

A. Solving Systems of Differential Equations with the Laplace Transform

Use the Laplace transform method to solve the following systems of differential equations:

$$1. \quad \begin{cases} \frac{dx}{dt} = -x + y \\ \frac{dy}{dt} = 2x \\ x(0) = 0; y(0) = 1. \end{cases} \qquad 4. \quad \begin{cases} \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + x - y = 0 \\ \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + y - x = 0 \\ x(0) = 0; x'(0) = -2; \\ y(0) = 0; y'(0) = 1. \end{cases}$$

$$2. \quad \begin{cases} \frac{dx}{dt} = x - 2y \\ \frac{dy}{dt} = 5x - y \\ x(0) = -1; y(0) = 2. \end{cases} \qquad 5. \quad \begin{cases} \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} = t^2 \\ \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} - \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} = 4t \\ x(0) = 8; x'(0) = 0; \\ y(0) = 0; y'(0) = 0. \end{cases}$$

$$3. \quad \begin{cases} 2\frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{dy}{dt} - 2x = 1 \\ \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{dy}{dt} - 3x - 3y = 2 \\ x(0) = 0; y(0) = 0. \end{cases} \qquad 6. \quad \begin{cases} \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + 3\frac{dy}{dt} + 3y = 0 \\ \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + 3y = te^{-t} \\ x(0) = 0; x'(0) = 2; \\ y(0) = 0. \end{cases}$$

B. Laplace Transforms and The Gamma Function

Recall that we used $\Gamma(1/2) = \sqrt{\pi}$ to compute the Laplace transform $\mathcal{L}\{t^{1/2}\}$ – we essentially just had to figure out $\Gamma(3/2)$. Use the same technique to compute:

7. $\mathcal{L}\{t^{3/2}\}$

8. $\mathcal{L}\{t^{5/2}\}$

At this point you have proved several instances of the formula:

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{t^{\frac{2n-1}{2}}\right\} = \frac{(2n-1)!!\sqrt{\pi}}{2^n s^{\frac{2n+1}{2}}}, \quad (\star)$$

for all positive integers n , where $(2n-1)!!$ is the double factorial:

$$(2n-1)!! = 1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdots (2n-1).$$

9. Use induction to prove that (\star) holds for all positive integers n . That is, verify that (\star) is true for some initial value of n (we proved the case $n = 1$ in class, and above you have the cases $n = 2$ and $n = 3$, in exercises 7 and 8). Then, assume that (\star) is true for some integer n and show that this implies (\star) is also true for $n + 1$.

Laplace transforms of some basic functions

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{1\} &= \frac{1}{s}; \quad s > 0 & \mathcal{L}\{\sin(kt)\} &= \frac{k}{s^2 + k^2}; \quad s > 0 & \mathcal{L}\{\cosh(kt)\} &= \frac{s}{s^2 - k^2}; \quad s > |k| \\ \mathcal{L}\{t^n\} &= \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}; \quad s > 0 & \mathcal{L}\{\cos(kt)\} &= \frac{s}{s^2 + k^2}; \quad s > 0 & \mathcal{L}\{u_a(t)\} &= \frac{e^{-as}}{s}; \quad s > 0 \\ \mathcal{L}\{e^{kt}\} &= \frac{1}{s - k}; \quad s > k & \mathcal{L}\{\sinh(kt)\} &= \frac{k}{s^2 - k^2}; \quad s > |k| & \mathcal{L}\{\delta(t - t_0)\} &= e^{-st_0} \\ & & & & \mathcal{L}\{\delta(t)\} &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Inverse Laplace transforms of some basic functions

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s}\right\} &= 1 & \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s^2 + k^2}\right\} &= \frac{1}{k} \sin(kt) & \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s}{s^2 - k^2}\right\} &= \cosh(kt) \\ \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s^n}\right\} &= \frac{1}{(n-1)!} t^{n-1} & \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s}{s^2 + k^2}\right\} &= \cos(kt) & \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{e^{-as}}{s}\right\} &= u_a(t) \\ \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s - k}\right\} &= e^{kt} & \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s^2 - k^2}\right\} &= \frac{1}{k} \sinh(kt) & \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{e^{-st_0}\} &= \delta(t - t_0) \\ & & & & \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{1\} &= \delta(t) \end{aligned}$$

Properties of the Laplace and Inverse Laplace transform

Translation Theorem I:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{e^{kt} f(t)\} &= F(s - k) = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}|_{s \rightarrow s-k} \\ \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s - k)\} &= \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)|_{s \rightarrow s-k}\} = e^{kt} \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)\} = e^{kt} f(t) \end{aligned}$$

Translation Theorem II:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{f(t - a)u_a(t)\} &= e^{-as} F(s) = e^{-as} \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} \\ \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{e^{-as} F(s)\} &= f(t - a)u_a(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)\}|_{t \rightarrow t-a} u_a(t) \end{aligned}$$

Derivatives of Laplace Transforms:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{t^n f(t)\} &= (-1)^n \frac{d^n}{ds^n} F(s) \\ \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F^{(n)}(s)\} &= (-1)^n t^n f(t) \end{aligned}$$

Laplace Transform of Periodic Functions:

If $f(t)$ is piecewise continuous on $[0, \infty)$, of exponential order, and periodic with period T :

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \frac{1}{1 - e^{-sT}} \int_0^T e^{-st} f(t) dt$$

Laplace Transforms of Derivatives:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{y'\} &= sY(s) - y(0) \\ \mathcal{L}\{y''\} &= s^2 Y(s) - sy(0) - y'(0) \\ &\vdots \\ \mathcal{L}\{y^{(n)}(t)\} &= s^n Y(s) - s^{n-1}y(0) - s^{n-2}y'(0) - \dots - sy^{(n-2)}(0) - y^{(n-1)}(0) \end{aligned}$$

Convolution Theorem:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{f(t) \star g(t)\} &= F(s)G(s) = \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}\mathcal{L}\{g(t)\} \\ \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F(s)G(s)\} &= f(t) \star g(t) \end{aligned}$$

Dirac Delta Function:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty f(t)\delta(t - t_0) dt &= f(t_0) \\ (f \star \delta)(t) &= f(t) \end{aligned}$$

Solving Systems of ODEs with the Laplace Transform

$$\begin{cases} y_1'' + 10y_1 - 4y_2 = 0 \\ y_2'' - 4y_1 + 4y_2 = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$y_1(0) = 0; y_1'(0) = 1$$

$$y_2(0) = 0; y_2'(0) = -1.$$

Take Laplace of both sides in both equations, solve for $Y_1(s)$ and $Y_2(s)$, and then take inverse Laplace to find $y_1(t)$ and $y_2(t)$.

$$\begin{cases} s^2 Y_1(s) - 1 + 10Y_1(s) - 4Y_2(s) = 0 \\ s^2 Y_2(s) + 1 - 4Y_1(s) + 4Y_2(s) = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} (s^2 + 10)Y_1(s) - 4Y_2(s) = 1 & \times (s^2 + 4) & \times 4 \\ -4Y_1(s) + (s^2 + 4)Y_2(s) = -1 & \times 4 & \times (s^2 + 10) \end{cases}$$

$$(s^2 + 10)(s^2 + 4)Y_1(s) - 16Y_1(s) = s^2 + 4 - 4$$

$$(s^4 + 14s^2 + 24)Y_1(s) = s^2$$

$$Y_1(s) = \frac{s^2}{(s^2 + 2)(s^2 + 12)}$$

$$= \frac{-1/5}{s^2 + 2} + \frac{6/5}{s^2 + 12}$$

$$-16Y_2(s) + (s^2 + 4)(s^2 + 10)Y_2(s) = 4 - s^2 - 10$$

$$(s^4 + 14s^2 + 24)Y_2(s) = -s^2 - 6$$

$$Y_2(s) = -\frac{s^2 + 6}{(s^2 + 2)(s^2 + 12)}$$

$$= \frac{-2/5}{s^2 + 2} - \frac{3/5}{s^2 + 12}$$

$$\Rightarrow y_1(t) = -\frac{1}{5\sqrt{2}} \sin(\sqrt{2}t) + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{5} \sin(2\sqrt{3}t)$$

$$\& y_2(t) = -\frac{2}{5\sqrt{2}} \sin(\sqrt{2}t) - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{10} \sin(2\sqrt{3}t)$$

The Gamma Function

- The Gamma function is defined for all $x > 0$ by the integral:

$$\Gamma(x) := \int_0^{\infty} e^{-t} t^{x-1} dt$$

- This function serves as a continuous analogue to the factorial:

$$\Gamma(x+1) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-t} t^x dt = \int_0^{\infty} (-e^{-t})' t^x dt$$

$$\begin{matrix} x > 0 \\ \Rightarrow x+1 > 1 \end{matrix}$$

$$= \underbrace{-e^{-t} t^x}_{0} \Big|_{t=0}^{\infty} + \int_0^{\infty} e^{-t} \cdot x t^{x-1} dt$$

$$= x \int_0^{\infty} e^{-t} t^{x-1} dt = x \Gamma(x)$$

$$\Gamma(x+1) = x \Gamma(x)$$

(*)

- Compute $\Gamma(1)$:

$$\Gamma(1) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-t} dt = -e^{-t} \Big|_0^{\infty} = 1 \Rightarrow \Gamma(1) = 1$$

Using (*):

$$\Gamma(2) = 1 \cdot \Gamma(1) = 1 = 1!$$

$$\Gamma(3) = 2 \cdot \Gamma(2) = 2 \cdot 1 = 2!$$

$$\Gamma(4) = 3 \cdot \Gamma(3) = 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 = 3!$$

$$\Gamma(5) = 4 \cdot \Gamma(4) = 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 = 4!$$

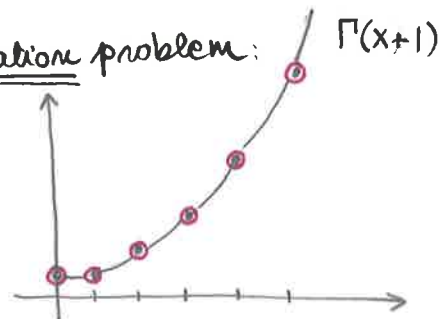
$$\Gamma(n) = (n-1)! \quad \text{for all positive integers } n$$

- Note that for $n=1$: $\Gamma(1) = 0!$ and we computed $\Gamma(1) = 1$.

\Rightarrow reason why $0! = 1$.

- $\Gamma(x)$ can be thought of as a solution to the interpolation problem:

Suppose we are given the set of points in the plane: $(n, n!)$ for all integers $n=0, 1, 2, \dots$. Is there a continuous function that "joins" all of these points? Yes: $f(x) = \Gamma(x+1)$.



The Gamma Function and the Laplace Transform:

Let us try to compute the Laplace transform of a general power function, i.e. $f(t) = t^p, p \geq 0$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{t^p\} &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} t^p dt && \text{Change of variable: } \kappa = st \\ & && d\kappa = s dt \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\kappa} \left(\frac{\kappa}{s}\right)^p \frac{1}{s} d\kappa \\ &= \frac{1}{s^{p+1}} \underbrace{\int_0^{\infty} e^{-\kappa} \kappa^p d\kappa}_{\Gamma(p+1)} \Rightarrow \boxed{\mathcal{L}\{t^p\} = \frac{\Gamma(p+1)}{s^{p+1}}} \quad (v) p > -1 \end{aligned}$$

• If p is a positive integer $p=n$: $\mathcal{L}\{t^n\} = \frac{\Gamma(n+1)}{s^{n+1}} = \frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}$ (the formula we already know).

$$\boxed{\Gamma(1/2) = \sqrt{\pi}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(1/2) &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\kappa} \kappa^{-1/2} d\kappa \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\kappa} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\kappa}} d\kappa && \text{Change of variable: } x = \sqrt{\kappa} \\ & && \Rightarrow dx = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\kappa}} d\kappa \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-x^2} 2dx \\ &= 2 \int_0^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx \rightsquigarrow \text{Gaussian Integral:} \\ &= 2 \cdot \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} = \boxed{\sqrt{\pi}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\int_0^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\mathcal{L}\{t^{-1/2}\} = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{s^{1/2}}}$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{t^{-1/2}\} = \frac{\Gamma(1/2)}{s^{1/2}} = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{s^{1/2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\mathcal{L}\{t^{1/2}\} = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2s^{3/2}}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{s^{1/2}} &= \mathcal{L}\{t^{-1/2}\} = \mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{1}{\sqrt{t}}\right\} = 2 \mathcal{L}\{y'(t)\} \quad \text{where } y(t) = \sqrt{t} \\ &= 2(sY(s) - y(0)) \\ &= 2s \mathcal{L}\{\sqrt{t}\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{L}\{\sqrt{t}\} = \frac{1}{2s} \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{\sqrt{s}} = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2s^{3/2}}$$

Another way to show $\mathcal{L}\{\sqrt{t}\} = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2s^{3/2}}$:

$$\mathcal{L}\{t^{1/2}\} = \frac{\Gamma(3/2)}{s^{3/2}}$$

How to find $\Gamma(3/2)$?

$$\Gamma(3/2) = \Gamma(1+1/2) = \frac{1}{2} \Gamma(1/2) = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\pi} \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}\{t^{1/2}\} = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2s^{3/2}}$$
