

Use Laplace transforms to solve the IVP

$$y'' - 2y' = 8e^{-2t}, \quad (1)$$

$$y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = -4 \quad (2)$$

1. Take \mathcal{L} of ODE (1):

$$\mathcal{L}\{y''\} - 2\mathcal{L}\{y'\} = 8\mathcal{L}\{e^{-2t}\}, \quad (3)$$

where

$$\mathcal{L}\{y\} = Y,$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{y'\} = sY - y(0) = sY - 1,$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{y''\} = s^2Y - sy(0) - y'(0) = s^2Y - s + 4,$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{e^{-2t}\} = \frac{1}{s+2}.$$

Substitute these into Eq. (3) to obtain

$$s^2Y - s + 4 - 2(sY - 1) = \frac{8}{s+2}.$$

2. Solve for Y :

$$(s^2 - 2s)Y = \frac{8}{s+2} + s - 6,$$

$$s(s-2)Y = \frac{8}{s+2} + s - 6,$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} Y &= \frac{8}{s(s-2)(s+2)} + \frac{s-6}{s(s-2)} \\ &= \frac{s^2 - 4s - 4}{s(s-2)(s+2)} \quad (\text{now use p.f.d.}) \\ &= \frac{a}{s} + \frac{b}{s-2} + \frac{c}{s+2} = \dots \text{ (you show) } \dots \\ &= \frac{1}{s} - \frac{1}{s-2} + \frac{1}{s+2}. \end{aligned}$$

3. Apply \mathcal{L}^{-1} :

$$\begin{aligned} y &= \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{Y\} \\ &= \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s}\right\} - \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s-2}\right\} + \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{s+2}\right\} \\ &= 1 - e^{2t} + e^{-2t}. \end{aligned}$$