

# MA-108 Ordinary Differential Equations

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7th April, 2015  
D1 - Lecture 16

Recall: We computed inverse Laplace transform of  $P(s)/Q(s)$ , where  $P, Q$  are polynomials in  $s$  and degree of  $P$  is  $<$  degree of  $Q$ , using partial fractions of  $P/Q$ , linearity of  $L^{-1}$  and Laplace transforms of known functions.

We computed  $L(f') = sL(f) - f(0)$ .

$L(f'') = s^2L(f) - sf(0) - f'(0)$  etc.

We can solve IVP of constant coefficient ODE using Laplace transform.

Let's begin with an example.

**Ex:** Solve  $y'' + 2y' + 2y = 1$ ,  $y(0) = -3$ ,  $y'(0) = 1$ .

The equation has a unique solution  $\phi$  defined on all of  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Assume  $\phi$  is of exponential of order  $s_0$ . Then for all  $s \geq s_0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}L(\phi'') + 2L(\phi') + 2L(\phi) &= L(1) \\(s^2 L(\phi) - s\phi(0) - \phi'(0)) + 2(sL(\phi) - \phi(0)) + 2L(\phi) &= \frac{1}{s} \\(s^2 + 2s + 2)L(\phi) - (s + 2)\phi(0) - \phi'(0) &= \frac{1}{s} \\((s + 1)^2 + 1)L(\phi) + 3(s + 2) - 1 &= \frac{1}{s} \\L(\phi) = \frac{1 - (3s + 5)s}{((s + 1)^2 + 1)s} &= F(s)\end{aligned}$$

We want to compute  $L^{-1}(F(s))$ . We use partial fractions.

$$F(s) = \frac{-3s^2 - 5s + 1}{((s+1)^2 + 1)s} = \frac{A}{s} + \frac{B(s+1) + C}{(s+1)^2 + 1}$$

$$\implies -3s^2 - 5s + 1 = A((s+1)^2 + 1) + (B(s+1) + C)s$$

Let  $s = 0, -1, 1$ , to get the following equations.

$$1 = 2A, \quad 3 = A - C, \quad -7 = 5A + 2B + C$$

This implies  $A = 1/2$ ,  $C = -5/2$  and  $B = -7/2$ .

$$\implies L(\phi) = \frac{1}{2s} - \frac{7(s+1)}{2((s+1)^2 + 1)} - \frac{5}{2((s+1)^2 + 1)}$$

$$\implies \phi(t) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{7}{2}e^{-t} \cos t - \frac{5}{2}e^{-t} \sin t$$



**Ex.** More generally, to solve a constant coefficient IVP

$$y'' + py' + qy = r(t), \quad y(0) = a, \quad y'(0) = b, \quad p, q \in \mathbb{R}$$

let  $\phi$  be the unique solution, which has a Laplace transform for all  $s \geq s_0$ . Applying Laplace transform, we get

$$(s^2 L(\phi) - s\phi(0) - \phi'(0)) + p(sL(\phi) - \phi(0)) + qL(\phi) = L(r)$$

$$\implies (s^2 + ps + q)L(\phi) = L(r) + sa + b + pa$$

We can simply this to an equation  $L(\phi) = F(s)$  and compute the inverse Laplace transform of  $F$ , to get  $\phi(t)$ .

**Remark.** Although the unique solution exist on  $\mathbb{R}$ , Laplace transform gives solution only on  $[0, \infty)$ .

# Unit Step Function

Let us consider IVP with constant coefficients, where the forcing function  $r(t)$  is piecewise continuous. To solve it using Laplace transform, we need to find Laplace transform of piecewise continuous functions. To do this in a systematic way, let us begin with a definition.

## Definition

The **unit (or Heaviside) step function** is defined as

$$u(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 0 \\ 1, & t \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

Replacing  $t$  by  $t - a$ , we get

$$u(t - a) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < a \\ 1, & t \geq a \end{cases}$$

**Ex.** Express them in terms of unit step functions.

$$\bullet \text{ Ramp Function} = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 < t < a \\ t - a, & t > a \end{cases} = (t - a)u(t - a).$$

$$\bullet f(t) = \begin{cases} \sin t, & 0 < t < t_0 \\ t, & t \geq t_0 \end{cases} = \sin t + u(t - t_0)(t - \sin t).$$

$$\bullet f(t) = \begin{cases} \sin t, & 0 < t < t_0 \\ \cos t, & t_0 \leq t \leq t_1 \\ t, & t > t_1 \end{cases}$$
$$= \sin t + u(t - t_0)(\cos t - \sin t) + u(t - t_1)(t - \cos t).$$

$$\bullet f(t) = \begin{cases} f_1, & 0 \leq t < t_1 \\ f_2, & t_1 \leq t < t_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ f_n, & t_{n-1} \leq t \end{cases}$$
$$= f_1 + u(t - t_1)(f_2 - f_1) + \dots + u(t - t_{n-1})(f_n - f_{n-1}).$$

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**Q.** Why write a piecewise continuous function in terms of unit step functions? Because it simplifies computing its Laplace transform.

### Theorem (Second Shifting Theorem)

*Let  $g(t)$  be defined for  $t \geq 0$ . Assume  $L(g(t + a))$  exists for  $s > s_0$ , where  $a \geq 0$ . Then  $L(u(t - a)g(t))$  exists for  $s > s_0$ , and*

$$L(u(t - a)g(t)) = e^{-sa} L(g(t + a)).$$

**Proof.**

$$\begin{aligned} L(u(t - a)g(t)) &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} u(t - a) g(t) dt \\ &= \int_a^{\infty} e^{-st} g(t) dt = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-s(x+a)} g(x + a) dx \\ &= e^{-sa} L(g(t + a)) \end{aligned}$$

## Theorem (Second Shifting Theorem)

If  $a \geq 0$  and  $L(f)$  exists for  $s > s_0$ , then  $L(u(t-a)f(t-a))$  exists for  $s > s_0$  and

$$L(u(t-a)f(t-a)) = e^{-as}L(f(t)) = e^{-as}F(s).$$

**Ex.**  $L(u(t-a)) = e^{-as}L(1) = \frac{e^{-as}}{s}.$

**Ex.** If  $f(t) = t^2 + 1$ , find  $L(u(t-1)f(t))$ .

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

**Ex.** Find Laplace transform of

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & 0 \leq t < 2 \\ -2t + 1, & 2 \leq t < 3 \\ 3t, & 3 \leq t < 5 \\ t - 1, & t \geq 5 \end{cases}.$$

Write  $f(t)$  in terms of unit step functions as  $f(t) =$

$$1 + u(t-2)(-2t+1-1) + u(t-3)(3t-(-2t+1)) + u(t-5)(t-1-3t)$$

$$= 1 - 2u(t-2)t + u(t-3)(5t-1) - u(t-5)(2t+1).$$

Laplace transform  $L(f) =$

$$L(1) - e^{-2s}L(t+2) + e^{-3s}L(5(t+3)-1) - e^{-5s}L(2(t+5)+1)$$

$$= L(1) - e^{-2s}L(t+2) + e^{-3s}L(5t+14) - e^{-5s}L(2t+11)$$

$$= \frac{1}{s} - e^{-2s} \left( \frac{1}{s^2} + \frac{2}{s} \right) + e^{-3s} \left( \frac{5}{s^2} + \frac{14}{s} \right) - e^{-5s} \left( \frac{2}{s^2} + \frac{11}{s} \right).$$

**Ex.** Find the Laplace transform of

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} \sin t, & 0 \leq t < \frac{\pi}{2} \\ \cos t - 3 \sin t, & \frac{\pi}{2} \leq t < \pi \\ 3 \cos t, & t \geq \pi \end{cases}$$

Use

$$L(u(t-a)f(t)) = e^{-sa}L(f(t+a)).$$

Write

$$f(t) = \sin t + u\left(t - \frac{\pi}{2}\right)(\cos t - 4 \sin t) + u(t - \pi)(2 \cos t + 3 \sin t).$$

$$L(f) = \frac{1}{s^2 + 1} - e^{-\pi s/2} \left( \frac{1 + 4s}{s^2 + 1} \right) - e^{-\pi s} \left( \frac{3 + 2s}{s^2 + 1} \right)$$

**Ex.:** Find inverse Laplace transform of  $H(s) = \frac{e^{-2s}}{s}$ .

Use the fact that  $L(u(t-a)f(t-a)) = e^{-as}L(f(t))$ .

If  $f(t) = 1$ , then  $L(f) = \frac{1}{s}$  and  $f(t-2) = 1$ .

Hence  $L^{-1}(H) = u(t-2)f(t) = u(t-2)$ .

**Ex.** Find inverse Laplace transform of  $H(s) = \frac{e^{-2s}}{s^2}$ .

Here  $a = 2$ ,  $F(s) = \frac{1}{s^2} = L(t)$ . So  $f(t) = t$ .

Now  $L^{-1}\left(\frac{e^{-2s}}{s^2}\right) = u(t-2)(t-2)$ .

**Ex.** Find inverse Laplace transform of  $H(s) = \frac{e^{-2s}}{s-3}$ .

Here  $F(s) = \frac{1}{s-3} = L(e^{3t})$ .

Hence  $L^{-1}\left(\frac{e^{-2s}}{s-3}\right) = u(t-2)e^{3(t-2)}$ .

**Ex.** Find inverse Laplace transform of  $H(s) = \frac{e^{-2s}}{(s-3)^2}$ .

Here  $F(s) = \frac{1}{(s-3)^2} = L(te^{3t})$ . So  $f(t) = te^{3t}$ .

Now  $L^{-1}\left(\frac{e^{-2s}}{(s-3)^2}\right) = u(t-2)(t-2)e^{3(t-2)}$ .

**Ex.** Find inverse Laplace transform of

$$F(s) = e^{-s} \frac{1}{2s} - e^{-2s} \frac{(s+1)}{((s+1)^2 + 1)}.$$

$$L^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2s}\right) = \frac{1}{2}, \quad L^{-1}\left(\frac{7(s+1)}{2((s+1)^2 + 1)}\right) = e^{-t} \sin t$$

Hence

$$L^{-1}(F(s)) = \frac{1}{2}u(t-1) - u(t-2)e^{-(t-2)}\sin(t-2)$$

$$= \begin{cases} 0, & 0 \leq t < 1 \\ \frac{1}{2}, & 1 \leq t < 2 \\ -e^{-(t-2)}\sin(t-2) - \frac{1}{2}, & t \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

# IVP with peicewise continuous forcing functions

Consider the differential equation of the form

$$y'' + 3y' + 2y = \begin{cases} e^x & 0 < x \leq 2 \\ e^{-x} & 2 < x \end{cases}, y(0) = 1, y'(0) = -1.$$

From what we know, this IVP has a unique solution in the interval  $(0, 2)$  and if the IVP was defined on  $x_0 \in (2, \infty)$  then we would have a unique solution on  $(2, \infty)$ .

But its still possible to get a solution which is continuous on  $[0, \infty)$ . Let  $y_1$  be the unique solution to the given IVP on  $[0, 2)$ . Then evaluate  $y_1(2)$  and  $y_1'(2)$ .

Define a new IVP as

$y'' + 3y' + 2y = e^{-x}$ ,  $y(2) = y_1(2)$ ,  $y'(2) = y_1'(2)$ . This has a unique solution  $y_2$  on  $[2, \infty)$ .