
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.

MAT292, Fall 2019, Stinchcombe & Parsch, modified from MAT292, Fall 2018, Stinchcombe & Khovanskii, modified from MAT292, Fall 2017, Stinchcombe & Sinnamon, modified from MAT292, Fall 2015, Sousa, based on MAT292, Fall 2013, Sinnamon & Sousa

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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)
```

```
f =
```

$\cos(t)$

$h =$

$\exp(2x)$

Laplace transform and its inverse

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

$F = \text{laplace}(f)$

$F =$

$s/(s^2 + 1)$

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

$H = \text{laplace}(h)$

$\text{laplace}(h, y)$

% 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:

$j = \exp(xt)$

$\text{laplace}(j)$

$\text{laplace}(j, x, s)$

% 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.

```
% a )
```

```
f = @(t) exp(2*t)* t^3
laplace(f(t))

% b)
F = @(s) ((s-1) * (s-2)) / (s*(s+2) *(s-3))
ilaplace(F(s))

% c)
syms f(t) F(s) a t s
F(s)= laplace(f(t))
laplace(exp(a*t)*f(t))
% Matlab understood that multiplying f(t) by e^(a*t) translates the
  laplace
% of f(t) by a

f =

function_handle with value:

    @(t)exp(2*t)*t^3

ans =

6/(s - 2)^4

F =

function_handle with value:

    @(s)((s-1)*(s-2))/(s*(s+2)*(s-3))

ans =

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

F(s) =

laplace(f(t), t, s)

ans =

laplace(f(t), t, s - a)
```

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)

f =

heaviside(t - 2)

g =

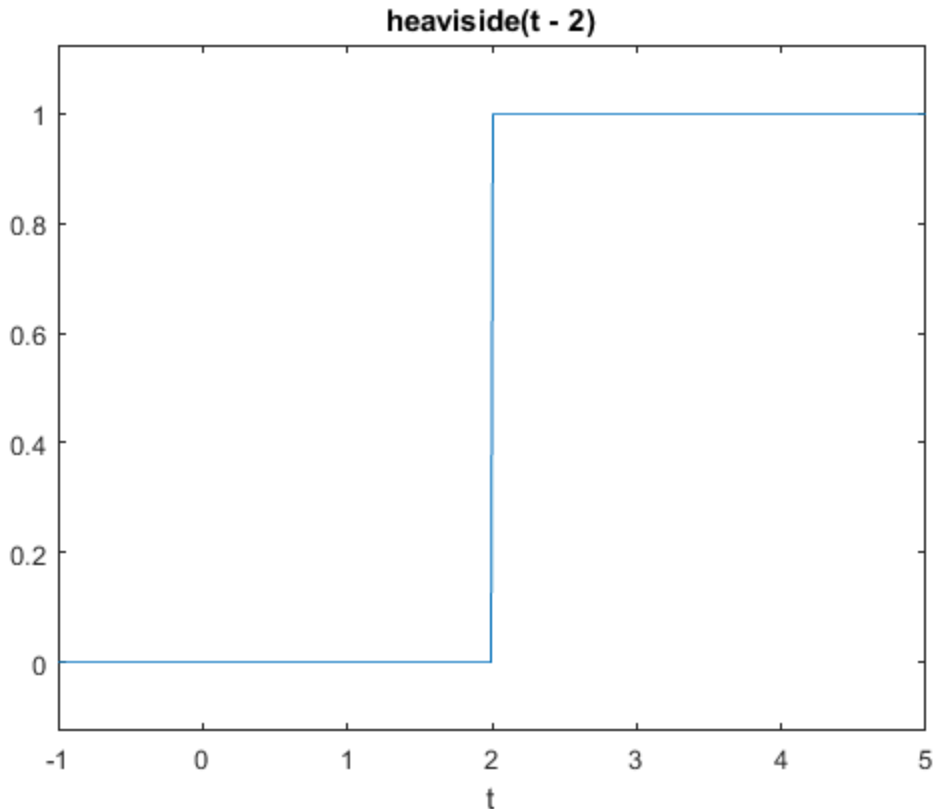
dirac(t - 3)

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.

```
%proof
% Let a be a value
% Let F(S) be the Laplace transform of f(t)
% Let G(S) be the Laplace transform of g(t) = u_a(t)*f(t-a)
% From laplace transform table, G(S) is exp(-a*s)*F(S)

syms f(t)
g = heaviside(t-3)*f(t-3);
F = laplace(f);
G = laplace(g);
disp(F)
disp(G)
```

```
laplace(f(t), t, s)
```

```
exp(-3*s)*laplace(f(t), t, 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*y(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
```

```
ODE =
```

```
diff(y(t), t, t) - 3*y(t) - 5*t == 0
```


$L_{ODE} =$

$$s^2 \text{laplace}(y(t), t, s) - s y(0) - \text{subs}(\text{diff}(y(t), t), t, 0) - 5/s^2 - 3 \text{laplace}(y(t), t, s) == 0$$

$L_{ODE} =$

$$s^2 \text{laplace}(y(t), t, s) - s - \text{subs}(\text{diff}(y(t), t), t, 0) - 5/s^2 - 3 \text{laplace}(y(t), t, s) == 0$$

$L_{ODE} =$

$$s^2 \text{laplace}(y(t), t, s) - s - 5/s^2 - 3 \text{laplace}(y(t), t, s) - 2 == 0$$

$L_{ODE} =$

$$Y s^2 - s - 3Y - 5/s^2 - 2 == 0$$

$Y =$

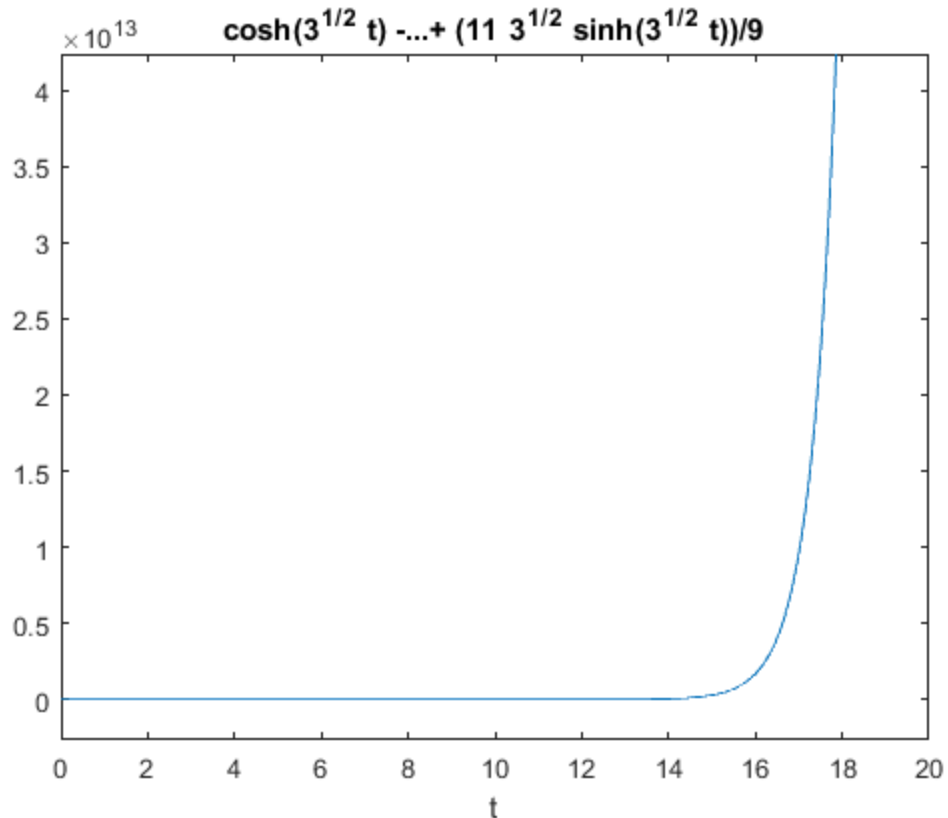
$$(s + 5/s^2 + 2)/(s^2 - 3)$$

$y =$

$$\cosh(3^{(1/2)}t) - (5t)/3 + (11 \cdot 3^{(1/2)} \sinh(3^{(1/2)}t))/9$$

$ans =$

$$5t$$



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.

`% 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,3) + 2*diff(y(t),t,2) + diff(y(t),t,1) + 2*y(t) + cos(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),0)
L_ODE=subs(L_ODE,subs(diff(y(t), t), t, 0),0)
L_ODE=subs(L_ODE,subs(diff(y(t), t,2),t, 0),0)

% 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,[0,10*pi])

% We can check that this is indeed the solution

diff(y,t,3) + 2*diff(y,t,2) + diff(y,t,1) + 2*y

% The general solution to this ODE is
%  $y(t) = c_3 \exp(-2t) + c_2 \sin(t) + c_1 \cos(t) - t \sin(t)/5 +$ 
%  $t \cos(t)/10$ .
% (derivation steps skipped; left as an exercise for the reader)

% The terms  $-t \sin(t)/5$  and  $t \cos(t)/10$  will cause this function to grow
  while
% oscillating as  $t$  goes to infinity. Since these two terms are not
  reliant
% on the coefficients, no set of initial conditions will cause the
  function
% to be bounded as  $t$  goes to infinity.

ODE =

cos(t) + 2*y(t) + diff(y(t), t) + 2*diff(y(t), t, t) + diff(y(t), t,
  t, t) == 0

L_ODE =

s*laplace(y(t), t, s) - y(0) - 2*s*y(0) - s*subs(diff(y(t), t), t, 0)
+ s/(s^2 + 1) + 2*s^2*laplace(y(t), t, s) + s^3*laplace(y(t), t, s) -
2*subs(diff(y(t), t), t, 0) - s^2*y(0) - subs(diff(y(t), t, t), t, 0)
+ 2*laplace(y(t), t, s) == 0

```

`L_ODE =`

```
s*laplace(y(t), t, s) - s*subs(diff(y(t), t), t, 0) + s/(s^2
+ 1) + 2*s^2*laplace(y(t), t, s) + s^3*laplace(y(t), t, s) -
2*subs(diff(y(t), t), t, 0) - subs(diff(y(t), t, t), t, 0) +
2*laplace(y(t), t, s) == 0
```

`L_ODE =`

```
s*laplace(y(t), t, s) + s/(s^2 + 1) + 2*s^2*laplace(y(t), t,
s) + s^3*laplace(y(t), t, s) - subs(diff(y(t), t, t), t, 0) +
2*laplace(y(t), t, s) == 0
```

`L_ODE =`

```
s*laplace(y(t), t, s) + s/(s^2 + 1) + 2*s^2*laplace(y(t), t, s) +
s^3*laplace(y(t), t, s) + 2*laplace(y(t), t, s) == 0
```

`L_ODE =`

```
2*Y + Y*s + s/(s^2 + 1) + 2*Y*s^2 + Y*s^3 == 0
```

`Y =`

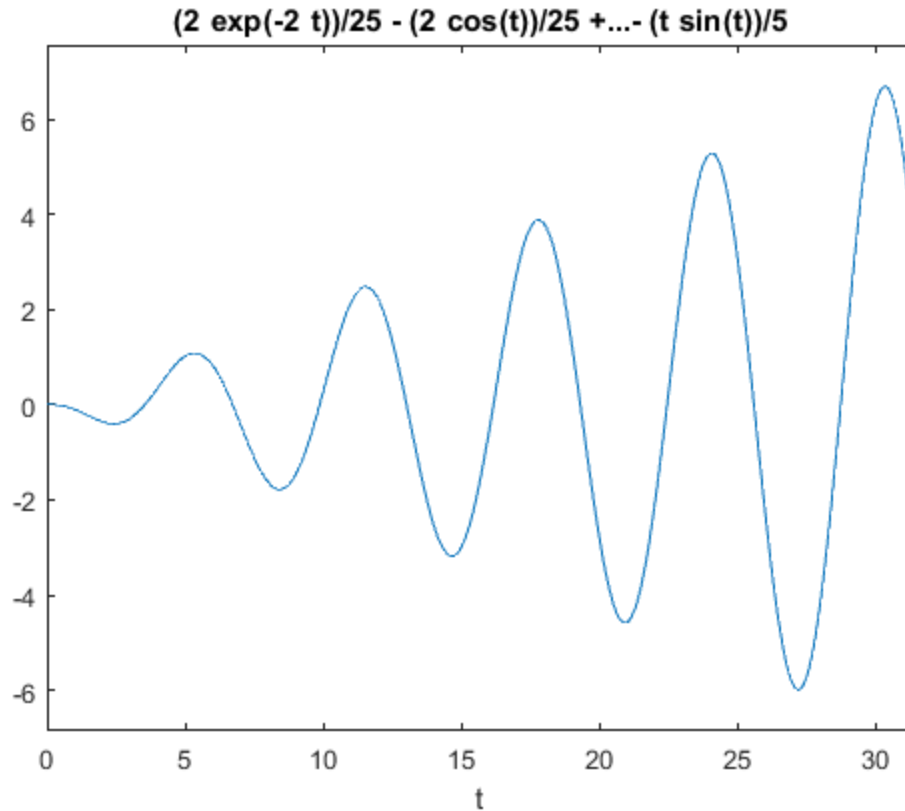
```
-s/((s^2 + 1)*(s^3 + 2*s^2 + s + 2))
```

`y =`

```
(2*exp(-2*t))/25 - (2*cos(t))/25 + (3*sin(t))/50 + (t*cos(t))/10 -
(t*sin(t))/5
```

`ans =`

```
-cos(t)
```



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.

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

```
% tranform of the unknown

syms syms y(t) t Y s g(t)

% Define g(t) using heaviside function for discontinuity
g(t) = 3*heaviside(t) + (t-2)*heaviside(t-2) + (4-t)*heaviside(t-5);

% Then we define the ODE

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

% Now we compute the Laplace transform of the ODE.

L_ODE = laplace(ODE)

% Use the initial conditions

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

% 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

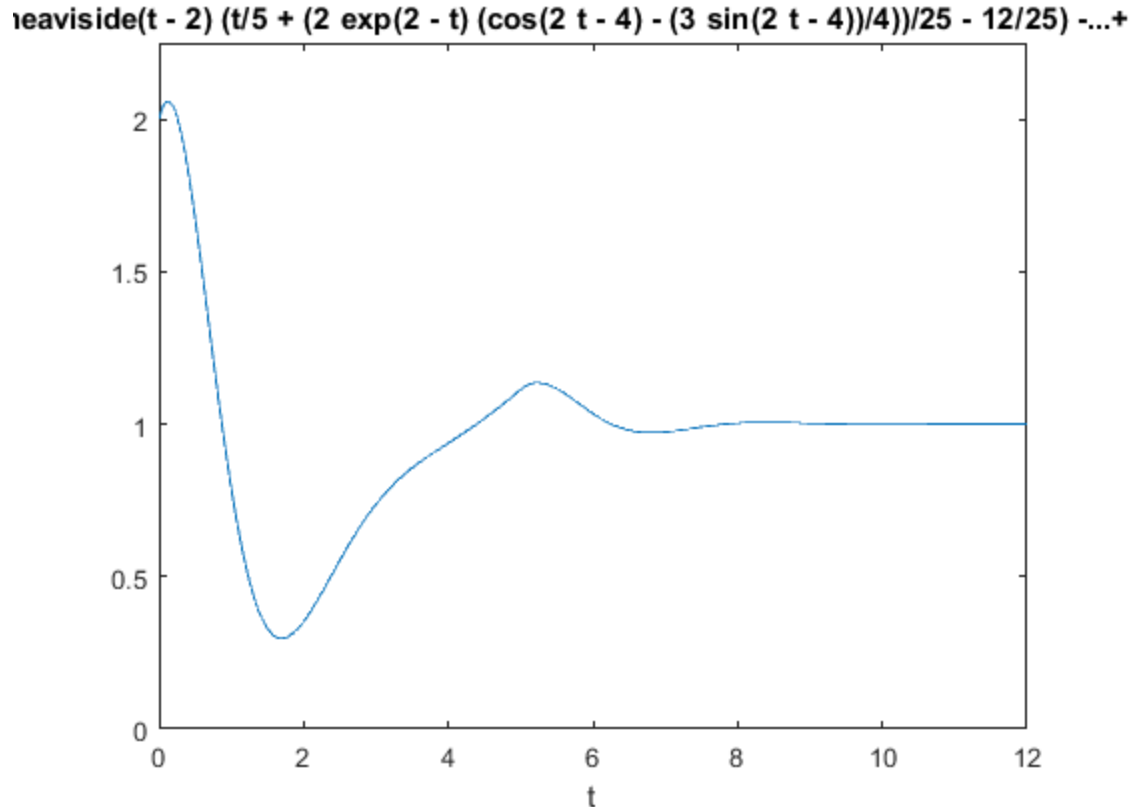
y = ilaplace(Y);

% We can plot the solution

ezplot(y,[0,12,0,2.25])

L_ODE =

2*s*laplace(y(t), t, s) - 2*y(0) - s*y(0) + s^2*laplace(y(t), t, s) -
subs(diff(y(t), t), t, 0) + 5*laplace(y(t), t, s) == exp(-2*s)/s^2 +
3/s - (exp(-5*s)*(s + 1))/s^2
```



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)
laplace(I,t,s)

% The laplace transform of the convolution of exp(-2t) and y(t) will
% be the product
% of the individual functions' laplace transformations. The laplace
% transform of exp(-2t) is 1/(s+2) and the transform for y(t) is
% laplace(y(t),t,s) in MATLAB notation. So the computed laplace should
% be
% laplace(y(t),t,s)/(s+2), which matches the MATLAB computation.
% Therefore, MATLAB knows about the convolution
% theorem and was able to correctly compute the laplace transformation.
```

$I =$

```
int(exp(2*tau - 2*t)*y(tau), tau, 0, t)
```

`ans =`

`laplace(y(t), t, s)/(s + 2)`

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.

```
% The integrand represents the probability of the machine failing at
% time t.
% The integration computes the mean number of failures over the time
% interval [0,t].

% From the expected value formula, the mean/expected number of failures
% at time t, m(t), is
% int_0^t[n(t-tau)*f(tau)dt] where f(tau) is the probability of a
% failure occurring at time
% tau and n(t-tau) is the total number of failures between time tau
% and time t. Now, the mean
% number of failures between time tau and time t is m(t-tau) since the
% number of failures
% at time t is m(t). When tau=t, m(t-tau)=m(t-t)=m(0)=0 as stated in
% the exercise. If it is
% assumed failure always occurs at the interval endpoint, n(t-
% tau)=1+m(t-tau).
% Therefore m(t) = int_0^t[(1+m(t-tau))*f(tau)dt].

% m(t) is defined as the convolution between (1+m) and f.
% Then the laplace transform of m(t), M, is the product of the laplace
% of (1+m) and the laplace of f.
% i.e. M = L(1+m)*L(f)
%      = (1/s + M)*L((t^(k-1)/(k-1)!)*e^(-t))
%      = (1/s + M)*((s+1)^-k)
%      = (1/s + M)/((s+1)^k)
% Solving for M gives 1/(s((s+1)^k-1)).
% To calculate the inverse laplace of M, partial fractions must be
% used. Note that as k increases,
```


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```
% this becomes computationally intensive because the higher order
denominator decomposes into more terms.
% Therefore, increasing k will result in an increase in MATLAB's
computation time for  $L^{-1}(M)$ .
% This effect starts to become noticable when k equals 5.

% Define variables
syms t tau f(t) ma(t) mb(t) Ma Mb

% Probability function is  $\exp(-t)$ 
f = exp(-t); % Probability distribution function
eq = ma(t)-int((ma(t-tau)+1)*subs(f,t,tau),tau,0,t)==0; % ODE form of
m(t)
leq = laplace(eq); % Laplace transform
leq = subs(leq,laplace(ma),Ma); % Replace laplace variable
Ma = solve(leq,Ma); % Solve laplace equation
ma = ilaplace(Ma) % Take the inverse laplace
mean = subs(int(t*f,t,0,inf)) % Mean of f(t)
check = subs(ma/t,t,inf) % ma/t as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ 
% Elementary renewal theorem is verified

% Probability function is  $t^{(k-1)}/(k-1)! \exp(-t)$ 
k = 5; % Let k = 5
f = (t^(k-1)/factorial(k-1)) * exp(-t); % Define probability
distribution function
eq = mb(t)-int((mb(t-tau)+1)*subs(f,t,tau),tau,0,t)==0; % ODE form of
m(t)
leq = laplace(eq); % Laplace transform
leq = subs(leq,laplace(mb),Mb); % Replace laplace variable
Mb = solve(leq,Mb); % Solve laplace equation
mb = vpa(simplify(ilaplace(Mb))) % Take the inverse laplace, vpa is
used to simplify the equation but introduces computation error
mean = subs(int(t*f,t,0,inf)) % Mean of f(t)
check = subs(mb/t,t,1e20) % A large number is used to represent
infinity as the integral becomes too complex for MATLAB to compute
% Elementary renewal theorem is verified

ma =

t

mean =

1

check =

1

mb =
```
