  $X_4(s) = \frac{2}{1-s^2}$ ; -1 < Re(s) < 1
- 3.  $X_4(s) = \frac{2}{1+s^2}$ ;  $-\infty < \text{Re}(s) < \infty$
- 4.  $X_4(s) = \frac{2}{1+s^2}$ ; -1 < Re(s) < 1
- 5. none of the above

$$\begin{split} X_4(s) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-|t|} e^{-st} dt \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{0} e^{(1-s)t} dt + \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-(1+s)t} dt \\ &= \frac{e^{(1-s)t}}{(1-s)} \bigg|_{-\infty}^{0} + \frac{e^{-(1+s)t}}{-(1+s)} \bigg|_{0}^{\infty} \\ &= \frac{1}{1-s} + \frac{1}{1+s} \\ &= \frac{1+s+1-s}{(1-s)(1+s)} = \frac{2}{1-s^2} \; ; \quad -1 < \operatorname{Re}(s) < 1 \end{split}$$

The ROC is the intersection of Re(s) < 1 and Re(s) > -1.

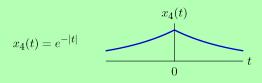
The Laplace transform of a signal that is both-sided a vertical strip.



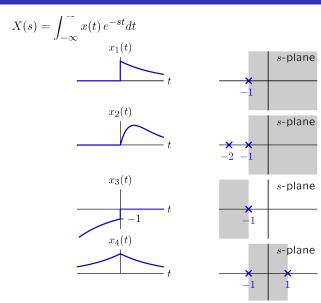
$$X_4(s) = \frac{2}{1 - s^2}$$
$$-1 < \text{Re}(s) < 1$$

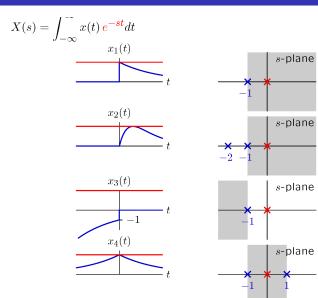


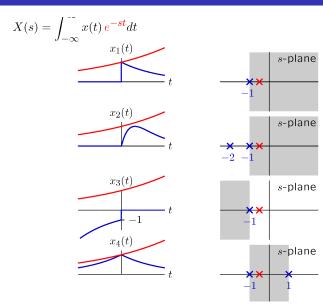
Find the Laplace transform of  $x_4(t)$ . 2

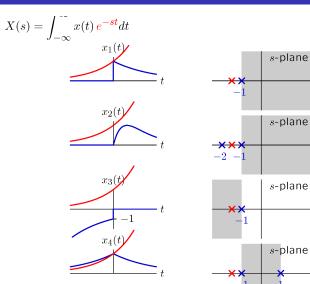


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- 4.  $X_4(s) = \frac{2}{1+s^2}$ ; -1 < Re(s) < 1
- 5. none of the above









The Laplace transform  $\frac{2s}{s^2-4}$  corresponds to how many of the following signals?

1. 
$$e^{-2t}u(t) + e^{2t}u(t)$$

2. 
$$e^{-2t}u(t) - e^{2t}u(-t)$$

3. 
$$-e^{-2t}u(-t) + e^{2t}u(t)$$

4. 
$$-e^{-2t}u(-t) - e^{2t}u(-t)$$

Expand with partial fractions:

$$\frac{2s}{s^2 - 4} = \underbrace{\frac{1}{s+2}}_{\text{pole at } -2} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{s-2}}_{\text{pole at } 2}$$

3. 
$$-e^{-2t}u(-t)+e^{2t}u(t)$$
 Re(s) <  $-2 \cap \text{Re}(s) > 2$  none

4. 
$$-e^{-2t}u(-t) - e^{2t}u(-t)$$
 Re(s) < -2 Re(s) < 2 Re(s) < -2

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3. 
$$-e^{-2t}u(-t) + e^{2t}u(t)$$

4. 
$$-e^{-2t}u(-t) - e^{2t}u(-t)$$

Solve the following differential equation:

$$\dot{y}(t) + y(t) = \delta(t)$$

Take the Laplace transform of this equation.

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{\dot{y}(t) + y(t)\right\} = \mathcal{L}\left\{\delta(t)\right\}$$

The Laplace transform of a sum is the sum of the Laplace transforms (prove this as an exercise).

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{\dot{y}(t)\right\} + \mathcal{L}\left\{y(t)\right\} = \mathcal{L}\left\{\delta(t)\right\}$$

What's the Laplace transform of a derivative?

# Laplace transform of a derivative

Assume that X(s) is the Laplace transform of x(t):

$$X(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(t)e^{-st}dt$$

Find the Laplace transform of  $y(t) = \dot{x}(t)$ .

$$Y(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y(t)e^{-st}dt = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \underbrace{\dot{x}(t)}_{\dot{v}} \underbrace{e^{-st}}_{u} dt$$
$$= \underbrace{x(t)}_{v} \underbrace{e^{-st}}_{u} \Big|_{-\infty}^{\infty} - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \underbrace{x(t)}_{v} \underbrace{(-se^{-st}}_{\dot{u}}) dt$$

The first term must be zero since X(s) converged. Thus

$$Y(s) = s \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(t)e^{-st}dt = sX(s)$$

Back to the previous problem:

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{\dot{y}(t)\right\} + \mathcal{L}\left\{y(t)\right\} = \mathcal{L}\left\{\delta(t)\right\}$$

Let Y(s) represent the Laplace transform of y(t).

Then sY(s) is the Laplace transform of  $\dot{y}(t)$ .

$$sY(s) + Y(s) = \mathcal{L} \{\delta(t)\}$$

What's the Laplace transform of the impulse function?

# Laplace transform of the impulse function

Let 
$$x(t) = \delta(t)$$
.

$$X(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(t)e^{-st}dt$$
$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(t) e^{-st} \Big|_{t=0} dt$$
$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(t) 1 dt$$
$$= 1$$

**Sifting property**:  $\delta(t)$  **sifts** out the value of  $e^{-st}$  at t=0.

Back to the previous problem:

$$sY(s) + Y(s) = \mathcal{L} \{\delta(t)\} = 1$$

This is a simple algebraic expression. Solve for Y(s):

$$Y(s) = \frac{1}{s+1}$$

We've seen this Laplace transform previously.

$$y(t) = e^{-t}u(t)$$

Notice that we solved the differential equation  $\dot{y}(t)+y(t)=\delta(t)$  without computing homogeneous and particular solutions.

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We've seen this Laplace transform previously.

$$y(t) = e^{-t}u(t)$$
 (why not  $y(t) = -e^{-t}u(-t)$ ?)

Notice that we solved the differential equation  $\dot{y}(t)+y(t)=\delta(t)$  without computing homogeneous and particular solutions.

Summary of method.

Start with differential equation:

$$\dot{y}(t) + y(t) = \delta(t)$$

Take the Laplace transform of this equation:

$$sY(s) + Y(s) = 1$$

Solve for Y(s):

$$Y(s) = \frac{1}{s+1}$$

Take inverse Laplace transform (by recognizing form of transform):

$$y(t) = e^{-t}u(t)$$

Recognizing the form ...

Is there a more systematic way to take an inverse Laplace transform?

Yes ... and no.

Formally,

$$x(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi j} \int_{\sigma - j\infty}^{\sigma + j\infty} X(s) e^{st} ds$$

but this integral is not generally easy to compute.

This equation can be useful to prove theorems.

We will find better ways (e.g., partial fractions) to compute inverse transforms for common systems.

## Solving Differential Equations with Laplace Transforms

Example 2:

$$\ddot{y}(t) + 3\dot{y}(t) + 2y(t) = \delta(t)$$

Laplace transform:

$$s^{2}Y(s) + 3sY(s) + 2Y(s) = 1$$

Solve:

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

Inverse Laplace transform:

$$y(t) = (e^{-t} - e^{-2t}) u(t)$$

These forward and inverse Laplace transforms are easy if

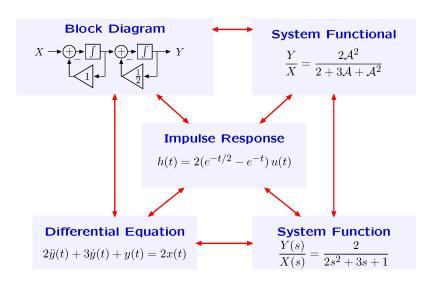
- differential equation is linear with constant coefficients, and
- the input signal is an impulse function.

## Properties of Laplace Transforms

The use of Laplace Transforms to solve differential equations depends on several important properties.

Property	x(t)	X(s)	ROC
Linearity	$ax_1(t) + bx_2(t)$	$aX_1(s) + bX_2(s)$	$\supset (R_1 \cap R_2)$
Delay by ${\cal T}$	x(t-T)	$X(s)e^{-sT}$	R
Multiply by $t$	tx(t)	$-\frac{dX(s)}{ds}$	R
Multiply by $e^{-\alpha t}$	$x(t)e^{-\alpha t}$	$X(s+\alpha)$	$\text{shift } R \text{ by } -\alpha$
Differentiate in $t$	$\frac{dx(t)}{dt}$	sX(s)	$\supset R$
Integrate in $t$	$\int_{-\infty}^t x(\tau)  d\tau$	$\frac{X(s)}{s}$	$\supset (R \cap (\operatorname{Re}(s) > 0))$
Convolve in $t$	$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x_1(\tau) x_2(t-\tau)  d\tau$	$X_1(s)X_2(s)$	$\supset (R_1 \cap R_2)$

Where does Laplace transform fit in?



Where does Laplace transform fit in?

1. Link from differential equation and system function:

Start with differential equation:

$$2\ddot{y}(t) + 3\dot{y}(t) + y(t) = 2x(t)$$

Take the Laplace transform of a each term:

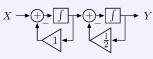
$$2s^{2}Y(s) + 3sY(s) + Y(s) = 2X(s)$$

Solve for system function:

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

Where does Laplace transform fit in?





### **System Functional**

$$\frac{Y}{X} = \frac{2A^2}{2 + 3A + A^2}$$

#### **Impulse Response**

$$h(t) = 2(e^{-t/2} - e^{-t})\,u(t)$$

#### **Differential Equation**

$$2\ddot{y}(t) + 3\dot{y}(t) + y(t) = 2x(t)$$

#### **System Function**

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

This same development shows an even more important relation.

2. Link between system function and impulse response:

Differential equation:

$$2\ddot{y}(t) + 3\dot{y}(t) + y(t) = 2x(t)$$

System function:

$$H(s) = \frac{Y(s)}{X(s)} = \frac{2}{2s^2 + 3s + 1}$$

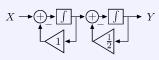
If  $x(t) = \delta(t)$  then y(t) is the impulse response h(t).

If 
$$X(s) = 1$$
 then  $Y(s) = H(s)$ .

System function is Laplace transform of the impulse response!

Where does Laplace transform fit in?

#### **Block Diagram**



### **System Functional**

$$\frac{Y}{X} = \frac{2A^2}{2 + 3A + A^2}$$

#### **Impulse Response**

$$h(t) = 2(e^{-t/2} - e^{-t}) u(t)$$



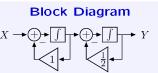
#### **Differential Equation**

$$2\ddot{y}(t) + 3\dot{y}(t) + y(t) = 2x(t)$$

### **System Function**

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

Where does Laplace transform fit in? many more connections



### **System Functional**

$$\frac{Y}{X} = \frac{2\mathcal{A}^2}{2 + 3\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A}^2}$$

### **Impulse Response**

$$h(t) = 2(e^{-t/2} - e^{-t}) \, u(t)$$

#### **Differential Equation**

$$2\ddot{y}(t) + 3\dot{y}(t) + y(t) = 2x(t)$$

#### **System Function**

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

### **Initial Value Theorem**

If x(t)=0 for t<0 and x(t) contains no impulses or higher-order singularities at t=0 then

$$x(0^+) = \lim_{s \to \infty} sX(s).$$

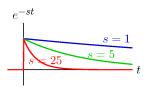
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If x(t)=0 for t<0 and x(t) contains no impulses or higher-order singularities at t=0 then

$$x(0^+) = \lim_{s \to \infty} sX(s).$$

$$\text{Consider } \lim_{s \to \infty} sX(s) = \lim_{s \to \infty} s \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(t) e^{-st} dt = \lim_{s \to \infty} \int_{0}^{\infty} x(t) \, s e^{-st} dt.$$

As  $s \to \infty$  the function  $e^{-st}$  shrinks towards 0.



Area under 
$$e^{-st}$$
 is  $\frac{1}{s} \to \text{area under } se^{-st}$  is  $1 \to \lim_{s \to \infty} se^{-st} = \delta(t)$ ! 
$$\lim_{s \to \infty} sX(s) = \lim_{s \to \infty} \int_0^\infty x(t)se^{-st}dt \to \int_0^\infty x(t)\delta(t)dt = x(0^+)$$

(the  $0^+$  arises because the limit is from the right side.)

## Final Value Theorem

If 
$$x(t)=0$$
 for  $t<0$  and  $x(t)$  has a finite limit as  $t\to\infty$  
$$x(\infty)=\lim_{s\to 0}sX(s)\,.$$

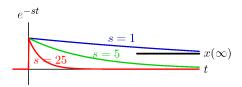
### Final Value Theorem

If x(t) = 0 for t < 0 and x(t) has a finite limit as  $t \to \infty$ 

$$x(\infty) = \lim_{s \to 0} sX(s)$$
.

$$\text{Consider } \lim_{s \to 0} sX(s) = \lim_{s \to 0} s \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(t)e^{-st}dt = \lim_{s \to 0} \int_{0}^{\infty} x(t)\,se^{-st}dt.$$

As  $s \to 0$  the function  $e^{-st}$  flattens out. But again, the area under  $se^{-st}$  is always 1.



As  $s \to 0$ , area under  $se^{-st}$  monotonically shifts to higher values of t (e.g., the average value of  $se^{-st}$  is  $\frac{1}{s}$  which grows as  $s \to 0$ ).

In the limit, 
$$\lim_{s\to 0} sX(s) \to x(\infty)$$
 .

# Assignments

• Reading Assignment: Chap. 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.5, 9.6