

EE120 - Fall'19 - Lecture 15 Notes¹

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The Laplace Transform

Chapter 9 in Oppenheim & Willsky

The Laplace transform of a continuous-time signal x is

$$X(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(t)e^{-st} dt \quad (1)$$

where s is a complex variable. $X(s)|_{s=j\omega}$ is the Fourier transform.

Recall from Lecture 3:

$$e^{st} \rightarrow \boxed{h(t)} \rightarrow H(s)e^{st} \quad \text{where} \quad H(s) := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(t)e^{-st} dt.$$

Thus the transfer function $H(s)$ is the Laplace transform of $h(t)$.

Example 1:

$$\boxed{x(t) = e^{-at}u(t)} \leftrightarrow X(j\omega) = \frac{1}{j\omega + a} \quad \text{if } a > 0 \quad (\text{Lecture 6})$$

Find the Laplace transform:

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

Let σ denote the real part of s ($s = \sigma + j\omega$):

$$\begin{aligned} X(s) &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-(a+\sigma)t} e^{-j\omega t} dt = \text{Fourier transform of } e^{-(a+\sigma)u(t)} \\ &\quad (\text{convergence if } a+\sigma > 0) \\ &= \frac{1}{j\omega + (a + \sigma)} = \frac{1}{s + a} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\boxed{X(s) = \frac{1}{s + a} \quad \text{if } \sigma = \text{Re}\{s\} > -a.}$$

If $a = 0$ (unit step), Fourier transform doesn't converge, but the Laplace transform does for $\text{Re}\{s\} > 0$.

Example 2:

$$\boxed{x(t) = -e^{-at}u(-t)}$$

Using the change of variables $\tau = -t$:

$$\begin{aligned} X(s) &= - \int_{-\infty}^0 e^{-at} e^{-st} dt \\ &= - \int_{\infty}^0 e^{(a+s)\tau} (-d\tau) = - \int_0^{\infty} e^{(a+s)\tau} d\tau = - \frac{1}{a+s} e^{(a+s)\tau} \Big|_0^{\infty} \end{aligned}$$

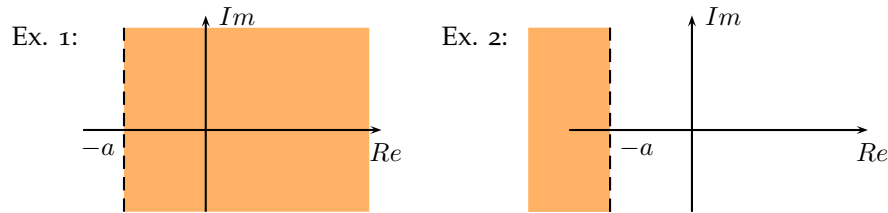
If $\text{Re}\{a+s\} < 0$, then $e^{(a+s)\tau} \rightarrow 0$ as $\tau \rightarrow \infty$: $\boxed{= \frac{1}{s+a} \quad \text{if } \text{Re}\{s\} < -a}$

Region of Convergence (ROC)

Note that the Laplace and Fourier transforms are related by

$$\mathcal{L}\{x(t)\} = \mathcal{F}\{x(t)e^{-\sigma t}\} \text{ where } \sigma = \text{Re}\{s\}.$$

Thus, the ROC is the set of $s \in \mathbb{C}$ whose real part σ is such that the Fourier integral for $x(t)e^{-\sigma t}$ converges. If the ROC includes the imaginary axis ($\sigma = 0$), then the Fourier transform exists for $x(t)$.



Example 3: $x(t) = 3e^{-2t}u(t) - 2e^{-t}u(t)$

$$\begin{aligned} X(s) &= \frac{3}{s+2} - \frac{2}{s+1} & \text{ROC} &= \{s | \text{Re}\{s\} > -2\} \cap \{s | \text{Re}\{s\} > -1\} \\ &= \frac{s-1}{(s+1)(s+2)} & &= \{s | \text{Re}\{s\} > -1\} \end{aligned}$$

Example 4: $x(t) = e^{-\alpha t}u(t)$, α : complex.

$$X(s) = \frac{1}{s+\alpha} \text{ if } \text{Re}\{s+\alpha\} > 0, \text{ i.e., if } \text{Re}\{s\} > -\text{Re}\{\alpha\}.$$

Example 5: $\cos(\omega_0 t)u(t) = \frac{1}{2}e^{j\omega_0 t}u(t) + \frac{1}{2}e^{-j\omega_0 t}u(t)$

From Example 4 the Laplace transform is:

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{s-j\omega_0} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{s+j\omega_0} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{2s}{s^2 + \omega_0^2} = \frac{s}{s^2 + \omega_0^2}$$

$$\cos(\omega_0 t)u(t) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \frac{s}{s^2 + \omega_0^2} \quad \text{Re}\{s\} > 0 \quad (2)$$

A similar derivation shows:

$$\sin(\omega_0 t)u(t) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \frac{\omega_0}{s^2 + \omega_0^2} \quad \text{Re}\{s\} > 0 \quad (3)$$

Example 6: $e^{-at}\cos(\omega_0 t)u(t) = \frac{1}{2}e^{-(a-j\omega_0)t}u(t) + \frac{1}{2}e^{-(a+j\omega_0)t}u(t)$

From Example 4:

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{s+a-j\omega_0} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{s+a+j\omega_0} = \frac{(s+a)}{(s+a)^2 + \omega_0^2}$$

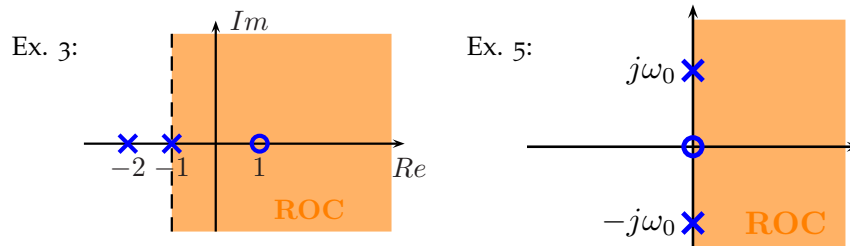
$$e^{-at}\cos(\omega_0 t)u(t) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \frac{(s+a)}{(s+a)^2 + \omega_0^2} \quad \text{Re}\{s\} > -a \quad (4)$$

Poles and Zeros of Laplace Transforms

Suppose $X(s)$ is rational (polynomial divided by polynomial):

$$X(s) = \frac{N(s)}{D(s)}. \quad (5)$$

Zeros of $X(s)$ are the roots of the numerator $N(s)$, and poles are the roots of the denominator $D(s)$.



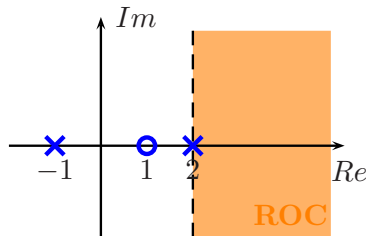
Zeros marked with "o", and poles with "x".

Example 7:

$$x(t) = \delta(t) - \frac{4}{3}e^{-t}u(t) + \frac{1}{3}e^{2t}u(t)$$

Laplace transform of $\delta(t)$: $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(t)e^{-st}dt = 1$ for all $s \in \mathbb{C}$.

$$\begin{aligned} X(s) &= 1 - \frac{4}{3} \frac{1}{s+1} + \frac{1}{3} \frac{1}{s-2} \\ &= \frac{3(s+1)(s-2) - 4(s-2) + (s+1)}{3(s+1)(s-2)} = \frac{3s^2 - 6s + 3}{3(s+1)(s-2)} \\ &= \frac{s^2 - 2s + 1}{(s+1)(s-2)} = \frac{(s-1)^2}{(s+1)(s-2)} \quad \text{if } \operatorname{Re}\{s\} > 2. \end{aligned}$$



Inverse Laplace Transform by Partial Fraction Expansion

Section 9.3 in Oppenheim & Willsky

Example 8:

$$X(s) = \frac{1}{(s+1)(s+2)} = \frac{A}{s+1} + \frac{B}{s+2} = \frac{(A+B)s + (2A+B)}{(s+1)(s+2)}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} A+B &= 0 \\ 2A+B &= 1 \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{aligned} A &= 1 \\ B &= -1 \end{aligned}$$

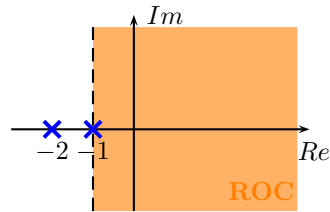
Note that:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \frac{1}{s+1} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \begin{array}{l} e^{-t}u(t) \\ \text{Re}\{s\} > -1 \end{array} \\ & \searrow & \begin{array}{l} -e^{-t}u(-t) \\ \text{Re}\{s\} < -1 \end{array} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \frac{1}{s+2} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \begin{array}{l} e^{-2t}u(t) \\ \text{Re}\{s\} > -2 \end{array} \\ & \searrow & \begin{array}{l} -e^{-2t}u(-t) \\ \text{Re}\{s\} < -2 \end{array} \end{array}$$

Thus, $x(t)$ can't be determined uniquely unless the ROC is specified.

Possibilities:

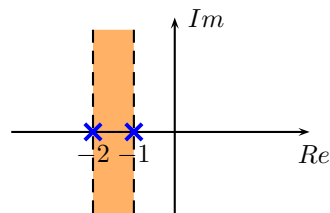
1) $x(t) = e^{-t}u(t) + e^{-2t}u(t)$, if $\text{Re}\{s\} > -1$.



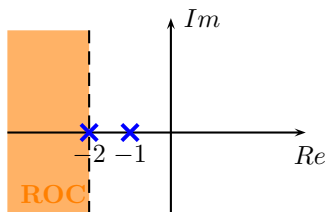
2) $x(t) = e^{-t}u(t) - e^{-2t}u(-t)$, $\text{ROC} = \emptyset$

since $\text{Re}\{s\} > -1$ and $\text{Re}\{s\} < -2$ do not intersect.

3) $x(t) = -e^{-t}u(-t) + e^{-2t}u(t)$ if $-2 < \text{Re}\{s\} < -1$



4) $x(t) = -e^{-t}u(-t) - e^{-2t}u(-t)$ if $\text{Re}\{s\} < -2$



Properties of the Laplace Transform

Section 9.5 in Oppenheim & Willsky

Assume that $x(t) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} X(s)$ with $\text{ROC} = R$.

Linearity:

$$ax_1(t) + bx_2(t) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} aX_1(s) + bX_2(s) \quad (6)$$

ROC contains $R_1 \cap R_2$, but can be larger: e.g., if $x_1(t) = x_2(t)$ and $a = -b$, then $ax_1(t) + bx_2(t) \equiv 0$ and ROC is the entire complex plane.

Time-Shift:

$$x(t - t_0) \leftrightarrow e^{-st_0} X(s) \quad (7)$$

ROC unchanged because:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(\underbrace{t - t_0}_{\triangleq \tau}) e^{-st} dt = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(\tau) e^{-s\tau} e^{-st_0} d\tau = \underbrace{e^{-st_0}}_{\substack{\text{this factor} \\ \text{doesn't change} \\ \text{convergence}}} \underbrace{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(\tau) e^{-s\tau} d\tau}_{X(s)}$$

Shifting in the s-Domain:

$$e^{s_0 t} x(t) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} X(s - s_0) \quad \text{ROC} = R + \text{Re}\{s_0\} \quad (8)$$

Compare to: $e^{j\omega_0 t} x(t) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} X(j(\omega - \omega_0))$ in Fourier transforms.

Time-Scaling:

$$x(at) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \frac{1}{|a|} X\left(\frac{s}{a}\right) \quad \text{ROC} = a \cdot R \quad (9)$$

In particular, $x(-t) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} X(-s)$, with $\text{ROC} = -R$.

Example 9:

$$\begin{aligned} \cos(\omega_0 t) u(t) &\xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \frac{s}{s^2 + \omega_0^2} & \text{Re}\{s\} > 0 \\ \cos(-\omega_0 t) u(-t) = \cos(\omega_0 t) u(-t) &\xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \frac{-s}{s^2 + \omega_0^2} & \text{Re}\{s\} < 0 \end{aligned}$$

Conjugation:

$$x^*(t) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} X^*(s^*) \quad \text{ROC unchanged} \quad (10)$$

Similar property in Fourier transforms: $x^*(t) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} X^*(-j\omega)$

Convolution:

$$(x_1 * x_2)(t) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} X_1(s) X_2(s) \quad \text{ROC contains } R_1 \cap R_2 \quad (11)$$

Differentiation in Time Domain:

$$\frac{dx(t)}{dt} \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} sX(s) \quad \text{ROC contains } R \text{ but can be larger} \quad (12)$$

Example 10: $x(t) = \sin(\omega_0 t) u(t) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \frac{\omega_0}{s^2 + \omega_0^2} \quad \text{Re}\{s\} > 0$

$$\frac{dx(t)}{dt} = \omega_0 \cos(\omega_0 t) u(t) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \frac{\omega_0 s}{s^2 + \omega_0^2} \quad \text{Re}\{s\} > 0$$

Differentiation in the s-Domain:

$$-tx(t) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \frac{dX(s)}{ds} \quad \text{ROC unchanged for exponential signals} \quad (13)$$

Proof: $X(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(t)e^{-st}dt$ then $\frac{dX(s)}{ds} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} -tx(t)e^{-st}dt$.

Example 11:

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-at}u(t) &\xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \frac{1}{s+a} \\ te^{-at}u(t) &\xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} -\frac{d}{ds} \left(\frac{1}{s+a} \right) = \frac{1}{(s+a)^2} \\ t^2e^{-at}u(t) &\xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} -\frac{d}{ds} \left(\frac{1}{(s+a)^2} \right) = \frac{2}{(s+a)^3} \\ &\vdots \\ t^n e^{-at}u(t) &\xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \frac{n!}{(s+a)^{n+1}} \end{aligned}$$

with $\text{Re}\{s\} > -a$ for all cases.

Special case $a = 0$: $u(t) \leftrightarrow \frac{1}{s}$, $tu(t) \leftrightarrow \frac{1}{s^2}$, ..., $t^n u(t) \leftrightarrow \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}$

Example 12: Partial fraction expansion for repeated poles

Given $\text{ROC} = \{s : \text{Re}\{s\} > -1\}$, find the inverse Laplace transform for:

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

$$\begin{aligned} X(s) &= \frac{1}{(s+1)(s+2)^2} = \frac{A_1}{s+1} + \frac{A_{21}}{s+2} + \frac{A_{22}}{(s+2)^2} \\ &= \frac{A_1(s+2)^2 + A_{21}(s+1)(s+2) + A_{22}(s+1)}{(s+1)(s+2)^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \underbrace{(A_1 + A_{21})s^2}_{=0} + \underbrace{(4A_1 + 3A_{21} + A_{22})s}_{=0} + \underbrace{(4A_1 + 2A_{21} + A_{22})}_{=1} &= 1 \\ \implies A_1 = 1, \quad A_{21} = A_{22} = -1 \end{aligned}$$

$$X(s) = \frac{1}{s+1} - \frac{1}{s+2} - \frac{1}{(s+2)^2} \leftrightarrow x(t) = (e^{-t} - e^{-2t} - te^{-2t})u(t)$$

Integration in Time:

$$\int_{-\infty}^t x(\tau)d\tau \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \frac{1}{s}X(s) \quad \text{ROC contains } R \cap \{s : \text{Re}\{s\} > 0\} \quad (14)$$

Follows from the convolution property: $\int_{-\infty}^t x(\tau)d\tau = (x * u)(t)$ where $u(t) \leftrightarrow \frac{1}{s}$ is the unit step.

Initial Value Theorem:

If $x(t) = 0$ for all $t < 0$ and contains no impulses or singularities at $t = 0$, then

$$x(0^+) = \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} sX(s) \quad (15)$$

Example 13: $e^{-at}u(t) \leftrightarrow \frac{1}{s+a}$

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \frac{s}{s+a} = 1 = e^{-at}u(t)|_{t=0^+}$$

Final Value Theorem:

If $x(t) = 0$ for all $t < 0$ and $x(t)$ has a finite limit as $t \rightarrow \infty$, then

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} sX(s) \quad (16)$$

Signal	Transform	ROC
$\delta(t)$	1	all s
$u(t)$	$\frac{1}{s}$	$\text{Re}\{s\} > 0$
$-u(-t)$	$\frac{1}{s}$	$\text{Re}\{s\} < 0$
$\frac{t^{n-1}}{(n-1)!}u(t)$	$\frac{1}{s^n}$	$\text{Re}\{s\} > 0$
$-\frac{t^{n-1}}{(n-1)!}u(-t)$	$\frac{1}{s^n}$	$\text{Re}\{s\} < 0$
$e^{-at}u(t)$	$\frac{1}{s+a}$	$\text{Re}\{s\} > -a$
$-e^{-at}u(-t)$	$\frac{1}{s+a}$	$\text{Re}\{s\} < -a$
$\frac{t^{n-1}}{(n-1)!}e^{-at}u(t)$	$\frac{1}{(s+a)^n}$	$\text{Re}\{s\} > -a$
$-\frac{t^{n-1}}{(n-1)!}e^{-at}u(-t)$	$\frac{1}{(s+a)^n}$	$\text{Re}\{s\} < -a$
$\delta(t-T)$	e^{-sT}	all s
$\cos(\omega_0 t)u(t)$	$\frac{s}{s^2 + \omega_0^2}$	$\text{Re}\{s\} > 0$
$\sin(\omega_0 t)u(t)$	$\frac{\omega_0}{s^2 + \omega_0^2}$	$\text{Re}\{s\} > 0$
$e^{-at} \cos(\omega_0 t)u(t)$	$\frac{s+a}{(s+a)^2 + \omega_0^2}$	$\text{Re}\{s\} > -a$
$e^{-at} \sin(\omega_0 t)u(t)$	$\frac{\omega_0}{(s+a)^2 + \omega_0^2}$	$\text{Re}\{s\} > -a$

Table 1: Laplace transforms of several functions.