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Laplace transform of Dirac delta

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The <http://planetmath.org/DiracDeltaFunction> Dirac delta δ can be interpreted as a linear functional, i.e. a linear mapping from a function space, consisting e.g. of certain real functions, to \mathbb{R} (or \mathbb{C}), having the property

$$\delta[f] = f(0).$$

One may think this as the inner product

$$\langle f, \delta \rangle = \int_0^\infty f(t) \delta(t) dt$$

of a function f and another “function” δ , when the well-known

$$\int_0^\infty f(t) \delta(t) dt = f(0)$$

is true. Applying this to $f(t) := e^{-st}$, one gets

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-st} \delta(t) dt = e^{-0},$$

i.e. the Laplace transform

$$\mathcal{L}\{\delta(t)\} = 1. \tag{1}$$

By the delay theorem, this result may be generalised to

$$\mathcal{L}\{\delta(t-a)\} = e^{-as}.$$

When introducing some “nascent Dirac delta function”, for example

$$\eta_\varepsilon(t) := \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\varepsilon} & \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq \varepsilon, \\ 0 & \text{for } t > \varepsilon, \end{cases}$$

as an “approximation” of Dirac delta, we obtain the Laplace transform

$$\mathcal{L}\{\eta_\varepsilon(t)\} = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} \eta_\varepsilon(t) dt = \int_0^\varepsilon \frac{e^{-st}}{\varepsilon} dt + \int_\varepsilon^\infty e^{-st} \cdot 0 dt = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_0^\varepsilon e^{-st} dt = \frac{1 - e^{-\varepsilon s}}{\varepsilon s}.$$

As the Taylor expansion shows, we then have

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0+} \mathcal{L}\{\eta_\varepsilon(t)\} = 1,$$

being in accordance with (1).