

## §16.1 Laplace continued.

We saw the Laplace transform last day:

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

We also calculated that

$$\mathcal{L}\{e^{at}\} = \frac{1}{s-a}, \quad s > a$$

and  $\mathcal{L}\{t\} = \frac{1}{s^2}, \quad s > 0.$

We ended by observing that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{f(t) + g(t)\} &= \int_0^\infty e^{-st} (f(t) + g(t)) dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{-st} f(t) dt + \int_0^\infty e^{-st} g(t) dt \\ &= \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} + \mathcal{L}\{g(t)\}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Also } \mathcal{L}\{cf(t)\} &= \int_0^\infty e^{-st} cf(t) dt \\ &= c \int_0^\infty e^{-st} f(t) dt \\ &= c \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}. \end{aligned}$$

So the Laplace transform is linear.

Example: Find the Laplace transform of

$$10e^{5t} + 6t.$$

Solution: Use linearity

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{10e^{5t} + 6t\} &= 10\mathcal{L}\{e^{5t}\} + 6\mathcal{L}\{t\} \\ &= \frac{10}{s-5} + \frac{6}{s^2}, \quad s > 5 \text{ and } s > 0 \\ &\text{ie } \boxed{s > 5}. \end{aligned}$$

---

Example: Find  $\mathcal{L}\{\sin(at)\}$ ;  $f(t) = \sin(at)$ .

Solution: We calculate:

$$\mathcal{L}\{\sin(at)\} = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} \sin(at) dt = F(s)$$

To do this integral, we use the "double integration by parts" trick covered many lectures ago, and get:

$$F(s) = \frac{a}{s^2} - \frac{a^2}{s^2} F(s).$$

$$\Rightarrow F(s) = \frac{a}{s^2 + a^2}$$

---

In general, we don't calculate Laplace transforms using the definition

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

Instead we look up answers in a table.

$$f(t) \quad F(s) = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$$

$$e^{at} \quad \frac{1}{s-a}$$

$$t^n \quad \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}$$

$$\cos(at) \quad \frac{s}{s^2 + a^2}$$

$$\sin(at) \quad \frac{a}{s^2 + a^2}$$

$$e^{at} \sin(bt) \quad \frac{b}{(s-a)^2 + b^2}$$

$$e^{at} \cos(bt) \quad \frac{s-a}{(s-a)^2 + b^2}$$

+ many, many more that we'll cover.

However, once we start using tables this means we're also ready to do a "reverse lookup" and start taking inverse Laplace transforms. For example

$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s^2 + 1}\right\} = \sin(t)$ , because we can just look up the entry for  $\sin(t)$  and go backwards.

Example: What is the inverse Laplace transform of  $\frac{1}{2s^2 + 3s + 1}$ ?

Solution: To make this look like something in the table, we need to either:

(i) Factor it, and then use partial fractions to write it as  $\frac{A}{cs-a} + \frac{B}{ds-b}$

where its factors are  $cs-a$  and  $ds-b$ .

(ii) Check that it doesn't factor, and then complete the square to get something like:

$$\frac{1}{(s-a)^2 + b^2}$$

We try factoring first:

$$2s^2 + 3s + 1 = (s+1)(2s+1), \text{ it worked!}$$

So partial fractions.

$$\frac{1}{2s^2 + 3s + 1} = \frac{A}{s+1} + \frac{B}{2s+1}$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 = 2As + A + Bs + B$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow 2A+B=0 \\ A+B=1 \end{aligned} \quad \left. \begin{aligned} \Rightarrow B = -2A \\ \text{so} \end{aligned} \right\}$$

$$A - 2A = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow A = -1 \text{ and } B = 2.$$

$$\text{So } \frac{1}{2s^2+3s+1} = \frac{-1}{s+1} + \frac{2}{2s+1} - \frac{1}{s+\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{2s^2+3s+1}\right\} &= \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{-1}{s+1}\right\} + \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{2}{2s+1}\right\} \\ &= -\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s+1}\right\} + \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s+\frac{1}{2}}\right\} \\ &= -e^{-t} + e^{-\frac{1}{2}t}, \text{ each above is } \frac{1}{s-a}.\end{aligned}$$

Example Calculate  $\mathcal{L}^{-1}$  of  $\frac{s}{s^2-2s+5}$ .

Solution: If it factors, we factor and use partial fractions. Otherwise, complete the square on bottom.

(i) Does it factor?

$$\begin{aligned}\text{The discriminant is } b^2-4ac &\\ &= (-2)^2-4(5)(1) \\ &= 4-20=-16<0,\end{aligned}$$

so it does not factor.

So, complete the square. We get

$$s^2-2s+5 = (s-1)^2+2^2$$

(In general,  $s^2+bs+c = (s+\frac{1}{2}b)^2+k^2$ , where  $k$  is a constant)

$$\text{So we have } \frac{s}{s^2 - 2s + 5} = \frac{s}{(s-1)^2 + 2^2}$$

We'd like to use

$$e^{at} \cos(bt) = \frac{s-a}{(s-a)^2 + b^2}$$

so we need  $s-1$  on top!

So we do:

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

↓  
this now needs to  
look like  $\frac{b}{(s-a)^2 + b^2}$

to use the sin formula.

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

So inverse Laplace is

$$e^t \cos(2t) + \frac{1}{2} e^t \sin(t)$$

## § 16.2

### Algebraic properties of the Laplace transform.

We've introduced the Laplace transform, which changes  $f(t)$  into  $F(s)$  via

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

We also saw a basic table of Laplace transforms last day. Today, we study how "small changes" to  $f(t)$  affect the output of the Laplace transform,  $F(s)$ . This will give us new formulas for our tables based upon making small changes to old formulas.

First small change: Multiply  $f(t)$  by  $e^{at}$ .

If  $f(t)$  is multiplied by  $e^{at}$ , here is what happens to the Laplace transform  $F(s)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{e^{at} f(t)\} &= \int_0^\infty e^{-st} e^{at} f(t) dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{-(s-a)t} f(t) dt\end{aligned}$$

But recall the formula for  $F(s)$  is

$$F(s) = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} f(t) dt, \text{ so what we've written}$$

above is this formula with  $s$  replaced by  $s-a$ .

Therefore:

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

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

Example: Calculate  $\mathcal{L}\{e^{at}t^n\}$ .

Solution: From the table we know that

$\mathcal{L}\{t^n\} = \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}$ . So multiplying by  $e^{at}$  has the effect of shifting by  $a$ , and we get

$$\mathcal{L}\{e^{at}t^n\} = \frac{n!}{(s-a)^{n+1}}.$$

Example: Calculate  $\mathcal{L}\{e^{at}\sin(bt)\}$  without using tables.

Solution: We already saw an outline of how to compute

$$F(s) = \mathcal{L}\{\sin(bt)\} = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} \sin(bt) dt$$
$$\Rightarrow F(s) = \frac{b}{s^2 + b^2}.$$

Then multiplying by  $e^{at}$  has the effect of shifting:

$$\mathcal{L}\{e^{at}\sin(bt)\} = F(s-a) = \frac{b}{(s-a)^2 + b^2}$$

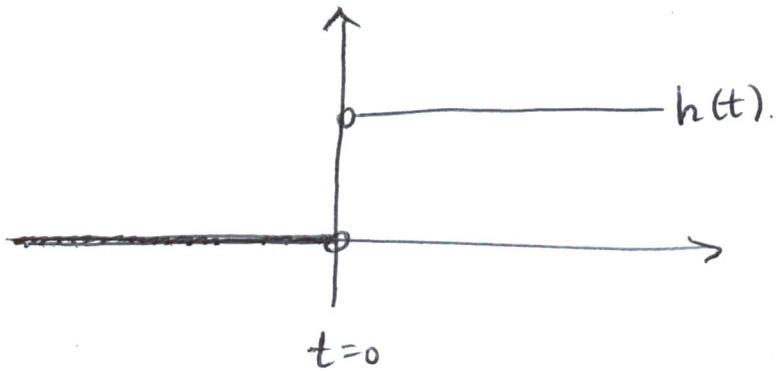
which agrees with the table.

## Second "small change".

We'll multiply by the function  $h(t)$ , called the unit step function:

$$h(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 0 \\ 1, & t \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

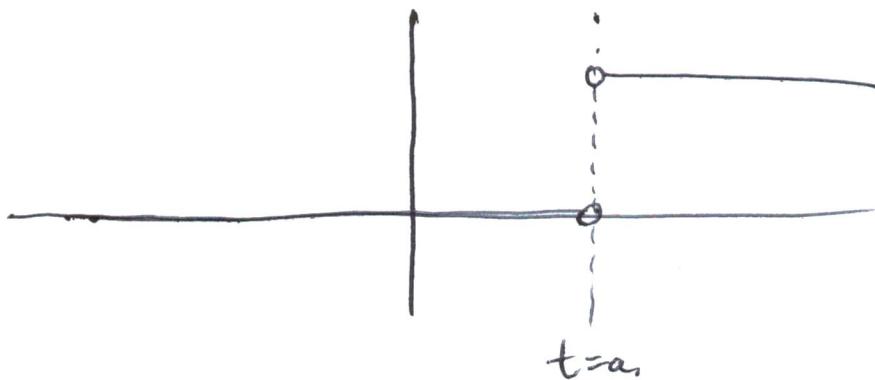
So this function looks like:



i.e. there's a jump of height 1 at  $t=0$ , and the function is at height 1 to the right.

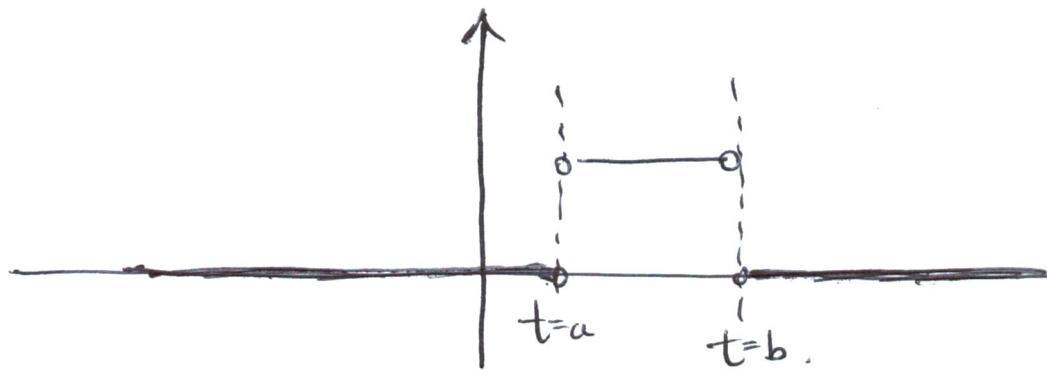
Sometimes we'll want a jump at  $t=a$  instead of  $t=0$ . Then the function we'll want is:

$$h(t-a) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < a \\ 1, & t \geq a \end{cases}$$



or we might want a function that only at height 1 over some interval  $[a, b]$ :

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



Then when you multiply a function  $f(t)$  by a function  $h(t-a)$ , we want to know how the Laplace transform changes. It changes like this:

If  $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = F(s)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{f(t)h(t-a)\} &= \int_0^\infty e^{-st} f(t) h(t-a) dt \\ &= \int_a^\infty e^{-st} f(t) dt \quad \text{set } t=u+a. \\ &= \int_0^\infty \cancel{e^{-su}} e^{-s(u+a)} f(u+a) du \end{aligned}$$

$$= e^{-sa} \int_0^\infty e^{-su} f(u+a) du$$

$$= e^{-sa} \mathcal{L}\{f(t+a)\}.$$

So now we have

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)h(t-a)\} = e^{-sa} \mathcal{L}\{f(t+a)\}$$

How to use this? It's used for discontinuous functions!

Example

Find  $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$ , where  $f(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 0 \leq t < 2 \\ t^2 - 3 & \text{if } t \geq 2. \end{cases}$

Solution: We can write  $f(t)$  as

$$f(t) = (t^2 - 3)h(t-2),$$

because the step function  $h(t-2)$  is zero to the left of  $t=2$  (so there,  $f(t) = (t^2 - 3) \cdot 0 = 0$ ) and to the right of  $t=2$  it's 1 (so there,  $f(t) = (t^2 - 3) \cdot 1 = t^2 - 3$ ).

Then we calculate:

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

here appears  
this function shifted by 2.

$$= e^{-2s} \mathcal{L}_e \{ t^2 + 4t + 1 \}$$

$$= e^{-2s} \left( \frac{2}{s^3} + \frac{4}{s^2} + \frac{1}{s} \right).$$

Example: Calculate the Laplace transform of

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } t < \pi \\ \sin t & \text{if } \pi < t < 2\pi \\ 0 & \text{if } t > 2\pi \end{cases}$$

Solution: We can write  $f(t)$  as

$$\begin{aligned} f(t) &= \sin t (h(t-\pi) - h(t-2\pi)) \\ &= \sin(t) h(t-\pi) - \sin(t) h(t-2\pi) \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_e \{ f(t) \} &= \mathcal{L}_e \{ \sin(t) h(t-\pi) \} - \mathcal{L}_e \{ \sin(t) h(t-2\pi) \} \\ &= e^{-\pi s} \mathcal{L}_e \{ \sin(t+\pi) \} - e^{-2\pi s} \mathcal{L}_e \{ \sin(t+2\pi) \} \\ &= e^{-\pi s} \mathcal{L}_e \{ -\sin(t) \} - e^{-2\pi s} \mathcal{L}_e \{ \sin(t) \} \\ &= -e^{-\pi s} \frac{1}{s^2 + 1} - e^{-2\pi s} \frac{1}{s^2 + 1}. \end{aligned}$$

## §16.2 Continued.

Last day we saw two 'shifting formulas' given by:

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

and  $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)h(t-a)\} = e^{-sa}\mathcal{L}\{f(t+a)\}$

where

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

is the unit step function.

Let's do an example of their use:

Example: What is the Laplace transform of

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 0 \leq t < 1 \\ e^{at} & \text{if } 1 < t < 2 \\ t^2 & \text{if } 2 < t \end{cases}$$

Solution: This function has two nonzero pieces:

Piece 1: The function does  $e^{at}$  from  $t=1$  to  $t=2$

Piece 2: The function does  $t^2$  from  $t=2$  onwards.

So we can write  $f(t)$  as a sum of two things.

$$f(t) = \underbrace{e^{at} (h(t-1) - h(t-2))}_{\text{Thus "turns on" } e^{at} \text{ from } t=1 \text{ to } t=2} + \underbrace{t^2 h(t-2)}_{\text{thus "turns on" } t^2 \text{ for } t>2}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} &= \mathcal{L}\{e^{at} h(t-1)\} - \mathcal{L}\{e^{at} h(t-2)\} + \mathcal{L}\{t^2 h(t-2)\} \\ &= e^{-s} \mathcal{L}\{e^{a(t+1)}\} - e^{-2s} \mathcal{L}\{e^{a(t+2)}\} + e^{-2s} \mathcal{L}\{(t+2)^2\} \\ &= e^{-s} \mathcal{L}\{e^a \cdot e^{at}\} - e^{-2s} \mathcal{L}\{e^{2a} \cdot e^{at}\} + e^{-2s} \mathcal{L}\{t^2 + 4t + 4\} \\ &= e^{-s+a} \mathcal{L}\{e^{at}\} - e^{-2s+2a} \mathcal{L}\{e^{at}\} + e^{-2s} \mathcal{L}\{t^2 + 4t + 4\} \\ &= \underline{e^{-s+a} \frac{1}{s-a} - e^{-2s+2a} \frac{1}{s-a} + e^{-2s} \left( \frac{2}{s^3} + \frac{4}{s^2} + \frac{4}{s} \right)}. \end{aligned}$$

Note: We evaluated  $\mathcal{L}\{e^{at} h(t-1)\}$  by doing the shift rule

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t) h(t-a)\} = e^{-sa} \mathcal{L}\{f(t+a)\}$$

with  $a=1$  and  $f(t) = e^{at}$ . However the shift rule

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

also applies, with

$$f(t) = h(t-1)$$

and  $F(s) = \mathcal{L}\{h(t-1)\} = e^{-s} \mathcal{L}\{1\} = \frac{e^{-s}}{s}$

So we get, using this approach,

$$\mathcal{L}\{e^{at} h(t-a)\} = \frac{e^{-(s-a)}}{s-a} = \frac{e^{-s+a}}{s-a}, \text{ as before.}$$

We can also use these shifting rules when taking inverse Laplace transforms. For the purpose of taking the inverse, the formula

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)h(t-a)\} = e^{-sa}\mathcal{L}\{f(t+a)\}$$

can be rewritten as

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t-a)h(t-a)\} = e^{-sa}\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}. \quad \begin{array}{l} g(t) = f(t+a) \\ g(t-a) = f(t) \end{array}$$

or  $\mathcal{L}\{f(t-a)h(t-a)\} = e^{-sa}F(s)$

so that  $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{e^{-sa}F(s)\} = f(t-a)h(t-a).$

Example: Calculate the inverse Laplace transform of

$$H(s) = \frac{2e^{-3s} + 3e^{-7s}}{(s-3)(s^2+9)}.$$

Remark: This comes from Virek Srikrishnan's notes at PSU

Solution: This breaks up into two pieces using linearity of  $\mathcal{L}^{-1}$ :

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{H(s)\} = 2\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{e^{-3s}}{(s-3)(s^2+9)}\right\} + 3\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{e^{-7s}}{(s-3)(s^2+9)}\right\}.$$

So to apply the formula for  $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{e^{-as}F(s)\}$  to each piece, we have to first take the inverse Laplace transform of  $F(s) = \frac{1}{(s-3)(s^2+9)}$  in order to find  $f(t)$ . Partial fractions gives:

$$F(s) = \frac{A}{s-3} + \frac{Bs+C}{s^2+9}$$

Solving for  $A, B, C$  we get:

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= A(s^2+9) + Bs(s-3) + C(s-3) \\ &= As^2 + 9A + Bs^2 - 3Bs + Cs - 3C \end{aligned}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} A+B=0 \\ C-3B=0 \\ 9A-3C=1 \end{array} \right\} \text{Solving, } A=\frac{1}{18}, B=-\frac{1}{18}, C=-\frac{3}{18}$$

So we can rewrite  $F(s)$  as

$$F(s) = \frac{1}{18} \left( \underbrace{\frac{1}{s-3}}_{\text{This appears in the table}} + \underbrace{\frac{-s-3}{s^2+9}}_{\text{This needs to be broken into two to look like table entries}} \right).$$

This appears in the table

This needs to be broken into two to look like table entries

$$F(s) = \frac{1}{18} \left( \frac{1}{s-3} + \frac{-s}{s^2+9} + \frac{-3}{s^2+9} \right)$$

So,  $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)\}$  is

$$\frac{1}{18} (e^{3t} - \cos(3t) - \sin(3t))$$

Now we use this as  $f(t)$  and apply the formula

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

to each term in  $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{f(s)\}$  from before. We get:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{e^{-3s}}{(s-3)(s^2+9)}\right\} &= h(t-3) \cdot \frac{1}{18} (e^{3(t-3)} - \cos(3(t-3)) - \sin(3(t-3))) \\ &\quad \text{||} \\ e^{-3s} F(s) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{e^{-7s}}{(s-3)(s^2+9)}\right\} = h(t-7) \cdot \frac{1}{18} \cdot (e^{3(t-7)} - \cos(3(t-7)) - \sin(3(t-7))).$$

So our final answer is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{H(s)\} &= \frac{h(t-3)}{9} \left( e^{3(t-3)} - \cos(3(t-3)) - 3\sin(3(t-3)) \right) \\ &+ \frac{h(t-7)}{6} \left( e^{3(t-7)} - \cos(3(t-7)) - 3\sin(3(t-7)) \right). \end{aligned}$$

---

Note that the shift formula

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

has a corresponding inverse usage as well, in the sense that a shift in the  $s$  variable will produce an  $e^{at}$  on the 't' side of things when you apply inverse Laplace. However in practice, this formula rarely comes up. Remark

---

Example: Calculate the inverse Laplace transform

of  $H(s) = \frac{s e^{-2s}}{(s-4)(s+3)}$

Solution: Again, we'll use the same formula but first partial fractions on  $\frac{1}{(s-4)(s+3)}$  gives

$$\frac{1}{(s-4)(s+3)} = \frac{4}{7} \left( \frac{1}{s-4} \right) + \frac{3}{7} \left( \frac{1}{s+3} \right)$$

So then the inverse Laplace of this part is

$$\frac{4}{7}e^{4t} + \frac{3}{7}e^{-3t}$$

Now the factor of  $e^{2s}$  in our original function gives  $h(t-2)$  in our answer when we apply

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

we get  $h(t-2)\left(\frac{4}{7}e^{4(t-2)} + \frac{3}{7}e^{-3(t-2)}\right)$ .