

Definition:

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

There will be conditions on s such that the integral converges.

Recall $\int cf(x)dx = c \int f(x)dx$ hence $\mathcal{L}\{cf(t)\} = c\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$

Note that since the Laplace Transform is an integral, we know that

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t) + g(t)\} = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} + \mathcal{L}\{g(t)\}$$

Also note that since the Laplace Transform is an integral

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t) \cdot g(t)\} \neq \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} \cdot \mathcal{L}\{g(t)\}$$

The integral of a product is **NOT** the product of the integrals.

Let's start building the table.

1) $f(t) = c$ where c is a constant and we noted above that $\mathcal{L}\{cf(t)\} = c\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$.

Therefore

$$F(s) = \int_0^{\infty} ce^{-st} dt = c \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} dt = c \left(\frac{e^{-st}}{-s} \right) \Big|_{t=0}^{\infty} = -\frac{c}{s} \left\{ \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{-st} - e^0 \right\}$$

we know that $e^0 = 1$ but we need to be careful at the upper limit. If $s > 0$ then $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{-st} = 0$.

However, if $s < 0$ then $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{-st} = \infty$. Hence

$$\mathcal{L}\{c\} = \frac{c}{s} \quad s > 0$$

2) $f(t) = e^{at}$ where a is a constant.

$$F(s) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{at} e^{-st} dt = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-(s-a)t} dt = \left(\frac{e^{-(s-a)t}}{-(s-a)} \right) \Big|_{t=0}^{\infty} = -\frac{1}{(s-a)} \left\{ \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{-(s-a)t} - e^0 \right\}$$

This form is very similar to the one for a constant. If $s > a$ then $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{-(s-a)t} = 0$. However, if

$s < a$ then $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{-(s-a)t} = \infty$. Hence

$$\mathcal{L}\{e^{at}\} = \frac{1}{s-a} \quad s > a \quad (\text{Note the minus sign in the denominator})$$

3) $f(t) = \cos(bt)$ where b is a constant.

Let's recall Euler's theorem

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos\theta + i\sin\theta \quad \text{equivalently} \quad e^{-i\theta} = \cos\theta - i\sin\theta$$

If we solve for $\cos\theta$ and $\sin\theta$, we get

$$\cos\theta = \frac{e^{i\theta} + e^{-i\theta}}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \sin\theta = \frac{e^{i\theta} - e^{-i\theta}}{2i}$$

We can use these relationships to find the Laplace Transforms of $\cos\theta$ and $\sin\theta$.

$$\mathcal{L}\{\cos bt\} = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{e^{ibt} + e^{-ibt}}{2} e^{-st} dt = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \int_0^{\infty} e^{ibt} e^{-st} dt + \int_0^{\infty} e^{-ibt} e^{-st} dt \right\}$$

But we just found $\mathcal{L}\{e^{at}\} = \frac{1}{s-a}$. We can therefore write down that

$$\mathcal{L}\{\cos bt\} = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{e^{ibt} + e^{-ibt}}{2} e^{-st} dt = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{s-ib} + \frac{1}{s+ib} \right\}$$

We combine the terms using the LCD of $LCD = (s+ib)(s-ib) = s^2 + b^2$.

Therefore

$$\mathcal{L}\{\cos bt\} = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{s+ib}{s^2+b^2} + \frac{s-ib}{s^2+b^2} \right\} = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{2s}{s^2+b^2} \right\} = \frac{s}{s^2+b^2}$$

Using the same technique, you prove that

$$\mathcal{L}\{\sin bt\} = \frac{b}{s^2+b^2}$$

4) The hyperbolic sine and cosine behave similarly.

$$\begin{aligned} \cosh x &= \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2} & \text{and} & & \sinh x &= \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2} \\ \mathcal{L}\{\cosh bt\} &= \frac{s}{s^2 - b^2} & \text{and} & & \mathcal{L}\{\sinh bt\} &= \frac{b}{s^2 - b^2} \end{aligned}$$

5) One more that you can prove using integration by parts is

$$\mathcal{L}\{t^n\} = \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}} \quad \text{where } n! = n \cdot (n-1) \cdot (n-2) \dots 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1$$

Find the Laplace Transforms of the following functions of time.

$$\begin{aligned} f(t) &= 5t + 2 & f(t) &= 10t^2 - 5 \\ f(t) &= e^{3t} & f(t) &= e^{5t-7} \\ f(t) &= \cos(3t) & f(t) &= \sin(5t+2) \\ f(t) &= \cosh(3t) & f(t) &= \sinh(5t+2) \end{aligned}$$

Note: $\sin(A+B) = \sin A \cos B + \cos A \sin B$ $\sinh(A+B) = \sinh A \cosh B + \cosh A \sinh B$
 $\cos(A+B) = \cos A \cos B - \sin A \sin B$ $\cosh(A+B) = \cosh A \cosh B + \sinh A \sinh B$

Check out Trig Expand in the F2 menu of the TI-89.