

Section 16: Laplace Transforms of Derivatives and IVPs

Suppose f has a Laplace transform¹ and that f is differentiable on $[0, \infty)$. Obtain an expression for the Laplace transform of $f'(t)$.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{f'(t)\} &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f'(t) dt \\ &= e^{-st} f(t) \Big|_0^{\infty} - \int_0^{\infty} -s e^{-st} f(t) dt \\ &= 0 - e^0 f(0) + s \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt \\ &= s \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} - f(0)\end{aligned}$$

Int. by parts

$$\begin{aligned}u &= e^{-st} & du &= -s e^{-st} dt \\ v &= f(t) & dv &= f'(t) dt\end{aligned}$$

$e^{-st} f(t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ for $s > c$

¹Assume f is of exponential order c for some c . ←

Transforms of Derivatives

If $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = F(s)$, we have $\mathcal{L}\{f'(t)\} = sF(s) - f(0)$. We can use this relationship recursively to obtain Laplace transforms for higher derivatives of f .

For example

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}\{f''(t)\} &= s\mathcal{L}\{f'(t)\} - f'(0) \\ &= s(sF(s) - f(0)) - f'(0) \\ &= s^2F(s) - sf(0) - f'(0)\end{aligned}$$

Transforms of Derivatives

For $y = y(t)$ defined on $[0, \infty)$ having derivatives y' , y'' and so forth, if

$$\mathcal{L}\{y(t)\} = Y(s),$$

then

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{dy}{dt}\right\} = sY(s) - y(0),$$

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{d^2y}{dt^2}\right\} = s^2Y(s) - sy(0) - y'(0),$$

\vdots

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{d^ny}{dt^n}\right\} = s^nY(s) - s^{n-1}y(0) - s^{n-2}y'(0) - \dots - y^{(n-1)}(0).$$

Differential Equation

For constants a , b , and c , take the Laplace transform of both sides of the equation

$$ay'' + by' + cy = g(t), \quad y(0) = y_0, \quad y'(0) = y_1$$

$y(t)$ is the solution to the IVP; we'll find its Laplace transform. Let $\mathcal{L}\{y(t)\} = Y(s)$ and $\mathcal{L}\{g(t)\} = G(s)$.

$$\mathcal{L}\{ay'' + by' + cy\} = \mathcal{L}\{g(t)\}.$$

$$a\mathcal{L}\{y''\} + b\mathcal{L}\{y'\} + c\mathcal{L}\{y\} = \mathcal{L}\{g\}$$

$$a(s^2Y(s) - sy(0) - y'(0)) + b(sY(s) - y(0)) + cY(s) = G(s)$$

Well isolate $Y(s)$ using algebra.

$$(as^2 + bs + c)Y(s) - say(0) - ay'(0) - by(0) = G(s)$$

$$(as^2 + bs + c)Y(s) - say_0 - ay_1 - by_0 = G(s)$$

$$(as^2 + bs + c)Y(s) = say_0 + ay_1 + by_0 + G(s)$$

Characteristic polynomial for the ODE

$$Y(s) = \frac{say_0 + ay_1 + by_0}{as^2 + bs + c} + \frac{G(s)}{as^2 + bs + c}$$

The solution to the IVP

$$y(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \{ Y(s) \} .$$

Solving IVPs

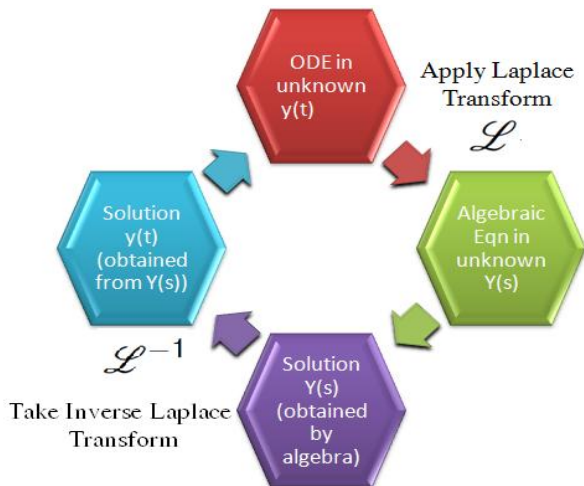


Figure: We use the Laplace transform to turn our DE into an algebraic equation. Solve this transformed equation, and then transform back.

General Form

We get

$$Y(s) = \frac{Q(s)}{P(s)} + \frac{G(s)}{P(s)}$$

where Q is a polynomial with coefficients determined by the initial conditions, G is the Laplace transform of $g(t)$ and P is the **characteristic polynomial** of the original equation.

$\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{Q(s)}{P(s)} \right\}$ is called the **zero input response**,

and

$\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{G(s)}{P(s)} \right\}$ is called the **zero state response**.