

18.03 Recitation 18, April 20, 2006

Laplace transform

Rules for the Laplace transform

0. Definition: $\mathcal{L}[f(t)] = F(s) = \int_{0-}^{\infty} f(t)e^{-st} dt$ for $\text{Re } s \gg 0$.
1. Linearity: $\mathcal{L}[af(t) + bg(t)] = aF(s) + bG(s)$.
2. Inverse transform: $F(s)$ essentially determines $f(t)$.
3. s -shift rule: $\mathcal{L}[e^{at}f(t)] = F(s - a)$.
4. t -shift rule: $\mathcal{L}[f_a(t)] = e^{-as}F(s)$, $f_a(t) = \begin{cases} f(t - a) & \text{if } t > a \\ 0 & \text{if } t < a \end{cases}$.
5. s -derivative rule: $\mathcal{L}[tf(t)] = -F'(s)$.
6. t -derivative rule: $\mathcal{L}[f'(t)] = sF(s) - f(0+)$

where we ignore singularities in derivatives at $t = 0$.

Formulas for the Laplace transform

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}[1] &= 1/s & , & & \mathcal{L}[e^{at}] &= 1/(s - a) \\ \mathcal{L}[\cos(\omega t)] &= s/(s^2 + \omega^2) & , & & \mathcal{L}[\sin(\omega t)] &= \omega/(s^2 + \omega^2) \\ \mathcal{L}[u_a(t)] &= e^{-as}/s & , & & \mathcal{L}[\delta_a(t)] &= e^{-as} \\ \mathcal{L}[t^n] &= n!/s^{n+1}\end{aligned}$$

1. Use the s -shift rule and the formulas for $\mathcal{L}[\cos(\omega t)]$ and $\mathcal{L}[\sin(\omega t)]$ to find $\mathcal{L}[e^{at} \cos(\omega t)]$ and $\mathcal{L}[e^{at} \sin(\omega t)]$.
2. Find the unit impulse and unit step responses of the operator $2D + 4I$ using Laplace transform methods. What is the Laplace transform of the unit impulse and unit step response of the operator $aD + bI$ (for $a \neq 0$)?
3. Solve $2\dot{x} + 4x = e^{-t}$ with initial condition $x(0+) = 1$ using the Laplace transform.
4. Solve $2\dot{x} + 4x = e^{-t} \cos(2t)$ with $x(0+) = 0$ using the Laplace transform.