

Lecture 7

- Properties of the Laplace transform.
- Inverse Laplace transform of a rational, strictly proper function.

$$F(s) = \int_{0-}^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt = \mathcal{L}[f(t)],$$

defined for $s \in \text{D.O.C.}$

Properties of the Laplace Transform

$$F(s) = \int_{0-}^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt = \mathcal{L}[f(t)]$$

1) Linearity. $\mathcal{L}[\alpha f(t) + \beta g(t)] = \alpha \mathcal{L}[f(t)] + \beta \mathcal{L}[g(t)]$

Follows directly from linearity of the integral.

DOC is the intersection of DOC's of f and g .

Example:

$$\mathcal{L}[e^{-t}u(t) + e^{2t}u(t)] = \frac{1}{(s+1)} + \frac{1}{(s-2)}. \quad \text{DOC: } \text{Re}[s] > 2$$

Another example:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}[\cos(\omega t) u(t)] &= \mathcal{L}\left[\left(\frac{e^{i\omega t} + e^{-i\omega t}}{2}\right)u(t)\right] \\&= \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{L}[e^{i\omega t}u(t)] + \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{L}[e^{-i\omega t}u(t)] \\&= \frac{1}{2(s - i\omega)} + \frac{1}{2(s + i\omega)} \\&= \frac{(s + i\omega) + (s - i\omega)}{2(s - i\omega)(s + i\omega)} \\&= \frac{s}{(s^2 + \omega^2)}. \quad \text{DOC: } \text{Re}[s] > 0\end{aligned}$$

Properties of the Laplace Transform

$$\text{Let } f(t) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} F(s)$$

$$2) e^{-at} f(t) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} F(s + a)$$

$$3) \frac{df}{dt} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} sF(s) - f(0-)$$

$$4) \int_{0-}^t f(\sigma) d\sigma \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \frac{F(s)}{s}$$

$$5) t f(t) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} -\frac{dF}{ds}$$

$$6) u(t - \tau) f(t - \tau) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} e^{-\tau s} F(s)$$

Property 2) $e^{-at} f(t) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} F(s+a)$

Proof: let $f(t) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} F(s) = \int_{0-}^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt$

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-at} f(t) &\xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \int_{0-}^{\infty} e^{-st} e^{-at} f(t) dt \\ &= \int_{0-}^{\infty} e^{-(s+a)t} f(t) dt = F(s+a) \end{aligned}$$

Example: $\mathcal{L}[u(t) \cos(t)] = \frac{s}{s^2 + 1}$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{L}[u(t) e^{-t} \cos(t)] = \frac{s+1}{(s+1)^2 + 1}$$

Property 3) $\frac{df}{dt} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} s F(s) - f(0-)$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Proof: } \frac{df}{dt} &\xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \int_{0-}^{\infty} e^{-st} \frac{df}{dt} dt \underbrace{=}_{\text{parts}} e^{-st} f(t) \Big|_{0-}^{\infty} - \int_{0-}^{\infty} (-s) e^{-st} f(t) dt \\ &= \underbrace{-f(0-)}_{\text{Inside DOC of } f} + s \int_{0-}^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt = s F(s) - f(0-) \end{aligned}$$

Note: DOC for $\frac{df}{dt}$ includes the DOC of $f(t)$.

Example: $f(t) = e^{2t} \rightarrow F(s) = \frac{1}{s-2}$

$$\frac{df}{dt} = 2e^{2t} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}\left[\frac{df}{dt}\right] = \frac{2}{s-2} = s \frac{1}{s-2} - 1 = s \cdot \mathcal{L}[f(t)] - \overbrace{f(0-)}^1$$

$$\text{Property 3)} \quad \frac{df}{dt} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} s F(s) - f(0-)$$

Example (cont.): If instead we write $f(t) = e^{2t}u(t)$,
the transform is still $F(s) = \frac{1}{s-2}$

Now $f(0-) = 0$, so $\mathcal{L}\left[\frac{df}{dt}\right] = \frac{s}{s-2}$. Different!

However now $\mathcal{L}\left[\frac{df}{dt}\right] = \mathcal{L}\left[2e^{2t}u(t) + \delta(t)\right] = \frac{2}{s-2} + 1 = \frac{s}{s-2}$,

so it is still consistent with the property.

$$\text{Property 4)} \quad g(t) = \int_{0-}^t f(\sigma) d\sigma \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} G(s) = \frac{F(s)}{s}$$

Proof: since $\frac{dg}{dt} = f(t)$, $\underbrace{\Rightarrow}_{\text{Property 3)}} F(s) = s G(s) - g(0-) \underbrace{=}_{g(0-)=0} s G(s)$

Example: let $f_0(t) = u(t) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} F_0(s) = \frac{1}{s}$

Now let $f_1(t) = t u(t) = \int_0^t f_0(\sigma) d\sigma \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} F_1(s) = \underbrace{\frac{F_0(s)}{s}}_{\text{4)}} = \frac{1}{s^2}$

$f_2(t) = t^2 u(t) = 2 \int_0^t f_1(\sigma) d\sigma \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} F_2(s) = \frac{2F_1(s)}{s} = \frac{2}{s^3}$

Similarly,

$f_n(t) = t^n u(t) = n \int_0^t f_{n-1}(\sigma) d\sigma \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} F_n(s) = \frac{nF_{n-1}(s)}{s} = \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}$

$$\text{Property 5) } t f(t) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} -\frac{dF}{ds}$$

Proof: we differentiate $F(s) = \int_{0-}^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt$ with respect to s , taking the derivative inside the integral. This is valid inside the DOC.

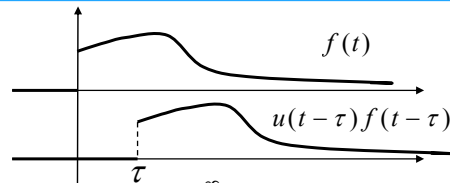
$$\Rightarrow \frac{dF}{ds} = \int_{0-}^{\infty} \frac{d}{ds} e^{-st} f(t) dt = \int_{0-}^{\infty} e^{-st} (-t) f(t) dt = -\mathcal{L}[t f(t)]$$

Back to previous example: $f_0(t) = u(t) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} F_0(s) = \frac{1}{s}$

$$f_1(t) = t u(t) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} F_1(s) \underbrace{=}_{5)} -\frac{dF_0}{ds} = -\left(-\frac{1}{s^2}\right) = \frac{1}{s^2}$$

$$6) \text{ Delay property: } u(t-\tau) f(t-\tau) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} e^{-\tau s} F(s)$$

Careful: the delayed function must be set to zero for $t < \tau$.



Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}[u(t-\tau)f(t-\tau)] &= \int_{0-}^{\infty} e^{-st} u(t-\tau) f(t-\tau) dt = \int_{\tau-}^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t-\tau) dt \\ &= \int_{\sigma=t-\tau}^{\infty} e^{-s(\sigma+\tau)} f(\sigma) d\sigma = e^{-s\tau} \int_{0-}^{\infty} e^{-s\sigma} f(\sigma) d\sigma = e^{-s\tau} F(s) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Example: } \mathcal{L}[e^t] = \frac{1}{s-1} \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}[u(t-1)e^{t-1}] = \frac{e^{-s}}{s-1}$$

But $\mathcal{L}[e^{t-1}] = \mathcal{L}[e^t e^{-1}] = \frac{e^{-1}}{s-1}$, different answer! No confusion if

we include $u(t)$ in the original transform, writing $\mathcal{L}[u(t)e^t] = \frac{1}{s-1}$

Inverse Laplace Transform

Given $F(s)$, find $f(t)$

Concentrate on the case of rational functions

$$F(s) = \frac{P(s)}{Q(s)} = \frac{p_ms^m + \cdots + p_1s + p_0}{q_ns^n + \cdots + q_1s + q_0}$$

(that is, a ratio of two polynomials).

Without loss of generality, we assume $q_n = 1$.

We factor $Q(s)$ in terms of its roots a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n .

$$Q(s) = s^n + \cdots + q_1s + q_0 = (s - a_1)(s - a_2) \cdots (s - a_n)$$

I. First, the strictly proper case

This means that $m = \deg(P(s)) < \deg(Q(s)) = n$.

The inverse transform is found by :

- 1) Decomposing $F(s) = \frac{P(s)}{Q(s)}$ in partial fractions.
- 2) Using the Laplace table.

Case 1: $Q(s)$ has simple roots a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n (mutually distinct).

Then there always exist constants A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n that satisfy the Partial Fraction Expansion

$$F(s) = \frac{P(s)}{(s - a_1)(s - a_2) \cdots (s - a_n)} = \frac{A_1}{s - a_1} + \frac{A_2}{s - a_2} + \cdots + \frac{A_n}{s - a_n}$$

$$\text{Then } f(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}[F(s)] = \left(A_1 e^{a_1 t} + A_2 e^{a_2 t} + \cdots + A_n e^{a_n t} \right) u(t)$$

Example: $F(s) = \frac{1}{s(s+1)} = \frac{A_1}{s} + \frac{A_2}{s+1}$

We must find the constants A_1, A_2 . They are guaranteed to exist, so any method that provides enough equations to determine them will do. One (usually longer) way:

- Common denominator: $\frac{1}{s(s+1)} = \frac{A_1(s+1) + A_2s}{s(s+1)}$
- Identify numerator coefficients: $\begin{cases} A_1 + A_2 = 0 \\ A_1 = 1 \end{cases}$
- Solve equations: $A_1 = 1, \quad A_2 = -1.$

$$F(s) = \frac{1}{s(s+1)} = \frac{1}{s} - \frac{1}{s+1} \rightarrow f(t) = u(t) [1 - e^{-t}]$$

Example: $F(s) = \frac{1}{s(s+1)} = \frac{A_1}{s} + \frac{A_2}{s+1}$

A more efficient way:

- Multiply both sides by s : $\frac{1}{s+1} = A_1 + \frac{A_2s}{s+1}$
- Now evaluate (or take limit) at $s = 0$. $\rightarrow 1 = A_1.$

Automating this step: to find A_1 (coefficient for s):

"Cover" the factor s in $F(s)$: $\frac{1}{\boxed{s+1}}$

Evaluate the rest at "covered" root $s = 0$. $\frac{1}{\boxed{s+1}} = 1$

To find A_2 : cover $(s+1)$ factor, evaluate at $s = -1$.

$$\frac{1}{\underbrace{s}_{-1} \boxed{s+1}} = -1$$

General case, simple roots.

$$\frac{P(s)}{(s-a_1)(s-a_2)\cdots(s-a_n)} = \frac{A_1}{s-a_1} + \frac{A_2}{s-a_2} + \cdots + \frac{A_n}{s-a_n}$$

Brute force method gives n equations, n unknowns.

"Clever" method to find A_1 : multiply by $(s-a_1)$,

$$\frac{P(s)}{(s-a_2)\cdots(s-a_n)} = A_1 + \left(\frac{A_2}{s-a_2} + \cdots + \frac{A_n}{s-a_n} \right) (s-a_1),$$

Evaluate (or take limit) at $s = a_1 \rightarrow \frac{P(a_1)}{(a_1-a_2)\cdots(a_1-a_n)} = A_1$

Automate: to find A_k : cover $(s-a_k)$, evaluate at $s = a_k$

Case 2: multiple roots.

Assume $Q(s)$ has a multiple root a_i , repeated r_i times.
That is, there is a factor $(s-a_i)^{r_i}$ in the denominator.

This is handled by including in the expansion for

$$\frac{P(s)}{Q(s)} \text{ the terms } \frac{A_i^1}{s-a_i} + \frac{A_i^2}{(s-a_i)^2} + \cdots + \frac{A_i^{r_i}}{(s-a_i)^{r_i}}$$

Example: $F(s) = \frac{1}{(s+2)(s+1)^2} = \frac{A}{s+2} + \frac{B}{s+1} + \frac{C}{(s+1)^2}$

$A = \frac{1}{\underbrace{(s+1)^2}_{-2}} = 1$ obtained by usual method


Multiply by $(s+1)^2$, evaluate at $s = -1$:

$$\frac{1}{\underbrace{(s+2)}_{-1}} = \left(\frac{A}{s+2} + \frac{B}{s+1} \right) (s+1)^2 + C \rightarrow \boxed{C=1.}$$

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

"Covering" method cannot be used to determine B . We need another equation. e.g., evaluate at $s = 0$ (easy point):

$$F(0) = \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2} + B + 1 \rightarrow B = -1$$

Another way: multiply by s , take limit as $s \rightarrow \infty$. 

$$0 = \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \frac{s}{(s+2)(s+1)^2} = \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{s}{s+2} + \frac{Bs}{s+1} + \frac{s}{(s+1)^2} \right) = 1 + B$$

Table+properties $\rightarrow \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left[\frac{1}{(s-a)^{n+1}} \right] = \frac{t^n}{n!} e^{at} u(t)$

$$\rightarrow f(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left[\frac{1}{s+2} - \frac{1}{s+1} + \frac{1}{(s+1)^2} \right] = (e^{-2t} - e^{-t} + t e^{-t}) u(t)$$

Case 3: Complex roots.

The preceding methods apply also to complex roots, simple or multiple, using complex operations.

Example:

$$F(s) = \frac{s}{(s^2 + 1)} = \frac{s}{(s+i)(s-i)} = \frac{A}{s+i} + \frac{B}{s-i}$$

$$A = \frac{\overbrace{s}^{-i}}{\underbrace{(s-i)}_{-i}} = \frac{1}{2}; \quad B = \frac{\overbrace{s}^i}{\underbrace{(s+i)}_i} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

$$\rightarrow f(t) = \frac{1}{2} e^{-it} u(t) + \frac{1}{2} e^{it} u(t) = \cos(t) u(t).$$

Already known from the table.