

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 $\mathcal{L} \{t^2\} = \frac{2}{s^3}$?

Note that by definition

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L} \{e^{t^2}\} &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} e^{t^2} dt \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-(s-1)t} t^2 dt \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-wt} t^2 dt \\ &= \frac{2!}{w^3} = \frac{2}{(s-1)^3}\end{aligned}$$

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

Let $w = s-1$

Shift (or translation) in s .

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

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

We can state this in terms of the inverse transform. If $F(s)$ has an inverse Laplace transform, then

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s - a)\} = e^{at}\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)\}.$$

We call this a **translation** (or a **shift**) in s theorem.

Example:

Suppose $f(t)$ is a function whose Laplace transform¹

$$F(s) = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{s^2 + 9}}$$

Evaluate

$$\mathcal{L}\{e^{-2t}f(t)\} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(s+2)^2 + 9}}$$

\uparrow
 $a = -2$

$$F(s - (-2)) = F(s + 2)$$

¹It's not in our table, but this is an actual function known as a *Bessel function*.

Examples: Evaluate

$$(a) \mathcal{L}\{t^6 e^{3t}\} = \frac{6!}{(s-3)^7}$$

we need $F(s) = \mathcal{L}\{t^6\} = \frac{6!}{s^7}$

our answer will be $F(s-3)$

Examples: Evaluate

$$(b) \mathcal{L}\{e^{-t} \cos(t)\} = \frac{s+1}{(s+1)^2 + 1}$$

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

$$a = -1 \quad F(s - (-1)) = F(s+1)$$

$$(c) \mathcal{L}\{e^{-t} \sin(t)\} = \frac{1}{(s+1)^2 + 1}$$

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

Inverse Laplace Transforms (completing the square)

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

Since $s^2 + 2s + 2$ doesn't factor, partial fractions is not useful. We'll complete the square.

$$s^2 + 2s + 2 = s^2 + 2s + 1 - 1 + 2 = (s+1)^2 + 1$$

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

We need $s+1$ everywhere s would be.

Use $s = s+1 - 1$

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

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s}{s^2+2s+2}\right\} &= \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s+1}{(s+1)^2+1} - \frac{1}{(s+1)^2+1}\right\} \\ &= \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s+1}{(s+1)^2+1}\right\} - \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{(s+1)^2+1}\right\} \\ &= e^{-1t} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s}{s^2+1}\right\} - e^{-1t} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s^2+1}\right\} \\ &= e^{-t} \cos t - e^{-t} \sin t\end{aligned}$$

Inverse Laplace Transforms (repeated linear factors)

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

We need a partial fraction decomp.

$$\overset{s(s-1)^2}{\frac{-s^2 + 3s + 1}{s(s-1)^2}} = \frac{A}{s} + \frac{B}{s-1} + \frac{C}{(s-1)^2} \quad \text{Clear fractions}$$

$$-s^2 + 3s + 1 = A(s-1)^2 + Bs(s-1) + Cs$$

$$= A(s^2 - 2s + 1) + B(s^2 - s) + Cs$$

$$-1s^2 + 3s + 1 = (A+B)s^2 + (-2A-B+C)s + A$$

$$A+B = -1$$

$$-2A - B + C = 3$$

$$A = 1 \quad B = -1 - A = -2$$

$$C = 3 + B + 2A = 3$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1+3s-s^2}{s(s-1)^2} \right\} &= \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s} - \frac{2}{s-1} + \frac{3}{(s-1)^2} \right\} \\ &= \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s} \right\} - 2 \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s-1} \right\} + 3 \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1!}{(s-1)^2} \right\} \\ &= 1 - 2e^{1t} + 3e^{1t} \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1!}{s^2} \right\} \\ &= 1 - 2e^t + 3te^t \end{aligned}$$