

1. For each initial value problem, sketch the forcing term, and then solve for  $y(t)$ . Write your solution as a piecewise function (i.e., not using the Heaviside function). Recall that the function  $H_{ab}(t) = H(t - a) - H(t - b)$  is the interval function.

(a)  $y'' + 4y = H_{01}(t), \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y'(0) = 0$

(b)  $y'' + 4y = t H_{01}(t), \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y'(0) = 0$

2. Define the function

$$\delta_p^\epsilon(t) = \frac{1}{\epsilon} (H_p(t) - H_{p+\epsilon}(t)).$$

- (a) Show that the Laplace transform of  $\delta_p^\epsilon(t)$  is given by

$$\mathcal{L}\{\delta_p^\epsilon(t)\} = e^{-sp} \frac{1 - e^{-s\epsilon}}{s\epsilon}.$$

- (b) Use l'Hôpital's rule to take the limit of the result in part (a) as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ . How does this result agree with the fact that  $\mathcal{L}\{\delta_p(t)\} = e^{-sp}$ ?

3. Use a Laplace transform to solve the following initial value problem:

$$y' = \delta_p(t), \quad y(0) = 0$$

How does your answer support what engineers like to say, that the “derivative of a unit step is a unit impulse”?

4. Define the function

$$H_p^\epsilon(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 \leq t < p \\ \frac{1}{\epsilon}(t - p), & p \leq t < p + \epsilon \\ 1, & t \geq p + \epsilon \end{cases}$$

- (a) Sketch the graph of  $H_p^\epsilon(t)$ .

- (b) Without being too precise about things, we could argue that  $H_p^\epsilon(t) \rightarrow H_p(t)$  as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ , where  $H_p(t) = H(t - p)$ . Sketch the graph of the derivative of  $H_p^\epsilon(t)$ .

- (c) Compare your result in (b) with the graph of  $\delta_p^\epsilon(t)$ . Argue that  $H_p^\epsilon(t) = \delta_p(t)$ .

5. Solve the following initial value problems.

(a)  $y'' + 4y = \delta(t), \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y'(0) = 0$

(b)  $y'' - 4y' - 5y = \delta(t), \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y'(0) = 0$