

**Laplace Transform:  
ODEs with Discontinuous Forcing Functions**

Solve the initial value problems below:

1.  $y' + 2y = f(t)$ ;  $y(0) = 0$ ;  $f(t) = \begin{cases} t, & 0 \leq t < 1 \\ 0, & t \geq 1. \end{cases}$

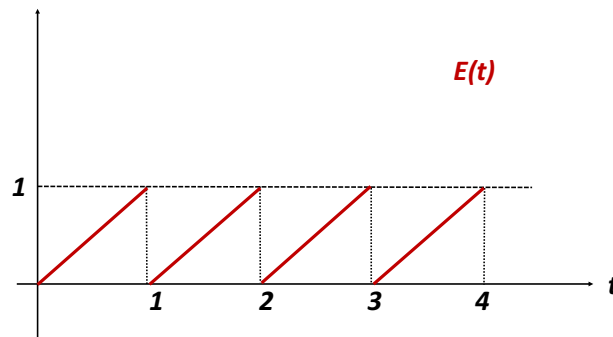
2.  $y'' + 4y = (\sin t)u_{2\pi}(t)$ ;  $y(0) = 1$ ;  $y'(0) = 0$ .

3.  $y'' + y = f(t)$ ;  $y(0) = 0$ ;  $y'(0) = 1$ ;  $f(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 \leq t < \pi \\ 1, & \pi \leq t < 2\pi \\ 0, & t \geq 2\pi. \end{cases}$

4. Solve the L-R circuit equation

$$L \frac{di}{dt} + Ri = E(t),$$

for the current function  $i(t)$ , subject to  $i(0) = 0$ , where the voltage  $E(t)$  is the periodic function given below:



You may need to use the following series expansion:

$$\frac{1}{1-x} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k; \quad |x| < 1.$$

### Laplace transforms of some basic functions

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{1\} &= \frac{1}{s}; \quad s > 0 & \mathcal{L}\{\sin(kt)\} &= \frac{k}{s^2 + k^2}; \quad s > 0 & \mathcal{L}\{\sinh(kt)\} &= \frac{k}{s^2 - k^2}; \quad s > |k| \\ \mathcal{L}\{t^n\} &= \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}; \quad s > 0 & \mathcal{L}\{\cos(kt)\} &= \frac{s}{s^2 + k^2}; \quad s > 0 & \mathcal{L}\{\cosh(kt)\} &= \frac{s}{s^2 - k^2}; \quad s > |k| \\ \mathcal{L}\{e^{kt}\} &= \frac{1}{s - k}; \quad s > k & \mathcal{L}\{u_a(t)\} &= \frac{e^{-as}}{s}; \quad s > 0 \end{aligned}$$

### Inverse Laplace transforms of some basic functions

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s}\right\} &= 1 & \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s^2 + k^2}\right\} &= \frac{1}{k} \sin(kt) & \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s^2 - k^2}\right\} &= \frac{1}{k} \sinh(kt) \\ \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s^n}\right\} &= \frac{1}{(n-1)!} t^{n-1} & \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s}{s^2 + k^2}\right\} &= \cos(kt) & \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s}{s^2 - k^2}\right\} &= \cosh(kt) \\ \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s - k}\right\} &= e^{kt} & \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{e^{-as}}{s}\right\} &= u_a(t) \end{aligned}$$

### Properties of the Laplace and Inverse Laplace transform

#### Translation Theorem I:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{e^{kt}f(t)\} &= F(s - k) = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}|_{s \rightarrow s-k} \\ \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s - k)\} &= \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)|_{s \rightarrow s-k}\} = e^{kt} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)\} = e^{kt} f(t) \end{aligned}$$

#### Translation Theorem II:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{f(t - a)u_a(t)\} &= e^{-as}F(s) = e^{-as} \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} \\ \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{e^{-as}F(s)\} &= f(t - a)u_a(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)\}|_{t \rightarrow t-a} u_a(t) \end{aligned}$$

#### Derivatives of Laplace Transforms:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{t^n f(t)\} &= (-1)^n \frac{d^n}{ds^n} F(s) \\ \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F^{(n)}(s)\} &= (-1)^n t^n f(t) \end{aligned}$$

#### Laplace Transform of Periodic Functions:

If  $f(t)$  is piecewise continuous on  $[0, \infty)$ , of exponential order, and periodic with period  $T$ :

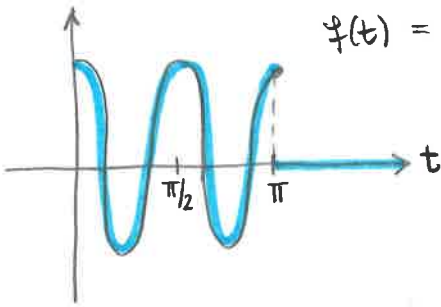
$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \frac{1}{1 - e^{-sT}} \int_0^T e^{-st} f(t) dt$$

#### Laplace Transforms of Derivatives:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{y'\} &= sY(s) - y(0) \\ \mathcal{L}\{y''\} &= s^2Y(s) - sy(0) - y'(0) \\ \mathcal{L}\{y'''\} &= s^3Y(s) - s^2y(0) - sy'(0) - y''(0) \\ &\vdots \\ \mathcal{L}\{y^{(n)}(t)\} &= s^n Y(s) - s^{n-1}y(0) - s^{n-2}y'(0) - \dots - sy^{(n-2)}(0) - y^{(n-1)}(0) \end{aligned}$$

## ODEs with Discontinuous Forcing Functions

Example:  $y'' + 16y = f(t)$ ;  $y(0) = 0$ ;  $y'(0) = 1$ ;  $f(t) = \begin{cases} \cos(4t), & 0 \leq t < \pi \\ 0, & t \geq \pi \end{cases}$



$f(t)$  = external force acting on a mechanical system for only a short period of time, and is then removed.

$$f(t) = \cos(4t)(1 - u_{\pi}(t))$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} &= \mathcal{L}\{\cos(4t)\} - \mathcal{L}\{\cos(4t)u_{\pi}(t)\} \\ &= \frac{s}{s^2+16} - \mathcal{L}\{\cos(4(t-\pi))u_{\pi}(t)\} \\ &= \frac{s}{s^2+16} - e^{-\pi s} \mathcal{L}\{\cos(4t)\} = \frac{(1 - e^{-\pi s})s}{s^2+16} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}\{y''\} + 16\mathcal{L}\{y\} &= \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} \\ s^2 y(s) - \underbrace{sy(0)}_0 - \underbrace{y'(0)}_1 + 16y(s) &= \frac{(1 - e^{-\pi s})s}{s^2+16} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow (s^2+16)y(s) = 1 + \frac{s}{s^2+16} - \frac{e^{-\pi s}s}{s^2+16} \Rightarrow y(s) = \frac{1}{s^2+16} + \frac{s}{(s^2+16)^2} - \frac{s}{(s^2+16)^2} e^{-\pi s}$$

$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s}{(s^2+16)^2}\right\}$ ?

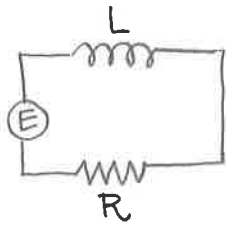
Use:  $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F^{(n)}(s)\} = (-1)^n t^n f(t)$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s}{(s^2+16)^2}\right\} &= \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\left(\frac{1}{s^2+16}\right)'\right\} \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} (-1)t \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s^2+16}\right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} t \cdot \frac{1}{4} \sin(4t) \\ &= \boxed{\frac{1}{8} t \sin(4t)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow y(t) &= \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s^2+16}\right\} + \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s}{(s^2+16)^2}\right\} \\ &\quad - \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s}{(s^2+16)^2}\right\} \Big|_{t \rightarrow t-\pi} u_{\pi}(t) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \sin(4t) + \frac{1}{8} t \sin(4t) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{8} (t-\pi) \sin(4(t-\pi)) u_{\pi}(t) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow y(t) = \frac{1}{4} \sin(4t) + \frac{1}{8} t \sin(4t) - \frac{1}{8} (t-\pi) \sin(4t) u_{\pi}(t)$$

## Example: L-R Series Circuit



Series circuit containing a resistor  $R$  and an inductor  $L$

$i(t)$  = current at time  $t$ .

$E(t)$  = voltage impressed on the circuit.

Kirchhoff's Second Law:

$L \frac{di}{dt}$  = voltage drop across the inductor

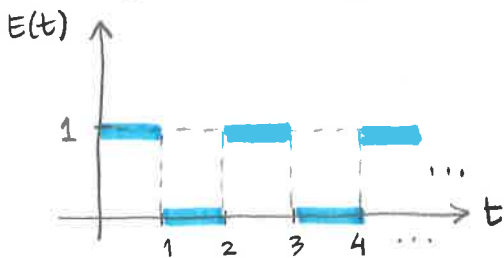
$iR$  = voltage drop across the resistor

$$L \frac{di}{dt} + Ri = E(t)$$

→ a differential equation for the current  $i(t)$ .

→ Solving this depends on how complicated the expression for voltage  $E(t)$  is. Often times,  $E(t)$  is discontinuous.

- ① Find the current  $i(t)$  in a single-loop L-R series circuit, given that the voltage  $E(t)$  is the square wave below; and the initial condition  $i(0) = 0$ .



$E(t)$  = periodic w/ period  $T=2$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{L}\{E(t)\} = \frac{1}{1-e^{-2s}} \int_0^2 e^{-st} E(t) dt$$

$$= \frac{1}{1-e^{-2s}} \mathcal{L}\{1 - u_1(t)\}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1-e^{-2s}} \left( \frac{1}{s} - \frac{e^{-s}}{s} \right) = \frac{1-e^{-s}}{s(1-e^{-2s})}$$

$$= \frac{1-e^{-s}}{s(1-e^{-s})(1+e^{-s})} = \frac{1}{s(1+e^{-s})}$$

Laplace Transform of ODE:

$$L \mathcal{L}\{i'\} + R \mathcal{L}\{i\} = \mathcal{L}\{E(t)\}$$

$$L(sI(s) - i(0)) + RI(s) = \mathcal{L}\{E(t)\}$$

$$(Ls + R)I(s) = \mathcal{L}\{E(t)\}$$

$$= \frac{1}{s(1+e^{-s})}$$

$$\Rightarrow I(s) = \frac{1}{s(Ls+R)(1+e^{-s})}$$

$$\Rightarrow i(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s(Ls+R)(1+e^{-s})} \right\}$$

How to find  $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s(Ls+R)(1+e^{-s})}\right\} = i(t)$ ?

• We can decompose  $\frac{1}{s(Ls+R)} = \frac{A}{s} + \frac{B}{Ls+R} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{Ls+R}\Big|_{s=0} = A \Rightarrow A = 1/R$

$$\frac{1}{s(Ls+R)} = \frac{1}{Rs} - \frac{L}{R(Ls+R)} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{s}\Big|_{s=-R/L} = B \Rightarrow B = -L/R$$

• So we now have

$$i(t) = \frac{1}{R} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s} \frac{1}{1+e^{-s}}\right\} - \frac{1}{R} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s+R/L} \frac{1}{1+e^{-s}}\right\}$$

• Problem: we know how to handle things like  $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{e^{-as}F(s)\}$ , but how to deal with the  $\frac{1}{1+e^{-s}}$  factor? Series expansions!

$$\frac{1}{1+x} = 1-x+x^2-x^3+\dots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k x^k \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R} \text{ with } |x| < 1.$$

Let  $x = e^{-s}$  above, with  $s > 0$ :

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{1+e^{-s}} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k e^{-sk}, \quad \forall s > 0.$$

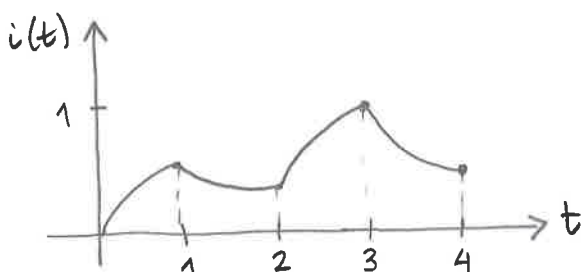
$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s} \frac{1}{1+e^{-s}}\right\} &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s} e^{-sk}\right\} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s}\right\}\Big|_{t \rightarrow t-k} u_k(t) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k u_k(t). \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s+R/L} \frac{1}{1+e^{-s}}\right\} &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s+R/L} e^{-sk}\right\} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s+R/L}\right\}\Big|_{t \rightarrow t-k} u_k(t) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k e^{-R/L(t-k)} u_k(t) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow i(t) = \frac{1}{R} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k (1 - e^{-R/L(t-k)}) u_k(t)$$

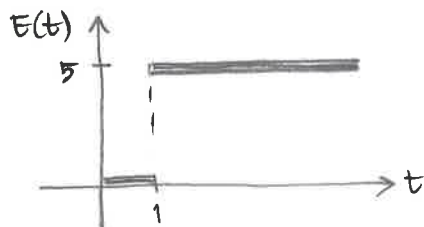
Example: Take  $R=L=1$  and  $0 \leq t < 4$ . Then

$$i(t) = \begin{cases} 1 - e^{-t}; & 0 \leq t < 1 \\ -e^{-t} + e^{-(t-1)}; & 1 \leq t < 2 \\ 1 - e^{-t} + e^{-(t-1)} - e^{-(t-2)}; & 2 \leq t < 3 \\ -e^{-t} + e^{-(t-1)} - e^{-(t-2)} + e^{-(t-3)}; & 3 \leq t < 4 \end{cases}$$



② Find the current  $i(t)$  in a single-loop L-R circuit, where  $L=R=1$ ,  $i(0)=0$  and the voltage  $E(t)$  is given by

$$E(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 \leq t < 1 \\ 5, & t \geq 1 \end{cases}$$



$$E(t) = 5u_1(t)$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{L}\{E(t)\} = \frac{5}{s}e^{-s}$$

$$L i' + R i = E(t) \text{ becomes } \boxed{i' + i = E(t)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{L}\{i'\} + \mathcal{L}\{i\} = \mathcal{L}\{E(t)\}$$

$$\Rightarrow s I(s) - i(0) + I(s) = \frac{5}{s}e^{-s}$$

$$\Rightarrow (s+1)I(s) = \frac{5}{s}e^{-s}$$

$$\Rightarrow I(s) = \frac{5}{s(s+1)}e^{-s}$$

$$\Rightarrow i(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{5}{s(s+1)}e^{-s}\right\} = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{5}{s(s+1)}\right\}\Big|_{t \rightarrow t-1} u_1(t)$$

$$\frac{1}{s(s+1)} = \frac{1}{s} - \frac{1}{s+1}$$

$$= 5(1 - e^{-t})\Big|_{t \rightarrow t-1} u_1(t)$$

$$= 5(1 - e^{-t+1})u_1(t).$$

$$\boxed{i(t) = 5(1 - e^{-t+1})u_1(t)}$$