

# Math 3331 Differential Equations

## 5.1 Definition of the Laplace Transform

**Blerina Xhabli**

Department of Mathematics, University of Houston

`blerina@math.uh.edu`  
`math.uh.edu/~blerina/teaching.html`



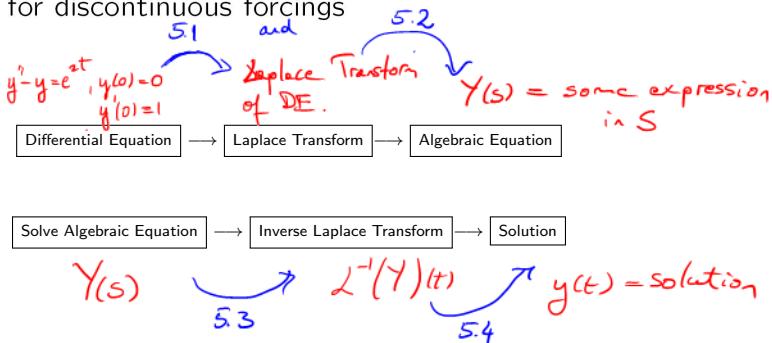
## 5.1 Definition of the Laplace Transform

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# Use of the Laplace Transform

- Technique for solving linear DEs with constant coefficients
- Useful for discontinuous forcings



# Definition of the Laplace Transform

**Def.:** Given a real or complex function  $f(t)$ , the Laplace ( $\mathcal{L}$ ) transform of  $f$  is the following function of  $s$ :

$y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = f(t)$

$$F(s) \stackrel{\text{improper}}{=} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt$$

$$\equiv \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^T e^{-st} f(t) dt$$

**Notation:**

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



Example 1:  $\mathcal{L}(1)(s) = 1/s, s > 0$

$$DE = 1$$

$$\int e^{at} dt = \frac{e^{at}}{a}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(1)(s) &= \int_0^{\infty} 1 e^{-st} dt = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^T e^{-st} dt = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \left[ -\frac{1}{s} e^{-st} \Big|_{t=0}^T \right] \\ &= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \left[ -\frac{1}{s} e^{-sT} + \frac{1}{s} \right] = \frac{1}{s} \quad \text{for } s > 0 \end{aligned}$$

$a \neq 0$

$$\mathcal{L}(a)(s) = \int_0^{\infty} a \cdot e^{-st} dt = a \cdot \frac{1}{s}$$



Example 2:  $\mathcal{L}(e^{at})(s) = 1/s - a, s > a$

$$DE = f(t) = e^{at}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(e^{at})(s) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{at} e^{-st} dt = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^T e^{-(s-a)t} dt$$

$$= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \left[ -\frac{1}{s-a} e^{-(s-a)t} \Big|_{t=0}^T \right]$$

$$= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \left[ -\frac{1}{s-a} e^{-(s-a)T} + \frac{1}{s-a} \right] = \frac{1}{s-a} \quad \text{for } s > a$$



Example 3:  $\mathcal{L}(t)(s) = 1/s^2$

$$f(t) = t$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(t)(s) &= \int_0^{\infty} t e^{-st} dt \\ &= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^T \underbrace{t e^{-st}}_{\substack{u \\ v}} dt \quad \int \frac{e^{-st}}{-s} dt \\ &= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \left( -\frac{t}{s} e^{-st} - \frac{1}{s^2} e^{-st} \right) \Big|_{t=0}^T \\ &= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \left( -\frac{T}{s} e^{-sT} - \frac{1}{s^2} e^{-sT} + \frac{1}{s^2} \right) = \frac{1}{s^2} \end{aligned}$$

Integration by parts

$$\begin{aligned} &\int t e^{-st} dt \\ &= -\frac{1}{s} \left( t e^{-st} - \int e^{-st} dt \right) \\ &= -\frac{t}{s} e^{-st} - \frac{1}{s^2} e^{-st} \end{aligned}$$



$$f(t) = 2t + 3$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{L}(f) = ?$$

$$\mathcal{L}(f)(s) = \mathcal{L}(2t + 3)(s)$$

$$= \int_0^{\infty} (2t + 3) e^{-st} dt$$

$$= \int_0^{\infty} 2t e^{-st} dt + \int_0^{\infty} 3 e^{-st} dt$$



$$= 2 \int_0^{\infty} t e^{-st} dt + 3 \int_0^{\infty} 1 e^{-st} dt$$

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

$$\mathcal{L}(2t + 3)(s) = 2 \mathcal{L}(t)(s) + 3 \mathcal{L}(1)(s)$$

"linear property of Laplace Transf"

# Example 4: $\mathcal{L}(t^n)(s) = n!/s^{n+1}$

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

$$= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^T t^n e^{-st} dt$$

$$= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \left( -\frac{t^n}{s} e^{-st} - \dots - \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}} e^{-st} \right) \Big|_{t=0}^T$$

$$= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \left( -\frac{T^n}{s} e^{-sT} - \dots - \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}} e^{-sT} + \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}} \right) = \dots$$

$$= \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}$$

Integration by parts

$$\int t^n e^{-st} dt$$

$$= -\frac{1}{s} t^n e^{-st}$$

$$+ \frac{n}{s} \int t^{n-1} e^{-st} dt$$

$$= -\frac{t^n}{s} e^{-st} - \dots - \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}} e^{-st}$$



$$f(t) = 2t^2 + 3t + 2$$

$$\hookrightarrow \mathcal{L}(f)(s) = 2 \cdot \mathcal{L}(t^2)(s) + 3 \mathcal{L}(t)(s) + 2 \mathcal{L}(1)(s)$$

$$= 2 \cdot \frac{2!}{s^3} + 3 \cdot \frac{1}{s^2} + \frac{2}{s}$$

# Example 5: $\mathcal{L}(\sin at)(s)$ and $\mathcal{L}(\cos at)(s)$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{L}(\sin at)(s) = \int_0^{\infty} \sin at e^{-st} dt = \dots = \frac{a}{s^2 + a^2} \\ \mathcal{L}(\cos at)(s) = \int_0^{\infty} \cos at e^{-st} dt = \dots = \frac{s}{s^2 + a^2} \end{array} \right.$$



Example 6:  $\mathcal{L}(f)(s)$ ,  $f$  being discontinuous

$$\mathcal{L}(1)(s) = \int_0^{\infty} 1 e^{-st} dt$$

Compute the Laplace transform of the step function

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

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(f)(s) &= \int_0^1 1 e^{-st} dt = -\frac{1}{s} e^{-st} \Big|_{t=0}^1 \\ &= -\frac{1}{s} e^{-s} + \frac{1}{s}. \end{aligned}$$



# Piecewise Continuous Functions

**Def.:**  $f(t)$  is piecewise continuous if

- in any finite interval  $0 < t < T$  there are at most finitely many discontinuities
- at any point of discontinuity  $t_d$  the left and right limits  $f_{\mp}$  exist:

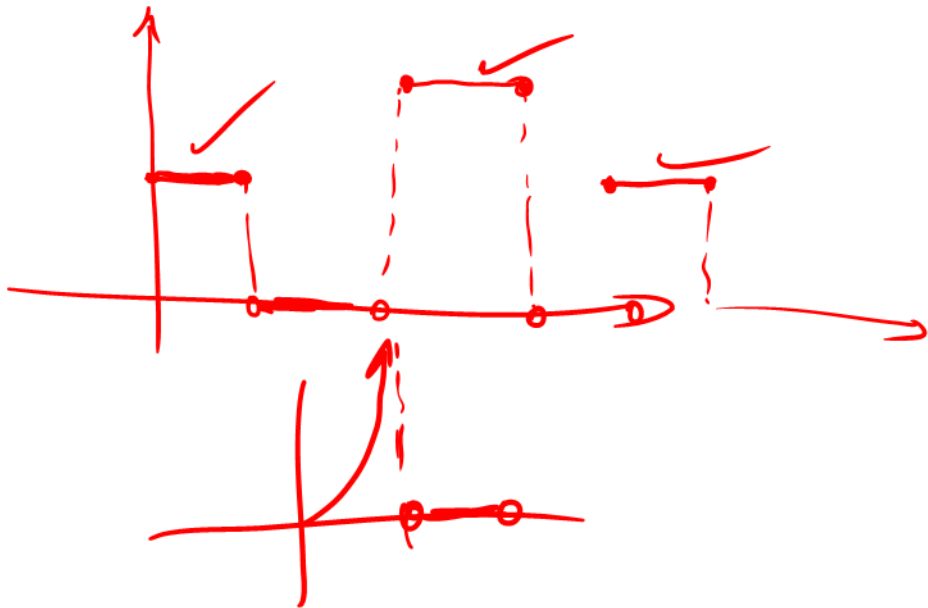
$$f_{-}(t_d) = \lim_{t \rightarrow t_d^{-}} f(t), \quad f_{+}(t_d) = \lim_{t \rightarrow t_d^{+}} f(t)$$

**Ex.:**  $f(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 0 \leq t < 1 \\ e^{t-1} & \text{if } t \geq 1 \end{cases}$  has

a discontinuity at  $t_d = 1$ :

$$f_{-}(1) = 0, \quad f_{+}(1) = 1$$





# Functions of Exponential Order

**Def.:**  $f(t)$  is of exponential order if there are constants  $C, a$  s.t.

$$|f(t)| \leq C e^{at} \text{ for all } t$$

**Meaning:**  $f(t)$  grows at most exponentially if  $t \rightarrow \infty$

Ex.:  $e^{t^2}$  is *not* of exponential order

Ex.:  $e^{10,000t}$  is of exponential order





# Existence of the Laplace Transform

**Thm.:** If  $f(t)$  is piecewise continuous in  $0 \leq t < \infty$  and of exponential order, then  $\mathcal{L}(f)(s)$  exists for  $s > a$ .

*existence of Laplace!*

