

Special Functions and Laplace Transforms

MECH 412 - *System Dynamics and Control*

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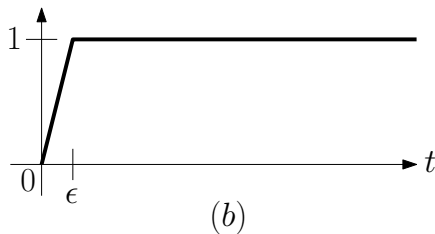
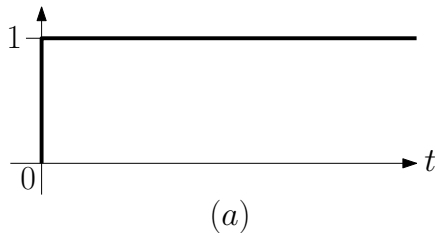
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Unit Step

- ▶ A *unit step* applied at $t = 0$ is defined as

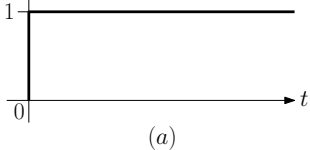
$$1_+(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 0 \\ 1, & t \geq 0 \end{cases}.$$

- ▶ Referring to Figure (b), as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ the function $1_+(t)$ is recovered.

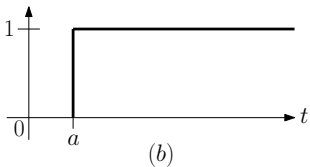


$1_+(t)$ is denoted $\sigma(t)$ in [1].

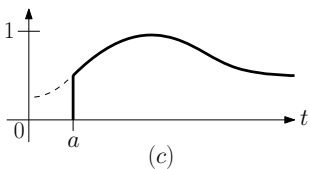
$$(a) \quad 1_+(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 0 \\ 1, & t \geq 0 \end{cases}.$$



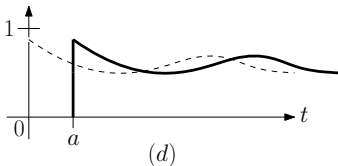
$$(b) \quad 1_+(t-a) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < a \\ 1, & t \geq a \end{cases}.$$



$$(c) \quad 1_+(t-a)f(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < a \\ f(t), & t \geq a \end{cases}.$$



$$(d) \quad 1_+(t-a)f(t-a) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < a \\ f(t-a), & t \geq a \end{cases}.$$



Note, $0 \leq a < \infty$.

Unit Impulse (Delta Function)

- ▶ A *unit impulse* applied at $t = 0$ is defined as

$$\begin{cases} \delta(t) = 0, & t \neq 0 \\ \int_0^t \delta(\tau) d\tau = 1_+(t) \end{cases},$$

while an equivalent definition of $\delta(t)$ is

$$\delta(t) = \frac{d1_+(t)}{dt}.$$

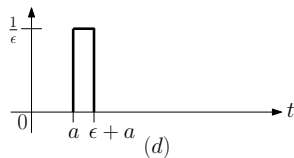
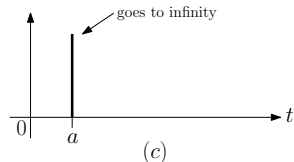
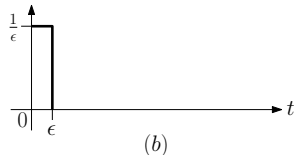
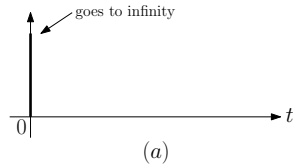
- ▶ A *unit impulse* applied at $t = a$, where $0 \leq a < \infty$, is defined as

$$\begin{cases} \delta(t - a) = 0, & t \neq a \\ \int_0^t \delta(\tau - a) d\tau = 1_+(t - a) \end{cases},$$

while an equivalent definition of $\delta(t - a)$ is given by

$$\delta(t - a) = \frac{d1_+(t - a)}{dt}.$$

- ▶ The unit impulse $\delta(t - a)$ satisfies $\int_0^t \delta(\tau - a) f(\tau) d\tau = f(a)$.



Laplace Transforms

- ▶ The general idea of a transform is to re-express the time-domain function in the s -domain, that is

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = f(s), \quad \text{where} \quad f(s) = \int_a^b \kappa(s, t) f(t) dt.$$

- ▶ Using the kernel function

$$\kappa(s, t) = e^{-st}$$

and $a = 0$ and $b = \infty$, where $s = \operatorname{Re} s + j \operatorname{Im} s = \sigma + j\omega$ leads to the Laplace transform (LT)

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

- ▶ $\{f(t), f(s)\}$ is a LT pair.
- ▶ Why use the LT transform at all?
 - ▶ Can simplify a problem. Hard problem with $f(t)$ but easy problem with $f(s)$.
 - ▶ Can convert an ODE into an algebraic equation.
 - ▶ Easier to handle discontinuities.

Assumptions

- ▶ Only functions of the form $f(t) = 0, \forall t < 0$, will be considered.
- ▶ Sufficient conditions for an LT pair to exist are as follows.
 - ▶ $f(t), \forall t \geq 0$, is piecewise continuous.
 - ▶ $f(t), \forall t \geq 0$, “grows” no faster than $\alpha e^{\beta t}, \forall t \geq 0$, where $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$.
 - ▶ For example, $f(t) = e^{t^2} 1_+(t)$ does not have an LT because it grows faster than $\alpha e^{\beta t} 1_+(t)$ for any β .

The Laplace Transform is a Linear* Operator

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{a_1 f_1(t) + a_2 f_2(t)\} &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} (a_1 f_1(t) + a_2 f_2(t)) dt \\&= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} (a_1 f_1(t)) dt + \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} (a_2 f_2(t)) dt \\&= a_1 \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f_1(t) dt + a_2 \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f_2(t) dt \\&= a_1 \mathcal{L}\{f_1(t)\} + a_2 \mathcal{L}\{f_2(t)\}\end{aligned}$$

where $\text{Re } s > \max(\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$ and σ_1 and σ_2 define the ROC of the LTs $f_1(s)$ and $f_2(s)$

*Recall, “linear” means

and

hold.

Inverse Laplace Transform

- ▶ The inverse LT is defined to be

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{f(s)\} = f(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 0 \\ \frac{1}{2\pi j} \int_{\sigma_c - j\infty}^{\sigma_c + j\infty} e^{st} f(s) ds, & t \geq 0 \end{cases},$$

where σ_c defines the ROC. Turns out, this definition is not all that useful in practice.

- ▶ To find the inverse Laplace transform, use LT tables,

$$f(t) \xrightarrow{\text{LT table}} f(s),$$

$$f(s) \xrightarrow{\text{LT table}} f(t),$$

where $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = f(s)$ and $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{f(s)\} = f(t)$.

- ▶ The inverse LT is also a linear operator, that is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{a_1 f_1(s) + a_2 f_2(s)\} &= a_1 \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{f_1(s)\} + a_2 \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{f_2(s)\} \\ &= a_1 f_1(t) + a_2 f_2(t). \end{aligned}$$

Common LT Pairs

$f(s) = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} f(t) dt$	$f(t), \forall t \geq 0$
1	$\delta(t)$
$\frac{1}{s}$	$1_+(t)$
$\frac{1}{s^2}$	t
$\frac{1}{s+a}$	e^{-at}
$\frac{1}{(s+a)^2}$	te^{-at}
$\frac{a}{s(s+a)}$	$1 - e^{-at}$
$\frac{b-a}{(s+a)(s+b)}$	$e^{-at} - e^{-bt}$
$\frac{s}{(s+a)^2}$	$(1-at)e^{-at}$
$\frac{s}{s^2+a^2}$	$\cos(at)$
$\frac{a}{s^2+a^2}$	$\sin(at)$
$\frac{s+a}{(s+a)^2+b^2}$	$e^{-at} \cos(bt)$
$\frac{b}{(s+a)^2+b^2}$	$e^{-at} \sin(bt)$

Example

Q. What is the LT of $f(t) = 1_+(t - a)$ where $0 \leq a < \infty$?

A.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{1_+(t - a)\} &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} 1_+(t - a) dt \\ &= \int_a^{\infty} e^{-st} dt \\ &= -\frac{1}{s} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{-st} - \left(-\frac{1}{s}\right) e^{-sa} \\ &= \frac{1}{s} e^{-sa},\end{aligned}$$

when $\operatorname{Re} s > 0$.

Q. What is the LT of $f(t) = 1_+(t)$?

Example

Q. What is the LT of $\delta(t - a)$ where $0 \leq a < \infty$?

A. Recall that

$$\int_0^t \delta(\tau - a) f(\tau) d\tau = f(a).$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{\delta(t - a)\} &= \int_0^\infty e^{-st} \delta(t - a) dt \\ &= e^{-sa}.\end{aligned}$$

Example

Q. What's the LT of $f(t) = e^{kt}1_+(t)$ where $k \in \mathbb{C}$?

A.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{e^{kt}1_+(t)\} &= \int_0^\infty e^{-st}e^{kt}1_+(t)dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{-st}e^{kt}dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{(k-s)t}dt \\ &= \frac{1}{(k-s)} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{-(s-k)t} - \frac{1}{(k-s)} \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} e^{-(s-k)t}\end{aligned}$$

Let $s = \sigma + j\omega$ and $k = u + jv$ so that

$$s - k = (\sigma - u) + j(\omega - v) = \alpha + j\beta.$$

Recall Euler's formula, $e^{j\alpha t} = \cos \alpha t + j \sin \alpha t$.

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}e^{-(s-k)t} &= e^{-(\alpha+j\beta)t} \\&= e^{-\alpha t} e^{j(-\beta)t} \\&= e^{-\alpha t} (\cos(-\beta)t + j \sin(-\beta)t) \\&= e^{-\alpha t} (\cos \beta t - j \sin \beta t)\end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{e^{kt}1_+(t)\} &= \frac{1}{(k-s)} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (e^{-\alpha t} (\cos(\beta t) - j \sin(\beta t))) + \frac{1}{(s-k)} \\&= \frac{1}{(s-k)}\end{aligned}$$

when $\operatorname{Re} s > \operatorname{Re} k$.

Example

Q. What's the LT of $f_c(t) = \cos(at)1_+(t)$ and $f_s(t) = \sin(at)1_+(t)$ where $a \in \mathbb{R}$?

A. From Euler's Formula,

$$e^{jat} = \cos(at) + j \sin(at).$$

Also recall that $\mathcal{L}\{e^{kt}1_+(t)\} = \frac{1}{s-k}$ where $k \in \mathbb{C}$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{e^{jat}1_+(t)\} &= \frac{1}{(s - ja)} \frac{s + ja}{s + ja} \\ &= \frac{s}{(s^2 + a^2)} + j \frac{a}{(s^2 + a^2)},\end{aligned}$$

when $\operatorname{Re} s > \operatorname{Re} k$, meaning $\operatorname{Re} s > 0$ because $k = 0 + ja$ in this case. Next, note that

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{e^{jat}1_+(t)\} &= \int_0^\infty e^{-st} (\cos(at) + j \sin(at)) 1_+(t) dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{-st} \cos(at) 1_+(t) dt + j \int_0^\infty e^{-st} \sin(at) 1_+(t) dt \\ &= \mathcal{L}\{f_c(t)\} + j \mathcal{L}\{f_s(t)\}.\end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\mathcal{L}\{f_c(t)\} = \mathcal{L}\{\cos(at)1_+(t)\} = \frac{s}{(s^2 + a^2)}, \quad \mathcal{L}\{f_s(t)\} = \mathcal{L}\{\sin(at)1_+(t)\} = \frac{a}{(s^2 + a^2)}.$$

Differentiation

Claim: $\mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{df(t)}{dt}\right\} = sf(s) - f(0)$ where $f(0) = f(t)|_{t=0}$.

Proof.

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{df(t)}{dt}\right\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} \frac{df(t)}{dt} dt = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} df(t)$$

Use integration by parts,

$$\begin{aligned} u(t) &= e^{-st}, \quad dv(t) = df(t), \\ du(t) &= -se^{-st}dt, \quad v(t) = f(t), \\ \int_a^b u(t)dv(t) &= u(t)v(t)|_a^b - \int_a^b v(t)du(t). \end{aligned}$$

With $\text{Re } s > \text{Re } \sigma$ where σ defines the ROC of the LT of $f(t)$, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{df(t)}{dt}\right\} &= e^{-st}f(t)\Big|_0^\infty - \int_0^\infty f(t)(-se^{-st})dt \\ &= s \int_0^\infty f(t)e^{-st}dt - f(0) \\ &= sf(s) - f(0)\end{aligned}$$

In general,

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{d^n f(t)}{dt^n}\right\} = s^n f(s) - s^{n-1}f(0) - s^{n-2}\dot{f}(0) - \dots - f^{n-1}(0),$$

where $f^{n-1}(t)$ is the $n - 1^{th}$ derivative.

Integration

Claim: Let $f_1(t) = \int_0^t f(\tau) d\tau$. Then, $\mathcal{L}\{f_1(t)\} = \frac{1}{s} f(s)$.

Proof.

$$\mathcal{L}\{f_1(t)\} = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} f_1(t) dt = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} \int_0^t f(\tau) d\tau dt$$

Use integration by parts,

$$u(t) = \int_0^t f(\tau) d\tau, \quad dv(t) = e^{-st} dt,$$

$$du(t) = f(t) dt, \quad v(t) = -\frac{1}{s} e^{-st},$$

$$\int_a^b u(t) dv(t) = u(t)v(t)\Big|_a^b - \int_a^b v(t) du(t).$$

it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{f_1(t)\} &= \underbrace{\left(\int_0^t f(\tau) d\tau \right) \left(-\frac{1}{s} e^{-st} \right) \Big|_0^\infty}_{\text{goes to zero}} - \int_0^\infty \left(-\frac{1}{s} e^{-st} \right) f(t) dt \\ &= \frac{1}{s} \int_0^\infty f(t) e^{-st} dt = \frac{1}{s} \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \frac{1}{s} f(s) \end{aligned}$$

Convolution

- ▶ Does $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)g(t)\} \stackrel{?}{=} f(s)g(s)$?

No!

- ▶ The convolution of $f(t)$ and $g(t)$ is

$$f(t) * g(t) = \int_0^t f(t - \tau)g(\tau)d\tau, \quad \forall t \geq 0.$$

- ▶ The LT of the convolution of $f(t)$ and $g(t)$ is $\mathcal{L}\{f(t) * g(t)\} = f(s)g(s)$.

Example

Q. Given $f(s) = \frac{1}{(s+1)(s+2)}$ what is $f(t)$, $\forall t \geq 0$?

A. Consider

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(s) &= \frac{1}{(s+1)} & \text{and} & & f_2(s) &= \frac{1}{(s+2)} \\ f_1(t) &= \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{(s+1)} \right\} = e^{-t} 1_+(t) & \text{and} & & f_2(t) &= \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{(s+2)} \right\} = e^{-2t} 1_+(t) \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} f(t) &= \mathcal{L}^{-1} \{f_1(s)f_2(s)\} = \int_0^t f_1(t-\tau)f_2(\tau)d\tau \\ &= \int_0^t e^{-(t-\tau)} 1_+(t-\tau) e^{-2\tau} 1_+(\tau) d\tau \\ &= e^{-t} \int_0^t e^{-\tau} 1_+(t-\tau) d\tau, \quad \forall t \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Letting $\eta = t - \tau$, noting that $d\eta = -d\tau$, and changing the integration bounds gives

$$\begin{aligned} f(t) &= e^{-t} \int_t^0 e^{-(t-\eta)} 1_+(\eta) (-d\eta) = e^{-t} \int_0^t e^{-(t-\eta)} d\eta = e^{-2t} \int_0^t e^{\eta} d\eta = e^{-2t} (e^t - 1) \\ &= e^{-t} - e^{-2t}, \quad \forall t \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Partial-Fraction Expansion

- ▶ What is $f(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{f(s)\}$ where $f(s) = \frac{1}{(s+3)(s-2)}$?
- ▶ Could use convolution ... but that's a lot of work. Is there an easier way?
- ▶ **Yes!** Partial fraction expansion!
- ▶ First recall that

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s+3}\right\} = e^{-3t}1_+(t), \quad \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s-2}\right\} = e^{2t}1_+(t).$$

- ▶ Write

$$\frac{1}{(s+3)(s-2)} = \frac{c_1}{s+3} + \frac{c_2}{s-2}$$

and then solve for c_1 and c_2 .

- Rearranging,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{(s+3)(s-2)} &= \frac{c_1}{s+3} + \frac{c_2}{s-2}, \\ 1 &= (s+3)(s-2) \left(\frac{c_1}{s+3} + \frac{c_2}{s-2} \right) \\ &= (s-2)c_1 + (s+3)c_2, \\ (0)s + (1)s^0 &= (c_1 + c_2)s + (-2c_1 + 3c_2)s^0.\end{aligned}$$

- We have two equations, and two unknowns.
- The first equation comes from s^0 ,

$$1 = -2c_1 + 3c_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- The second comes from $s^1 = s$,

$$0 = c_1 + c_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- ▶ Writing these two equations in matrix form gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- ▶ This is a classic $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ problem.
- ▶ Recalling that

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad - bc} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix},$$

it follows that

$$\begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{5} \\ \frac{1}{5} \end{bmatrix}.$$

- Find that $c_1 = -\frac{1}{5}$ and $c_2 = \frac{1}{5}$, and therefore

$$f(s) = \frac{1}{(s+3)(s-2)} = \frac{-\frac{1}{5}}{s+3} + \frac{\frac{1}{5}}{s-2}.$$

- It follows that

$$f(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{f(s)\} = \left(-\frac{1}{5}e^{-3t} + \frac{1}{5}e^{2t}\right) 1_+(t).$$

- More examples can be found in Appendix C.3 of

`https://github.com/randybeard/controlbook\_public`

Final-Value Theorem (Important!)

Let $f(s) = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$ and assume that $sf(s)$ is analytic in $\operatorname{Re} s \geq 0$ (that is, $sf(s)$ has no poles in the CRHP). Then

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} f(t) = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} sf(s).$$

Example

Q. Compute $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} f(t)$ where $f(s) = \frac{1}{s(s+1)}$.

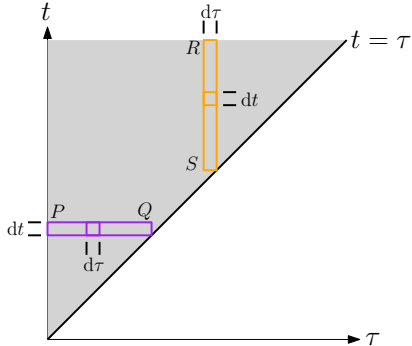
A. Note that $sf(s) = \frac{1}{s+1}$ has no poles in the CRHP; said another way, all poles of $sf(s) = \frac{1}{s+1}$ are in the OLHP. Thus, the FVT can be applied, yielding

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} f(t) &= \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} sf(s) \\ &= \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{s+1} \\ &= 1.\end{aligned}$$

Appendix - Proof of Convolution Relation

- To show that $\mathcal{L}\{f(t) * g(t)\} = f(s)g(s)$, first consider

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{f(t) * g(t)\} &= \int_0^\infty e^{-st} \left(\int_0^t f(t-\tau)g(\tau)d\tau \right) dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty \int_0^t f(t-\tau)g(\tau)e^{-st}d\tau dt\end{aligned}$$



- ▶ In the original form of the double integral τ goes from $\tau = 0$ to $\tau = t$ along PQ , and t goes from $t = 0$ to $t = \infty$.
- ▶ When the order of integration is changed, t goes from $t = \tau$ to $t = \infty$ along RS , and τ goes from $\tau = 0$ to $\tau = \infty$.
- ▶ Thus,

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t) * g(t)\} = \int_0^\infty \int_0^t f(t-\tau)g(\tau)e^{-st}d\tau dt = \int_0^\infty \int_\tau^\infty f(t-\tau)g(\tau)e^{-st}dt d\tau.$$

- ▶ Within the inner integral (on t), apply a change of variables. Specifically, $\eta = t - \tau$ (or $t = \eta + \tau$).
- ▶ t goes from $t = \tau$ to $t = \infty$, so η goes from $\eta = 0$ to $\eta = \infty$. Also, $d\eta = dt$.
- ▶ Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{f(t) * g(t)\} &= \int_0^\infty \int_\tau^\infty f(t - \tau)g(\tau)e^{-st}dt d\tau \\ &= \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty f(\eta)g(\tau)e^{-s(\eta+\tau)}d\eta d\tau \\ &= \int_0^\infty g(\tau) \left(\int_0^\infty f(\eta)e^{-s\eta}d\eta \right) e^{-s\tau}d\tau \\ &= \int_0^\infty g(\tau)f(s)e^{-s\tau}d\tau \\ &= f(s) \int_0^\infty g(\tau)e^{-s\tau}d\tau \\ &= f(s)g(s).\end{aligned}$$

Appendix - Proof of the Final-Value Theorem

To show that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} f(t) = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} s f(s),$$

consider

$$\mathcal{L} \left\{ \dot{f}(t) \right\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} \frac{df(t)}{dt} dt,$$

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{L} \left\{ \dot{f}(t) \right\} = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} \frac{df(t)}{dt} dt,$$

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow 0} (s f(s) - f(0)), = \int_0^{\infty} \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} e^{-st} \frac{df(t)}{dt} dt$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} s f(s) - f(0) &= \int_0^{\infty} \frac{df(t)}{dt} dt \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} df(t) \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} f(t) - f(0). \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} f(t) = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} s f(s).$$

Notes and References

Notes

See Appendix A and Sections 1.2 of [1]. Step function and impulse function pictures from [1]. See [2] Chapter 2 as well.

Additionally, these notes are partially based on / inspired by notes by Prof. M. Peet, ASU, Prof. C.J. Damaren, UTIAS, Prof. T.D. Barfoot, UTAIS, and Prof. J. Hoagg, U. Kentucky.

[1] L. Qiu and K. Zhou, *Introduction to Feedback Control*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 2010.

[2] W. J. Palm, *System Dynamics*, 3rd. Toronto, ON: McGraw Hill, 2013.