FAQ

Suppose that the acceleration of an object of mass 1 kgram is given by $y''(t) = -2\delta(t-2)$. If y'(0) = 0, then find y'(1), y'(3). Sketch a graph for y'(t). By examining this graph determine a formula for y'(t) in terms of the unit step function u(t). Also assume that y(0) = 0 and sketch a graph of y(t).

ANS.
$$y'(1) = 0$$
, $y'(3) = -2$. We see that $y'(t) = -2u(t-2)$

2. Find the Laplace transform of $3u(t-1) + 4\delta(t-2)$

ANS.

$$\mathcal{L}{3u(t-1) + 4\delta(t-2)} = 3e^{-s}/s + 4e^{-2s}$$

3. Solve the following IVP: $y'' + 8y' + 20y = \delta(t-3)$ y(0) = 1, y'(0) = 1

ANS. We take the Laplace transform of both sides:

$$s(sY - 1) - 1 + 8(sY - 1) + 20Y = e^{-3s}$$

Solving for Y gives:

$$Y = \frac{s+9}{s^2 + 8s + 20} + e^{-3s} \frac{1}{s^2 + 8s + 20}$$

Ignoring the e^{-3s} we find

$$\mathcal{L}\{\frac{1}{2}e^{-4t}\sin 2t\} = \frac{1}{(s+4)^2 + 2^2}$$

Therefore by the shift formula

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{1}{2}u(t-3)e^{-4(t-3)}\sin 2(t-3)\right\} = e^{-3s}\frac{1}{(s+4)^2 + 2^2}$$

Finally,

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{e^{-4t}\left(\cos 2t + \frac{5}{2}\sin 2t\right)\right\} = \frac{s+9}{(s+4)^2 + 2^2}$$

Hence the answer to the problem is the sum of the above

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{e^{-4t}\left(\cos 2t + \frac{5}{2}\sin 2t\right) + \frac{1}{2}u(t-3)e^{-4(t-3)}\sin 2(t-3)\right\} = Y$$

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