

A linear operator  $L$  takes functions to functions and satisfies

$$L[ay_1(x) + by_2(x)] = aL[y_1(x)] + bL[y_2(x)].$$

In this section we looked at *non-homogeneous linear equations*  $L[y(x)] = f(x)$ . The general solution is  $y(x) = y_c(x) + y_p(x)$  where  $y_c(x)$  is the general solution of the homogeneous equation  $L[y(x)] = 0$  and  $y_p(x)$  is any one particular solution of the non-homogeneous equation.

**1. Undetermined Coefficients.** In each case find one particular solution:

- (a)  $x'(t) + x(t) = 5$  [Hint: Guess  $x_p(t) = A$ .]
- (b)  $x'(t) + x(t) = \sin(2t)$  [Hint: Guess  $x_p(t) = A \cos(2t) + B \sin(2t)$ .]
- (c)  $x'(t) + x(t) = t^2$  [Hint: Guess  $x_p(t) = A + Bt + Ct^2$ .]
- (d)  $x''(t) + x(t) = e^{2t}$  [Hint: Guess  $x_p(t) = Ae^{2t}$ .]

**2. Putting It Together.** Solve the initial value problems:

- (a)  $x'(t) + x(t) = 5; x(0) = 1$
- (b)  $x'(t) + x(t) = \sin(2t); x(0) = 1$
- (c)  $x'(t) + x(t) = t^2; x(0) = 1$
- (d)  $x''(t) + x(t) = e^{2t}; x(0) = 1, x'(0) = 0$

**3. Partial Fractions.** Find the partial fraction decomposition of the following expressions:

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

**4. Laplace Transform Rules.** Use the information in the table to compute the following Laplace transforms:

- (a)  $\mathcal{L}[t \cdot e^{2t}]$
- (b)  $\mathcal{L}[t^2 \cdot e^{2t}]$
- (c)  $\mathcal{L}[e^{3t} \cdot \cos(2t)]$
- (d)  $\mathcal{L}[t \cdot \cos t]$
- (e)  $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left[\frac{1}{(s-3)^2+4}\right]$
- (f)  $\mathcal{L}^{-1}[e^{-4s}/s^3]$

**5. Using Laplace Transforms.** Use Laplace transforms to solve the following initial value problems:

- (a)  $x'(t) + x(t) = 2; x(0) = 0$
- (b)  $x''(t) - x'(t) = e^{2t}; x(0) = x'(0) = 0$
- (c)  $x'(t) + x(t) = \delta(t - 1); x(0) = 1$
- (d)  $x''(t) + x(t) = t; x(0) = x'(0) = 1$
- (e)  $x''(t) + x(t) = \delta(t - 4); x(0) = x'(0) = 0$

**6. Eigenvectors.** Find the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the following matrices:

- (a)  $\begin{pmatrix} 5 & -4 \\ 6 & -5 \end{pmatrix}$

(b)  $\begin{pmatrix} 7 & -16 \\ 8 & -17 \end{pmatrix}$

**7. First Order Linear Systems.** Consider the first order linear system:

$$\begin{cases} x'(t) = 5x(t) - 4y(t), \\ y'(t) = 6x(t) - 5y(t). \end{cases}$$

- (a) Use your answer from 6(a) to find the general solution.  
 (b) Find the specific solution with  $x(0) = 1$  and  $y(0) = 2$ .

**8. Second Order Linear Systems.** Consider the second order linear system:

$$\begin{cases} x''(t) = 7x(t) - 16y(t), \\ y''(t) = 8x(t) - 17y(t). \end{cases}$$

- (a) Use your answer from 6(b) to find the general solution.  
 (b) Find the particular solution with  $x(0) = x'(0) = y(0) = 0$  and  $y'(0) = 1$ .

**Rules for Laplace Transforms.** Let  $\mathcal{L}[f(t)] = F(s)$ . Then

- $\mathcal{L}[tf(t)] = -F'(s)$
- $\mathcal{L}[e^{at}f(t)] = F(s - a)$
- $\mathcal{L}[f'(t)] = sF(s) - f(0)$
- $\mathcal{L}[f''(t)] = s^2F(s) - sf(0) - f'(0)$
- $\mathcal{L}[H(t - a)f(t - a)] = e^{-as}F(s)$ , where  $H(t - a) = \begin{cases} 0 & t < a, \\ 1 & t > a. \end{cases}$

**Table of Laplace Transforms.**

- $\mathcal{L}[0] = 0$
- $\mathcal{L}[1] = 1/s$
- $\mathcal{L}[e^{as}] = 1/(s - a)$
- $\mathcal{L}[t] = 1/s^2$
- $\mathcal{L}[t^n] = n!/s^{n+1}$
- $\mathcal{L}[\cos(kt)] = s/(s^2 + k^2)$
- $\mathcal{L}[\sin(kt)] = k/(s^2 + k^2)$
- $\mathcal{L}[\delta(t)] = 1$ , where  $\delta(t)$  is the Dirac delta function
- $\mathcal{L}[\delta(t - a)] = e^{-as}$
- $\mathcal{L}[H(t - a)] = e^{-as}/s$

**Solutions.****1.**

- (a) Substituting  $x_p(t) = A$  gives  $A = 5$ .  
 (b) Substituting  $x_p(t) = A \cos(2t) + B \sin(2t)$  gives

$$-2A \sin(2t) + 2B \cos(2t) + A \cos(2t) + B \sin(2t) = \sin(2t).$$

Comparing coefficients gives  $A + 2B = 0$  and  $B - 2A = 1$ , hence  $A = -2/5$  and  $B = 1/5$ .

- (c) Substituting  $x_p(t) = A + Bt + Ct^2$  gives

$$B + 2Ct + A + Bt + Ct^2 = t^2.$$

Comparing coefficients gives  $A = 2$ ,  $B = -2$  and  $C = 1$ .

- (d) Substituting  $x_p(t) = Ae^{2t}$  gives

$$4Ae^{2t} + Ae^{2t} = e^{2t}.$$

Comparing coefficients gives  $A = 1/5$ .

**2.**

- (a) The general homogeneous solution is  $x_c(t) = C_1 e^{-t}$ . The general solution is  $x(t) = x_c(t) + x_p(t) = C_1 e^{-t} + 5$ . The solution with  $x(0) = 1$  is

$$x(t) = 5 - 4e^{-t}.$$

- (b) The general homogeneous solution is  $x_c(t) = C_1 e^{-t}$ . The general solution is  $x(t) = x_c(t) + x_p(t) = C_1 e^{-t} + (-2/5) \cos(2t) + (1/5) \sin(2t)$ . The solution with  $x(0) = 1$  is

$$x(t) = -\frac{2}{5} \cos(2t) + \frac{1}{5} \sin(2t) + \frac{7}{5} e^{-t}.$$

- (c) The general homogeneous solution is  $x_c(t) = C_1 e^{-t}$ . The general solution is  $x(t) = x_c(t) + x_p(t) = C_1 e^{-t} + t^2 - 2t + 2$ . The solution with  $x(0) = 1$  is

$$x(t) = -e^{-t} + t^2 - 2t + 2.$$

- (d) The general homogeneous solution is  $x_c(t) = C_1 \cos t + C_2 \sin t$ . The general solution is  $x(t) = x_c(t) + x_p(t) = C_1 \cos t + C_2 \sin t + (1/5)e^{2t}$ . The solution with  $x(0) = 1$  and  $x'(0) = 0$  is

$$x(t) = \frac{4}{5} \cos t - \frac{2}{5} \sin t + \frac{1}{5} e^{2t}.$$

**3.**

- (a) We are looking for  $A, B$  so that

$$\frac{1}{s(s+1)} = \frac{A}{s} + \frac{B}{s+1}.$$

The solution is  $A = 1$  and  $B = -1$ .

- (b) We are looking for  $A, B, C$  such that

$$\frac{1}{s(s-1)(s-2)} = \frac{A}{s} + \frac{B}{s-1} + \frac{C}{s-2}.$$

The solution is  $A = 1/2$ ,  $B = -1$ ,  $C = 1/2$ .

(c) We are looking for  $A, B, C, D$  such that

$$\frac{1}{s^2(s^2 + 1)} = \frac{A}{s} + \frac{B}{s^2} + \frac{Cs + D}{s^2 + 1}.$$

The solution is  $A = 0, B = 1, C = 0, D = -1$ . Shortcut: Let  $s^2 = r$  and note that

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

4.

- (a)  $\mathcal{L}[t \cdot e^{2t}] = -\frac{d}{ds}\mathcal{L}[e^{2t}] = -\frac{d}{ds}\frac{1}{s-2} = \frac{1}{(s-2)^2}$   
 (b)  $\mathcal{L}[t \cdot e^{2t}] = \mathcal{L}[t \cdot t \cdot e^{2t}] = -\frac{d}{ds}\mathcal{L}[t \cdot e^{2t}] = -\frac{d}{ds}\frac{1}{(s-2)^2} = \frac{2}{(s-2)^3}$   
 (c)  $\mathcal{L}[e^{3t} \cdot \cos(2t)] = \mathcal{L}[\cos(2t)]_{s \rightarrow s-3} = \left[\frac{s}{s^2+4}\right]_{s \rightarrow s-3} = \frac{s-3}{(s-3)^2+4}$   
 (d)  $\mathcal{L}[t \cdot \cos t] = -\frac{d}{ds}\mathcal{L}[\cos t] = -\frac{d}{ds}\frac{s}{s^2+1} = \frac{s^2-1}{(s^2+1)^2}$   
 (e) We know that  $\mathcal{L}[\sin(2t)] = \frac{2}{s^2+4}$ , hence  $\mathcal{L}[e^{3t} \cdot \sin(2t)] = \frac{2}{(s-3)^2+4}$ , hence

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left[\frac{1}{(s-3)^2+4}\right] = \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left[\frac{2}{(s-3)^2+4}\right] = \frac{1}{2} \cdot e^{3t} \cdot \sin(2t).$$

(f) If  $\mathcal{L}[f(t)] = F(s)$  then we know that  $\mathcal{L}^{-1}[e^{-as} \cdot F(s)] = H(t-a)f(t-a)$ . In our case we let  $F(s) = 1/s^3$ , so that  $f(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}[1/s^3] = \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{L}^{-1}[2/s^3] = \frac{1}{2}t^2$ . Hence

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left[e^{-4s} \cdot \frac{1}{s^3}\right] = \mathcal{L}^{-1}[e^{-4s} \cdot F(s)] = H(t-4)f(t-4) = H(t-4)\frac{1}{2}(t-4)^2.$$

5.

(a) Applying Laplace transforms gives

$$\begin{aligned} sX - 0 + X &= 2/s \\ X &= \frac{2}{s(s+1)} \\ X &= 2\frac{1}{s} - 2\frac{1}{s+1} \\ x(t) &= 2 - 2e^{-t}. \end{aligned}$$

(b) Applying Laplace transforms gives

$$\begin{aligned} s^2X - 0s - 0 - (sX - 0) &= \frac{1}{s-2} \\ X &= \frac{1}{s(s-1)(s-2)} \\ X &= \frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{s} - \frac{1}{s-1} + \frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{s-2} \\ x(t) &= \frac{1}{2} - e^t + \frac{1}{2}e^{2t}. \end{aligned}$$

(c) Applying Laplace transforms gives

$$\begin{aligned} sX - 1 + X &= e^{-s} \\ X &= \frac{1}{s+1} + e^{-1s} \cdot \frac{1}{s+1} \end{aligned}$$

$$x(t) = e^{-t} + \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left[ e^{-1s} \cdot \frac{1}{s+1} \right]$$

Take  $F(s) = \frac{1}{s+1}$  so that  $f(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}[F(s)] = e^{-t}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= e^{-t} + \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left[ e^{-1s} \cdot \frac{1}{s+1} \right] \\ &= e^{-t} + \mathcal{L}^{-1}[e^{-1s}F(s)] \\ &= e^{-t} + H(t-1)f(t-1) \\ &= e^{-t} + H(t-1)e^{-(t-1)}. \end{aligned}$$

(d) Applying Laplace transforms gives

$$\begin{aligned} s^2X - s - 1 + X &= \frac{1}{s^2} \\ X &= \frac{1}{s^2+1} + \frac{s}{s^2+1} + \frac{1}{s^2(s^2+1)} \\ X &= \frac{1}{s^2+1} + \frac{s}{s^2+1} + \frac{1}{s^2} - \frac{1}{s^2+1} \\ X &= \frac{s}{s^2+1} + \frac{1}{s^2} \\ x(t) &= \cos t + t. \end{aligned}$$

(e) Applying Laplace transforms gives

$$\begin{aligned} s^2X - 0s - 0 + X &= e^{-4s} \\ X &= e^{-4s} \frac{1}{s^2+1} \\ x(t) &= \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left[ e^{-4s} \cdot \frac{1}{s^2+1} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $F(s) = 1/(s^2+1)$  so that  $f(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}[F(s)] = \sin t$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left[ e^{-4s} \cdot \frac{1}{s^2+1} \right] \\ &= \mathcal{L}^{-1} [e^{-4s} \cdot F(s)] \\ &= H(t-4)f(t-4) \\ &= H(t-4)\sin(t-4). \end{aligned}$$

**6.**

(a) We have

$$\begin{pmatrix} 5 & -4 \\ 6 & -5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -4 \\ 6 & -5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = -1 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

(b) We have

$$\begin{pmatrix} 7 & -16 \\ 8 & -17 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = -1 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 7 & -16 \\ 8 & -17 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = -9 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

**7.**

(a) The general solution of the system is

$$\begin{pmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \end{pmatrix} = c_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} e^t + c_2 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} e^{-t}.$$

(b) Substituting  $x(0) = 1$  and  $y(0) = 2$  gives  $c_1 = -1$  and  $c_2 = 1$ .

**8.**

(a) The frequencies corresponding to  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 = -1, -9$  are  $\omega_1, \omega_2 = 1, 3$ . The general solution of the system is

$$\begin{pmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \end{pmatrix} = a_1 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cos t + b_1 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \sin t + a_2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cos(3t) + b_2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \sin(3t).$$

(b) Substituting  $x(0) = x'(0) = y(0) = 0$  and  $y'(0) = 1$  gives  $a_1 = a_2 = 0$ ,  $b_1 = -1$  and  $b_2 = 2/3$ , hence

$$\begin{pmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \end{pmatrix} = -1 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \sin t + \frac{2}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \sin(3t).$$