

Section 16: Laplace Transforms of Derivatives and IVPs

Suppose f has a Laplace transform¹, $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = F(s)$, and that f is differentiable on $[0, \infty)$. Obtain an expression for the Laplace transform of $f'(t)$ using integration by parts to get

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

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

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

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

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

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

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{d^3y}{dt^3}\right\} = s^3Y(s) - s^2y(0) - sy'(0) - y''(0),$$

$$\vdots \qquad \qquad \qquad \vdots$$

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

Laplace Transforms and IVPs

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

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

Take \mathcal{L} of both sides of the ODE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sub in the IC and isolate $Y(s)$

$$as^2Y(s) - say_0 - ay_1 + bsY(s) - by_0 + cY(s) = G(s)$$

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

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

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

Note: The coefficient of $Y(s)$ is the characteristic

polynomial for the original 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 is

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

Solving IVPs

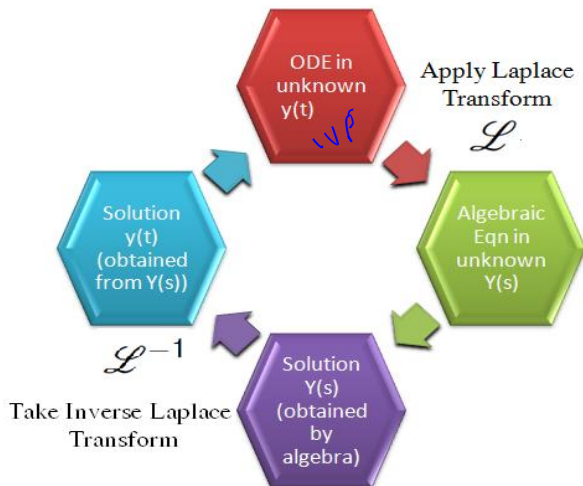


Figure: We use the Laplace transform to turn our DE into an algebraic equation. Solve this transformed equation, and then transform back.

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

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

Take \mathcal{L} of both sides, Let $Y(s) = \mathcal{L}\{y(t)\}$

$$\mathcal{L}\{y'' + 7y' + 12y\} = \mathcal{L}\{e^{-t}\} = \frac{1}{s+1}$$

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

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

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

Isolate $Y(s)$

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

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

Correct
Characteristic
poly

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

$$s^2 + 7s + 12 = (s+3)(s+4) \Rightarrow$$

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

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

we'll decompose the first term

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Finally, take \mathcal{L}^{-1} .

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

$$= \frac{1}{6} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s+1}\right\} + \frac{3}{2} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s+3}\right\} + \frac{1}{3} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s+4}\right\}$$

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

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

Unit Impulse

Consider the piecewise constant, rectangular function

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

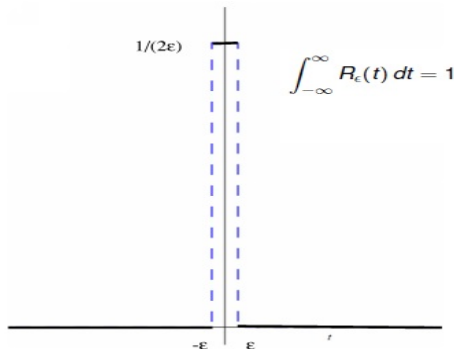


Figure: For every $\epsilon > 0$, the integral of R_{ϵ} over the real line is 1.

Unit Impulse

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

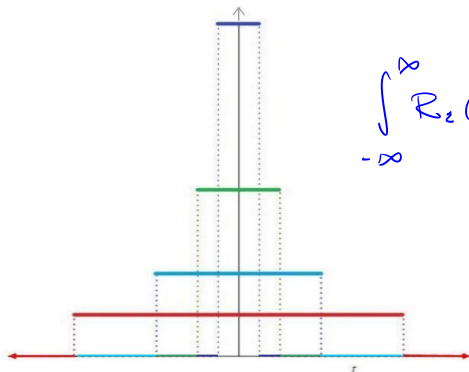


Figure: $R_\epsilon(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\epsilon}, & |t| < \epsilon \\ 0, & |t| > \epsilon \end{cases}$

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 $a \geq 0$

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