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The (Unilateral) Laplace Transform

Definition of (Unilateral) Laplace Transform

Let $f : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous function such that

$$\sup_{t \in [0, \infty)} e^{-pt} |f(t)| < \infty \quad \text{for some } p \geq 0$$

Then the function $F : (\beta, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$F(p) := (\mathcal{L}f)(p) := \int_0^{\infty} e^{-pt} f(t) dt$$

is called the **(Unilateral) Laplace transform** of f .

A Reminder

Why should the "sup" condition be satisfied for the (Unilateral) Laplace transform?

For any f , will there always exist a region of p where $F(p)$ is defined?

And the **ROC(radius of convergence)** is the region for p , where $F(p)$ converges. So the (Unilateral) Laplace Transform $(\mathcal{L}f)(p)$ is defined for such p .

A Tricky Question

Can the ROC of the (Unilateral) Laplace Transform of a function f be in the form $(-\infty, \beta)$?

Definition of (Bilateral) Laplace Transform

The bilateral Laplace transform is defined as

$$(\tilde{\mathcal{L}} f)(p) := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t)e^{-pt} dt$$

Of course, we have

$$\mathcal{L}f = \tilde{\mathcal{L}}(Hf)$$

The following questions may help you understand better the relationship between these two types of Laplace Transform.

A Tricky Question

What should the value of p satisfy for the (Bilateral) Laplace Transform of f to exist?

A Tricky Question

If for a function f , the Unilateral Laplace Transform of f is defined in some region of p , will there always be a Bilateral Laplace Transform for certain region of p ?

A Tricky Question

Can the ROC of the (Bilateral) Laplace Transform of a function f be in the form $(-\infty, \beta)$, (α, β) ?

*Our main focus here (W286) is the **(Unilateral) Laplace Transform**.

Question

Find the Laplace transform of a function of the form t^a with $a > -1$.

Hint:

- We focus on the **Unilateral** Laplace transform without stating out.
- Considering the gamma function, what's its definition?

Answer

Properties of (Unilateral) Laplace Transform

$f(t)$	$(\mathcal{L}f)(p)$	Comment
$H(t - a)$	e^{-ap}/p	$a, p > 0$
$g(t - a)H(t - a)$	$e^{-ap}(\mathcal{L}g)(p)$	$a > 0$
$e^{at}g(t)$	$(\mathcal{L}g)(p - a)$	$a \in \mathbb{R}$
$g(at)$	$\frac{1}{a}(\mathcal{L}g)\left(\frac{p}{a}\right)$	$a > 0$
$g^{(n)}(t)$	$p^n(\mathcal{L}g)(p) - p^{n-1}f(0) - \dots - f^{(n-1)}(0)$	$n \in \mathbb{N}$
$(-t)^n g(t)$	$(\mathcal{L}g)^{(n)}(p)$	$n \in \mathbb{N}$

- $\mathcal{L}(f * g) = (\mathcal{L}f) \cdot (\mathcal{L}g)$
- $\mathcal{L}\left(\int_0^t f(\tau) d\tau\right) = \frac{1}{p} \mathcal{L}(f(t))$

The Inverse of the Laplace Transform

The Laplace transform can be extended to the **complex plane**, by using the **analytic continuation** where we set $F(z)$ by replacing p with z in $F(p)$ for $\operatorname{Re} z > \beta$. (Why?)

For $z = p + iq$, where $p > \beta$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} |F(z)| &\leq \int_0^\infty |f(t)e^{-zt}| dt = \int_0^\infty |f(t)|e^{-pt} dt \\ &\leq M \int_0^\infty e^{-(p-\beta)t} dt = \frac{M}{p-\beta} \end{aligned}$$

1. $F(z)$ exists.
2. $F(z)$ is holomorphic. Since the integral converges absolutely, and the function $g(z) = e^{zt}$ is complex differentiable for any $t \in [0, \infty)$. (Recall what is F).

The Bromwich Integral

Definition

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$ be an open set, $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$ and $F : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ analytic for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$ with $\operatorname{Re} z \geq \beta$. Then the **Bromwich integral** of F is defined as

$$(\mathcal{M}F)(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{C^*} e^{pt} F(p) dp$$

where $\mathcal{C} = z \in \mathcal{C} : \text{Re}z = \beta$ is the **Bromwich contour**, oriented **positively** if the contour is closed on the left (i.e., the line is traversed in the direction of positive imaginary part.)

Often, the integral is written

$$(\mathcal{M}F)(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\beta-i\infty}^{\beta+i\infty} e^{pt} F(p) dp$$

An example for the **Bromwich integral** of a function F is given below.

A Tricky Question

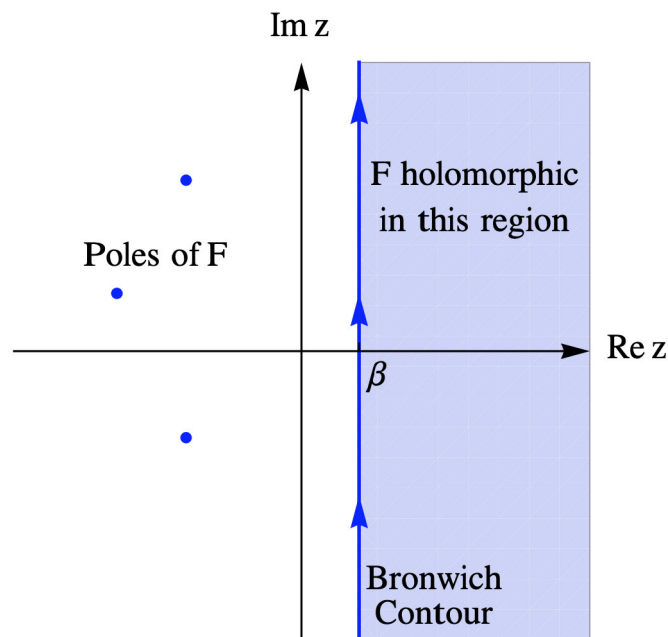
Does it matter which β you choose?

--Yes and no.

A Reminder

Where $F(p)$ is a **Unilateral Laplace Transform**, and the Bromwich contour must be located within the ROC. So it will always be holomorphic in the right part of the Bromwich integral.

Such $f(t)$ is **causal** because there are no poles to the right of the Bromwich contour.



Evaluation

Summary

1. The **region of t** , i.e. whether $t < 0$ or $t > 0$, decides which **semi-circle** you would like to use for integral.

Why?

2. The **positions of poles**, decide which **theorem** to use for integral.

Which theorems? How do you decide?

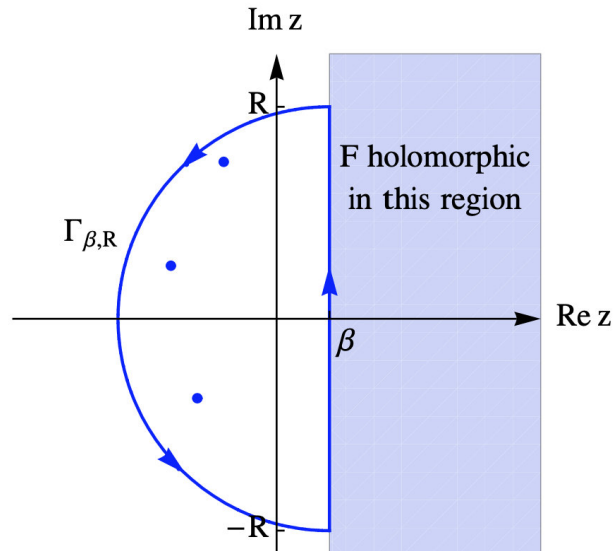
Concrete Analysis

- $t > 0$

$$\int_{\Gamma_{\beta,R}} e^{pt} F(p) dp = ie^{\beta t} \int_{C_R} e^{itp} F(\beta + ip) dp$$

Jordan's lemma shows the integral would **vanish** as $R \rightarrow \infty$.

Use the **Residue Theorem** for this specific case.

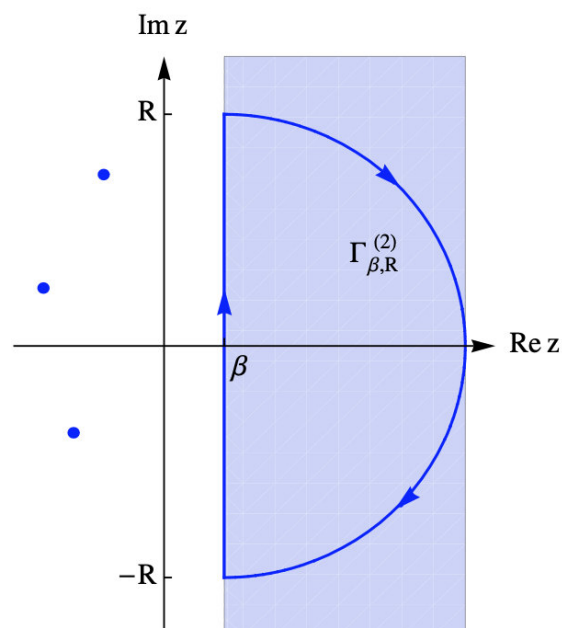


- $t < 0$

$$\int_{\Gamma_{\beta,R}^{(2)}} e^{pt} F(p) dp = ie^{\beta t} \int_{C_R} e^{i|t|p} F(\beta - ip) dp$$

Jordan's lemma shows the integral would **vanish** as $R \rightarrow \infty$.

Use **Cauchy's Integral Theorem** for this specific case.



A Tricky Question

"Whether the integral along the two semi-circles vanishes", is it related to the poles of F ?

The Mellin Inversion Formula

If f is continuous on $[0, \infty)$, continuously differentiable on $(0, \infty)$ and satisfies $\sup_{t \in [0, \infty)} e^{-\beta t} |f(t)| < \infty$ for some $\beta > 0$, then

$$f(s) = [\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{L}f)](s) \quad \text{for all } s \in [0, \infty)$$

which is called the **Mellin inversion formula** for the Laplace transform.

Question

Let $F(p) = 1/p$ be the Laplace transform of a time signal $f(t)$ with the half-plane $\text{Re}(s) > 0$ as its ROC. Find $f(t)$ using the **Mellin inversion formula**.

Hint:

- We focus on the Unilateral Laplace transform without stating out.
- The Bromwich contour must be located within the ROC
- *What happens to the point $t = 0$?

Answer

Solving Differential Equations with Laplace Transform

Overall Idea

1. Apply the **Laplace transform** to both sides of the ODE/IVP.
2. **Solve** for the Laplace transform Y .
3. Find **inverse Laplace transform**, which is the solution. You can try (in mixture of) several ways:
 1. Decompose $Y(p)$ into partial fractions.
 2. Use the table of pairs, and also properties.

3. Use the mellin inversion formula.

Question

Solve the IVP:

$$y'' - 10y' + 9y = 5t, \quad y(0) = -1 \quad y'(0) = 2$$

Answer

Using Green's Function and Convolution

- A Convolution Product for the Laplace Transform:

$$\mathcal{L}(f * g) = (\mathcal{L}f) \cdot (\mathcal{L}g)$$

- A linear, second order, inhomogeneous ODE with constant coefficients:

$$ay'' + by' + cy = f(x), \quad y(0) = y_0, y'(0) = y_1$$

1. Apply the **Laplace transform** to both sides of the ODE/IVP.
2. **Solve** for the Laplace transform Y .

$$Y = (\mathcal{L}f)(p) \cdot \frac{1}{ap^2 + bp + c} + \frac{ay_0p + by_0 + ay_1}{ap^2 + bp + c}$$

3. Find the **Green's Function** $g(x)$ such that $(\mathcal{L}g)(p) = \frac{1}{ap^2+bp+c}$
4. Use transform table and apply convolution to find **inverse Laplace transform**, which is the solution.

Question

Solve the IVP:

$$y'' + y = \begin{cases} \cos t, & 0 \leq t \leq \pi/2 \\ 0, & \pi/2 \leq t < \infty \end{cases} = \cos t \cdot H\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - t\right), \quad y(0) = 3, y'(0) = -1$$

Answer

Impulses and the Delta Function