

## Section 16: Laplace Transforms of Derivatives and IVPs

Suppose  $f$  has a Laplace transform<sup>1</sup>,  $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = F(s)$ , and that  $f$  is differentiable on  $[0, \infty)$ . Obtain an expression for the Laplace transform of  $f'(t)$  using integration by parts to get

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

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<sup>1</sup>Assume  $f$  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

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



## Laplace Transforms and IVPs

For constants  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$ , take the Laplace transform of both sides of the equation and isolate  $\mathcal{L}\{y(t)\} = Y(s)$ .

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

$$\text{Let } \mathcal{L}\{g(t)\} = G(s).$$

Take  $\mathcal{L}$  of the ODE

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

$$a \mathcal{L}\{y''\} + b \mathcal{L}\{y'\} + c \mathcal{L}\{y\} = G(s)$$

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

$$y(0) = y_0, \quad y'(0) = y_1$$

$$as^2 Y(s) - ay_0 s - ay_1 + bsY(s) - by_0 + cY(s) = G(s)$$

$$(as^2 + bs + c)Y(s) - ay_0 s - ay_1 - by_0 = G(s)$$

$$(as^2 + bs + c)Y(s) = ay_0 s + ay_1 + by_0 + G(s)$$

$$ay'' + by' + cy = g(t)$$

Note: The coefficient of  $Y$  is the

Characteristic polynomial.

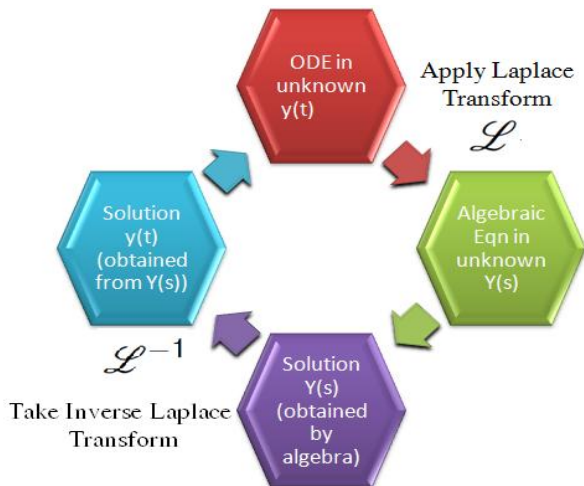
$$Y(s) = \frac{ay_0s + ay_1 + by_0}{as^2 + bs + c} + \frac{G(s)}{as^2 + bs + c}$$

The solution to the IVP

is

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

# 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**.



## Solve the IVP using the Laplace Transform

$$y'' + 7y' + 12y = e^{-t} \quad y(0) = 2, \quad y'(0) = -6$$

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

$$\mathcal{L}\{y'' + 7y' + 12y\} = \mathcal{L}\{e^{-t}\}$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{y''\} + 7\mathcal{L}\{y'\} + 12\mathcal{L}\{y\} = \frac{1}{s+1}$$

$$s^2 Y(s) - sy(0) - y'(0) + 7(sY(s) - y(0)) + 12Y(s) = \frac{1}{s+1}$$

$$y(0) = 2, \quad y'(0) = -6$$

$$s^2 Y(s) - 2s + 6 + 7(sY(s) - 2) + 12Y(s) = \frac{1}{s+1}$$

$$(s^2 + 7s + 12)Y(s) - 2s + 6 - 14 = \frac{1}{s+1}$$

$$(s^2 + 7s + 12)Y(s) = \frac{1}{s+1} + 2s + 8$$

$$Y(s) = \frac{1}{(s+1)(s^2 + 7s + 12)} + \frac{2(s+4)}{s^2 + 7s + 12}$$

$$Y(s) = \frac{1}{(s+1)(s+3)(s+4)} + \frac{2(s+4)}{(s+3)(s+4)}$$

$$\varphi(s) = \frac{1}{(s+1)(s+3)(s+4)} + \frac{2}{s+3}$$

Partial fractions

$$\frac{1}{(s+1)(s+3)(s+4)} = \frac{A}{s+1} + \frac{B}{s+3} + \frac{C}{s+4}$$

$$1 = A(s+3)(s+4) + B(s+1)(s+4) + C(s+1)(s+3)$$

$$\text{set } s = -1 \quad 1 = A(2)(3) \Rightarrow A = \frac{1}{6}$$

$$s = -3 \quad 1 = B(-2)(1) \Rightarrow B = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$s = -4 \quad 1 = C(-3)(-1) \Rightarrow C = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$Y(s) = \frac{\frac{1}{6}}{s+1} - \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{s+3} + \frac{\frac{1}{3}}{s+4} + \frac{2}{s+3}$$

$$Y(s) = \frac{\frac{1}{6}}{s+1} + \frac{\frac{3}{2}}{s+3} + \frac{\frac{1}{3}}{s+4}$$

The solution to the IVP

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

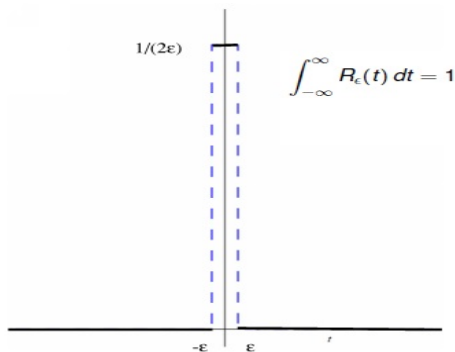
$$y(t) = \frac{1}{6} e^{-t} + \frac{3}{2} e^{-3t} + \frac{1}{3} e^{-4t}$$

$$y(0) = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{3}{2} + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{9}{6} + \frac{2}{6} = \frac{12}{6} \quad \checkmark$$

## Unit Impulse

Consider the piecewise constant, rectangular function

$$R_\epsilon(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\epsilon}, & |t| < \epsilon \\ 0, & |t| > \epsilon \end{cases}$$



**Figure:** For every  $\epsilon > 0$ , the integral of  $R_\epsilon$  over the real line is 1.

## Unit Impulse

We can plot  $R_\epsilon$  for various values of  $\epsilon$  and see that as  $\epsilon$  gets smaller, the rectangle gets narrow and tall. But the area of the rectangle is kept constant at 1.

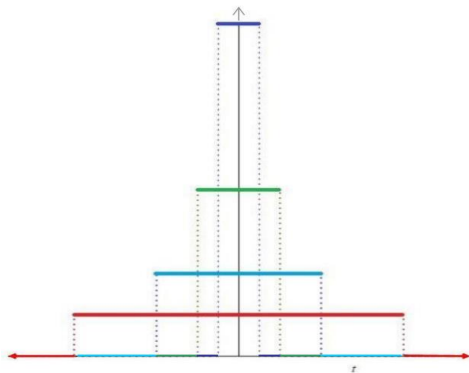


Figure:  $R_\epsilon(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\epsilon}, & |t| < \epsilon \\ 0, & |t| > \epsilon \end{cases}$

# Unit Impulse

The Dirac delta *function*, denoted by  $\delta(\cdot)$ , models a strong instantaneous force. One way to define this function is as the limit

$$\delta(t) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} R_\epsilon(t).$$

This is not a function in the usual sense, but it has several properties.

- ▶  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(t - a) dt = 1$  for any real number  $a$ .
- ▶  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(t - a)f(t) dt = f(a)$  if  $a$  is in the domain of the function  $f$ .
- ▶  $\mathcal{L}\{\delta(t - a)\} = e^{-as}$  for any constant  $a \geq 0$ .

**Remark:** This is an example of what is called a *generalized function*, *generalized functional*, or *distribution*. In this context, it can be thought of as the derivative of the Heaviside step function. That is, for any  $a \geq 0$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{U}(t - a) = \delta(t - a).$$



## Solve the IVP using the Laplace Transform

A 1 kg mass is suspended from a spring with spring constant 10 N/m. A damper induces damping of 6 N per m/sec of velocity. The object starts from rest from a position 10 cm above equilibrium. At time  $t = 1$  second, a unit impulse force is applied to the object. Determine the object's position for  $t > 0$ .

The corresponding IVP for the situation described is

$$x'' + 6x' + 10x = \delta(t - 1), \quad x(0) = 0.1, \quad x'(0) = 0$$

$$mx'' + \beta x' + kx = f(t)$$