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MP232: Applied Mathematics

60% Exam
40% Continuous Assessment (3 parts)

Contents

1 Prelim : The Exponential Function and Hyperbolic Functions

1.1 Exponential Function

Derivative

$$\frac{d}{dt}\left(e^{at}\right) = a\,e^{at}$$

Integral

$$\int e^{at}\,dt = \frac{1}{a}e^{at} + C$$

1.2 Hyperbolic Functions

Definitions:

$$\sinh(at) = \tfrac{e^{at}-e^{-at}}{2} \;\Big|\; \cosh(at) = \tfrac{e^{at}+e^{-at}}{2} \;\Big|\; \tanh(at) = \tfrac{\sinh(at)}{\cosh(at)}.$$

Derivatives

$$\tfrac{d}{dt}\big(\sinh(at)\big) = a\,\cosh(at), \;\Big|\; \tfrac{d}{dt}\big(\cosh(at)\big) = a\,\sinh(at), \;\Big|\; \tfrac{d}{dt}\big(\tanh(at)\big) = a\,\mathrm{sech}^2(at).$$

Integrals

$$\begin{aligned}\int \sinh(at)\,dt &= \frac{1}{a}\cosh(at) + C\\ \int \cosh(at)\,dt &= \frac{1}{a}\sinh(at) + C,\\ \int \tanh(at)\,dt &= \frac{1}{a}\ln\big|\cosh(at)\big| + C.\end{aligned}$$

Common Identities

$$\begin{aligned}\cosh^2 x - \sinh^2 x &= 1,\\ \sinh(2x) &= 2\,\sinh x\,\cosh x,\\ \cosh(2x) &= \cosh^2 x + \sinh^2 x,\\ \tanh(2x) &= \frac{2\,\tanh x}{1+\tanh^2 x}.\end{aligned}$$

1.3 Partial Fraction Decomposition

Unrepeated Linear Factors: A linear factor is of form $(ax + b)$

$$\frac{s+1}{s(s-2)(s+3)} = \frac{A}{s} + \frac{B}{s-2} + \frac{C}{s+3}$$

Repeated LinearFactors:

$$\frac{3}{(s+2)^2(s-3)} = \frac{A}{s+2} + \frac{B}{(s+2)^2} + \frac{C}{s-3}$$

Unrepeated Quadratic Factors with complex roots: Where the discriminant $(b^2 - 4ac)$ is negative (complex roots) but the factor is not repeated

$$\frac{3}{(s^2-s+1)(s+2)} = \frac{As+B}{s^2-s+1} + \frac{C}{s+2}$$

Repeated Quadratic Factors with complex roots:

$$\frac{1}{(s^2+1)^2(s-1)} = \frac{As+B}{(s^2+1)^2} + \frac{Cs+D}{s^2+1} + \frac{E}{s-1}$$

2 Laplace Transforms

2.1 What is a Laplace Transform?

The Laplace Transform, defined for $t \geq 0$, is given by

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

2.2 Common Laplace Transforms

Example Find the Laplace Transform of $f(t) = 1$

We have:

$$L\{1\} = \int_0^\infty 1 \cdot e^{-st} dt = \lim_{R\to\infty} \int_0^R e^{-st} dt$$

This integral is equal to:

$$\int_0^R e^{-st} dt = \left.\frac{e^{-st}}{-s}\right|_{t=0}^{t=R} = -\frac{1}{s}[e^{-sR} - 1] = \frac{1 - e^{-sR}}{s}$$

Taking the limit as $R \to \infty$ gives:

$$L\{1\} = \lim_{R\to\infty} \frac{1 - e^{-sR}}{s} = \frac{1}{s}$$

Example Find the Laplace Transform of $f(t) = e^{2t}$

$$\begin{aligned}
L\{e^{2t}\} &= \int_0^\infty e^{2t} e^{-st}\, dt = \int_0^\infty e^{-(s-2)t}\, dt \\
&= \lim_{R\to\infty} \int_0^R e^{-(s-2)t}\, dt \\
&= \lim_{R\to\infty} \left[\frac{e^{-(s-2)t}}{-(s-2)}\right]_{t=0}^{t=R} \\
&= \lim_{R\to\infty} \left(\frac{e^{-(s-2)R} - e^0}{-(s-2)}\right) = \lim_{R\to\infty} \left(\frac{e^{-(s-2)R} - 1}{-(s-2)}\right) \\
&= \frac{1}{s-2} \quad (\text{since } e^{-(s-2)R} \to 0 \text{ as } R \to \infty \text{ provided } s > 2)
\end{aligned}$$

Example Find the Laplace Transform of $f(t) = \cosh(at)$

We have:

$$\begin{aligned}
L\{\cosh(at)\} &= L\left\{\frac{e^{at} + e^{-at}}{2}\right\} \quad \text{from the definition of } \cosh(at) \\
&= \frac{1}{2}L\{e^{at}\} + \frac{1}{2}L\{e^{-at}\} \quad \text{by linearity of the Laplace Transform} \\
&= \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{s-a}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{s+a}\right)
\end{aligned}$$

Hence:

$$L\{\cosh(at)\} = \frac{s}{s^2 - a^2}$$

Noting that $\sinh(at) = (e^{at} - e^{-at})/2$, we can find that:

$$L\{\sinh(at)\} = \frac{a}{(s^2 - a^2)}$$

Example Find the Laplace Transform of $\cos(wt)$ and $\sin(wt)$ where w is a constant.

We first compute the Laplace Transform of e^{iwt} using its definition:

$$L\{e^{iwt}\} = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} e^{iwt}\, dt = \int_0^\infty e^{-(s-iw)t}\, dt = \frac{1}{s-iw}, \quad \text{for } \Re(s) > 0.$$

To express this in terms of real and imaginary parts, we multiply the numerator and denominator by the complex conjugate of the denominator:

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

Since Euler's formula gives:

$$e^{iwt} = \cos(wt) + i\sin(wt),$$

the linearity of the Laplace Transform yields:

$$L\{e^{iwt}\} = L\{\cos(wt)\} + iL\{\sin(wt)\}.$$

Equating the two representations of $L\{e^{iwt}\}$, we have:

$$L\{\cos(wt)\} + iL\{\sin(wt)\} = \frac{s+iw}{s^2+w^2}.$$

Since the equality must hold for both the real and imaginary parts, we equate them separately:

$$L\{\cos(wt)\} = \frac{s}{s^2+w^2} \quad \text{and} \quad L\{\sin(wt)\} = \frac{w}{s^2+w^2}.$$

2.3 Linearity of the Laplace Transform

The Laplace Transform is a linear operator, i.e. for any constants a and b:

$$L\{af(t) + bg(t)\} = aL\{f(t)\} + bL\{g(t)\}$$

Proof

$$\begin{aligned} L\{af(t) + bg(t)\} &= \int_0^\infty e^{-st}(af(t) + bg(t))\, dt \\ &= a\int_0^\infty e^{-st} f(t)\, dt + b\int_0^\infty e^{-st} g(t)\, dt \\ &= aL\{f(t)\} + bL\{g(t)\} \end{aligned}$$

2.4 The First Shift Theorem

Theorem First Shift Theorem

If $f(t)$ has a Laplace Transform, $F(s)$, defined for $s > k$, then $e^{at}\ f(t)$ has a Laplace Transform, $F(s-a)$ defined for $s - a > k$ and is given by:

$$L\{e^{at}f(t)\} = F(s-a)$$

or, taking the inverse Laplace Transform of both sides:

$$e^{at}f(t) = L^{-1}\{F(s-a)\}$$

Example Find the Laplace Transform of $e^{at}\cos(wt)$, where a, w are constants.

We know that $L\{\cos(wt)\} = \frac{s}{s^2+w^2}$, so by the First Shift Theorem:

$$\begin{aligned} L\{e^{at}\cos(wt)\} &= \frac{s-a}{(s-a)^2+w^2} \\ &= \frac{s-a}{s^2-2as+a^2+w^2} \end{aligned}$$

2.5 Existence of the Laplace Transform

Existence of a Laplace transform is not always guaranteed because we're integrating over an infinite integral. For a Laplace Transform to exist for a given s, then the integral must exist:

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-st}f(t)\,dt$$

Theorem Existence Theorem of Laplace Transforms

Suppose $f(t)$ is a piecewise continuous function on $[0, \infty)$. If $f(t)$ satisfies:

$$|f(t)| \leq Me^{kt}\ (0 \leq t \leq \infty)$$

for some constants, M, k, then the Laplace Transform of $f(t)$ exists for $s > k$. In other words, the Laplace Transform of $f(t)$ exists if $f(t)$ is bounded by an exponential function.

Proof

If $s > k$, then from the equation above, we have:

$$|F(s)| = \left|\int_0^\infty f(t)e^{-st}\ dt\right| \leq \int_0^\infty |f(t)|e^{-st}\ dt \leq \int_0^\infty Me^{(k-s)t}\ dt = \frac{M}{s-k}$$

2.6 Integration by Parts

Starting with the product rule:

$$\frac{d}{dx}[uv] = u'v + uv',$$

we can express this in differential form as:

$$d(uv) = u\,dv + v\,du.$$

Integrate both sides with respect to x:

$$\int d(uv) = \int_a^b u\,dv + \int_a^b v\,du.$$

The Fundamental Theorem of Calculus tells us that the left-hand side is simply:

$$uv = \int_a^b u\,dv + \int_a^b v\,du.$$

Rearrange to solve for the desired integral:

$$\int_a^b u\,dv = uv - \int_a^b v\,du,$$

Example Use integration by parts to find the Laplace of $f(t) = t$

$$L\{t\} = \int_0^\infty te^{-st}\ dt$$

We integrate by parts by setting:

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

Then intengrating by parts gives:

$$\begin{aligned} L\{t\} &= \left[-\frac{te^{-st}}{s}\right]_0^\infty + \frac{1}{s}\int_0^\infty e^{-st}\ dt \\ &= 0 + \frac{1}{s}\left[-\frac{e^{-st}}{s}\right]_0^\infty \end{aligned}$$

Hence:

$$L\{t\} = \frac{1}{s^2}$$

Example Use integration by parts to find the Laplace of $f(t) = \cos(t)$

Let:

$$u = e^{-st}, \quad du = -se^{-st}, \quad dv = \cos(t), \quad v = \sin(t)$$

Then:

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-st}\cos(t)\ dt = \left[e^{-st}\sin(t)\right]_0^\infty + \int_0^\infty \sin(t)\cdot se^{-st}dt = 0 + s\int_0^\infty e^{-st}\sin(t)dt$$

Considering the sin part :

$$u = e^{-st}, \quad du = -se^{-st}, \quad dv = \sin(t), \quad v = -\cos(t)$$

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-st}\sin(t)\ dt = 1 - s\int_0^\infty e^{-st}\cos(t)\ dt$$

Substituting this back into the original integral gives:

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-st}\cos(t)\ dt = 1 - s\int_0^\infty e^{-st}\cos(t)\ dt = s - s^2\int_0^\infty e^{-st}\cos(t)\ dt$$

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

2.7 Table of Laplace Transforms

$f(t)$	$L\{f(t)\}$
1	$\frac{1}{s}$, $s > 0$
t	$\frac{1}{s^2}$, $s > 0$
t^n, $n = 0, 1, 2, 3$	$\frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}$, $s > 0$
e^{at}	$\frac{1}{s-a}$, $s > a$
$\cos(\omega t)$	$\frac{s}{s^2+\omega^2}$
$\sin(\omega t)$	$\frac{\omega}{s^2+\omega^2}$
$\cosh(at)$	$\frac{s}{s^2-a^2}$, $s > a \geq 0$
$\sinh(at)$	$\frac{a}{s^2-a^2}$, $s > a \geq 0$
$e^{at}\cos(\omega t)$	$\frac{s-a}{(s-a)^2+\omega^2}$
$e^{at}\sin(\omega t)$	$\frac{\omega}{(s-a)^2+\omega^2}$
$e^{at}f(t)$	$F(s-a)$

2.8 Laplace Transforms of Derivatives

Theorem Laplace Transform of Derivatives

Suppose that $f(t)$ and $f'(t)$ are continous and that $|f(t)| \leq Me^{kt}, \forall t \geq 0$ and for constans M, k. Then the Laplace Transform of $f'(t)$ exists for $s > k$ and is given by:

$$L\left\{\frac{df}{dt}\right\} = sL\{f\} - f(0) \quad \text{for } s > k$$

We can easily extend this to higher order derivatives. Assume the Laplace Transform of $f^{(n)}(t)$ exists for $s > k$ and is given by:

$$L\left\{\frac{df^n}{dt^n}\right\} = s^n L\{f\} - s^{n-1}f(0) - s^{n-2}f'(0) - \ldots - f^{(n-1)}(0) \quad \text{for } s > k$$

Example Find $L\{t^2\}$ using the fact $L\{s\} = 1/s$ for $s > 0$

$$L\{f''\} = s^2L\{f\} - sf(0) - f'(0)$$

With $f(t) = t^2$. Since $f'(t) = 2t$, $f''(t) = 2$, $f'(0) = 0, f(0) = 0$, gives:

$$L\{2\} = s^2L\{t^2\} - s \cdot 0 - 0$$

So that:

$$L\{t^2\} = \frac{L\{2\}}{s^2} = \frac{2}{s^3}$$

Example Find $L\{\sin(t)\}$ and $L\{\cos(t)\}$

We again use ther equation:

$$L\{f''\} = s^2L\{f\} - sf(0) - f'(0)$$

With $f(t) = \sin(t)$, $f'(t) = \cos(t)$, $f''(t) = -\sin(t)$, $\sin(0) = 0$, $\cos(0) = 1$. This gives:

$$L\{-\sin(t)\} = s^2L\{\sin(t)\} - s \cdot 0 - 1$$

So that:

$$L\{\sin(t)\} = \frac{1}{s^2+1}$$

Similarly, we can find:

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

2.9 Solving Initial Value Problems

Consider an example from mechanics: A particle of mass $m > 0$ lies on rough table, attatched to a spring of stiffness $k > 0$. At any time $t > 0$, the mass is a distance $x(t)$ from the equillibrium position O, and $x(t)$ is much less than the length of the spring.
The mass is subject to a driving force $F_d(t)$, from Newtons second law, we have:

$$F_d(t) - kx - \gamma \frac{dx}{dt} = m\frac{dx^2}{dt^2}$$

Where $\gamma > 0$ is the **damping constant** and the term $\gamma\frac{dx}{dt}$ models the **fricition due to roughness** of the table, which oppposes direction of motion. The **restoring force** due to the spring is $-kx$; and always points towards O. The term $m\frac{dx^2}{dt^2}$ is the **acceleration of the mass**. We can rewrite this as:

$$F_d(t) = m\frac{dx^2}{dt^2} + \gamma\frac{dx}{dt} + kx$$

In order to solve this, we also need initial displacement $v_0 = x(0)$ and initial velocity $v_0 = \frac{dx}{dt}(0)$.

Example

$$\frac{dx^2}{dt^2} + 3\frac{dx}{dt} + 2x = 0, \quad x(0) = 0, \quad \frac{dx}{dt}(0) = 1$$

1. Take Laplace of governing equation:

$$L\left\{\frac{dx^2}{dt^2}\right\} = s^2L\{x\} - sx(0) - x'(0) = s^2L\{x\} - 1$$

$$L\left\{\frac{dx}{dt}\right\} = sL\{x\} - x(0) = sLx$$

Hence:

$$s^2L\{x\} - 1 + 3sL\{x\} + 2L\{x\} = 0$$

This is known as the **subsidary equation**. Rearranging:

$$(s^2 + 3s + 2)L\{x\} = 1$$

2. Solve the subsidary equation:

$$L\{x\} = \frac{1}{s^2 + 3s + 2}$$

3. Find the inverse Laplace Transform:

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

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

Hence:

$$A(s+2) + B(s+1) = 1 \quad \to A = 1, B = -1$$

Thus:

$$x = L^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s+1} - \frac{1}{s+2}\right\} = L^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s+1}\right\} - L^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s+2}\right\} = e^{-t} - e^{-2t}$$

2.10 Heaviside Step Function

Denote the Heaviside Step Function as $H(t)$, defined as:

$$H(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } t < 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } t > 0 \end{cases}$$

Clearly, for any constant a, we have:

$$H(t-a) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } t < a \\ 1 & \text{if } t > a \end{cases}$$

Example Express this function in terms of a Heaviside step function

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} 3 & \text{for } 0 \leq t < 2 \\ -1 & \text{for } t > 2 \end{cases}$$

We write the general form of $f(t)$ as:

$$f(t) = \alpha + \beta H(t-2)$$

Now, settings t to any value $\in [0, 2)$ gives:

$$f(t) = \alpha + (\beta)(0) = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha = 3$$

Setting t to any value greater than 2 gives:

$$f(t) = 3 + (\beta)(1) = -1 \Rightarrow \beta = -4$$

Thus, we have:

$$f(t) = 3 - 4H(t-2)$$

Example Express this function in terms of a Heaviside step function

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} 3 & \text{for } 0 \leq t < 1 \\ 5 & \text{for } 1 < t < 3 \\ -2 & \text{for } t > 3 \end{cases}$$

We write the general form of $f(t)$ as:

$$f(t) = \alpha + \beta H(t-1) + \gamma H(t-3)$$

Setting t to any value $\in [0, 1)$ gives: $f(t) = \alpha + (\beta)(0) + (\gamma)(0) = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha = 3$
Setting t to any value $\in (1, 3)$ gives: $f(t) = 3 + (\beta)(2) + (\gamma)(0) = 5 \Rightarrow \beta = 2$
Setting t to any value greater than 3 gives: $f(t) = 3 + 2 + (\gamma)(1) = -7 \Rightarrow \gamma = -5$ Thus, we have:

$$f(t) = 3 + 2H(t-1) - 7H(t-3)$$

2.11 The Second Shift Theorem

Theorem

If $f(t)$ has the transform $F(s)$ $(s > k)$ then the shifted function,

$$\tilde{f}(t) = f(t-a)H(t-a) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } t < a \\ f(t-a) & \text{if } t > a \end{cases}$$

has the transform $e^{-as}F(s)$ $(s > k)$, that is:

$$L\{f(t-a)H(t-a)\} = e^{-as}F(s)$$

Proof

$$L\{f(t-a)H(t-a)\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t-a)H(t-a)\, dt = \int_a^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t-a)\, dt$$

We introduce a new integration variable $\tau = t - a$, we have

$$\int_0^{\infty} e^{-s(\tau+a)} f(\tau)\, d\tau = e^{-as} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-s\tau} f(\tau)\, d\tau = e^{-as}F(s)$$

Example : Find the Laplace Transform of $H(t-a)$ for $a > 0$

$$L\{H(t-a)\} = L\{H(t-a)f(t-a)\} = e^{-as}F(s) = \frac{e^{-as}}{s}$$

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Now, settings t to any value $\in [0, 2)$ gives:

$$f(t) = \alpha + (\beta)(0) = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha = 3$$

Setting t to any value greater than 2 gives:

$$f(t) = 3 + (\beta)(1) = -1 \Rightarrow \beta = -4$$

Thus, we have:

$$f(t) = 3 - 4H(t-2)$$

Example Express this function in terms of a Heaviside step function

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We write the general form of $f(t)$ as:

$$f(t) = \alpha + \beta H(t-1) + \gamma H(t-3)$$

Setting t to any value $\in [0, 1)$ gives: $f(t) = \alpha + (\beta)(0) + (\gamma)(0) = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha = 3$
Setting t to any value $\in (1, 3)$ gives: $f(t) = 3 + (\beta)(2) + (\gamma)(0) = 5 \Rightarrow \beta = 2$
Setting t to any value greater than 3 gives: $f(t) = 3 + 2 + (\gamma)(1) = -7 \Rightarrow \gamma = -5$ Thus, we have:

$$f(t) = 3 + 2H(t-1) - 7H(t-3)$$

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If $f(t)$ has the transform $F(s)$ $(s > k)$ then the shifted function,

$$\tilde{f}(t) = f(t-a)H(t-a) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } t < a \\ f(t-a) & \text{if } t > a \end{cases}$$

has the transform $e^{-as}F(s)$ $(s > k)$, that is:

$$L\{f(t-a)H(t-a)\} = e^{-as}F(s)$$

Proof

$$L\{f(t-a)H(t-a)\} = \int_0^\infty e^{-st}f(t-a)H(t-a)\,dt = \int_a^\infty e^{-st}f(t-a)\,dt$$

We introduce a new integration variable $\tau = t - a$, we have

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-s(\tau+a)}f(\tau)\,d\tau = e^{-as}\int_0^\infty e^{-s\tau}f(\tau)\,d\tau = e^{-as}F(s)$$

Example : Find the Laplace Transform of $H(t-a)$ for $a > 0$

$$L\{H(t-a)\} = L\{H(t-a)f(t-a)\} = e^{-as}F(s) = \frac{e^{-as}}{s}$$

2.14 Practice Problems

1. Use the First Shift Theorem $(L\{e^{at}f(t)\} = F(s-a))$ to find the Laplace transform of the following functions:

   (a) t^3e^{-3t} (b) $e^{-t}\cos(2t)$ (c) $e^{-4t}\cosh(5t)$ (d) $e^{-t}\sin^2(t)$

2. Use the First Shift Theorem $\left(L^{-1}\{F(s-a)\} = e^{at}f(t)\right)$ to find the inverse Laplace transform of the following functions:

   (a) $\dfrac{6s-4}{s^2-4s+20}$ (b) $\dfrac{3s+7}{s^2-2s-3}$ (c) $\dfrac{4s+12}{s^2+8s+16}$

3. Solve the following initial value problems using the method of Laplace transforms:

$$y'' + y' - 6y = 0, \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y'(0) = 1;$$
$$y'' - y = t, \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = 1.$$

4. Find the inverse Laplace transform of the following functions using the method of partial fractions:

   (a) $\dfrac{2s^2-4}{(s+1)(s-2)(s-3)}$. (b) $\dfrac{5s^2-15s-11}{(s+1)(s-2)^3}$. (c) $\dfrac{3s+1}{(s-1)(s^2+1)}$. (d) $\dfrac{e^{-5s}}{(s^2+1)(s^2+2)}$.

2.15 Heaviside Step Function

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$$f(t) = \alpha + \beta H(t-1) + \gamma H(t-3)$$

Setting t to any value $\in [0, 1)$ gives: $f(t) = \alpha + (\beta)(0) + (\gamma)(0) = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha = 3$
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$$L\{f(t-a)H(t-a)\} = e^{-as}F(s)$$

Proof

$$L\{f(t-a)H(t-a)\} = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} f(t-a)H(t-a)\,dt = \int_a^\infty e^{-st} f(t-a)\,dt$$

We introduce a new integration variable $\tau = t - a$, we have

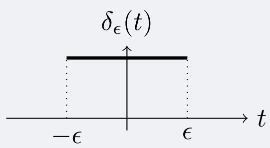
$$\int_0^\infty e^{-s(\tau+a)} f(\tau)\,d\tau = e^{-as}\int_0^\infty e^{-s\tau} f(\tau)\,d\tau = e^{-as}F(s)$$

Example : Find the Laplace Transform of $H(t-a)$ for $a > 0$

$$L\{H(t-a)\} = L\{H(t-a)f(t-a)\} = e^{-as}F(s) = \frac{e^{-as}}{s}$$

2.17 The Dirac Delta Function

The **Dirac Delta Function** models extremely brief but intense forces like a hammer hitting a nail. It starts as a function δ_ε, that equals $\frac{1}{2\varepsilon}$ over the interval $t \in [-\varepsilon, \varepsilon]$ and 0 elsewhere.



$$\delta_\epsilon(t) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{1}{2\epsilon} & \text{if } t \in [-\epsilon, \epsilon], \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

This function creates a rectangular pulse with the following propertites:

Height: $\dfrac{1}{2\varepsilon}$ **Width:** 2ε **Area:** 1 (always)

As ε approaches 0, the function becomes infinitely tall and thin, but the area remains 1. This limit defines the Dirac Delta Function:

$$\delta(t) = \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0+} \{\delta_\varepsilon(t)\}$$

Properties of the Dirac Delta Function:

$$\delta(t) = 0 \text{ for } t \neq 0$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^\infty \delta(t)\,dt = 1$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^\infty \delta(t-t_0)f(t)\,dt = f(t_0)$$

The Laplace Transform of the Dirac Delta Function is:

$$L\{\delta(t-t_0)\} = \int_0^\infty e^{-st}\delta(t-t_0)\,dt = \int_{-\infty}^\infty e^{-st}\delta(t-t_0)\,dt = e^{-st_0} \quad \text{for } t_0 > 0$$

Example : Solve the following initial value problem which governs the behavious of an RLC circuit

$$LQ'' + RQ' + \frac{Q}{C} = V_0\delta(t-a)$$
$$Q(0) = 0$$
$$Q'(0) = 0$$

Where a, L, R, C, V_0 are all positive constans and $4L > R^2C$.
Note that the applied voltage corresponds to an impulse of stength V_0 at $t = a$
We note that:

$$L\{Q''\} = s^2L\{Q\} - sQ(0) - Q'(0) = s^2L\{Q\}$$
$$L\{Q'\} = sL\{Q\} - Q(0) = sL\{Q\}$$
$$L\{\delta(t-a)\} = e^{-sa} = e^{-as}$$

Thus:
$$L\{LQ'' + RQ' + \frac{Q}{C} = V_0\delta(t-a)\} = Ls^2L\{Q\} + RsL\{Q\} + \frac{1}{C}L\{Q\} = V_0e^{-as}$$
Grouping terms:
$$L\{Q\}(Ls^2 + Rs + \frac{1}{C}) = V_0e^{-as}$$
Hence:
$$L\{Q\} = V_0e^{-as} \cdot \frac{1}{Ls^2 + Rs + \frac{1}{C}}$$
Removing the L from the denominator gives:

$$L\{Q\} = \frac{V_0}{L}e^{-as} \cdot \frac{1}{s^2 + \frac{R}{L}s + \frac{1}{LC}}$$

We notice that:

$$(s + \frac{R}{2L})^2 = s^2 + s\frac{2R}{2L} + \frac{R^2}{4L^2} \qquad = s^2 + \frac{R}{L}s + \frac{R^2}{4L^2}$$

So we have the following:
$$L\{Q\} = \frac{V_0e^{-as}}{L(s + \frac{R}{2L})^2 + \frac{1}{C} - \frac{R^2}{4L^2}}$$
Substituting $\alpha = \frac{R}{2L}$ and $\beta = \frac{1}{LC} - \frac{R^2}{4L^2}$ gives:

$$L\{Q\} = \frac{V_0e^{-as}}{L(s + \alpha)^2 + \beta}$$