

Review for Exam 3.

- ▶ 5 or 6 problems, 60 minutes.
- ▶ No notes, no books, no calculators.
- ▶ Problems similar to homeworks.
- ▶ Integration table and LT table provided.
- ▶ Exam covers:
 - ▶ Power Series with Regular-Singular points (3.3).
 - ▶ Chapter 4: Laplace Transform methods.
 - ▶ Definition of Laplace Transform (4.1).
 - ▶ Solving IVP using LT (4.2).
 - ▶ Solving IVP with discontinuous sources using LT, (4.3).
 - ▶ Solving IVP with generalized sources using LT (4.4).
 - ▶ Convolutions and LT (4.5).
 - ▶ Systems of linear Differential Equations (5.1).

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Regular-singular points (3.3).

Summary:

▶ Look for solutions $y(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x - x_0)^{(n+r)}$.

▶ Recall: Since $r \neq 0$, holds

$$y' = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)a_n(x-x_0)^{(n+r-1)} \neq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n+r)a_n(x-x_0)^{(n+r-1)},$$

▶ Find the indicial equation for r , the recurrence relation for a_n .

▶ Introduce the larger root r_+ of the indicial polynomial into the recurrence relation and solve for a_n .

(a) If $(r_+ - r_-)$ is **not** an integer, then each r_+ and r_- define linearly independent solutions.

(b) If $(r_+ - r_-)$ is an integer, then both r_+ and r_- define proportional solutions.

Regular-singular points (3.3).

Example

Consider the equation $x^2 y'' + \left(x^2 + \frac{1}{4}\right) y = 0$. Use a power series centered at the regular-singular point $x_0 = 0$ to find the three first terms of the solution corresponding to the larger root of the indicial polynomial.

Solution: $y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{(n+r)}$, $y'' = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)a_n x^{(n+r-2)}$,

$$x^2 y'' = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)a_n x^{(n+r)}$$

We also need to compute

$$\left(x^2 + \frac{1}{4}\right)y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{(n+r+2)} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4} a_n x^{(n+r)},$$

Regular-singular points (3.3).

Example

Consider the equation $x^2 y'' + \left(x^2 + \frac{1}{4}\right) y = 0$. Use a power series centered at the regular-singular point $x_0 = 0$ to find the three first terms of the solution corresponding to the larger root of the indicial polynomial.

$$\text{Solution: } \left(x^2 + \frac{1}{4}\right) y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{(n+r+2)} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4} a_n x^{(n+r)}.$$

Re-label $m = n + 2$ in the first term and then switch back to n ,

$$\left(x^2 + \frac{1}{4}\right) y = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_{(n-2)} x^{(n+r)} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4} a_n x^{(n+r)},$$

The equation is

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1) a_n x^{(n+r)} + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_{(n-2)} x^{(n+r)} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4} a_n x^{(n+r)} = 0.$$

Regular-singular points (3.3).

Example

Consider the equation $x^2 y'' + \left(x^2 + \frac{1}{4}\right) y = 0$. Use a power series centered at the regular-singular point $x_0 = 0$ to find the three first terms of the solution corresponding to the larger root of the indicial polynomial.

Solution:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1) a_n x^{(n+r)} + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_{(n-2)} x^{(n+r)} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4} a_n x^{(n+r)} = 0.$$

$$\left[r(r-1) + \frac{1}{4} \right] a_0 x^r + \left[(r+1)r + \frac{1}{4} \right] a_1 x^{(r+1)} +$$

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left[(n+r)(n+r-1) a_n + a_{(n-2)} + \frac{1}{4} a_n \right] x^{(n+r)} = 0.$$

Regular-singular points (3.3).

Example

Consider the equation $x^2 y'' + \left(x^2 + \frac{1}{4}\right) y = 0$. Use a power series centered at the regular-singular point $x_0 = 0$ to find the three first terms of the solution corresponding to the larger root of the indicial polynomial.

$$\text{Solution: } \left[r(r-1) + \frac{1}{4}\right] a_0 = 0, \quad \left[(r+1)r + \frac{1}{4}\right] a_1 = 0,$$

$$\left[(n+r)(n+r-1) + \frac{1}{4}\right] a_n + a_{(n-2)} = 0.$$

The indicial equation $r^2 - r + \frac{1}{4} = 0$ implies $r_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2}$.

The indicial equation $r^2 + r + \frac{1}{4} = 0$ implies $r_{\pm} = -\frac{1}{2}$.

Choose $r = \frac{1}{2}$. That implies a_0 arbitrary and $a_1 = 0$.

Regular-singular points (3.3).

Example

Consider the equation $x^2 y'' + \left(x^2 + \frac{1}{4}\right) y = 0$. Use a power series centered at the regular-singular point $x_0 = 0$ to find the three first terms of the solution corresponding to the larger root of the indicial polynomial.

$$\text{Solution: } r = \frac{1}{2}, \quad a_1 = 0, \quad \left[(n+r)(n+r-1) + \frac{1}{4}\right] a_n = -a_{(n-2)}.$$

$$\left[\left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right)\left(n - \frac{1}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{4}\right] a_n = -a_{(n-2)} \Rightarrow \left[n^2 - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}\right] a_n = -a_{(n-2)}$$

$$n^2 a_n = -a_{(n-2)} \Rightarrow a_n = -\frac{a_{(n-2)}}{n^2} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} a_2 = -\frac{a_0}{4}, \\ a_4 = -\frac{a_2}{16} = \frac{a_0}{64}. \end{cases}$$

Regular-singular points (3.3).

Example

Consider the equation $x^2 y'' + \left(x^2 + \frac{1}{4}\right) y = 0$. Use a power series centered at the regular-singular point $x_0 = 0$ to find the three first terms of the solution corresponding to the larger root of the indicial polynomial.

Solution: $r = \frac{1}{2}$, $a_1 = 0$, $a_2 = -\frac{a_0}{4}$, and $a_4 = \frac{a_0}{64}$. Then,

$$y(x) = x^r (a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + a_3 x^3 + a_4 x^4 + \dots).$$

Recall: $a_1 = 0$ and the recurrence relation imply $a_n = 0$ for n odd. Therefore,

$$y(x) = a_0 x^{1/2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{4} x^2 + \frac{1}{64} x^4 + \dots\right). \quad \triangleleft$$

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Laplace transforms (Chptr. 4).

Summary:

► Main Properties:

$$\mathcal{L}[f^{(n)}(t)] = s^n \mathcal{L}[f(t)] - s^{(n-1)} f(0) - \dots - f^{(n-1)}(0); \quad (18)$$

$$e^{-cs} \mathcal{L}[f(t)] = \mathcal{L}[u_c(t) f(t - c)]; \quad (13)$$

$$\mathcal{L}[f(t)] \Big|_{(s-c)} = \mathcal{L}[e^{ct} f(t)]. \quad (14)$$

► Convolutions:

$$\mathcal{L}[(f * g)(t)] = \mathcal{L}[f(t)] \mathcal{L}[g(t)].$$

► Partial fraction decompositions, completing the squares.

Chapter 4: Laplace Transform methods.

Example

Use Laplace Transform to find y solution of

$$y'' - 2y' + 2y = \delta(t - 2), \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = 3.$$

Solution: Compute the LT of the equation,

$$\mathcal{L}[y''] - 2\mathcal{L}[y'] + 2\mathcal{L}[y] = \mathcal{L}[\delta(t - 2)] = e^{-2s}$$

$$\mathcal{L}[y''] = s^2 \mathcal{L}[y] - s y(0) - y'(0), \quad \mathcal{L}[y'] = s \mathcal{L}[y] - y(0).$$

$$(s^2 - 2s + 2) \mathcal{L}[y] - s y(0) - y'(0) + 2 y(0) = e^{-2s}$$

$$(s^2 - 2s + 2) \mathcal{L}[y] - s - 1 = e^{-2s}$$

$$\mathcal{L}[y] = \frac{(s + 1)}{(s^2 - 2s + 2)} + \frac{1}{(s^2 - 2s + 2)} e^{-2s}.$$

Chapter 4: Laplace Transform methods.

Example

Use Laplace Transform to find y solution of

$$y'' - 2y' + 2y = \delta(t - 2), \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = 3.$$

Solution: Recall: $\mathcal{L}[y] = \frac{(s+1)}{(s^2 - 2s + 2)} + \frac{1}{(s^2 - 2s + 2)} e^{-2s}$.

$$s^2 - 2s + 2 = 0 \Rightarrow s_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2}[2 \pm \sqrt{4 - 8}], \quad \text{complex roots.}$$

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

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

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

Chapter 4: Laplace Transform methods.

Example

Use Laplace Transform to find y solution of

$$y'' - 2y' + 2y = \delta(t - 2), \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = 3.$$

Solution: Recall: $\mathcal{L}[y] = \frac{(s-1)+2}{(s-1)^2 + 1} + \frac{1}{(s-1)^2 + 1} e^{-2s}$,

$$\mathcal{L}[y] = \frac{(s-1)}{(s-1)^2 + 1} + 2 \frac{1}{(s-1)^2 + 1} + e^{-2s} \frac{1}{(s-1)^2 + 1},$$

$$\mathcal{L}[\cos(at)] = \frac{s}{s^2 + a^2}, \quad \mathcal{L}[\sin(at)] = \frac{a}{s^2 + a^2},$$

$$\mathcal{L}[y] = \mathcal{L}[\cos(t)]|_{(s-1)} + 2 \mathcal{L}[\sin(t)]|_{(s-1)} + e^{-2s} \mathcal{L}[\sin(t)]|_{(s-1)}.$$

Chapter 4: Laplace Transform methods.

Example

Use Laplace Transform to find y solution of

$$y'' - 2y' + 2y = \delta(t - 2), \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = 3.$$

Solution: Recall:

$$\mathcal{L}[y] = \mathcal{L}[\cos(t)]\Big|_{(s-1)} + 2 \mathcal{L}[\sin(t)]\Big|_{(s-1)} + e^{-2s} \mathcal{L}[\sin(t)]\Big|_{(s-1)}$$

and $\mathcal{L}[f(t)]\Big|_{(s-c)} = \mathcal{L}[e^{ct} f(t)]$. Therefore,

$$\mathcal{L}[y] = \mathcal{L}[e^t \cos(t)] + 2 \mathcal{L}[e^t \sin(t)] + e^{-2s} \mathcal{L}[e^t \sin(t)].$$

Also recall: $e^{-cs} \mathcal{L}[f(t)] = \mathcal{L}[u_c(t) f(t - c)]$. Therefore,

$$\mathcal{L}[y] = \mathcal{L}[e^t \cos(t)] + 2 \mathcal{L}[e^t \sin(t)] + \mathcal{L}[u_2(t) e^{(t-2)} \sin(t - 2)].$$

$$y(t) = [\cos(t) + 2 \sin(t)] e^t + u_2(t) \sin(t - 2) e^{(t-2)}. \quad \triangleleft$$

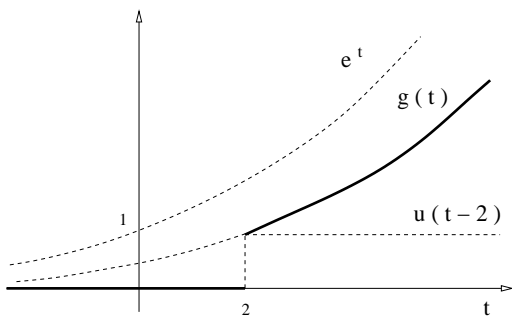
Chapter 4: Laplace Transform methods.

Example

Sketch the graph of g and use LT to find y solution of

$$y'' + 3y = g(t), \quad y(0) = y'(0) = 0, \quad g(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 2, \\ e^{(t-2)}, & t \geq 2. \end{cases}$$

Solution:



Express g using step functions,

$$g(t) = u_2(t) e^{(t-2)}.$$

$$\mathcal{L}[u_c(t) f(t - c)] = e^{-cs} \mathcal{L}[f(t)].$$

Therefore,

$$\mathcal{L}[g(t)] = e^{-2s} \mathcal{L}[e^t].$$

We obtain:
$$\mathcal{L}[g(t)] = \frac{e^{-2s}}{(s-1)}.$$

Chapter 4: Laplace Transform methods.

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Sketch the graph of g and use LT to find y solution of

$$y'' + 3y = g(t), \quad y(0) = y'(0) = 0, \quad g(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 2, \\ e^{(t-2)}, & t \geq 2. \end{cases}$$

Solution: Recall: $\mathcal{L}[g(t)] = \frac{e^{-2s}}{(s-1)}$.

$$\mathcal{L}[y''] + 3\mathcal{L}[y] = \mathcal{L}[g(t)] = \frac{e^{-2s}}{(s-1)}.$$

$$(s^2 + 3)\mathcal{L}[y] = \frac{e^{-2s}}{(s-1)} \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}[y] = e^{-2s} \frac{1}{(s-1)(s^2+3)}.$$

$$H(s) = \frac{1}{(s-1)(s^2+3)} = \frac{a}{(s-1)} + \frac{(bs+c)}{(s^2+3)}$$

$$1 = a(s^2+3) + (bs+c)(s-1)$$

Chapter 4: Laplace Transform methods.

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$$y'' + 3y = g(t), \quad y(0) = y'(0) = 0, \quad g(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 2, \\ e^{(t-2)}, & t \geq 2. \end{cases}$$

Solution: Recall: $1 = a(s^2+3) + (bs+c)(s-1)$.

$$1 = as^2 + 3a + bs^2 + cs - bs - c$$

$$1 = (a+b)s^2 + (c-b)s + (3a-c)$$

$$a+b=0, \quad c-b=0, \quad 3a-c=1.$$

$$a = -b, \quad c = b, \quad -3b-b=1 \Rightarrow b = -\frac{1}{4}, \quad a = \frac{1}{4}, \quad c = -\frac{1}{4}.$$

$$H(s) = \frac{1}{4} \left[\frac{1}{s-1} - \frac{s+1}{s^2+3} \right].$$

Chapter 4: Laplace Transform methods.

Example

Sketch the graph of g and use LT to find y solution of

$$y'' + 3y = g(t), \quad y(0) = y'(0) = 0, \quad g(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 2, \\ e^{(t-2)}, & t \geq 2. \end{cases}$$

Solution: Recall: $H(s) = \frac{1}{4} \left[\frac{1}{s-1} - \frac{s+1}{s^2+3} \right]$, $\mathcal{L}[y] = e^{-2s} H(s)$.

$$H(s) = \frac{1}{4} \left[\frac{1}{s-1} - \frac{s}{s^2+3} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \frac{\sqrt{3}}{s^2+3} \right],$$

$$H(s) = \frac{1}{4} \left[\mathcal{L}[e^t] - \mathcal{L}[\cos(\sqrt{3}t)] - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \mathcal{L}[\sin(\sqrt{3}t)] \right].$$

$$H(s) = \mathcal{L} \left[\frac{1}{4} \left(e^t - \cos(\sqrt{3}t) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \sin(\sqrt{3}t) \right) \right].$$

Chapter 4: Laplace Transform methods.

Example

Sketch the graph of g and use LT to find y solution of

$$y'' + 3y = g(t), \quad y(0) = y'(0) = 0, \quad g(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 2, \\ e^{(t-2)}, & t \geq 2. \end{cases}$$

Solution: Recall: $H(s) = \mathcal{L} \left[\frac{1}{4} \left(e^t - \cos(\sqrt{3}t) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \sin(\sqrt{3}t) \right) \right]$.

$$h(t) = \frac{1}{4} \left(e^t - \cos(\sqrt{3}t) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \sin(\sqrt{3}t) \right), \quad H(s) = \mathcal{L}[h(t)].$$

$$\mathcal{L}[y] = e^{-2s} H(s) = e^{-2s} \mathcal{L}[h(t)] = \mathcal{L}[u_2(t) h(t-2)].$$

We conclude: $y(t) = u_2(t) h(t-2)$. Equivalently,

$$y(t) = \frac{u_2(t)}{4} \left[e^{(t-2)} - \cos(\sqrt{3}(t-2)) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \sin(\sqrt{3}(t-2)) \right]. \triangleleft$$

Chapter 4: Laplace Transform methods.

Example

Use convolutions to find f satisfying $\mathcal{L}[f(t)] = \frac{e^{-2s}}{(s-1)(s^2+3)}$.

Solution: One way to solve this is with the splitting

$$\mathcal{L}[f(t)] = e^{-2s} \frac{1}{(s^2+3)} \frac{1}{(s-1)} = e^{-2s} \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \frac{\sqrt{3}}{(s^2+3)} \frac{1}{(s-1)},$$

$$\mathcal{L}[f(t)] = e^{-2s} \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \mathcal{L}[\sin(\sqrt{3}t)] \mathcal{L}[e^t]$$

$$\mathcal{L}[f(t)] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \mathcal{L}[u_2(t) \sin(\sqrt{3}(t-2))] \mathcal{L}[e^t].$$

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \int_0^t u_2(\tau) \sin(\sqrt{3}(\tau-2)) e^{(t-\tau)} d\tau. \quad \triangleleft$$

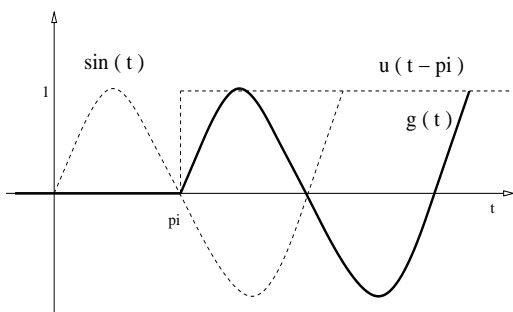
Chapter 4: Laplace Transform methods.

Example

Sketch the graph of g and use LT to find y solution of

$$y'' - 6y = g(t), \quad y(0) = y'(0) = 0, \quad g(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < \pi, \\ \sin(t - \pi), & t \geq \pi. \end{cases}$$

Solution:



Express g using step functions,

$$g(t) = u_{\pi}(t) \sin(t - \pi).$$

$$\mathcal{L}[u_c(t) f(t - c)] = e^{-cs} \mathcal{L}[f(t)].$$

Therefore,

$$\mathcal{L}[g(t)] = e^{-\pi s} \mathcal{L}[\sin(t)].$$

We obtain: $\mathcal{L}[g(t)] = \frac{e^{-\pi s}}{s^2 + 1}$.

Chapter 4: Laplace Transform methods.

Example

Sketch the graph of g and use LT to find y solution of

$$y'' - 6y = g(t), \quad y(0) = y'(0) = 0, \quad g(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < \pi, \\ \sin(t - \pi), & t \geq \pi. \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Solution: } \mathcal{L}[g(t)] = \frac{e^{-\pi s}}{s^2 + 1}.$$

$$\mathcal{L}[y''] - 6\mathcal{L}[y] = \mathcal{L}[g(t)] = \frac{e^{-\pi s}}{s^2 + 1}.$$

$$(s^2 - 6)\mathcal{L}[y] = \frac{e^{-\pi s}}{s^2 + 1} \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}[y] = e^{-\pi s} \frac{1}{(s^2 + 1)(s^2 - 6)}.$$

$$H(s) = \frac{1}{(s^2 + 1)(s^2 - 6)} = \frac{1}{(s^2 + 1)(s + \sqrt{6})(s - \sqrt{6})}$$

$$H(s) = \frac{a}{(s + \sqrt{6})} + \frac{b}{(s - \sqrt{6})} + \frac{(cs + d)}{(s^2 + 1)}.$$

Chapter 4: Laplace Transform methods.

Example

Sketch the graph of g and use LT to find y solution of

$$y'' - 6y = g(t), \quad y(0) = y'(0) = 0, \quad g(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < \pi, \\ \sin(t - \pi), & t \geq \pi. \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Solution: } H(s) = \frac{a}{(s + \sqrt{6})} + \frac{b}{(s - \sqrt{6})} + \frac{(cs + d)}{(s^2 + 1)}.$$

$$\frac{1}{(s^2 + 1)(s + \sqrt{6})(s - \sqrt{6})} = \frac{a}{(s + \sqrt{6})} + \frac{b}{(s - \sqrt{6})} + \frac{(cs + d)}{(s^2 + 1)}$$

$$1 = a(s - \sqrt{6})(s^2 + 1) + b(s + \sqrt{6})(s^2 + 1) + (cs + d)(s^2 - 6).$$

$$\text{The solution is: } a = -\frac{1}{14\sqrt{6}}, \quad b = \frac{1}{14\sqrt{6}}, \quad c = 0, \quad d = -\frac{1}{7}.$$

Chapter 4: Laplace Transform methods.

Example

Sketch the graph of g and use LT to find y solution of

$$y'' - 6y = g(t), \quad y(0) = y'(0) = 0, \quad g(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < \pi, \\ \sin(t - \pi), & t \geq \pi. \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Solution: } H(s) = \frac{1}{14\sqrt{6}} \left[-\frac{1}{(s + \sqrt{6})} + \frac{1}{(s - \sqrt{6})} - \frac{2\sqrt{6}}{(s^2 + 1)} \right].$$

$$H(s) = \frac{1}{14\sqrt{6}} \left[-\mathcal{L}[e^{-\sqrt{6}t}] + \mathcal{L}[e^{\sqrt{6}t}] - 2\sqrt{6} \mathcal{L}[\sin(t)] \right]$$

$$H(s) = \mathcal{L} \left[\frac{1}{14\sqrt{6}} \left(-e^{-\sqrt{6}t} + e^{\sqrt{6}t} - 2\sqrt{6} \sin(t) \right) \right].$$

$$h(t) = \frac{1}{14\sqrt{6}} \left[-e^{-\sqrt{6}t} + e^{\sqrt{6}t} - 2\sqrt{6} \sin(t) \right] \Rightarrow H(s) = \mathcal{L}[h(t)].$$

Chapter 4: Laplace Transform methods.

Example

Sketch the graph of g and use LT to find y solution of

$$y'' - 6y = g(t), \quad y(0) = y'(0) = 0, \quad g(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < \pi, \\ \sin(t - \pi), & t \geq \pi. \end{cases}$$

Solution: Recall: $\mathcal{L}[y] = e^{-\pi s} H(s)$, where $H(s) = \mathcal{L}[h(t)]$, and

$$h(t) = \frac{1}{14\sqrt{6}} \left[-e^{-\sqrt{6}t} + e^{\sqrt{6}t} - 2\sqrt{6} \sin(t) \right].$$

$$\mathcal{L}[y] = e^{-\pi s} \mathcal{L}[h(t)] = \mathcal{L}[u_\pi(t) h(t - \pi)] \Rightarrow y(t) = u_\pi(t) h(t - \pi).$$

Equivalently:

$$y(t) = \frac{u_\pi(t)}{14\sqrt{6}} \left[-e^{-\sqrt{6}(t-\pi)} + e^{\sqrt{6}(t-\pi)} - 2\sqrt{6} \sin(t - \pi) \right]. \triangleleft$$

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 - ▶ **Systems of linear Differential Equations (5.1).**

Second order equations and first order systems.

Theorem (Reduction to first order)

Every solution y to the second order linear equation

$$y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = g(t), \quad (1)$$

defines a solution $x_1 = y$ and $x_2 = y'$ of the 2×2 first order linear differential system

$$x_1' = x_2, \quad (2)$$

$$x_2' = -q(t)x_1 - p(t)x_2 + g(t). \quad (3)$$

Conversely, every solution x_1, x_2 of the 2×2 first order linear system in Eqs. (2)-(3) defines a solution $y = x_1$ of the second order differential equation in (1).

Second order equations and first order systems.

Remark: Systems of first order equations can, sometimes, be transformed into a second order single equation.

Example

Express as a single second order equation the 2×2 system and solve it,

$$x_1' = -x_1 + 3x_2,$$

$$x_2' = x_1 - x_2.$$

Solution: Compute x_1 from the second equation: $x_1 = x_2' + x_2$.
Introduce this expression into the first equation,

$$(x_2' + x_2)' = -(x_2' + x_2) + 3x_2,$$

$$x_2'' + x_2' = -x_2' - x_2 + 3x_2,$$

$$x_2'' + 2x_2' - 2x_2 = 0.$$

Second order equations and first order systems.

Example

Express as a single second order equation the 2×2 system and solve it,

$$x_1' = -x_1 + 3x_2,$$

$$x_2' = x_1 - x_2.$$

Solution: Recall: $x_2'' + 2x_2' - 2x_2 = 0$.

$$r^2 + 2r - 2 = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad r_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2} [-2 \pm \sqrt{4 + 8}] \quad \Rightarrow \quad r_{\pm} = -1 \pm \sqrt{3}.$$

Therefore, $x_2 = c_1 e^{r_+ t} + c_2 e^{r_- t}$. Since $x_1 = x_2' + x_2$,

$$x_1 = (c_1 r_+ e^{r_+ t} + c_2 r_- e^{r_- t}) + (c_1 e^{r_+ t} + c_2 e^{r_- t}),$$

We conclude: $x_1 = c_1(1 + r_+) e^{r_+ t} + c_2(1 + r_-) e^{r_- t}$. \triangleleft