



1 a) We have

$$\mathcal{F}(u_t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u_t e^{-iwx} dx = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u e^{-iwx} dx = \hat{u}_t$$

Moreover, using the rule for Fourier transforms of (second) derivatives gives  $\mathcal{F}(u_{xx}) = -w^2 \hat{u}$ . We thus obtain the equation

$$\frac{\partial \hat{u}}{\partial t} = -c^2 w^2 \hat{u}$$

This is readily solved to obtain

$$\hat{u} = \hat{u}(x, 0) e^{-c^2 w^2 t} = \hat{f}(w) e^{-c^2 w^2 t}$$

b) Proceeding as above, we obtain the equation

$$\frac{\partial \hat{v}}{\partial t} = (1 - c^2 w^2) \hat{v}$$

This is solved by

$$\hat{v} = \hat{v}(x, 0) e^{(1-c^2 w^2)t} = \hat{f}(w) e^{-t} e^{-c^2 w^2 t}$$

We then note the relation  $\hat{v}(w, t) = e^{-t} \hat{u}(w, t)$ . As  $e^{-t}$  is independent of  $w$ , the inverse Fourier transform immediately gives  $v(x, t) = e^{-t} u(x, t)$ . The extra term in the equation has therefore caused the solution to be modified by a factor of  $e^{-t}$ , which is a rapidly decaying term. Physically, this would correspond to some dissipation of heat.

2 By similar arguments to the previous question, taking Fourier transforms on both sides gives the equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 \hat{u}}{\partial t^2} = c^2 w^2 \hat{u}$$

This has solution

$$\hat{u} = A(w) \cos cwt + B(w) \sin cwt$$

The initial condition  $u(x, 0) = f(x)$  implies that  $A(w) = \hat{f}(w)$ , whilst differentiating the expression for  $\hat{u}$  and setting  $u_t(x, 0) = 0$  shows that  $B(w) = 0$ , i.e. we have  $\hat{u} = \hat{f}(w) \cos cwt$ . The integral for the inverse Fourier transform is

$$u(x, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}(w) \cos cwt e^{iwx} dw$$

Rewriting the cos in terms of exponentials as suggested gives

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, t) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2} (\hat{f}(w) e^{icwt} e^{iwx} + \hat{f}(w) e^{-icwt} e^{iwx}) dw \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2} (\hat{f}(w) e^{iw(x+ct)} + \hat{f}(w) e^{iw(x-ct)}) dw \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (f(x+ct) - f(x-ct)), \end{aligned}$$

where in the final step we recognized the expressions for the inverse Fourier transform of  $\hat{f}$ .

3 We compute

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(u(t-2) - u(t-3)) &= \int_0^{\infty} (u(t-2) - u(t-3)) e^{-st} dt \\ &= \int_2^3 e^{-st} dt = \left[ \frac{e^{-st}}{-s} \right]_2^3 = \frac{e^{-2s} - e^{-3s}}{s} \end{aligned}$$

4 a) We have

$$\mathcal{L}(t^2 + 2t - 3) = \mathcal{L}(t^2) + 2\mathcal{L}(t) - 3\mathcal{L}(1) = \frac{2}{s^3} + \frac{2}{s^2} - \frac{3}{s}$$

b) We write in terms of exponentials:

$$\begin{aligned} \sinh(t) \sin(2t) &= \left( \frac{e^t - e^{-t}}{2} \right) \left( \frac{e^{2it} - e^{-2it}}{2i} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{4i} (e^{(2i+1)t} - e^{(1-2i)t} - e^{(2i-1)t} + e^{-(2i+1)t}) \end{aligned}$$

Taking Laplace transforms of each of the exponentials gives

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(f(t)) &= \frac{1}{4i} \left( \frac{1}{s-1-2i} - \frac{1}{s-1+2i} - \frac{1}{s+1-2i} + \frac{1}{s+1+2i} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{4i} \left( \frac{s-1+2i - (s-1-2i)}{(s-1-2i)(s-1+2i)} + \frac{s+1-2i - (s+1+2i)}{(s+1-2i)(s+1+2i)} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{(s-1)^2 + 4} - \frac{1}{(s+1)^2 + 4} \end{aligned}$$

Note that the grouping into quadratic terms in  $s$  was done such that the each pair of factors in the denominator was a conjugate pair, leading to the resulting simplification. There are other equally valid ways to reach the same answer, e.g. by writing

$$\sinh(t) \sin(2t) = \frac{1}{2} (e^t \sin(2t) - e^{-t} \sin(2t))$$

and using the  $s$ -shifting formula together with the Laplace transform for  $\sin(2t)$ .

- 5 a) From the tables, we have that  $\mathcal{L}(t^2) = \frac{2}{s^3}$ , and  $\mathcal{L}(e^t) = \frac{1}{s-1}$ . It follows immediately that  $f(t) = t^2 + 5e^t$
- b) Following the hint, we note that

$$\frac{3s-7}{s^2+2s+5} = \frac{3s-7}{(s+1)^2+4}$$

We recall that the Laplace transforms of  $\cos at$  and  $\sin at$  are  $\frac{s}{s^2+a^2}$  and  $\frac{a}{s^2+a^2}$ , respectively. By the  $s$ -shifting formula, the Laplace transforms of  $e^{-t} \cos 2t$  and  $e^{-t} \sin 2t$  are therefore

$$\frac{s+1}{(s+1)^2+4}, \quad \frac{2}{(s+1)^2+4}$$

We bring our function into this form by writing

$$F(s) = \frac{3s-7}{(s+1)^2+4} = \frac{3(s+1)}{(s+1)^2+4} - \frac{5 \cdot 2}{(s+1)^2+4},$$

from which it follows that

$$f(t) = e^{-t}(3 \cos 2t - 5 \sin 2t)$$

- 6 We begin by writing, for  $t > 0$ ,  $r(t) = (1-t)(1-u(t-1))$ . To compute the Laplace transform of  $r$  we will use the  $t$ -shifting theorem, so we write

$$r(t) = 1 - t + (t-1)u(t-1),$$

from which it follows that

$$\mathcal{L}(r) = \frac{1}{s} - \frac{1}{s^2} + \frac{e^{-s}}{s^2} = \frac{s-1+e^{-s}}{s^2}$$

Taking Laplace transforms on both sides of the equation and using the formula  $\mathcal{L}(y'') = s^2 \mathcal{L}(y) - sy'(0) - y(0)$  gives

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

which we rearrange to the form given in the exercise:

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

We recognize immediately that the first term in the above expression for  $Y$  is the Laplace transform of  $\cos t$ . For the second, we use the suggested partial fraction expansion

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

Expanding out the brackets, we compute the inverse Laplace transform term-by-term using  $t$ -shifting where appropriate, to give

$$1 - t + (t-1)u(t-1) - \cos t + \sin t - u(t-1) \sin(t-1)$$

Summing the inverse Laplace transforms for the two terms of  $Y(s)$  then gives

$$y(t) = 1 - t + \sin t + u(t-1)(t-1 - \sin(t-1))$$

7 We begin by writing

$$\int_0^\infty f'(t)e^{-st}ds = \int_0^{a-} f'(t)e^{-st}ds + \int_{a+}^\infty f'(t)e^{-st}ds$$

Integrating each term on the right by parts gives

$$\begin{aligned} F(s) &= [f(t)e^{-st}]_0^{a-} + \int_0^{a-} sf(t)e^{-st}ds + [f(t)e^{-st}]_{a+}^\infty + \int_{a+}^\infty sf(t)e^{-st}ds \\ &= f(a_-)e^{-st} - f(0) - f(a_+)e^{-st} + s\mathcal{L}(f), \end{aligned}$$

where we recombined the two integrals above to get the  $s\mathcal{L}(f)$  term.