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# Laplace Transform Lab: Solving ODEs using Laplace Transform in MATLAB

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This lab will teach you to solve ODEs using a built in MATLAB Laplace transform function `laplace`. Also in this lab, you will write your own ODE solver using Laplace transforms and check whether the result yields the correct answer.

You will learn how to use the `laplace` routine.

There are five (5) exercises in this lab that are to be handed in. Write your solutions in the template, including appropriate descriptions in each step. Save the m-file and submit it on Quercus.

Include your name and student number in the submitted file.

## Student Information

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## Using symbolic variables to define functions

Recall the use of symbolic variables and function explained in the MATLAB assignment #2.

```
syms t s x y;
```

```
f = cos(t);
```

```
h = exp(2*x);
```

## Laplace transform and its inverse

```
% The routine |laplace| computes the Laplace transform of a function
```

```
F=laplace(f)
```

```
F =
```

```
s/(s^2 + 1)
```

By default it uses the variable  $s$  for the Laplace transform But we can specify which variable we want:

```
H=laplace(h)
```

```
laplace(h,y)
```

```
% Observe that the results are identical: one in the variable |s| and  
the  
% other in the variable |y|
```

```
H =
```

```
1/(s - 2)
```

```
ans =
```

```
1/(y - 2)
```

We can also specify which variable to use to compute the Laplace transform:

```
j = exp(x*t)
```

```
laplace(j)
```

```
laplace(j,x,s)
```

```
% By default, MATLAB assumes that the Laplace transform is to be  
computed  
% using the variable |t|, unless we specify that we should use the  
variable  
% |x|
```

```
j =
```

```
exp(t*x)
```

```
ans =
```

```
1/(s - x)
```

```
ans =
```

```
1/(s - t)
```

We can also use inline functions with `laplace`. When using inline functions, we always have to specify the variable of the function.

```
l = @(t) t^2+t+1
laplace(l(t))
```

```
l =
```

```
function_handle with value:
```

```
@(t)t^2+t+1
```

```
ans =
```

```
(s + 1)/s^2 + 2/s^3
```

MATLAB also has the routine `ilaplace` to compute the inverse Laplace transform

```
ilaplace(F)
ilaplace(H)
ilaplace(laplace(f))
```

```
ans =
```

```
cos(t)
```

```
ans =
```

```
exp(2*t)
```

```
ans =
```

```
cos(t)
```

If `laplace` cannot compute the Laplace transform, it returns an unevaluated call.

```
g = 1/sqrt(t^2+1)
G = laplace(g)
```

```
g =
```

```
1/(t^2 + 1)^(1/2)
```

```
G =
```

```
laplace(1/(t^2 + 1)^(1/2), t, s)
```

But MATLAB "knows" that it is supposed to be a Laplace transform of a function. So if we compute the inverse Laplace transform, we obtain the original function

```
ilaplace(G)

ans =

1/(t^2 + 1)^(1/2)
```

The Laplace transform of a function is related to the Laplace transform of its derivative:

```
syms g(t)
laplace(diff(g,t),t,s)

ans =

s*laplace(g(t), t, s) - g(0)
```

## Exercise 1

Objective: Compute the Laplace transform and use it to show that MATLAB 'knows' some of its properties.

Details:

(a) Define the function  $f(t) = \exp(2t) * t^3$ , and compute its Laplace transform  $F(s)$ . (b) Find a function  $f(t)$  such that its Laplace transform is  $(s - 1) * (s - 2) / (s * (s + 2) * (s - 3))$  (c) Show that MATLAB 'knows' that if  $F(s)$  is the Laplace transform of  $f(t)$ , then the Laplace transform of  $\exp(at)f(t)$  is  $F(s-a)$

(in your answer, explain part (c) using comments).

Observe that MATLAB splits the rational function automatically when solving the inverse Laplace transform.

```
clear;
syms t s a;
f = @(t) exp(2*t)*t^3;
F = laplace(f(t));
disp('F:');
disp(F);

L = ((s - 1)*(s - 2))/(s*(s + 2)*(s - 3));
l = ilaplace(L);
disp('l:');
disp(l);

e = exp(a*t)*f(t);
```

```
E = laplace(e);
disp('E:');
disp(E);

%(c) F(s) = 6/(s - 2)^4. When I plug in 'a' as a symbolic variable,
matlab
%outputs E: 6/(a - s + 2)^4 thus showing that the Laplace transform of
%|exp(at)f(t)| is |F(s-a)|

F:
6/(s - 2)^4

l:
(6*exp(-2*t))/5 + (2*exp(3*t))/15 - 1/3

E:
6/(a - s + 2)^4
```

## Heaviside and Dirac functions

These two functions are builtin to MATLAB: heaviside is the Heaviside function  $u_0(t)$  at 0

To define  $u_2(t)$ , we need to write

```
f=heaviside(t-2);
ezplot(f,[-1,5]);

% The Dirac delta function (at |0|) is also defined with the routine
% |dirac|

g = dirac(t-3)

% MATLAB "knows" how to compute the Laplace transform of these
functions

laplace(f)
laplace(g)

g =

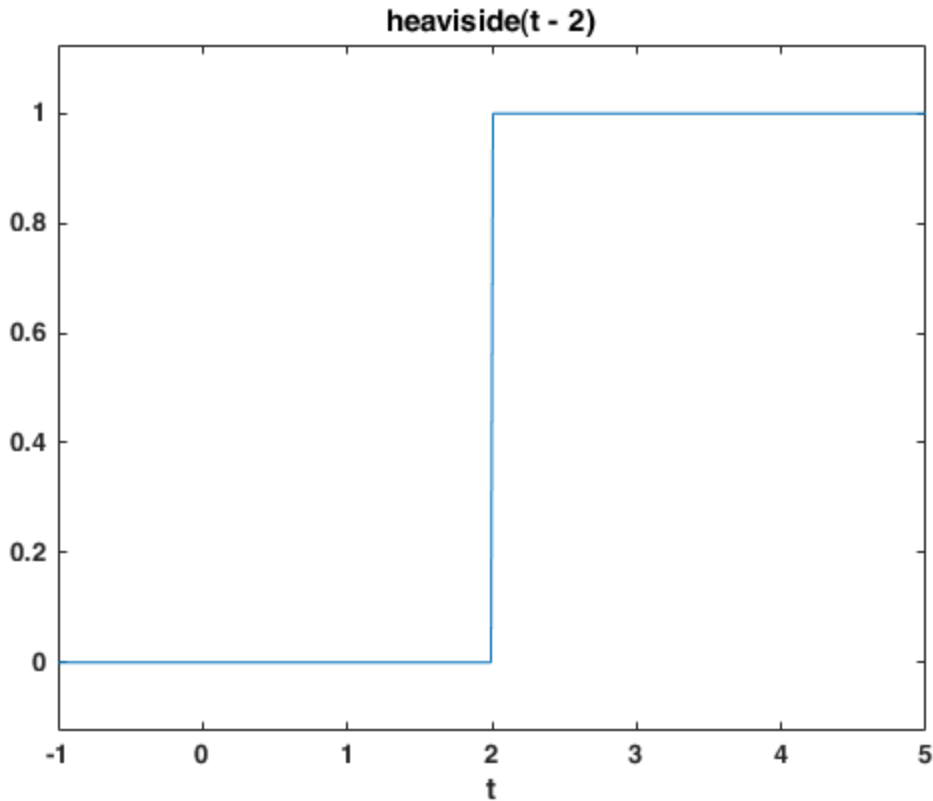
dirac(t - 3)

ans =

exp(-2*s)/s

ans =

exp(-3*s)
```



## Exercise 2

Objective: Find a formula comparing the Laplace transform of a translation of  $f(t)$  by  $t-a$  with the Laplace transform of  $f(t)$

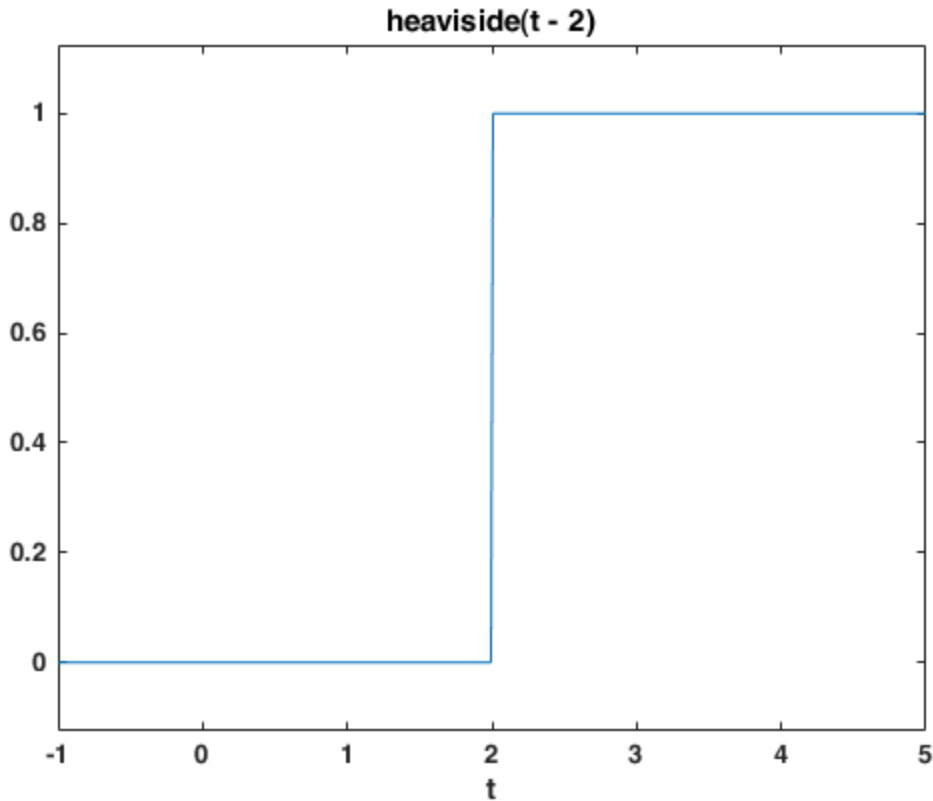
Details:

- Give a value to  $a$
- Let  $G(s)$  be the Laplace transform of  $g(t) = u_a(t) f(t-a)$  and  $F(s)$  is the Laplace transform of  $f(t)$ , then find a formula relating  $G(s)$  and  $F(s)$

In your answer, explain the 'proof' using comments.

```
syms a t;
u = heaviside(t-a);
f = @(t) exp(2*t)*t^3;
g = @(t) u*f(t-a);
F = laplace(f(t));
G = laplace(g(t));

% F = 6/(s - 2)^4 G = -laplace(exp(2*t - 2*a)*heaviside(t - a)*(a -
% t)^3,
% t, s) if we give a value to a such as 5: G = (6*exp(-5*s))/(s - 2)^4
% From
% this we can derive that |G = F * exp(-a*s)|
```



## Solving IVPs using Laplace transforms

Consider the following IVP,  $y'' - 3y' = 5t$  with the initial conditions  $y(0)=1$  and  $y'(0)=2$ . We can use MATLAB to solve this problem using Laplace transforms:

```
% First we define the unknown function and its variable and the
Laplace
% transform of the unknown

syms y(t) t Y s;

% Then we define the ODE

ODE = diff(y(t),t,2)-3*diff(y(t),t)-5*t == 0;

% Now we compute the Laplace transform of the ODE.

L_ODE = laplace(ODE);

% Use the initial conditions

L_ODE=subs(L_ODE,y(0),1);
L_ODE=subs(L_ODE, subs(diff(y(t), t), t, 0), 2);

% We then need to factor out the Laplace transform of |y(t)|
```

```
L_ODE = subs(L_ODE,laplace(y(t), t, s), Y);
Y=solve(L_ODE,Y);

% We now need to use the inverse Laplace transform to obtain the
% solution
% to the original IVP

y = ilaplace(Y)

% We can plot the solution

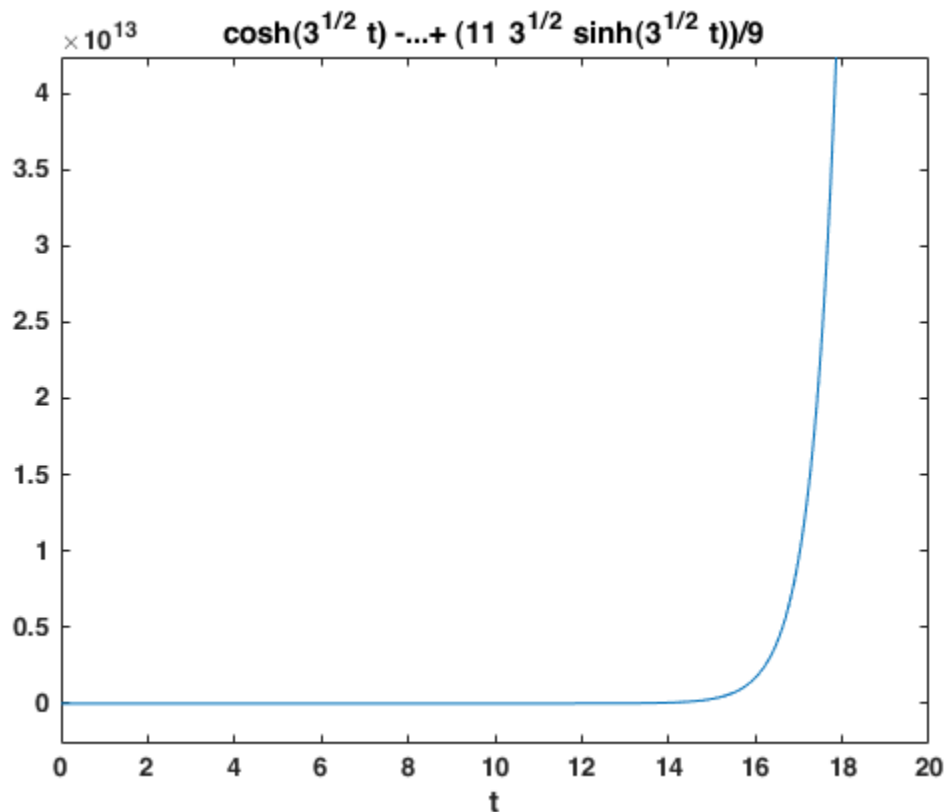
ezplot(y,[0,20]);

% We can check that this is indeed the solution

diff(y,t,2)-3*y;

y =

cosh(3^(1/2)*t) - (5*t)/3 + (11*3^(1/2)*sinh(3^(1/2)*t))/9
```



## Exercise 3

Objective: Solve an IVP using the Laplace transform



Details: Explain your steps using comments

- Solve the IVP
- $y''' + 2y'' + y' + 2y = -\cos(t)$
- $y(0)=0$ ,  $y'(0)=0$ , and  $y''(0)=0$
- for  $t$  in  $[0, 10\pi]$
- Is there an initial condition for which  $y$  remains bounded as  $t$  goes to infinity? If so, find it.

```
syms y(t) t Y s;
```

```
ODE = diff(y(t),t,3)+ 2*diff(y(t),t,2) + diff(y(t),t,1)+2*y(t) +  
cos(t) == 0;
```

```
L_ODE = laplace(ODE);
```

```
L_ODE=subs(L_ODE,y(0),0);
```

```
L_ODE=subs(L_ODE,subs(diff(y(t), 1), t, 0), 0);
```

```
L_ODE=subs(L_ODE,subs(diff(y(t), 2), t, 0), 0);
```

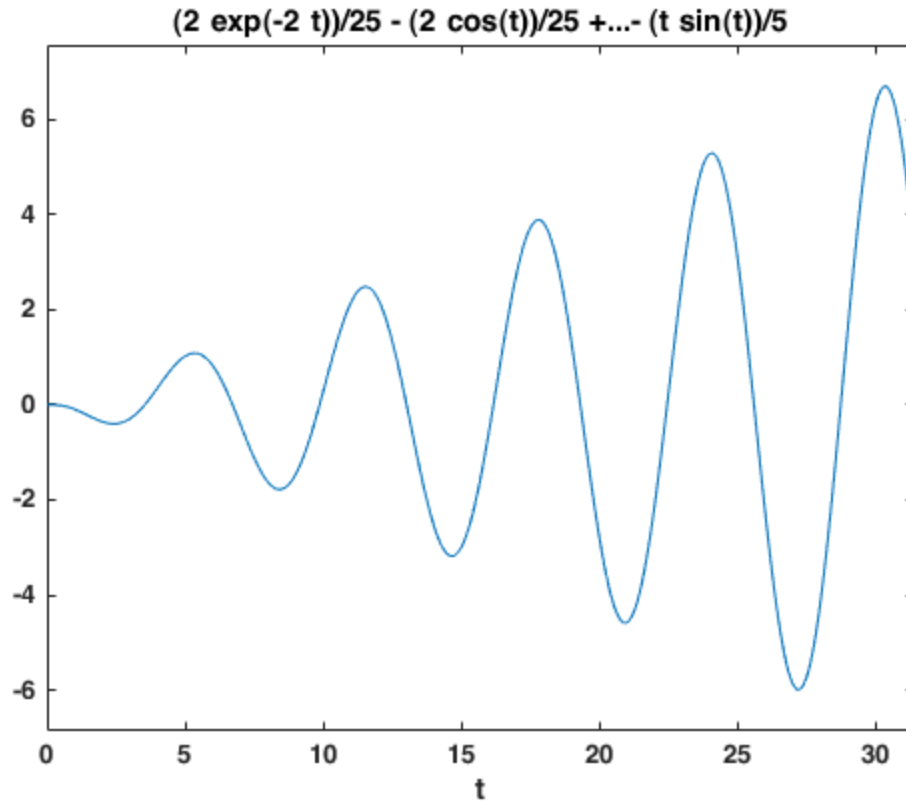
```
L_ODE = subs(L_ODE, laplace(y(t), t, s), Y);
```

```
Y=solve(L_ODE,Y);
```

```
y = ilaplace(Y);
```

```
ezplot(y,[0,10*pi]);
```

```
% No, there is no initial condition where y(t) is bounded because the  
% initial conditions do not affect the eigenvalues of an ODE.
```



## Exercise 4

Objective: Solve an IVP using the Laplace transform

Details:

- Define
- $g(t) = 3$  if  $0 < t < 2$
- $g(t) = t+1$  if  $2 < t < 5$
- $g(t) = 5$  if  $t > 5$
- Solve the IVP
- $y'' + 2y' + 5y = g(t)$
- $y(0) = 2$  and  $y'(0) = 1$
- Plot the solution for  $t$  in  $[0, 12]$  and  $y$  in  $[0, 2.25]$ .

In your answer, explain your steps using comments.

```
syms y(t) t Y s;
```

```
g = 3 + ((t+1)-3)*heaviside(t-2) + (5-(t+1))*heaviside(t-5);
```

```
ODE = diff(y(t),t,2) + 2*diff(y(t),t,1)+5*y(t) - g==0;

L_ODE = laplace(ODE);

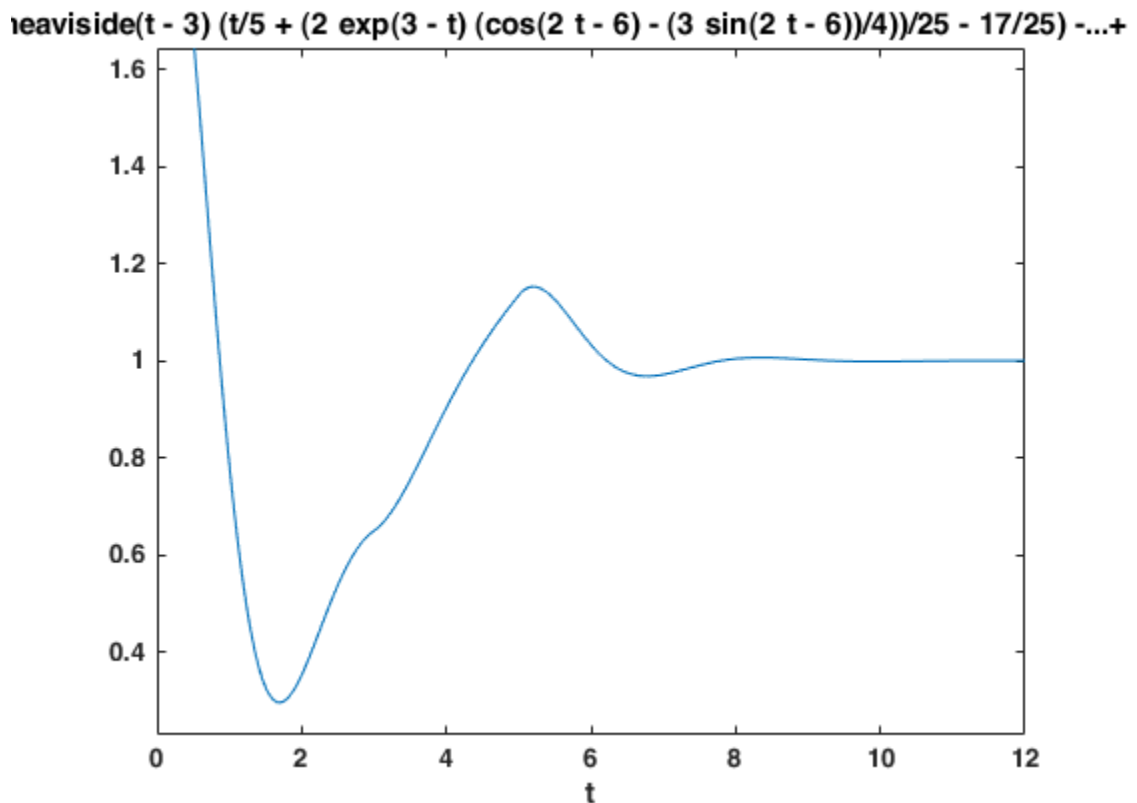
L_ODE=subs(L_ODE,y(0),2);
L_ODE=subs(L_ODE,subs(diff(y(t), 1), t, 0), 1);

L_ODE = subs(L_ODE, laplace(y(t), t, s), Y);

Y=solve(L_ODE,Y);

y = ilaplace(Y);

ezplot(y,[0,12]);
```



## Exercise 5a

Objective: Use the Laplace transform to solve an integral equation

Verify that MATLAB knows about the convolution theorem by explaining why the following transform is computed correctly.

```
syms t tau y(tau) s;
I=int(exp(-2*(t-tau))*y(tau),tau,0,t);
```

```
L_i = laplace(I,t,s);

% The laplace of the convolution integral is F(s)*G(s). Matlab
% demonstrates
% this because f(t-tau) is exp(-2*(t-tau)) and g(tau) is y(tau). In the
% solution from matlab, L_i is laplace(y(t), t, s)/(s + 2) with the
% laplace(y(t), t, s) being the laplace of f(t-tau) and the 1/(s+2)
% being
% the laplace of g(tau). This demonstrates how the convolution in the
% t-space is equal to multiplication in the s-space.
%
```

## Exercise 5b

A particular machine in a factory fails randomly and needs to be replaced. Suppose that the times  $t \geq 0$  between failures are independent and identically distributed with probability density function  $f(t)$ . The mean number of failures  $m(t)$  at time  $t$  satisfies the renewal equation  $m(t) = \int_0^t [1+m(t-\tau)] f(\tau) d\tau$

Details:

- Explain why the mean number of failures satisfies this integral equation. Note that  $m(0) = 0$ .
- Solve the renewal equation for  $m(t)$  using MATLAB symbolic computation in the cases of i) exponential failure times  $f(t) = \exp(-t)$  and ii) gamma-distributed failure times  $f(t) = t^{(k-1)} / (k-1)! \exp(-t)$  for natural number  $k$ . Why does MATLAB have difficulty with the calculation for  $k \geq 5$ ?
- Verify the elementary renewal theorem:  $m(t)/t$  approaches the reciprocal of the mean of  $f(t)$  as  $t$  goes to infinity.

```
syms t1 t2 Y1 Y2 tau1 tau2 k s1 s2 m_1(t) m_2(t);

f1 = @(t1) exp(-t1);
f2 = @(t2) t2^(k-1)/(factorial(k-1))*exp(-t2);

m1_1 = int((1+m_1(t1-tau1))*f1(tau1),tau1,0,t1)== m_1(t1);
m2_2 = int((1+m_2(t2-tau2))*f2(tau2),tau2,0,t2)== m_2(t2);

F_1 = laplace(m1_1,t1,s1);
F_2 = laplace(m2_2,t2,s2);

F_1 = subs(F_1,laplace(m_1(t1), t1, s1),Y1);
F_2 = subs(F_2,laplace(m_2(t2), t2, s2),Y2);

Y1 = solve(F_1, Y1);
Y2 = solve(F_2, Y2);

con_1 = ilaplace(Y1);
con_2 = ilaplace(Y2);
```

*Warning: Solutions are valid under the following*

*conditions:  $0 < \text{real}(k) \mid 2 \leq k$  &  $\text{in}(k, 'integer')$ .  
To include parameters and conditions in the solution, specify the 'ReturnConditions' value as 'true'.*

## My Answer:

(a) In the case of a probability distribution, all of the possibilities must also satisfy the integral of the distribution function. Since the integral is also equal to the convolution + the laplace transform of F which together =  $m(t)$ , and  $m(0) = 0$ , the mean number of failures must satisfy the integral equation.

```
% (b) Matlab has difficulty with the calculation for k>5 because as k
% increases, the value of it's factorial does too which needs to be
% calculated at each time step. This means that the calculation gets
% more
% and more complex every time k gets larger. Also, Matlab needs to
% take the
% laplace transform of the function every time which gets more and
% more
% complex every time k increases because k is factorialised.
```

```
% (c) To verify this, we calculate the limit as t->inf
syms t_lim;
```

```
g2 = int(t_lim * f2(t_lim), 0,inf);
```

```
lim_f2 = 1/limit(g2, t_lim, inf);
```

```
m_t = con_2/t;
```

```
lim2 = limit(m_t, t, inf);
```

```
disp(lim2==lim_f2);
```

```
%Since lim2 == lim_f2, the elementary renewal theorem holds
```

```
piecewise(gamma(k) == 0, 0, gamma(k) ~= 0, -
limit((gamma(k)*ilaplace(1/(s2*gamma(k) - s2*factorial(k -
1)*(s2 + 1)^k), s2, t))/t, t, Inf)) == piecewise(-1 < real(k),
factorial(k - 1)/gamma(k + 1), real(k) <= -1, factorial(k - 1)/
limit(int(t_lim*t_lim^(k - 1)*exp(-t_lim), t_lim, 0, Inf), t_lim,
Inf))
```

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