

Section 16: Laplace Transforms of Derivatives and IVPs

Definition

Let f and g be piecewise continuous on $[0, \infty)$ and of exponential order. The **convolution** of f and g is denoted by $f * g$ and is defined by

$$(f * g)(t) = \int_0^t f(\tau)g(t - \tau) d\tau$$

Remark: It can readily be shown that $f * g = g * f$. That is, the convolution is commutative.

Laplace Transforms & Convolutions

Theorem

Suppose $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = F(s)$ and $\mathcal{L}\{g(t)\} = G(s)$. Then

$$\mathcal{L}\{f * g\} = F(s)G(s)$$

Theorem

Suppose $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)\} = f(t)$ and $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{G(s)\} = g(t)$. Then

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

Example: Use a convolution to evaluate

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

$$\text{Let } F(s) = \frac{1}{s^2}, \quad F(s) = \mathcal{L}\{t\}, \quad f(t) = t$$

$$G(s) = \frac{1}{s+1}, \quad G(s) = \mathcal{L}\{e^{-t}\}, \quad g(t) = e^{-t}$$

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

The argument would have partial fraction decomp $\frac{1}{s^2(s+1)} = -\frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{s^2} + \frac{1}{s+1}$.

$$(f * g)(t) = \int_0^t f(\tau) g(t-\tau) d\tau = \int_0^t \tau e^{-(t-\tau)} d\tau$$

$$(g * f)(t) = \int_0^t g(\tau) f(t-\tau) d\tau = \int_0^t e^{-\tau} (t-\tau) d\tau$$

we'll do the 1st one.

$$(f * g)(t) = \int_0^t \tau e^{-t} e^{\tau} d\tau$$

$$= e^{-t} \int_0^t \tau e^{\tau} d\tau$$

$$u = \tau \quad du = d\tau$$

$$v = e^{\tau} \quad dv = e^{\tau} d\tau$$

$$= e^{-t} \left(\tau e^{\tau} \Big|_0^t - \int_0^t e^{\tau} d\tau \right)$$

$$= e^{-t} \left(t e^t - 0 e^0 - e^{\tau} \Big|_0^t \right)$$

$$= e^{-t} (te^t - e^t + e^0)$$

$$= t - 1 + e^{-t}$$

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

Transfer Function & Impulse Response

$$ay'' + by' + cy = g(t), \quad (1)$$

Definition

The function $H(s) = \frac{1}{as^2 + bs + c}$ is called the **transfer function** for the differential equation (1).

Definition

The **impulse response** function, $h(t)$, for the differential equation (1) is the inverse Laplace transform of the transfer function

$$h(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{H(s)\} = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{as^2 + bs + c}\right\}.$$

Transfer Function & Impulse Response

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

Remark 1: The **transfer function** is the Laplace transform of the solution to the IVP

$$ay'' + by' + cy = \delta(t), \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y'(0) = 0.$$

Remark 2: The **impulse response** is the solution to the IVP

$$ay'' + by' + cy = \delta(t), \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y'(0) = 0.$$

Convolution

Consider

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

Recall the **zero state response** is the inverse transform

$\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{G(s)}{as^2 + bs + c} \right\}$. Note that we can write this ratio as the product

$$G(s)H(s)$$

where H is the transfer function. If the impulse response is $h(t)$, then the zero state response can be written in terms of a convolution is

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1} \{ G(s)H(s) \} = \int_0^t g(\tau)h(t - \tau) d\tau$$