

Section 14: Inverse Laplace Transforms

Now we wish to go *backwards*: Given $F(s)$ can we find a function $f(t)$ such that $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = F(s)$?

If so, we'll use the following notation

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)\} = f(t) \quad \text{provided} \quad \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = F(s).$$

We'll call $f(t)$ an **inverse Laplace transform** of $F(s)$.

A Table of Inverse Laplace Transforms

- ▶ $\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s} \right\} = 1$
- ▶ $\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}} \right\} = t^n$, for $n = 1, 2, \dots$
- ▶ $\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s-a} \right\} = e^{at}$
- ▶ $\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{s}{s^2+k^2} \right\} = \cos kt$
- ▶ $\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{k}{s^2+k^2} \right\} = \sin kt$

The inverse Laplace transform is also linear so that

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1} \{ \alpha F(s) + \beta G(s) \} = \alpha f(t) + \beta g(t)$$

Find the Inverse Laplace Transform

When using the table, we have to match the expression inside the brackets $\{ \}$ **EXACTLY!** Algebra, including partial fraction decomposition, is often needed.

$$(a) \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s^7} \right\}$$

$$\text{Note } \frac{1}{s^7} = \frac{1}{6!} \frac{6!}{s^7} = \frac{1}{720} \frac{6!}{s^7}$$

$$= \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{720} \frac{6!}{s^7} \right\}$$

$$= \frac{1}{720} \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{6!}{s^7} \right\} = \frac{1}{720} t^6$$

Example: Evaluate

$$(b) \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{s+1}{s^2+9} \right\}$$

$$= \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{s}{s^2+3^2} + \frac{1}{3} \frac{3}{s^2+3^2} \right\}$$

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{s}{s^2+3^2} \right\} + \frac{1}{3} \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{3}{s^2+3^2} \right\}$$

$$= \cos(3t) + \frac{1}{3} \sin(3t)$$

Note

$$\frac{s+1}{s^2+9} = \frac{s}{s^2+3^2} + \frac{1}{s^2+3^2}$$

$$= \frac{s}{s^2+3^2} + \frac{1}{3} \frac{3}{s^2+3^2}$$

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{s}{s^2+k^2} \right\} = \cos(kt)$$

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{k}{s^2+k^2} \right\} = \sin(kt)$$

Example: Evaluate

$$(c) \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{s-8}{s^2-2s} \right\}$$

we'll do partial fraction decomp
on $\frac{s-8}{s(s-2)}$

$$\frac{s-8}{s(s-2)} = \frac{A}{s} + \frac{B}{s-2}$$

Clear fractions
multiply both sides
by $s(s-2)$

$$s-8 = A(s-2) + Bs$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } s=0 & \quad 0-8 = A(0-2) \\ & \quad -8 = -2A \Rightarrow A=4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} s=2 & \quad 2-8 = A(2-2) + B \cdot 2 \\ & \quad -6 = 2B \Rightarrow B = -3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s-8}{s^2-2s}\right\} = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{4}{s} - \frac{3}{s-2}\right\}$$

$$= 4 \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s}\right\} - 3 \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s-2}\right\}$$

$$= 4 \cdot 1 - 3 \cdot e^{2t}$$

$$= 4 - 3e^{2t}$$

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s}\right\} = 1$$

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s-a}\right\} = e^{at}$$

Section 15: Shift Theorems

Suppose we wish to evaluate $\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{2}{(s-1)^3} \right\}$. Does it help to know that $\mathcal{L} \{t^2\} = \frac{2}{s^3}$?

Consider

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} \{e^t t^2\} &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} e^t t^2 dt \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-(s-1)t} t^2 dt \end{aligned}$$

This looks like $\mathcal{L} \{t^2\}$ except s is replaced w/ $s-1$. If $F(s) = \mathcal{L} \{t^2\}$, this is $F(s-1)$.

Properties of Exponentials

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-st} \cdot e^t &= e^{-st+t} \\ &= e^{-(s-1)t} \\ &= e^{-(s-1)t} \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{t^2\} = \frac{2!}{s^{2+1}} = \frac{2}{s^3} = F(s)$$

$$\text{So } F(s-1) = \frac{2}{(s-1)^3}$$

$$\text{That is, } \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{2}{(s-1)^3}\right\} = e^t t^2$$

Theorem (translation in s)

Suppose $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = F(s)$. Then for any real number a

$$\mathcal{L}\{e^{at}f(t)\} = F(s - a).$$

For example,

$$\mathcal{L}\{t^n\} = \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}} \implies \mathcal{L}\{e^{at}t^n\} = \frac{n!}{(s-a)^{n+1}}.$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{\cos(kt)\} = \frac{s}{s^2 + k^2} \implies \mathcal{L}\{e^{at}\cos(kt)\} = \frac{s-a}{(s-a)^2 + k^2}.$$

Everywhere s is replaced by $s-a$

Inverse Laplace Transforms (completing the square)

(a) $\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{s}{s^2 + 2s + 2} \right\}$ $s^2 + 2s + 2$ is irreducible
 $b^2 - 4ac = 2^2 - 4 \cdot 1 \cdot 2 = 4 - 8 < 0$

We'll complete the square

$$\begin{aligned} s^2 + 2s + 2 &= s^2 + 2s + 1 - 1 + 2 \\ &= (s^2 + 2s + 1) + 1 = (s+1)^2 + 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{s}{s^2 + 2s + 2} = \frac{s}{(s+1)^2 + 1} = \frac{s+1-1}{(s+1)^2 + 1} = \frac{s+1}{(s+1)^2 + 1} - \frac{1}{(s+1)^2 + 1}$$

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s}{s^2+2s+2}\right\} = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s+1}{(s+1)^2+1} - \frac{1}{(s+1)^2+1}\right\}$$

$$= \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s+1}{(s+1)^2+1}\right\} - \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{(s+1)^2+1}\right\}$$

$$= e^{-t} \cos t - e^{-t} \sin t$$

$$* \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s}{s^2+k^2}\right\} = \cos kt \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{k}{s^2+k^2}\right\} = \sin kt$$

$$s+1 = s - (-1)$$