

Midterm Exam

Friday, July 13th
2-5:00pm

or

Saturday, July 14th
9am-noon

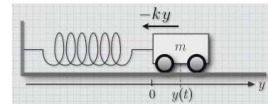
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Simple Applications of Second Order Linear Differential Equations - Section 3.6

Spring Mass Systems

Part I: No damping and no external forces - Simple Harmonic Motion.



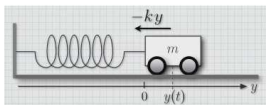
Hooke's law states that for small displacements, the restoring force is proportional to the displacement.

$$m y'' + k y = 0.$$

$$\omega = \sqrt{k/m}$$

Terms: Period, frequency, amplitude, phase shift.

Part II: Damping, but no external forces.



$$m y'' = -k y - \delta y'$$

$$m y'' + \delta y' + k y = 0$$

Terms: Overdamped, underdamped, critically damped.

The Forced System

$$m y'' + \delta y' + k y = F(t)$$

Special Case: $F(t) = F_0 \cos(\gamma t)$

Terms: Natural frequency = $\omega/(2\pi)$, Applied frequency = $\gamma/(2\pi)$.

Higher Order Linear Differential Equations

$y^{(n)} + p_{n-1}(x)y^{(n-1)} + p_{n-2}(x)y^{(n-2)} + \dots + p_1(x)y' + p_0(x)y = f(x)$ (NH)
Nonhomogeneous if $f \neq 0$

$y^{(n)} + p_{n-1}(x)y^{(n-1)} + p_{n-2}(x)y^{(n-2)} + \dots + p_1(x)y' + p_0(x)y = 0$ (H)
homogeneous

$L[y(x)] = y^{(n)}(x) + p_{n-1}(x)y^{(n-1)}(x) + \dots + p_1(x)y'(x) + p_0(x)y(x)$

Differential operator assoc. with the left hand side.

Terms: Nonhomogeneous equation, homogeneous equation, linear differential operator, number of solutions for the homogeneous and nonhomogeneous equations.

eg. $y''' - 2y'' + 3y = \sin(x)$
 $y^{(4)} + 2y'' - xy' + e^x y = \cos(x)$

infinitely many

Initial Value Problem

$y^{(n)} + p_{n-1}(x)y^{(n-1)} + p_{n-2}(x)y^{(n-2)} + \dots + p_1(x)y' + p_0(x)y = f(x);$
 $y(a) = \alpha_0, y'(a) = \alpha_1, \dots, y^{(n-1)}(a) = \alpha_{n-1}$

n pieces of **initial data**

Uniqueness Theorem:

The initial value problem has a unique sol'n provided the coef. functions and $f(x)$ are piecewise continuous.

Finding the General Solution to the Homogeneous Equation

$y^{(n)} + p_{n-1}(x)y^{(n-1)} + p_{n-2}(x)y^{(n-2)} + \dots + p_1(x)y' + p_0(x)y = 0$ (H)

The general sol'n has the form
linear combination of y_1, \dots, y_n
 $y = C_1 y_1 + C_2 y_2 + \dots + C_n y_n$

where C_1, \dots, C_n are arbitrary constants and y_1, \dots, y_n are linearly independent solutions of (H).

Terms: Linear combination of solutions, linear independence, Wronskian, fundamental set of solutions.

n linearly ind. solutions

Functions y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n are L.I. iff the only way that
 $C_1 y_1(x) + C_2 y_2(x) + \dots + C_n y_n(x) = 0$
 for all x is if $C_1 = C_2 = \dots = C_n = 0$.

The Wronskian of y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n is

$W[y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n] = \det \begin{pmatrix} y_1 & y_2 & \dots & y_n \\ y_1' & y_2' & \dots & y_n' \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ y_1^{(n-1)} & y_2^{(n-1)} & \dots & y_n^{(n-1)} \end{pmatrix}$

As in the setting of 2nd order equations, these functions are linearly independent if and only if the Wronskian is nonzero.

Finding the General Solution to the Constant Coefficient Homogeneous Equation

$y^{(n)} + a_{n-1}y^{(n-1)} + a_{n-2}y^{(n-2)} + \dots + a_1y' + a_0y = 0$

Process: 1. Find the characteristic polynomial

$r^n + a_{n-1}r^{n-1} + \dots + a_1r + a_0$

real numbers.

eg. $y''' - 3y'' + 2y' + y = 0$
 char. poly.
 $r^3 - 3r^2 + 2r + 1$

2. Get the roots of the characteristic polynomial
AND use the roots to build n linearly independent solutions.

① If a root \tilde{r} is real and not repeated then we get $e^{\tilde{r}x}$ as one of our solutions.

② If a root \tilde{r} is real and repeated (i.e. $(r-\tilde{r})^k$ is a factor of the char poly with $k > 1$) here we get k solutions $e^{\tilde{r}x}, xe^{\tilde{r}x}, \dots, x^{k-1}e^{\tilde{r}x}$

③ If $\alpha \pm \beta i$ are complex roots (here α and β are real #'s) then we get $e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x)$ and $e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x)$ are solutions. If these complex roots are repeated k times, we also get

$$x e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x), x e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x)$$

$$\vdots$$

$$x^k e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x), x^k e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x)$$

as solutions.

This process **ALWAYS** results in n -linearly independent sol'n's.

Examples: Find the general solution of the differential equation.

$$y^{(4)} - 4y''' + 7y'' - 6y' + 2y = 0$$

4th order, linear, constant coeff., homogeneous diff eq.

1. Find the roots of the char. poly. i.e. solve

$$r^4 - 4r^3 + 7r^2 - 6r + 2 = 0$$

Notes $r=1$ is a root.

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{r^4 - 4r^3 + 7r^2 - 6r + 2}{r-1} = r^3 - 3r^2 + 4r - 2 \\ & \frac{r^3 - 3r^2 + 4r - 2}{r-1} = r^2 - 2r + 2 \\ & \frac{r^2 - 2r + 2}{r-1} = r - 1 \\ & \frac{r - 1}{r-1} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Above factors to $(r-1)(r^2 - 3r^2 + 4r - 2) = 0$
 $r=1$ is a root

$$(r-1)(r-1)(r^2 - 2r + 2) = 0$$

$$(r-1)^2 (r^2 - 2r + 2) = 0$$

note: $r^2 - 2r + 2 = 0$ if \pm
 $r = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{4-8}}{2} = \frac{2 \pm 2i}{2} = 1 \pm i$

roots: 1 repeated 2 times
AND $1 \pm i$.

L.I. sol'n's: $e^x, x e^x, e^x \cos(x), e^x \sin(x)$

\therefore the general sol'n is $C_1 e^x + C_2 x e^x + C_3 e^x \cos(x) + C_4 e^x \sin(x)$
 where C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4 are arbitrary constants.

Examples: Find the solution of the initial value problem.

$$y^{(4)} - 4y''' + 7y'' - 6y' + 2y = 0, y(0)=1, y'(0)=0, y''(0)=-1, y'''(0)=2$$

we just saw this. initial data

$$y = C_1 e^x + C_2 x e^x + C_3 e^x \cos(x) + C_4 e^x \sin(x)$$

is the general sol'n.

use the initial data. we need y', y'', y''' .

$$y' = C_1 e^x + C_2 x e^x + C_3 e^x \cos(x) - C_3 e^x \sin(x) + C_4 e^x \sin(x) + C_4 e^x \cos(x)$$

$$y' = (C_1 + C_2)x e^x + (C_3 + C_4)e^x \cos(x) + (-C_3 + C_4)e^x \sin(x)$$

$$y'' = (C_1 + 2C_2)e^x + C_2 x e^x + 2C_4 e^x \cos(x) - 2C_3 e^x \sin(x)$$

$$y''' = (C_1 + 3C_2)e^x + C_2 x e^x + (2C_4 - 2C_3)e^x \cos(x) + (-2C_4 - 2C_3)e^x \sin(x)$$

$$y = C_1 e^x + C_2 x e^x + C_3 e^x \cos(x) + C_4 e^x \sin(x)$$

$$y' = (C_1 + C_2)e^x + C_2 x e^x + (C_3 + C_4)e^x \cos(x) + (-C_3 + C_4)e^x \sin(x)$$

$$y'' = (C_1 + 2C_2)e^x + C_2 x e^x + 2C_4 e^x \cos(x) - 2C_3 e^x \sin(x)$$

$$y''' = (C_1 + 3C_2)e^x + C_2 x e^x + (2C_4 - 2C_3)e^x \cos(x) + (-2C_4 - 2C_3)e^x \sin(x)$$

$y(0)=1, y'(0)=0, y''(0)=-1, y'''(0)=2$

$$\begin{cases} C_1 + C_3 = 1 \\ C_1 + C_2 + C_3 + C_4 = 0 \\ C_1 + 2C_2 + 2C_4 = -1 \\ C_1 + 3C_2 + 2C_4 - 2C_3 = 2 \\ -2(C_1 + C_2 + C_4) = 0 \\ C_1 + 2C_2 + 2C_4 = -1 \end{cases}$$

4 equations with 4 unknowns

$$-2 + C_1 = -1 \Rightarrow C_1 = 1 \rightarrow C_3 = 0$$

now use 2nd + 4th equations.

$$\begin{cases} 1 + C_2 + C_4 = 0 \\ 1 + 3C_2 + 2C_4 = 2 \end{cases} \rightarrow \begin{cases} -3(C_2 + C_4) = -1 \\ + (3C_2 + 2C_4) = 1 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} C_1 = 1, C_2 = 3, C_3 = 0 \\ C_4 = -4 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} -C_4 &= 4 \\ C_4 &= -4 \\ C_2 &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

∴ Our solution is

$$y = c_1 e^x + c_2 x e^x + c_3 e^x \cos(x) + c_4 e^x \sin(x)$$

with $\boxed{c_1=1, c_2=3, c_3=0, c_4=-4}$

$$\Rightarrow y = e^x + 3x e^x - 4e^x \sin(x).$$

Example: Find a homogeneous linear constant coefficient differential equation of least order that has the following function as a solution.

$$y = \underline{5x e^{-2x}} + \underline{4 \cos(x)} - \underline{2}$$

Pieces

$5x e^{-2x}$ -2 repeated 2 times

$4 \cos(x)$ $\pm i$

-2 0

Note: $-2 = -2e^{0x}$ ∴ char poly has factors $(r+2)^2, (r^2+1), r$

∴ char poly = $(r+2)^2 (r^2+1) r$

$$= (r^2+4r+4)(r^2+1)r$$

$$= (r^2+4r+4)(r^3+r)$$

$$= r^5 + r^3 + 4r^4 + 4r^2 + 4r^3 + 4r$$

$$= r^5 + 4r^4 + 5r^3 + 4r^2 + 4r$$

∴ the diff equation is

$$y^{(5)} + 4y^{(4)} + 5y^{(3)} + 4y'' + 4y' = 0.$$

Finding the General Solution to the Nonhomogeneous Equation

$$y^{(n)} + p_{n-1}(x)y^{(n-1)} + p_{n-2}(x)y^{(n-2)} + \dots + p_1(x)y' + p_0(x)y = f(x) \quad (NH)$$

$$y = \underbrace{C_1 y_1(x) + C_2 y_2(x) + \dots + C_n y_n(x)}_{\text{General solution of the homog. problem}} + \underbrace{z(x)}_{\text{particular sol'n}}$$

Term: Particular solution. \leftarrow any sol'n to (NH).

*** Finding a Particular Solution in the Constant Coefficient Case**

$$y^{(n)} + a_{n-1}y^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_1y' + a_0y = f(x)$$

only case you have a chance of "hand" solving.

Even here, $f(x)$ needs to have a special form otherwise, the hand computations will be impossible.

Term: Undetermined coefficients / variation of parameters.

2 methods

Guessing method

formula method BUT if $n \geq 3$ it is nasty!

need $f(x)$ to be made from sums and products of constants, $x, e^{kx}, \cos(\mu x), \sin(\mu x).$

Example: Find the general solution to

$$y^{(4)} + 3y'' - 4y = 2\cos(x) - 3e^x + 5$$

1. (important) Solve (H) first!!

$$y^{(4)} + 3y'' - 4y = 0 \quad (H)$$

char poly: $r^4 + 3r^2 - 4$
 set = 0. $r^4 + 3r^2 - 4 = 0$
 $(r^2 + 4)(r^2 - 1) = 0$
 $(r^2 + 4)(r-1)(r+1) = 0$

⇒ roots: $\pm 2i, 1, -1$

∴ the general sol'n to (H) is
 $y_H = c_1 e^{-x} + c_2 e^x + c_3 \cos(2x) + c_4 \sin(2x)$

$$y_H = c_1 e^{-x} + c_2 e^x + c_3 \cos(2x) + c_4 \sin(2x)$$

$$y^{(4)} + 3y'' - 4y = 2\cos(x) - 3e^x + 5$$

2. Guess - Take advantage of linearity.

Terms on RHS

Guess

(i) $2\cos(x) \leftrightarrow A\cos(x) + B\sin(x)$
 (ii) $-3e^x \leftrightarrow$ I would guess Ae^x BUT e^x solves (H). So, I'll use Axe^x

(iii) $5 \leftrightarrow A$

(i) → Substitute $y = A\cos(x) + B\sin(x)$ into

$$y^{(4)} + 3y'' - 4y = 2\cos(x)$$

$$y' = -A\sin(x) + B\cos(x)$$

$$y'' = -A\cos(x) - B\sin(x)$$

$$y''' = A\sin(x) - B\cos(x)$$

$$y^{(4)} = A\cos(x) + B\sin(x)$$

$$A\cos(x) + B\sin(x) + 3(-A\cos(x) - B\sin(x)) - 4(A\cos(x) + B\sin(x)) = 2\cos(x)$$

$$(A - 3A - 4A)\cos(x) + (B - 3B - 4B)\sin(x) = 2\cos(x)$$

$$-6A\cos(x) - 6B\sin(x) = 2\cos(x)$$

∴ $-\frac{1}{3}\cos(x)$ "covers" the $2\cos(x)$ on the RHS.

(ii) Subst. $y = Axe^x$ (different A)

$$y' = Ae^x + Axe^x$$

$$y'' = 2Ae^x + Axe^x$$

$$y''' = 3Ae^x + Axe^x$$

$$y^{(4)} = 4Ae^x + Axe^x$$

$$4Ae^x + Axe^x + 3(2Ae^x + Axe^x) - 4Axe^x = -3e^x$$

$$10Ae^x = -3e^x$$

$$\Rightarrow A = -\frac{3}{10}$$

∴ $-\frac{3}{10}xe^x$ "covers" $-3e^x$ on the RHS

(iii) Subst $y = A$ (different A) into

$$y^{(4)} + 3y'' - 4y = 5$$

$$-4A = 5 \Rightarrow A = -\frac{5}{4}$$

⇒ $-\frac{5}{4}$ "covers" 5 on the RHS.

∴ $Z =$ (part from (i)) + (part from (ii)) + (part from (iii))

$$= -\frac{1}{3}\cos(x) - \frac{3}{10}xe^x - \frac{5}{4}$$

Finally, the general sol'n to
 $y^{(4)} + 3y'' - 4y = 2\cos(x) - 3e^x + 5$

$$y = y_H + Z$$

$$= c_1 e^{-x} + c_2 e^x + c_3 \cos(2x) + c_4 \sin(2x) - \frac{1}{3}\cos(x) - \frac{3}{10}xe^x - \frac{5}{4}$$

Laplace Transforms 1. A

Motivation: Laplace transforms can be used to turn linear constant coefficient differential equations into algebraic equations.

$L : \text{functions} \rightarrow \text{new functions}$

DEFINITION Let f be a continuous function on $[0, \infty)$. The Laplace transform of f , denoted by $\mathcal{L}[f(x)]$, or by $F(s)$, is the function given by

$$\mathcal{L}[f(x)] = F(s) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-sx} f(x) dx. \quad (1)$$

The domain of F is the set of all real numbers s for which the improper integral converges.

Illustrative Examples:

$L[f(x)] = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-sx} f(x) dx$

$$L[e^{-x}] = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-sx} e^{-x} dx = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-(s+1)x} dx$$

$$= -\frac{1}{s+1} e^{-(s+1)x} \Big|_{x=0}^{\infty} = 0 - \left(-\frac{1}{s+1}\right) = \frac{1}{s+1}, \quad s > -1$$

$$L[e^{3x}] = \frac{1}{s-3}, \quad s > 3$$

$$L[e^{ax}] = \frac{1}{s-a}, \quad s > a$$

$$L[e^{4x}] = \frac{1}{s-4}, \quad s > 4$$

$$L[e^{-2x}] = \frac{1}{s+2}, \quad s > -2$$

$$L[1] = L[e^{0x}] = \frac{1}{s}, \quad s > 0$$

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2. $L[e^{-3x}] = \frac{1}{s-(-3)} = \frac{1}{s+3}, \quad s > -3$

a. $\frac{1}{s-3}, s > 3$

b. $\frac{1}{s+3}, s > 3$

c. $\frac{1}{s+3}, s > -3$

d. $\frac{1}{s-3}, s > -3$

e. None of these.

i.e. $\frac{1}{s+3}, s > -3$

Recall:

$L[f(x)] = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-sx} f(x) dx$

As a result... α is a constant

- $L[\alpha f(x)] = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-sx} \alpha f(x) dx = \alpha \int_0^{\infty} e^{-sx} f(x) dx = \alpha L[f(x)]$
- $L[f(x) + g(x)] = L[f(x)] + L[g(x)]$
- $L[f(x) - g(x)] = L[f(x)] - L[g(x)]$

1 and 2 imply the Laplace transform is a linear transformation.

ex: $L[2e^{-3x} - e^{5x}] = 2L[e^{-3x}] - L[e^{5x}]$

$$= 2 \cdot \frac{1}{s+3} - \frac{1}{s-5}, \quad s > 5$$

$s > -3$
 $s > 5$

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3. $L[3e^{-2x}] =$

a. $\frac{3}{s-2}, s > 2$
 b. $\frac{2}{s+3}, s > 3$
 c. $\frac{2}{s+3}, s > -3$
 d. $\frac{3}{s+2}, s > -2$
 e. None of these.

4. $L[3e^{-2x} + 2e^x - 1] =$

a. $\frac{2}{s+3} + \frac{2}{s+1}, s > 0$
 b. $\frac{2}{s+3} + \frac{2}{s-1}, s > 3$
 c. $\frac{3}{s+2} + \frac{2}{s-1} + s, s > 0$
 d. $\frac{3}{s+2} + \frac{2}{s+1} - \frac{1}{s}, s > -2$
 e. None of these.

$l = e^{0x}$

$\rightarrow = 3L[e^{-2x}] + 2L[e^x] - L[1]$

$\left. \begin{matrix} s > -2 \\ s > 1 \\ s > 0 \end{matrix} \right\} = 3 \cdot \frac{1}{s+2} + 2 \cdot \frac{1}{s-1} - \frac{1}{s}, s > 1$

S. B

$u = e^{-sx} \quad du = -se^{-sx} dx$
 $dv = y'(x) dx \quad v = y(x)$

$L[y'(x)] = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-sx} y'(x) dx$
 $= e^{-sx} y(x) \Big|_0^{\infty} - \int_0^{\infty} -se^{-sx} y(x) dx$

For $s > 0$ large if y does not grow too fast

$= 0 - y(0) + s \int_0^{\infty} e^{-sx} y(x) dx$
 $= -y(0) + s L[y(x)]$

$L[y''(x)] = -y'(0) + s L[y'(x)]$
 $= -y'(0) + s [-y(0) + s L[y(x)]]$
 $= -y'(0) - s y(0) + s^2 L[y(x)]$

Example: Find the Laplace transform of the solution to $y'' - 2y' + 2y = e^{-2x}, y(0) = 1, y'(0) = -1$

We can do this directly, without finding the solution first!!

Recall: $L[y'(x)] = -y(0) + sL[y(x)]$

$L[y''(x)] = -y'(0) - sy(0) + s^2 L[y(x)]$

Take the LT of the diff eqn.

$L[y'' - 2y' + 2y] = L[e^{-2x}]$

use linearity

$L[y''] - 2L[y'] + 2L[y] = \frac{1}{s+2}$

$-y'(0) - sy(0) + s^2 L[y] - 2(-y(0) + sL[y]) + 2L[y] = \frac{1}{s+2}$

use $y(0) = 1, y'(0) = -1$

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

char poly for $y'' - 2y' + 2y = 0$

$L[y](s^2 - 2s + 2) = -3 + s + \frac{1}{s+2}$

$\Rightarrow L[y] = \frac{-3+s}{s^2-2s+2} + \frac{1}{(s+2)(s^2-2s+2)}$

Amazing!!! We can get the Laplace transform of the solution without knowing the solution.

More Examples: $L[y'(x)] = -y(0) + sL[y(x)]$

$L[1] = \frac{1}{s}, s > 0$

$L[x] = \frac{1}{s^2}, s > 0$

$L[x^2] = \frac{2}{s^3}, s > 0$

$L[\cos(2x)] =$

$L[\sin(2x)] =$

$L[1] = -0 + sL[x]$
 $\frac{1}{s} \Rightarrow L[x] = \frac{1}{s^2}$

$L[2x] = -0 + sL[x^2]$
 $\frac{2}{s^2} = sL[x^2]$
 $\Rightarrow L[x^2] = \frac{2}{s^3}$

$y = x$
 $y = x^2$

$L[\cos(x)]$ wkd.
 $L[\sin(x)]$ right.
 see the video.

Table of Laplace Transforms Add others, or create your own!!

$f(x)$	$F(s) = \mathcal{L}[f(x)]$
1	$\frac{1}{s}, \quad s > 0$
$e^{\alpha x}$	$\frac{1}{s - \alpha}, \quad s > \alpha$
$\cos \beta x$	$\frac{s}{s^2 + \beta^2}, \quad s > 0$
$\sin \beta x$	$\frac{\beta}{s^2 + \beta^2}, \quad s > 0$
$e^{\alpha x} \cos \beta x$	$\frac{s - \alpha}{(s - \alpha)^2 + \beta^2}, \quad s > \alpha$
$e^{\alpha x} \sin \beta x$	$\frac{\beta}{(s - \alpha)^2 + \beta^2}, \quad s > \alpha$
$x^n, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$	$\frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}, \quad s > 0$
$x^n e^{rx}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$	$\frac{n!}{(s - r)^{n+1}}, \quad s > r$
$x \cos \beta x$	$\frac{s^2 - \beta^2}{(s^2 + \beta^2)^2}, \quad s > 0$
$x \sin \beta x$	$\frac{2\beta s}{(s^2 + \beta^2)^2}, \quad s > 0$

$$\mathcal{L}[y'(x)] = -y(0) + s\mathcal{L}[y(x)]$$

$$\mathcal{L}[y''(x)] = -y'(0) - sy(0) + s^2\mathcal{L}[y(x)]$$

I will provide this table on the midterm exam.

$$\mathcal{L}[f(x)] = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-sx} f(x) dx$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}[3e^{2x} \cos(3x) + x \sin(x) - 3x^2] &= \\ &= 3\mathcal{L}[e^{2x} \cos(3x)] + \mathcal{L}[x \sin(x)] - 3\mathcal{L}[x^2] \\ &= 3 \cdot \frac{s-2}{(s-2)^2+9} + \frac{2s}{(s^2+1)^2} - 3 \cdot \frac{2}{s^3} \\ &= \frac{3(s-2)}{(s-2)^2+9} + \frac{2s}{(s^2+1)^2} - \frac{6}{s^3} \\ \mathcal{L}[2\sin(x) - 3e^{-x} + 1] &= \text{Last night} \end{aligned}$$

Note: $\mathcal{L}[f(x)g(x)]$ is generally NOT equal to $\mathcal{L}[f(x)]\mathcal{L}[g(x)]$.

See the extra video from wednesday. I work an example showing how to solve an IVP using the L.T. Also see the post examples for chapter 4.

Example: Use the Laplace transform to solve

$$y'' - 2y' + y = e^{-2x}, \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = -1$$

(Note: We can do this easier, without Laplace transforms, but I want to illustrate the process.)

Recall: $\mathcal{L}[y'(x)] = -y(0) + s\mathcal{L}[y(x)]$

$$\mathcal{L}[y''(x)] = -y'(0) - sy(0) + s^2\mathcal{L}[y(x)]$$

The TRUTH!!

The Laplace Transform is typically used to solve problems of the form

$$\begin{cases} y'' + ay' + by = f(t) \\ y(0) = b, y'(0) = m \end{cases}$$

where $f(t)$ is a piecewise defined function.