

Use Laplace transforms to solve the IVP

$$y'' - 5y' + 6y = U(t-1), \quad (1)$$

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

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

$$\mathcal{L}\{y''\} - 5\mathcal{L}\{y'\} + 6\mathcal{L}\{y\} = \mathcal{L}\{U(t-1)\}, \quad (3)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{y\} &= Y, \\ \mathcal{L}\{y'\} &= sY - y(0) = sY - 0 = sY, \\ \mathcal{L}\{y''\} &= s^2Y - sy(0) - y'(0) = s^2Y - s \cdot 0 - 1 = s^2Y - 1, \\ \mathcal{L}\{U(t-1)\} &= \frac{1}{s}e^{-s} \quad \text{by the 2TT.} \end{aligned}$$

Substitute these into Eq. (3) to obtain

$$s^2Y - 1 - 5sY + 6Y = \frac{1}{s}e^{-s}.$$

2. Solve for Y :

$$(s^2 - 5s + 6)Y = 1 + \frac{1}{s}e^{-s},$$

$$(s-2)(s-3)Y = 1 + \frac{1}{s}e^{-s}.$$

So

$$Y = \frac{1}{(s-2)(s-3)} + \frac{1}{s(s-2)(s-3)} \cdot e^{-s}.$$

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

$$y = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{Y\} \quad (4)$$

$$= \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{ \frac{1}{(s-2)(s-3)} + \frac{1}{s(s-2)(s-3)} e^{-s} \right\}$$

$$= \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{ \frac{1}{(s-2)(s-3)} \right\} + \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{ e^{-s} \frac{1}{s(s-2)(s-3)} \right\} \quad \text{use I2TT on the 2nd term}$$

$$= \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{ \frac{1}{(s-2)(s-3)} \right\} + U(t-1) \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{ \frac{1}{s(s-2)(s-3)} \right\} \Big|_{t \rightarrow t-1} \quad \text{by the I2TT} \quad (5)$$

NOTE: By partial fraction decomposition,

$$\frac{1}{(s-2)(s-3)} = \frac{a}{s-2} + \frac{b}{s-3} = \dots \text{ (you show) } \dots = -\frac{1}{s-2} + \frac{1}{s-3},$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{s(s-2)(s-3)} &= \frac{a}{s} + \frac{b}{s-2} + \frac{c}{s-3} \\ &= \dots \text{ (you show) } \dots \\ &= \frac{1}{6} \left(\frac{1}{s} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{s-2} \right) + \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{1}{s-3} \right). \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{(s-2)(s-3)} \right\} &= -\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s-2} \right\} + \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s-3} \right\} \\ &= -e^{2t} + e^{3t}, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s(s-2)(s-3)} \right\} &= \frac{1}{6} \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s} \right\} - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s-2} \right\} + \frac{1}{3} \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{s-3} \right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{6} - \frac{1}{2} e^{2t} + \frac{1}{3} e^{3t}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, by Eq. (5), the solution of the IVP is

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) &= -e^{2t} + e^{3t} + U(t-1) \left[\frac{1}{6} - \frac{1}{2} e^{2t} + \frac{1}{3} e^{3t} \right] \Big|_{t \rightarrow t-1} \\ &= -e^{2t} + e^{3t} + U(t-1) \left[\frac{1}{6} - \frac{1}{2} e^{2(t-1)} + \frac{1}{3} e^{3(t-1)} \right] \\ &= -e^{2t} + e^{3t} + \frac{1}{6} \cdot U(t-1) \left[1 - 3e^{2(t-1)} + 2e^{3(t-1)} \right]. \end{aligned}$$