Problems

In each of Problems 1 through 3, sketch the graph of the given function. In each case determine whether f is continuous, piecewise continuous, or neither on the interval $0 \le t \le 3$.

1.
$$f(t) = \begin{cases} t^2, & 0 \le t \le 1\\ 2+t, & 1 < t \le 2\\ 6-t, & 2 < t \le 3 \end{cases}$$

2.
$$f(t) = \begin{cases} t^2, & 0 \le t \le 1\\ (t-1)^{-1}, & 1 < t \le 2\\ 1, & 2 < t \le 3 \end{cases}$$

3.
$$f(t) = \begin{cases} t^2, & 0 \le t \le 1\\ 1, & 1 < t \le 2\\ 3-t, & 2 < t \le 3 \end{cases}$$

4. Find the Laplace transform of each of the following functions:
a. f(t) = t

b.
$$f(t) = t^2$$

c. $f(t) = t^n$, where *n* is a positive integer

5. Find the Laplace transform of f(t) = cos(at), where *a* is a real constant.

Recall that

$$\cosh(bt) = \frac{1}{2}(e^{bt} + e^{-bt}) \text{ and } \sinh(bt) = \frac{1}{2}(e^{bt} - e^{-bt}).$$

In each of Problems 6 through 7, use the linearity of the Laplace transform to find the Laplace transform of the given function; a and b are real constants.

 $6. \quad f(t) = \cosh(bt)$

7. $f(t) = \sinh(bt)$

Recall that

$$\cos(bt) = \frac{1}{2}(e^{ibt} + e^{-ibt})$$
 and $\sin(bt) = \frac{1}{2i}(e^{ibt} - e^{-ibt})$.

In each of Problems 8 through 11, use the linearity of the Laplace transform to find the Laplace transform of the given function; a and b are real constants. Assume that the necessary elementary integration formulas extend to this case.

8. $f(t) = \sin(bt)$

9.
$$f(t) = \cos(bt)$$

10. $f(t) = e^{at} \sin(bt)$

$$11. \quad f(t) = e^{at} \cos(bt)$$

In each of Problems 12 through 15, use integration by parts to find the Laplace transform of the given function; n is a positive integer and a is a real constant.

- **12.** $f(t) = te^{at}$
- **13.** $f(t) = t \sin(at)$
- **14.** $f(t) = t^n e^{at}$
- **15.** $f(t) = t^2 \sin(at)$

In each of Problems 16 through 18, find the Laplace transform of the given function.

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{16.} \quad f(t) &= \begin{cases} 1, & 0 \le t < \pi \\ 0, & \pi \le t < \infty \end{cases} \\
\mathbf{17.} \quad f(t) &= \begin{cases} t, & 0 \le t < 1 \\ 1, & 1 \le t < \infty \end{cases} \\
\mathbf{18.} \quad f(t) &= \begin{cases} t, & 0 \le t < 1 \\ 2 - t, & 1 \le t < 2 \\ 0, & 2 \le t < \infty \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$

In each of Problems 19 through 21, determine whether the given integral converges or diverges.

19.
$$\int_{0}^{\infty} (t^{2} + 1)^{-1} dt$$

20.
$$\int_{0}^{\infty} t e^{-t} dt$$

21.
$$\int_{1}^{\infty} t^{-2} e^{t} dt$$

22. Suppose that *f* and *f'* are continuous for $t \ge 0$ and of exponential order as $t \to \infty$. Use integration by parts to show that if $F(s) = \mathcal{L}{f(t)}$, then $\lim_{s\to\infty} F(s) = 0$. The result is actually true under less restrictive conditions, such as those of Theorem 6.1.2.

23. The Gamma Function. The gamma function is denoted by $\Gamma(p)$ and is defined by the integral

$$\Gamma(p+1) = \int_0^\infty e^{-x} x^p dx.$$
 (7)

The integral converges as $x \to \infty$ for all *p*. For p < 0 it is also improper at x = 0, because the integrand becomes unbounded as $x \to 0$. However, the integral can be shown to converge at x = 0 for p > -1.

- **a.** Show that, for p > 0,
 - $\Gamma(p+1) = p\Gamma(p).$
- **b.** Show that $\Gamma(1) = 1$.
- **c.** If *p* is a positive integer *n*, show that

$$\Gamma(n+1) = n!$$

Since $\Gamma(p)$ is also defined when p is not an integer, this function provides an extension of the factorial function to nonintegral values of the independent variable. Note that it is also consistent to define 0! = 1.

d. Show that, for
$$p > 0$$
,

$$p(p+1)(p+2)\cdots(p+n-1) = \frac{\Gamma(p+n)}{\Gamma(p)}.$$

Thus $\Gamma(p)$ can be determined for all positive values of p if $\Gamma(p)$ is known in a single interval of unit length—say, $0 . It is possible to show that <math>\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \sqrt{\pi}$. Find $\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)$ and $\Gamma\left(\frac{11}{2}\right)$.