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inverse Laplace transform of derivatives

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It may be shown that the Laplace transform $F(s) = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} f(t) dt$ is always differentiable and that its derivative can be formed by <http://planetmath.org/Differentiation-under-the-integral-sign>, i.e. one has

$$F'(s) = \int_0^\infty \frac{\partial(e^{-st} f(t))}{\partial s} dt = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} (-t) f(t) dt.$$

This gives the rule

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F'(s)\} = -tf(t). \quad (1)$$

Applying (1) to $F'(s)$ instead of $F(s)$ gives

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F''(s)\} = t^2 f(t).$$

Continuing this way we can obtain the general rule

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\{F^{(n)}(s)\} = (-1)^n t^n f(t), \quad (2)$$

or equivalently

$$\mathcal{L}\{t^n f(t)\} = (-1)^n \cdot \frac{d^n \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}}{ds^n}, \quad (3)$$

for any $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ (and of course for $n = 0$).

Example. Let's find the Laplace transform of the first kind and 0th Bessel function

$$J_0(t) := \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^m}{(m!)^2} \left(\frac{t}{2}\right)^{2m},$$

which is the solution $y(t)$ of the Bessel's equation

$$ty''(t) + y'(t) + ty(t) = 0 \quad (4)$$

satisfying the initial condition $y(0) = 1$. The equation implies that $y'(0) = 0$.

By (3), the Laplace transform of the differential equation (4) is

$$-\frac{d\mathcal{L}\{y''(t)\}}{ds} + \mathcal{L}\{y'(t)\} - \frac{d\mathcal{L}\{y(t)\}}{ds} = 0.$$

Using here twice the rule 5 in the <http://planetmath.org/LaplaceTransformparent> entry gives us

$$-\frac{d(s^2Y(s) - s)}{ds} + sY(s) - 1 - \frac{dY(s)}{ds} = 0,$$

which is simplified to

$$(s^2 + 1)\frac{dY}{ds} + sY = 0,$$

i.e. to

$$\frac{dY}{Y} = -\frac{s ds}{s^2 + 1}.$$

Integrating this gives

$$\ln Y = -\frac{1}{2} \ln(s^2 + 1) + \ln C = \ln \frac{C}{\sqrt{s^2 + 1}},$$

i.e.

$$Y(s) = \frac{C}{\sqrt{s^2 + 1}}.$$

The initial condition enables to justify that the integration constant C must be 1. Thus we have the result

$$\mathcal{L}\{J_0(t)\} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{s^2 + 1}}.$$

References

- [1] K. VÄISÄLÄ: *Laplace-muunnos*. Handout Nr. 163. Teknillisen korkeakoulun ylioppilaskunta, Otaniemi, Finland (1968).