

Section 14: Inverse Laplace Transforms

Definition:

Let $f(t)$ be piecewise continuous on $[0, \infty)$. The Laplace transform of f , denoted $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$ or $F(s)$ is given by.

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt.$$

Inverse Laplace Transform

Let $F(s)$ be a function. An **inverse Laplace transform** of F is a piecewise continuous function $f(t)$ provided $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = F(s)$. We will use the notation

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

Example: Use a Table to Evaluate

$$(c) \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{s+4}{s^2-4} \right\}$$

Use Partial fraction decomp

$$\frac{s+4}{(s-2)(s+2)} = \frac{A}{s-2} + \frac{B}{s+2} \quad \text{clear fractions}$$

$$s+4 = A(s+2) + B(s-2)$$

$$\text{set } s=2$$

$$2+4 = A(2+2) + B(2-2)$$

$$6 = 4A \Rightarrow A = \frac{6}{4} = \frac{3}{2}$$

$$s = -2$$

$$-2+4 = A(-2+2) + B(-2-2)$$

$$2 = -4B \Rightarrow B = \frac{2}{-4} = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s+4}{s^2-4}\right\} &= \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{\frac{3}{2}}{s-2} - \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{s+2}\right\} \\ &= \frac{3}{2}\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s-2}\right\} - \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s-(-2)}\right\} \\ &= \frac{3}{2}e^{2t} - \frac{1}{2}e^{-2t}\end{aligned}$$

A Look Ahead: Solving IVPs

If $f(t)$ is defined on $[0, \infty)$, is differentiable, and has Laplace transform $F(s) = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$, then*

$$\mathcal{L}\{f'(t)\} = sF(s) - f(0)$$

Use this result to solve the initial value problem

$$y'(t) + 4y(t) = 16t, \quad y(0) = 1$$

Let's assume that $y(t)$ has a Laplace transform.

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

Take the transform of both sides of the ODE.

$$y'(t) + 4y(t) = 16t, \quad y(0) = 1$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{y' + 4y\} = \mathcal{L}\{16t\}$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{y'\} + 4\mathcal{L}\{y\} = 16\mathcal{L}\{t\}$$

Use $\mathcal{L}\{y\} = Y(s)$ and $\mathcal{L}\{y'\} = sY(s) - y(0)$

$$sY(s) - y(0) + 4Y(s) = 16\left(\frac{1!}{s^2}\right) = \frac{16}{s^2}$$

Now, isolate $Y(s)$. Use the given $y(0) = 1$

$$sY(s) - 1 + 4Y(s) = \frac{16}{s^2}$$

$$(s+4)Y(s) = \frac{16}{s^2} + 1$$

$$(s+4)Y(s) = \frac{16 + s^2}{s^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow Y(s) = \frac{16 + s^2}{s^2(s+4)}$$

The solution $y(t)$ to the IVP is $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{Y(s)\}$.

Do a partial fraction decomp.

$$\overset{s^2(s+4)}{s^2(s+4)} \frac{16 + s^2}{s^2(s+4)} = \frac{A}{s} + \frac{B}{s^2} + \frac{C}{s+4} \quad \text{clear fractions}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 16 + s^2 &= As(s+4) + B(s+4) + Cs^2 \\ &= A(s^2 + 4s) + B(s+4) + Cs^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\underline{1}s^2 + \underline{0}s + \underline{16} = (\underline{A+C})s^2 + (\underline{4A+B})s + \underline{4B}$$

$$A+C=1$$

$$4A+B=0$$

$$4B=16$$

$$C=1-A=2$$

$$A=\frac{1}{4}B=-1$$

$$B=4$$

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

The solution to the IVP

$$y(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{-1}{s} + \frac{4}{s^2} + \frac{2}{s+4} \right\}$$

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

$$y(t) = -1 + 4t + 2e^{-4t}$$