

Section 14: Inverse Laplace Transforms

Recall from section 13 that for f defined on $[0, \infty)$, the Laplace transform of f is defined by

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

Now we wish to go *backwards*: Given $F(s)$ can we find a function $f(t)$ such that $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = F(s)$?

If so, we'll use the following notation

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

We'll use a table to evaluate all inverse Laplace transforms.

The Laplace Transform is a Linear Transformation

Some basic results include:

- ▶ $\mathcal{L}\{\alpha f(t) + \beta g(t)\} = \alpha F(s) + \beta G(s)$
- ▶ $\mathcal{L}\{1\} = \frac{1}{s}, \quad s > 0$
- ▶ $\mathcal{L}\{t^n\} = \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}, \quad s > 0 \text{ for } n = 1, 2, \dots$
- ▶ $\mathcal{L}\{e^{at}\} = \frac{1}{s-a}, \quad s > a$
- ▶ $\mathcal{L}\{\cos kt\} = \frac{s}{s^2+k^2}, \quad s > 0$
- ▶ $\mathcal{L}\{\sin kt\} = \frac{k}{s^2+k^2}, \quad s > 0$

Evaluate

$$\mathcal{L}\{(e^{-t}+e^{2t})^2\}$$

Note

$$(e^{-t} + e^{2t})^2$$

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

$$= e^{-2t} + 2e^t + e^{4t}$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{(e^{-t} + e^{2t})^2\} = \mathcal{L}\{e^{-2t} + 2e^t + e^{4t}\}$$

$$= \mathcal{L}\{e^{-2t}\} + 2\mathcal{L}\{e^t\} + \mathcal{L}\{e^{4t}\}$$

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

$$= \frac{1}{s + 2} + \frac{2}{s - 1} + \frac{1}{s - 4}$$

Evaluate

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)G(s)\} \neq \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)\}\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{G(s)\}$$

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

How would I evaluate

$$\int \frac{1}{(s-1)(s+4)} ds ?$$

partial fractions

Decompose

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

Clear fractions

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= A(s+4) + B(s-1) \\ &= As + 4A + Bs - B \end{aligned}$$

$$0s + 1 = (A+B)s + 4A - B$$

↑
zero

$$A+B = 0 \Rightarrow B = -A$$

$$4A - B = 1$$

$$4A - (-A) = 1$$

$$5A = 1 \Rightarrow A = \frac{1}{5}, B = -\frac{1}{5}$$

$$\frac{1}{(s-1)(s+4)} = \frac{\frac{1}{5}}{s-1} - \frac{\frac{1}{5}}{s+4}$$

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{(s-1)(s+4)}\right\} = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{\frac{1}{5}}{s-1} - \frac{\frac{1}{5}}{s+4}\right\}$$

$$= \frac{1}{5} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s-1}\right\} - \frac{1}{5} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s+4}\right\}$$

$$= \frac{1}{5} e^{1t} - \frac{1}{5} e^{-4t}$$

$$= \frac{1}{5} e^t - \frac{1}{5} e^{-4t}$$

Find $\mathcal{L}\{f'(t)\}$

Suppose f is of exponential order and has Laplace transform $F(s) = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$. What is

$\mathcal{L}\{f'(t)\}$?

$$\mathcal{L}\{f'(t)\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f'(t) dt$$

$$= e^{-st} f(t) \Big|_0^{\infty} - \int_0^{\infty} -s e^{-st} f(t) dt$$

$$= 0 - e^0 f(0) + s \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt$$

$$= -f(0) + s \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$$

Int by parts

$$dv = f'(t) dt$$

$$v = f(t)$$

$$u = e^{-st}$$

$$du = -s e^{-st} dt$$

* w/ f of exponential order, $e^{-st} f(t) \rightarrow 0$

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

Solve the IVP

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

we'll use the Laplace
transform

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

- take \mathcal{L} of the ODE
- solve for $Y(s)$, this is $\mathcal{L}\{y\}$.
- then take $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{Y\}$ to get $y(t)$.

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

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

$$\mathcal{L}\{y'\} + 4Y(s) = \frac{1}{s-1}$$

$$* \mathcal{L}\{y'\} = sY(s) - y(0)$$

$$sY(s) - y(0) + 4Y(s) = \frac{1}{s-1}$$

Use
 $y(0) = 1$

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

Isolate $Y(s)$.

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

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

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

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

We need the decomp of $\frac{1}{(s-1)(s+4)}$.

$$\text{That was } \frac{\frac{1}{5}}{s-1} - \frac{\frac{1}{5}}{s+4}$$

$$Y(s) = \frac{\frac{1}{5}}{s-1} - \frac{\frac{1}{5}}{s+4} + \frac{1}{s+4}$$

$$Y(s) = \frac{\frac{1}{5}}{s-1} + \frac{\frac{4}{5}}{s+4}$$

The solution to the IVP

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

$$= \frac{1}{5} \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s-1} \right\} + \frac{4}{5} \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s+4} \right\}$$

$$= \frac{1}{5} e^t + \frac{4}{5} e^{-4t}$$

$$y(t) = \frac{1}{5} e^t + \frac{4}{5} e^{-4t}$$