

Example 1. Find the inverse Laplace transform of

$$(a) \frac{s^2+1}{s^3+3s^2+2s} \quad (b) \frac{1}{s^3-a^3}$$

(a) Here the denominator $= s(s^2 + 3s + 2) = s(s + 1)(s + 2)$

$$\therefore \text{ Let } \frac{s^2 + 1}{s^3 + 3s^2 + 2s} = \frac{A}{s} + \frac{B}{s + 1} + \frac{C}{s + 2}$$

Multiplying both sides by $s(s + 1)(s + 2)$, we obtain

$$s^2 + 1 = A(s + 1)(s + 2) + Bs(s + 2) + Cs(s + 1)$$

$$\text{Putting } s = 0, \quad 1 = 2A \Rightarrow A = \frac{1}{2}$$

...(i)

$$\text{Putting } s = -1, \quad 2 = -B \Rightarrow B = -2$$

...(ii)

$$\text{Putting } s = -2, \quad 5 = 2C \Rightarrow C = \frac{5}{2}$$

...(iii)

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore L^{-1} \left[\frac{s^2 + 1}{s(s + 1)(s + 2)} \right] &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot L^{-1} \left[\frac{1}{s} \right] - 2 L^{-1} \left[\frac{1}{s + 1} \right] + \frac{5}{2} L^{-1} \left[\frac{1}{s + 2} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} - 2 e^{-t} + \frac{5}{2} e^{-2t} \end{aligned}$$

(b) Here the denominator, $= (s - a)(s^2 + as + a^2)$

$$\therefore \text{ Let } \frac{1}{(s - a)(s^2 + as + a^2)} = \frac{A}{s - a} + \frac{Bs + C}{s^2 + as + a^2}$$

Multiplying both sides by $(s - a)(s^2 + as + a^2)$, we obtain

$$1 = A(s^2 + as + a^2) + (Bs + C)(s - a)$$

Equating s^2 coefficients, $0 = A + B$

...(i)

Equating s coefficients, $0 = aA - aB + C$

...(ii)

Equating constant terms, $1 = a^2A - aC$

...(iii)

Solving (i), (ii), (iii) we obtain, $A = \frac{1}{3}a^2, B = -\frac{1}{3}a^2, C = -\frac{2}{3}a$

...(iv)

$$\begin{aligned}
L^{-1}\left[\frac{1}{s^3 - a^3}\right] &= A.L^{-1}\left[\frac{1}{s - a}\right] + B.L^{-1}\left[\frac{s}{s^2 + as + a^2}\right] + CL^{-1}\left[\frac{s}{s^2 + as + a^2}\right] \\
&= Ae^{at} + BL^{-1}\left[\frac{\left(s + \frac{a}{2}\right)}{\left(s + \frac{a}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}a}{2}\right)^2}\right] \\
&\quad + \left(C - \frac{a}{2}B\right)L^{-1}\left[\frac{1}{\left(s + \frac{a}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}a}{2}\right)^2}\right] \\
&= Ae^{at} + B.e^{-\frac{a}{2}t}.\cos\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}a}{2}t\right) \\
&\quad + \left(C - \frac{a}{2}B\right)\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}a}.e^{-\frac{at}{2}}.\sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}at}{2}\right) \\
&= \frac{e^{at}}{3a^2} - \frac{e^{-\frac{a}{2}t}}{3a^2}.\cos\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}a}{2}t\right) - \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}a}.e^{-\frac{at}{2}}.\sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}at}{2}\right) \\
&= \frac{e^{at}}{3a^2} - \frac{e^{-\frac{a}{2}t}}{3a^2}\left[\cos\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}a}{2}t\right) + \sqrt{3}.\sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}at}{2}\right)\right]
\end{aligned}$$

Example 2. Find the inverse Laplace transform of

(a) $\frac{s^3}{s^4 - 16}$ (b) $\frac{s}{s^4 + s^2 + 1}$

(a) Here the denominator = $(s^2 + 4)(s^2 - 4)$

$$\therefore \text{Let } \frac{s^3}{(s^2 + 4)(s^2 - 4)} = \frac{As + B}{s^2 + 4} + \frac{Cs + D}{s^2 - 4}$$

Multiplying both sides by $(s^2 + 4)(s^2 - 4)$, we obtain,

$$s^3 = (As + B)(s^2 - 4) + (Cs + D)(s^2 + 4)$$

Equating the coefficient s^3 gives, $A + C = 1$

Equating the coefficient s^2 gives, $B + D = 0$

Equating the coefficient s gives, $-4A + 4C = 0$

Equating the constant terms gives, $-4B + 4D = 0$

Solving we obtain, $A = C = \frac{1}{2}, B = D = 0$

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore L^{-1} \left[\frac{s^3}{s^4 - 16} \right] &= \frac{1}{2} L^{-1} \left[\frac{s}{s^2 + 4} \right] + \frac{1}{2} L^{-1} \left[\frac{s}{s^2 - 4} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (\cos 2t + \cosh 2t)\end{aligned}$$

(b) Here $\frac{s}{s^4 + s^2 + 1} = \frac{s}{(s^2 + s + 1)(s^2 - s + 1)} = \frac{As + B}{s^2 + s + 1} + \frac{Cs + D}{s^2 - s + 1}$
 $\Rightarrow s = (As + B)(s^2 - s + 1) + (Cs + D)(s^2 + s + 1)$

Equating the coefficient s^3 gives, $A + C = 0$

Equating the coefficient s^2 gives, $-A + B + C + D = 0$

Equating the coefficient s gives, $A - B + C + D = 1$

Equating the constant terms gives, $B + D = 0$

Solving we obtain, $A = C = 0, B = -\frac{1}{2}, D = \frac{1}{2}$

$$\begin{aligned}L^{-1} \left[\frac{s}{s^4 + s^2 + 1} \right] &= -\frac{1}{2} L^{-1} \left[\frac{1}{s^2 + s + 1} \right] + \frac{1}{2} L^{-1} \left[\frac{1}{s^2 - s + 1} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} L^{-1} \left[\frac{1}{\left(s + \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)^2} \right] + \frac{1}{2} L^{-1} \left[\frac{1}{\left(s - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)^2} \right] \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} e^{-\frac{t}{2}} \sin \left(\frac{\sqrt{3} t}{2} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} e^{\frac{t}{2}} \sin \left(\frac{\sqrt{3} t}{2} \right) \\ &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \sin \left(\frac{\sqrt{3} t}{2} \right) \sinh \left(\frac{t}{2} \right)\end{aligned}$$

Some Special Results on Laplace Transform:

I. L.T. of Derivatives:

(a) If $L[f(t)] = \bar{f}(s)$ and $f'(t)$ be continuous then

$$L[f'(t)] = s\bar{f}(s) - f(0)$$

Proof: Here $L[f'(t)] = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f'(t) dt = 0 - f(0) + s\bar{f}(s)$
 $= s\bar{f}(s) - f(0)$

Hence the result is proved.

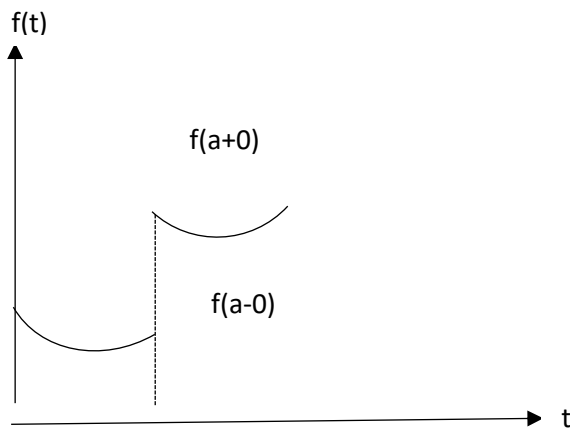


Fig. 1

(b) If the function $f(t)$ be piecewise continuous (say an ordinary discontinuity at $t=a$), then

$$L[f'(t)] = s\bar{f}(s) - f(0) - [f(a+0) - f(a-0)]e^{-as}$$

(c) If $f(t)$ and its first $(n-1)$ derivatives be continuous then

$$L[f^n(t)] = s^n \bar{f}(s) - s^{n-1}f(0) - s^{n-2}f'(0) \dots - f^{n-1}(0)$$

Here applying repeatedly the integration by parts and assuming

$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{-st} \cdot f^m(t) = 0$, $m = 0, 1, 2, \dots, (n-1)$, we obtain the above result.

Example 1. Find $L[\sin^2 t]$

Let $f(t) = \sin^2 t$

$$f'(t) = 2 \sin t \cos t = \sin 2t$$

We have, $L[f'(t)] = s\bar{f}(s) - f(0)$

$$\Rightarrow L[\sin 2t] = s\bar{f}(s) - 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2}{s^2 + 4} = s\bar{f}(s) \Rightarrow \bar{f}(s) = \frac{2}{s(s^2 + 4)}$$

Example 2. Find $L[t \cos t]$

Let $f(t) = t \cos t$

$$f'(t) = \cos t - t \sin t$$

$$f''(t) = -2 \sin t - t \cos t$$

$$f(0) = 0, \quad f'(0) = 1$$

$$\therefore L[f''(t)] = s^2 \bar{f}(s) - s f(0) - f'(0)$$

$$\Rightarrow L[-2 \sin t - t \cos t] = s^2 \bar{f}(s) - 1$$

$$\Rightarrow -2 L[\sin t] - L[t \cos t] = s^2 \bar{f}(s) - 1$$

$$\Rightarrow -2 \frac{1}{s^2 + 1} - \bar{f}(s) = s^2 \bar{f}(s) - 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \bar{f}(s) = \frac{s^2 - 1}{(s^2 + 1)^2}$$

II. L.T of Integration:

If $L[f(t)] = \bar{f}(s)$, then $L\left[\int_0^t f(u)du\right] = \frac{\bar{f}(s)}{s}$

Alt. $L^{-1}\left[\frac{\bar{f}(s)}{s}\right] = \int_0^t f(u)du$

Proof: Let $\phi(t) = \int_0^t f(u)du$
 $\Rightarrow \phi'(t) = f(t)$ and $\phi(0) = 0$

$$L[\phi'(t)] = s \bar{\phi}(s) - \phi(0) \Rightarrow L[f(t)] = s \bar{\phi}(s)$$

$$\Rightarrow \bar{\phi}(s) = \frac{L[f(t)]}{s} = \frac{\bar{f}(s)}{s} \Rightarrow L\left[\int_0^t f(u)du\right] = \frac{\bar{f}(s)}{s}$$

Example 3. Find $L[\int_0^t e^{-t} \cos t dt]$

Let $f(t) = e^{-t} \cos t$

$$\because L[\cos t] = \frac{s}{s^2 + 1}$$

$$L[f(t)] = \frac{s+1}{(s+1)^2 + 1} = \frac{s+1}{s^2 + 2s + 2}$$

Hence $L\left[\int_0^t e^{-t} \cos t dt\right] = \frac{s+1}{s(s^2 + 2s + 2)}$

Example 4. Find $L^{-1}\left[\frac{1}{s^2(s^2 + a^2)}\right]$

We know $L^{-1}\left[\frac{1}{s^2 + a^2}\right] = \frac{1}{a} \sin at$

Then $L^{-1}\left[\frac{1}{s(s^2 + a^2)}\right] = \int_0^t \frac{1}{a} \sin au du = \frac{1}{a^2} (1 - \cos at)$

Again, $L^{-1}\left[\frac{1}{s^2(s^2 + a^2)}\right] = \int_0^t \frac{1}{a^2} (1 - \cos au) du = \frac{1}{a^2} \left(t - \frac{\sin at}{a}\right)$

Example 5. Find $L^{-1}\left[\frac{s-a}{s^2(s^2 + a^2)}\right]$

Now, $L^{-1}\left[\frac{s-a}{s^2(s^2 + a^2)}\right] = L^{-1}\left[\frac{1}{s(s^2 + a^2)} - \frac{a}{s^2(s^2 + a^2)}\right]$

$$= L^{-1}\left[\frac{1}{s(s^2 + a^2)}\right] - L^{-1}\left[\frac{a}{s^2(s^2 + a^2)}\right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{a^2} (1 - \cos at) - \frac{1}{a} \left(t - \frac{\sin at}{a} \right)$$

III. Multiplication by t^n

If $L[f(t)] = \bar{f}(s)$, then

$$L[t^n f(t)] = (-1)^n \frac{d^n}{ds^n} [\bar{f}(s)], \quad \text{where } n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Proof: We have $\int_0^\infty e^{-st} f(t) dt = \bar{f}(s) = L\{f(t)\}$

Differentiate both sides w.r.t. s using Leibnitz Rule for differentiation under integral sign we obtain,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty \frac{\partial}{\partial s} (e^{-st}) f(t) dt &= \frac{d}{ds} [\bar{f}(s)] \\ \Rightarrow \int_0^\infty -t e^{-st} \cdot f(t) dt &= \frac{d}{ds} [\bar{f}(s)] \\ \int_0^\infty e^{-st} [t f(t)] dt &= -\frac{d}{ds} [\bar{f}(s)] \\ \text{i.e. } L\{t f(t)\} &= -\frac{d}{ds} [\bar{f}(s)] \end{aligned}$$

Hence the result is true for $n = 1$

Let it be true for $n=m$

$$\therefore \int_0^\infty e^{-st} [t^m f(t)] dt = (-1)^m \cdot \frac{d^m}{ds^m} [\bar{f}(s)]$$

Differentiate both sides w.r.t. s using Leibnitz Rule for differentiation, we obtain,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty -t \cdot e^{-st} [t^m f(t)] dt &= (-1)^m \cdot \frac{d^{m+1}}{ds^{m+1}} [\bar{f}(s)] \\ \Rightarrow \int_0^\infty e^{-st} [t^{m+1} f(t)] dt &= (-1)^{m+1} \cdot \frac{d^{m+1}}{ds^{m+1}} [\bar{f}(s)] \end{aligned}$$

This shows that the result is true for $n=m+1$

It is true for $n=1$. It implies that it is true for $n=1+1=2$, $2+1=3$, ... and so on.

\therefore The result is true for all positive integral values of n .

Note: From the above result, we can also obtain the following:

$$L^{-1} \left[(-1)^n \frac{d^n}{ds^n} [\bar{f}(s)] \right] = t^n f(t), \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Example 6. Find $L[t \cos t]$

Let $f(t) = \cos t$

$$L[f(t)] = \frac{s}{s^2 + 1}$$

$$\therefore L[t \cos t] = (-1) \frac{d}{ds} \left(\frac{s}{s^2 + 1} \right) = \frac{s^2 - 1}{(s^2 + 1)^2}$$

Example 7. Find $L[t^2 \sinh(at)]$

Let $f(t) = \sinh at$, $L[f(t)] = \frac{a}{s^2 - a^2}$

$$L[tf(t)] = (-1) \cdot \frac{d}{ds} \left(\frac{a}{s^2 - a^2} \right) = \frac{2as}{(s^2 - a^2)^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} L[t^2 f(t)] &= (-1) \frac{d}{ds} \left(\frac{2as}{(s^2 - a^2)^2} \right) \\ &= - \frac{(s^2 - a^2) \cdot 2a - 2as \cdot 2(s^2 - a^2) \cdot 2s}{(s^2 - a^2)^4} \\ &= \frac{2a(3s^2 + a^2)}{(s^2 - a^2)^3} \end{aligned}$$

IV. Division by t

If $L[f(t)] = \bar{f}(s)$, then $L\left[\frac{f(t)}{t}\right] = \int_s^\infty \bar{f}(p) dp$

Proof: We have, $\bar{f}(s) = \int_0^\infty f(t) e^{-st} dt$

Integrating from s to ∞ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_s^\infty \bar{f}(p) dp &= \int_s^\infty \left[\int_0^\infty f(t) e^{-pt} dt \right] dp \\ &= \int_0^\infty \left[\int_s^\infty e^{-pt} dp \right] f(t) dt \quad (\text{Change the order of integrating}) \\ &= \int_0^\infty \left[\frac{e^{-pt}}{-t} \right]_s^\infty f(t) dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{-st} \cdot \frac{f(t)}{t} dt \\ &= L\left[\frac{f(t)}{t}\right] \end{aligned}$$

Note. $L^{-1}\left[\int_s^\infty \bar{f}(p) dp\right] = \frac{f(t)}{t}$

Example 10. Prove that $L\left[\frac{\sin t}{t}\right] = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{s}\right)$ and hence find $L\left[\frac{\sin at}{t}\right]$.

Let $f(t) = \sin t$ and $L[f(t)] = \frac{1}{s^2+1}$

$$\therefore L\left[\frac{f(t)}{t}\right] = \int_s^\infty \frac{ds}{s^2+1} = [\tan^{-1} s]_s^\infty = \frac{\pi}{2} - \tan^{-1} s = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{s}\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Also, } L\left[\frac{\sin at}{t}\right] &= a \cdot L\left[\frac{\sin at}{at}\right] = a \cdot \frac{1}{a} \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{\frac{s}{a}}\right) \quad (\text{by scale change property}) \\ &= \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{a}{s}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Example 4: (problem on the property ‘division by t’)

Prove that, $\int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-at} - e^{-bt}}{t} dt = \ln(b/a)$

Solution:

Let, $f(t) = e^{-at} - e^{-bt}$

$$L[f(t)] = L[e^{-at}] - L[e^{-bt}] = \frac{1}{s+a} - \frac{1}{s+b}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now, } L\left[\frac{f(t)}{t}\right] &= \int_s^\infty \left[\frac{1}{s+a} - \frac{1}{s+b}\right] ds = \left[\ln\left(\frac{s+a}{s+b}\right)\right]_s^\infty = 0 - \ln\left(\frac{s+a}{s+b}\right) \\ &\Rightarrow \int_0^\infty e^{-st} \cdot \left(\frac{e^{-at} - e^{-bt}}{t}\right) dt = \ln\left(\frac{s+b}{s+a}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Now, put $s = 0$ in both sides and hence the result is obtained.

Convolution Theorem:

If $L^{-1}[\bar{f}(s)] = f(t)$ and $L^{-1}[\bar{g}(s)] = g(t)$ then

$$L^{-1}[\bar{f}(s) \cdot \bar{g}(s)] = \int_0^t f(u) \cdot g(t-u) du = f(t) * g(t)$$

Alternative form,

If $L[f(t)] = \bar{f}(s)$ and $L[g(t)] = \bar{g}(s)$ then

$$L\left[\int_0^t f(u) \cdot g(t-u) du\right] = \bar{f}(s) \cdot \bar{g}(s)$$

Proof:

$$\text{Let, } \varphi(t) = \int_0^t f(u) \cdot g(t-u) du$$

$$\text{Now, } L[\varphi(t)] = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} \cdot \left\{ \int_0^t f(u) \cdot g(t-u) du \right\} dt = \int_0^\infty \int_0^t e^{-st} \cdot f(u) \cdot g(t-u) du dt \quad \text{---(i)}$$

The region of integration of (i) is given as the shaded region.

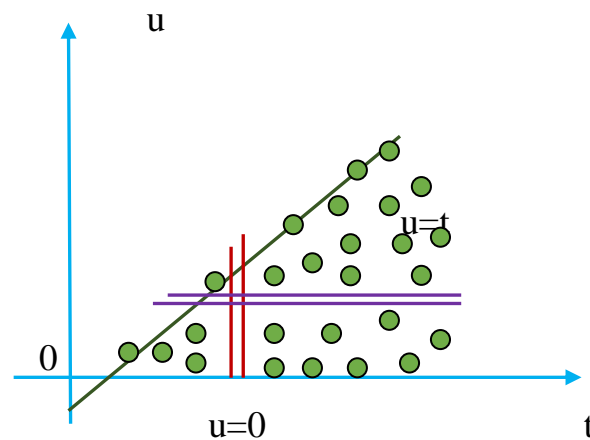
(Slide) $t : 0 \rightarrow \infty$

(Strip) $u : 0 \rightarrow t$

On changing the order of integration we get,

(Slide) $u : 0 \rightarrow \infty$

(Strip) $t : u \rightarrow \infty$



Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} L[\varphi(t)] &= \int_0^\infty \int_0^t e^{-st} \cdot f(u) \cdot g(t-u) du dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{-su} \cdot f(u) \left\{ \int_u^\infty e^{-s(t-u)} \cdot g(t-u) dt \right\} du \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{-su} \cdot f(u) \left\{ \int_0^\infty e^{-sp} \cdot g(p) dp \right\} du \quad (\text{Let, } (t-u) = p, dt = dp) \end{aligned}$$

$$= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-su} \cdot f(u) du \cdot \bar{g}(s) = \bar{f}(s) \cdot \bar{g}(s)$$

$$\Rightarrow L^{-1}[\bar{f}(s) \cdot \bar{g}(s)] = \int_0^t f(u) \cdot g(t-u) du$$

Note that Convolution $*$ is commutative i.e., $f(t) * g(t) = g(t) * f(t)$. But, for some problem one side leads to tedious calculations. Then, it is better to use the other side.

Example 5:

Apply Convolution theorem to evaluate $L^{-1} \left[\frac{s^2}{(s^2+a^2)(s^2+b^2)} \right]$.

Solution:

Here, $L^{-1} \left[\frac{s^2}{(s^2+a^2)(s^2+b^2)} \right] = L^{-1} \left[\frac{s}{(s^2+a^2)} \right] * L^{-1} \left[\frac{s}{(s^2+b^2)} \right] = \cos at * \cos bt = \int_0^t \cos au \cdot \cos b(t-u) du$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t [\cos\{(bt + (a-b)u)\} + \cos\{(-bt + (a+b)u)\}] du$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{\sin(bt + (a-b)u)}{a-b} + \frac{\sin(-bt + (a+b)u)}{a+b} \right]_0^t$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{2a \cdot \sin at}{a^2 - b^2} - \frac{2b \cdot \sin bt}{a^2 - b^2} \right] = \frac{a \sin at - b \sin bt}{a^2 - b^2}$$