

# ECE137A, Notes Set 15: LaPlace Transforms

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# Goals of this note set:

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Understand what a Laplace transform\* is\*.

....and where it comes from.

Remember how to use them to find circuit transient response.

**\*Laplace Transforms are slightly modified Fourier Transforms.\***

# The LaPlace Transform

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Start with the Fourier transform

$$F(j\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(t) e^{-j\omega t} dt$$

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} F(j\omega) e^{j\omega t} d\omega$$

# The Laplace Transform

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Now - restrict ourselves to signals which are zero for  $t < 0$  ← strict inequality!

$$\left[ F(j\omega) = \int_{0^-}^{+\infty} f(t) e^{-j\omega t} dt \right]$$

limit of "0<sup>-</sup>" means that a  $\delta$ -function occurring at exactly  $t=0$  is included in the integral.

# Multiply our Function with an Decaying Exponential:

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Now consider  $g(t) = f(t) e^{-\sigma t}$

$$G(j\omega) = \int_{0^-}^{\infty} g(t) e^{-j\omega t} dt$$

$$= \int_{0^-}^{+\infty} f(t) e^{-\sigma t} e^{-j\omega t} dt$$

$$\Rightarrow G(j\omega) = F(\sigma + j\omega)$$

# Multiply our Function with an Decaying Exponential:

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$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Also: } \mathcal{F}(t) e^{-\sigma t} &= g(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} G(j\omega) e^{-j\omega t} d\omega \\
 &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} F(\sigma + j\omega) e^{-j\omega t} d\omega \\
 \Rightarrow \mathcal{F}(t) &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} F(\sigma + j\omega) e^{\sigma t} e^{-j\omega t} d\omega
 \end{aligned}$$

# Fourier Transform of $G(t) = F(t) * \exp(-\sigma t)$

So:

$$F(\sigma + j\omega) = \int_{0^-}^{+\infty} [f(t)e^{-\sigma t}] e^{-j\omega t} dt$$

Fourier transform of  $f(t)e^{-\sigma t}$

$$f(t) = \frac{e^{\sigma t}}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} F(\sigma + j\omega) e^{-j\omega t} d\omega$$

# LaPlace Transform = Fourier Transform of $G(t) = F(t) * \exp(-\sigma t)$

If we write  $A = \sigma + j\omega$

$$F(A) = \int_{0^+}^{+\infty} f(t) e^{-At} dt$$

The LaPlace  
transform

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi j} \int_{\sigma - j\infty}^{\sigma + j\infty} F(A) e^{At} dA$$

Please note that a LaPlace transform

represents a sum of sine waves of different

frequencies  $e^{j\omega t}$  all multiplied by a decaying

exponential  $e^{-\sigma t}$  of one fixed decay rate  $\sigma$



# Who Gets Credit ?

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The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laplace_transform#History`. The page content includes a language menu on the left, a section header 'History', and a paragraph of text. The text describes the Laplace transform's history, mentioning mathematicians like Pierre-Simon Laplace, Leonhard Euler, and Joseph Louis Lagrange. It also includes two mathematical integrals:  $z = \int X(x)e^{ax} dx$  and  $z = \int X(x)x^A dx$ .

Português  
 Română  
 Русский  
 Simple English  
 Slovenščina  
 Српски / srpski  
 Basa Sunda  
 Suomi  
 Svenska  
 ไทย  
 Türkçe

## History

The Laplace transform is named after mathematician and astronomer [Pierre-Simon Laplace](#), who used a similar transform (now called [z transform](#)) in his work on [probability theory](#). The current widespread use of the transform came about soon after World War II although it had been used in the 19th century by [Abel](#), [Lerch](#), [Heaviside](#) and [Bromwich](#). The older history of similar transforms is as follows. From 1744, [Leonhard Euler](#) investigated integrals of the form

$$z = \int X(x)e^{ax} dx \quad \text{and} \quad z = \int X(x)x^A dx$$

as solutions of differential equations but did not pursue the matter very far.<sup>[2]</sup> [Joseph Louis Lagrange](#) was an admirer of Euler and, in his work on integrating [probability density functions](#), investigated expressions of the form

$$f(x) = \int_0^{\infty} X(x)e^{-ax} dx$$

# Why use the Laplace Transform ?

Motivations:

1) Convergence: Fourier transforms don't always work

$f(t) = e^{\alpha t} u(t)$  has a Fourier integral which blows up  
for  $\alpha > 0$

Its Laplace transform integral is ok if we pick  $\sigma > \alpha$

2) Main reason: allows ready examination of

circuit responses to inputs of the form  $e^{-\sigma t} e^{j\omega t}$ ,

a natural and common signal

# Transforms of Derivative and Integrals

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Transforms of derivatives

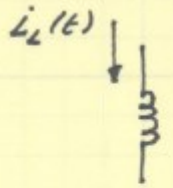
$$\mathcal{L}\left[\left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)f(t)\right] = sF(s) - f(0^-)$$

$f(t=0^-)$  = value just before  $t=0$

Transforms of integrals

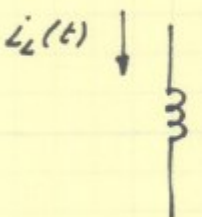
$$\mathcal{L}\left[\int_{0^-}^t f(\tau) d\tau\right] = F(s)/s$$

# Applications to Circuit Elements: Inductor

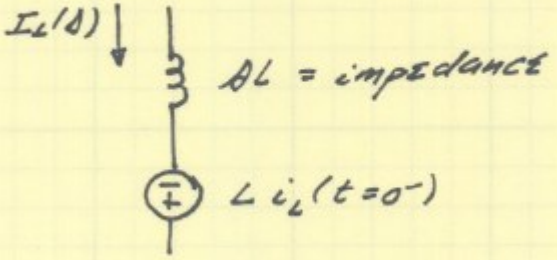
$i_L(t)$ 

 $v_L(t)$ 
 $v_L(t) = L \cdot \frac{\partial i_L(t)}{\partial t}$

$\Rightarrow V_L(s) = sL I_L(s) - L i_L(t=0^-)$

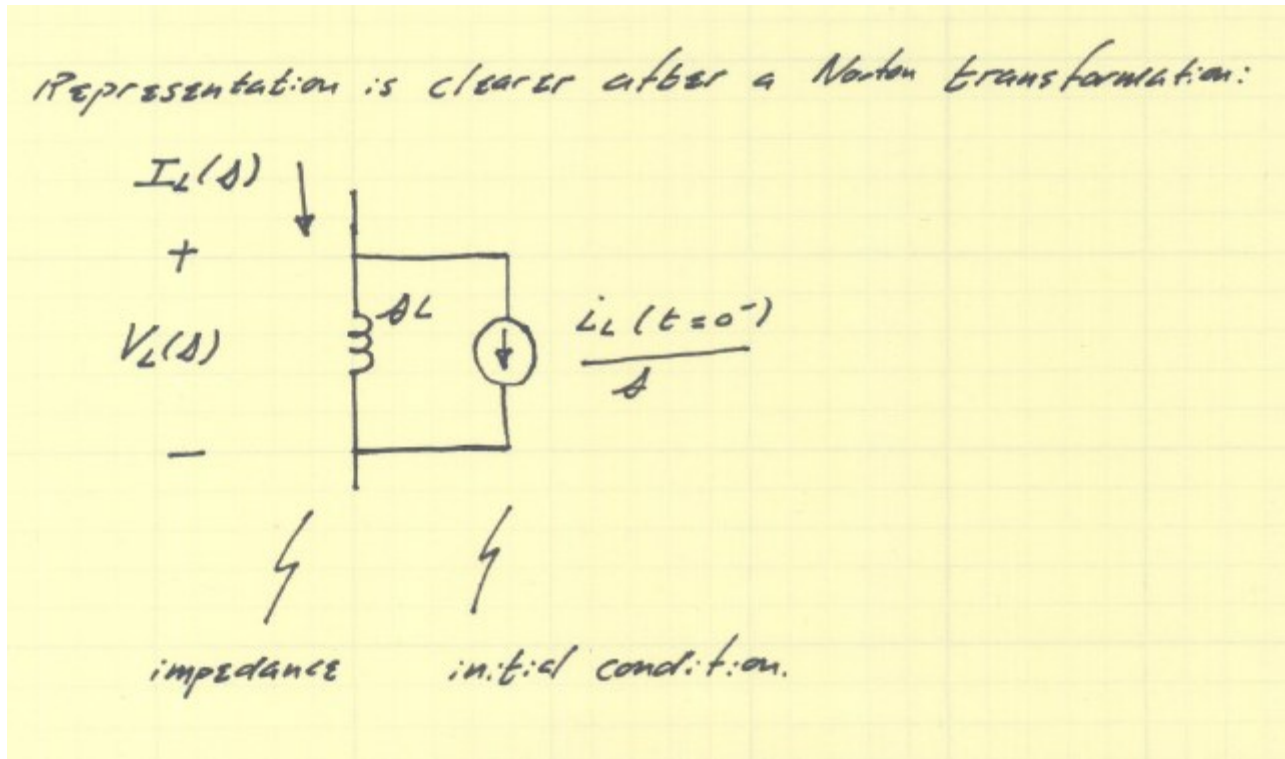
t.m.s domain  
 circuit model

$i_L(t)$ 

 $v_L(t)$ 
  
 $i_L(t=0^-)$  given

Laplace domain  
 circuit model

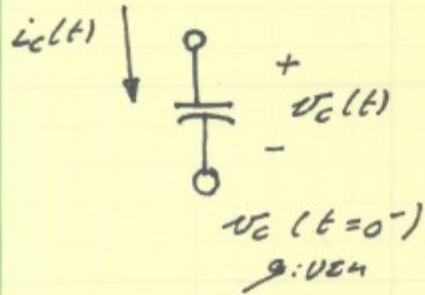
$I_L(s)$ 

 $sL = \text{impedance}$ 
  
 $L i_L(t=0^-)$

# Applications to Circuit Elements: Inductor



# Applications to Circuit Elements: Capacitor

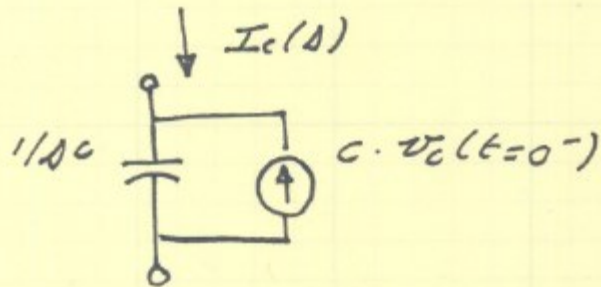
Capacitor in Laplace domain:



$$i_c(t) = C \partial v_c / \partial t$$

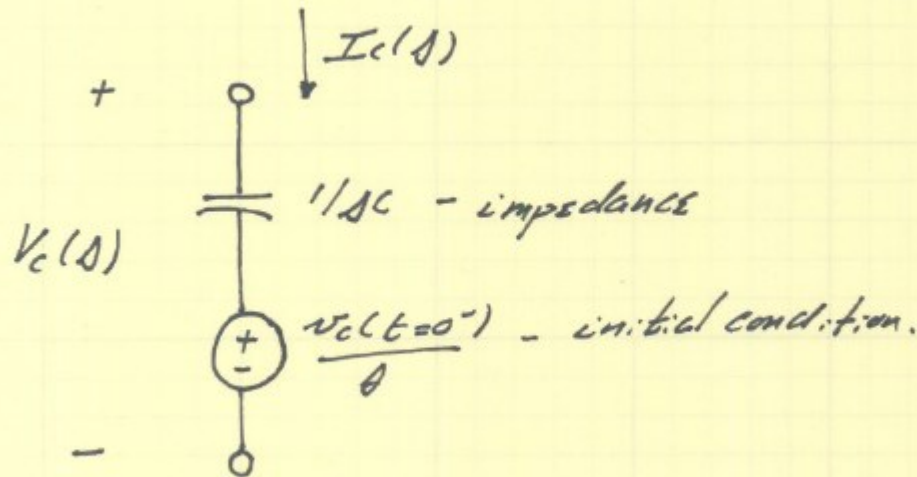
$$I_c(s) = sC V_c(s) - C v_c(t=0^-)$$

Laplace-domain circuit model:



# Applications to Circuit Elements: Capacitor

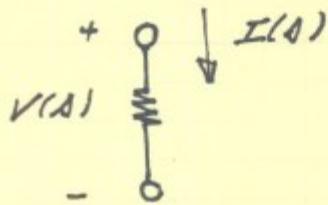
Again, this becomes clearer after a Thevenin transformation:



# Applications to Circuit Elements: Resistors

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resistors:



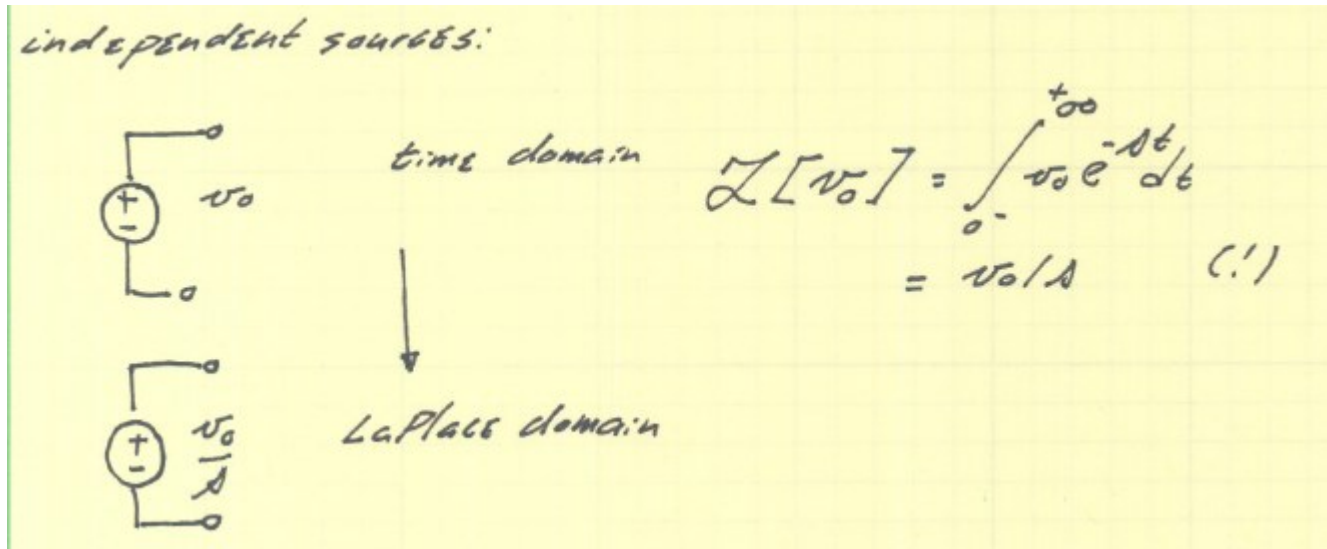
$$v(t) = R \cdot i(t)$$

$$V(s) = \mathcal{L}[v(t)] = \mathcal{L}[R \cdot i(t)] = R \cdot I(s)$$

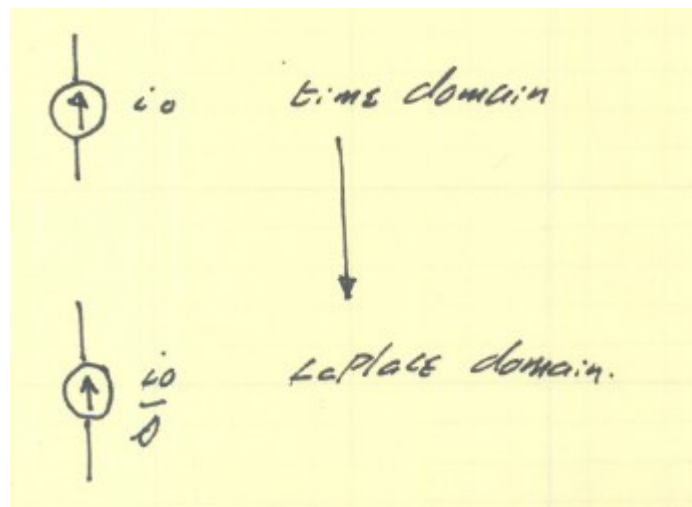
this is trivial...



# Applications to Circuit Elements: Independent Sources

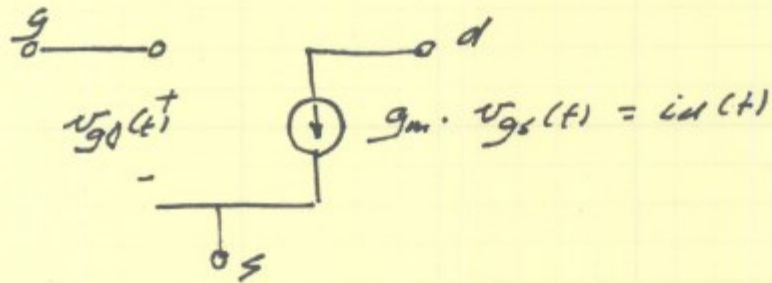


similarly:



# Applications to Circuit Elements: \*De\*pendent Sources

but, don't make a common (and silly) mistake with controlled (dependent) generators:



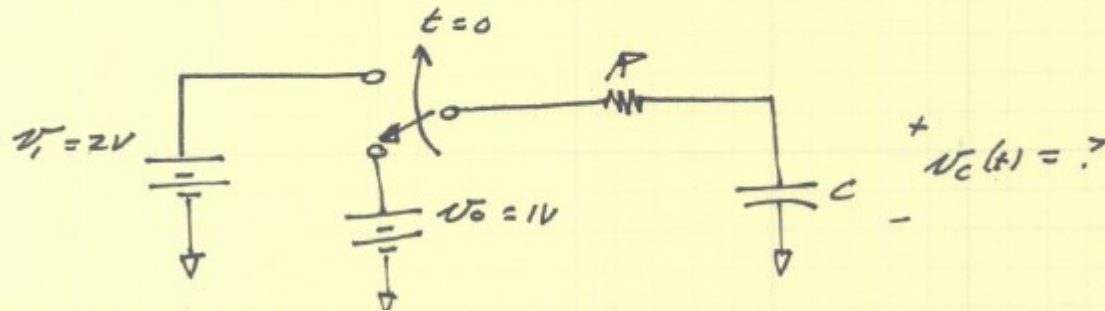
$$I_d(s) = \mathcal{L} [g_m \cdot v_{gs}(t)] = g_m \cdot \mathcal{L} [v_{gs}(t)]$$

$$= g_m \cdot V_{gs}(s)$$

$$\frac{I_d(s) = g_m \cdot V_{gs}(s) \quad \text{correct}}{g_m \frac{V_{gs}(s)}{s} \quad \text{: incorrect}}$$

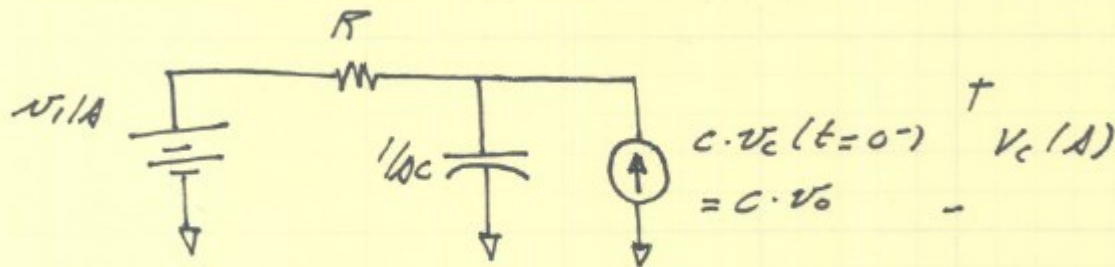
# Example Problem---with Initial Conditions

Apply our Laplace domain Models  
to an initial condition problem:



First: note that  $v_C(t=0^-) = v_0$

Laplace-domain circuit for  $t > 0$  is then:



# Example Problem---with Initial Conditions

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Solve by Superposition

$$V_C(s) = \frac{v_i}{s} \cdot \frac{1/RC}{s + 1/RC} + C \cdot v_C(0^-) \left( \frac{1}{s} \parallel R \right)$$

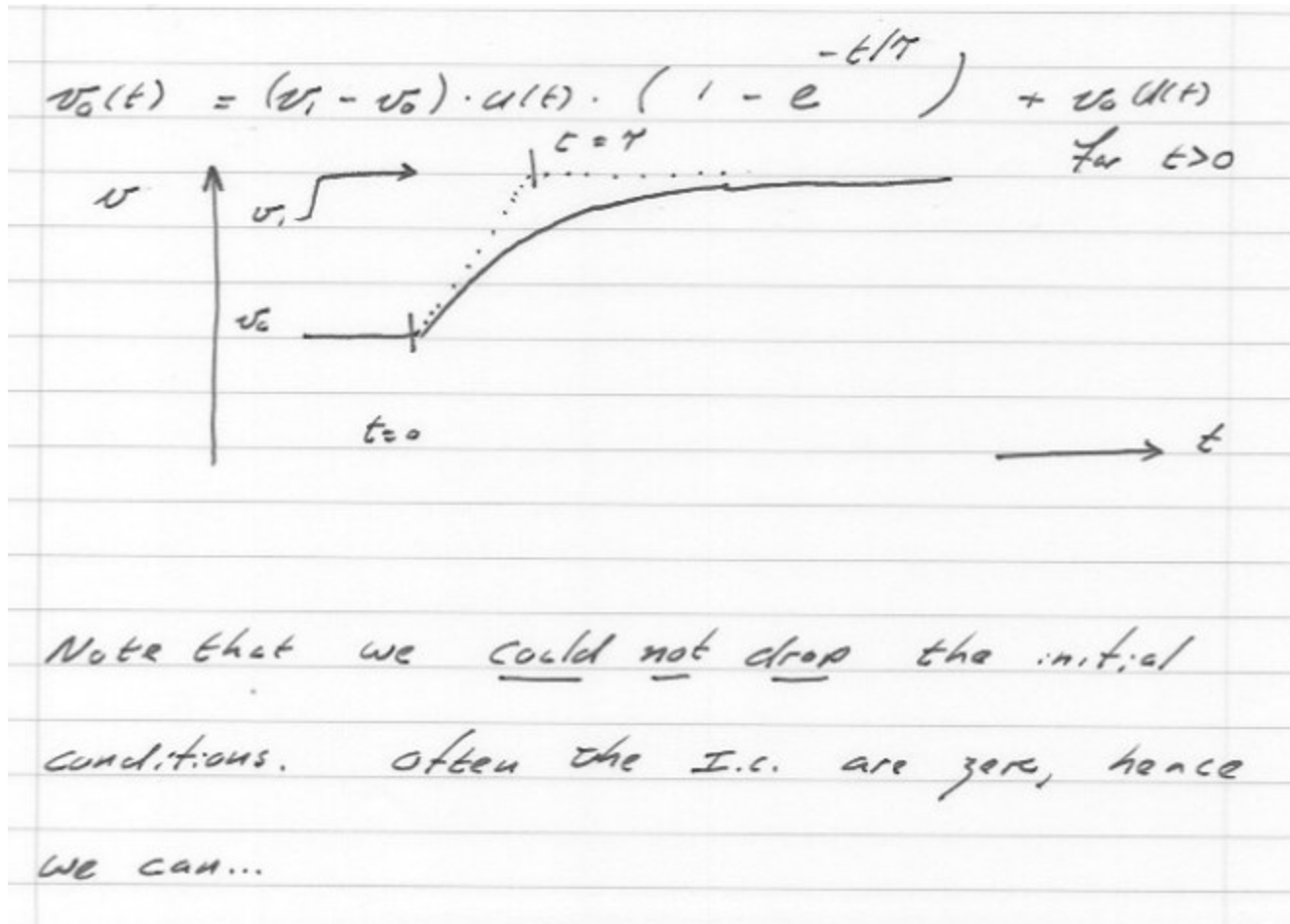
$$\text{but } v_C(0^-) = v_0$$

$$V_C(s) = \frac{v_i - v_0}{s} \left( \frac{1}{1 + sRC} \right) + \frac{v_0}{s}$$

$$= \frac{(v_i - v_0)}{s} \left[ \frac{1}{s} - \frac{\tau}{1 + s\tau} \right] + \frac{v_0}{s}$$

$$\tau = RC$$

# Example Problem---with Initial Conditions



# For Reference: LaPlace Transform Pairs

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## Linearity

$$\mathcal{L}[a f(t) + b g(t)] = a F(s) + b G(s)$$

## Exponential Function

$$\mathcal{L}[u(t) e^{at}] = \int_0^{\infty} e^{at} e^{-st} dt = \frac{1}{s-a}$$

Since  $s = \sigma + j\omega$ , integral converges only  
for  $\sigma > a$

Writing a decaying exponential differently:

$$\mathcal{L}\left[u(t) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{t}}\right) e^{-t/\tau}\right] = \frac{1}{1 + s\tau}$$

# For Reference: LaPlace Transform Pairs

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Complex Sinusoid

$$\mathcal{L}[u(t) e^{j\omega_0 t}] = \frac{1}{s - j\omega_0}$$

$$\mathcal{L}[u(t) e^{-\alpha t} e^{j\omega_0 t}] = \frac{1}{s + \alpha - j\omega_0}$$


# For Reference: LaPlace Transform Pairs

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Sine waves starting at  $t=0$

using  $\mathcal{L}[u(t) e^{j\omega_0 t}] = \dots$  and

$$\sin \omega_0 t = \frac{e^{-j\omega_0 t} - e^{j\omega_0 t}}{2j}$$

$$\mathcal{L}[u(t) \sin \omega_0 t] = \frac{\omega_0}{s^2 + \omega_0^2}$$





# For Reference: LaPlace Transform Pairs

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Cosine waves starting at  $t=0$

$$\cos \omega_0 t = \frac{e^{j\omega_0 t} + e^{-j\omega_0 t}}{2}$$

$$\mathcal{L}[u(t) \cos \omega_0 t] = \frac{A}{\omega_0^2 + s^2} \quad \text{---} \text{ } \text{---} \text{ } \text{---} \text{ } \dots$$


# For Reference: LaPlace Transform Pairs

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Function times an exponential

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}[e^{-\alpha t} f(t)] &= \int_{0^-}^{\infty} e^{-\alpha t} f(t) e^{-st} dt \\ &= \int_{0^-}^{\infty} f(t) e^{-(s+\alpha)t} dt\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{but } F(s) = \int_{0^-}^{\infty} f(t) e^{st} dt$$

$$\text{so } \mathcal{L}[e^{-\alpha t} f(t)] = F(s + \alpha)$$

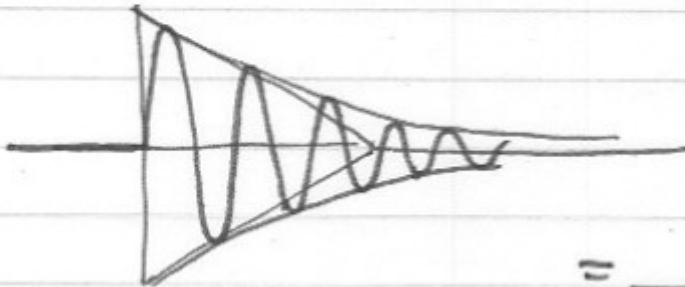
# For Reference: LaPlace Transform Pairs

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Function times an exponential

using the above ...

$$\mathcal{L}[e^{-\alpha t} \sin \omega_0 t u(t)] = \frac{\omega_0}{(s+\alpha)^2 + \omega_0^2}$$



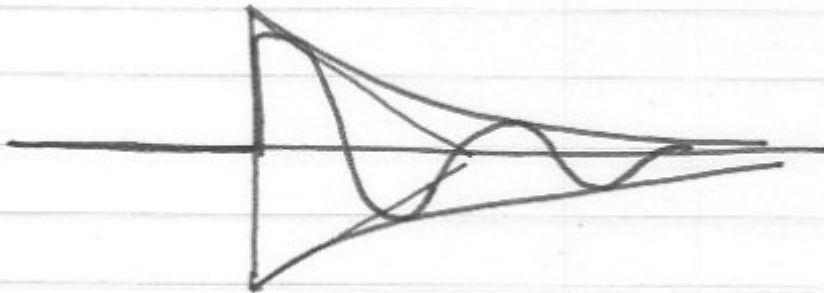
$$= \frac{\omega_0}{(s+\alpha + j\omega_0)(s+\alpha - j\omega_0)}$$

# For Reference: LaPlace Transform Pairs

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Function times an exponential

$$\mathcal{L}[e^{-\alpha t} \cos \omega_0 t u(t)] = \frac{s + \alpha}{(s + \alpha)^2 + \omega_0^2}$$



$$= \frac{s + \alpha}{(s + \alpha + j\omega_0)(s + \alpha - j\omega_0)}$$

# For Reference: LaPlace Transform Pairs

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Step function

$$\mathcal{L}[u(t)] = 1/s$$

...and finally...

what about

$$\mathcal{L}[te^{-\alpha t}] ?$$

$$\text{well } \mathcal{L}[t] = \int_{0^+}^{\infty} t e^{st} dt = 1/s^2$$

so

$$\mathcal{L}[te^{-\alpha t}] = \frac{1}{(s+\alpha)^2}$$