

SOLUTIONS

Questions 1-5 are multiple choice. Circle the correct answer. Only the answer will be marked.
[12 marks]

1. [2] $\mathcal{L}\{e^{-2t} \cos(3t)\} =$

(a) $\frac{s+2}{(s+2)^2+9}$ (b) $\frac{s}{s^2+9}$ (c) $\frac{s-2}{(s-2)^2+9}$ (d) None of the above

2. [2] $\mathcal{L}\{t \sin(3t)\} =$

(a) $\frac{6s}{(s^2+9)^2}$ (b) $\frac{s^2-9}{(s^2+9)^2}$ (c) $\frac{9-s^2}{(s^2+9)^2}$ (d) None of the above

3. [2] $\mathcal{L}\{u(t-1)e^{2t}\} =$

(a) $\frac{e^{-s}}{s-2}$ (b) $\frac{e^{1-s}}{s+2}$ (c) $\frac{e^{2-s}}{s-2}$ (d) None of the above

4. [3] $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{2s}{s^2-25}\right\} =$

(a) $e^{5t} - e^{-5t}$ (b) $e^{5t} + e^{-5t}$ (c) $-\cos(5t)$ (d) None of the above

5. [3] $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{se^{-3s}}{s^2+4}\right\} =$

(a) $u(t-3) \cos(2t)$ (b) $u(t+3) \cos[2(t+3)]$
(c) $u(t-3) \cos[2(t-3)]$ (d) None of the above

Answers: 1.(a), 2.(a), 3.(c), 4.(b), 5.(c).

6. [4 marks] Find $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}$, where $f(t) = \begin{cases} t, & \text{if } 0 \leq t < 2; \\ e^{5t}, & \text{if } t \geq 2. \end{cases}$

Solution:

Rewrite $f(t)$ using the unit step function $u(t - a)$:

$$f(t) = [u(t) - u(t - 2)]t + u(t - 2)e^{5t} = u(t)t + u(t - 2)(-t + e^{5t}).$$

Find the Laplace transform of each term of the expression above, using the Second Shifting theorem with $a = 0$ and $a = 2$ respectively:

$$\mathcal{L}\{u(t)t\} = e^{-0t}\mathcal{L}\{t\} = \frac{1}{s^2},$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{u(t - 2)(e^{5t} - t)\} &= \mathcal{L}\{u(t - 2)(e^{5(t-2)} \cdot e^{10} - (t - 2) - 2)\} = e^{-2s}\mathcal{L}\{e^{10}e^{5t} - t - 2\} = \\ &= e^{-2s}\left\{\frac{e^{10}}{s - 5} - \frac{1}{s^2} - \frac{2}{s}\right\}. \end{aligned}$$

7. [7 marks] Employ the Laplace transform to solve the initial-value problem

$$y'' + 6y' + 10y = 0, \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y'(0) = 2.$$

Solution:

Take the Laplace transform of both parts of the equation:

$$[s^2Y(s) - sy(0) - y'(0)] + 6[sY(s) - y(0)] + 10Y(s) = 0.$$

Substitute $y(0) = 0$, $y'(0) = 2$ and solve for $Y(s)$:

$$(s^2 + 6s + 10)Y(s) = 2, \Rightarrow Y(s) = \frac{2}{s^2 + 6s + 10} = \frac{2}{(s + 3)^2 + 1}.$$

Using the First Shifting Theorem with $a = -3$, find

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

8. [7 marks] Find $f(t)$, if

$$f(t) - 3 \int_0^t f(x) dx = 6t.$$

Solution:

Let $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = F(s)$. Take the Laplace transform of both parts of the equation:

$$F(s) - 3\frac{1}{s}F(s) = 6\frac{1}{s^2} \Rightarrow F(s)(1 - \frac{3}{s}) = \frac{6}{s^2} \Rightarrow F(s) = \frac{6}{s(s-3)}.$$

To invert $F(s)$, one can use (a) partial fractions or (b) $\mathcal{L}\left\{\int_0^t g(x) dx\right\} = \frac{G(s)}{s}$.

$$(a) \quad F(s) = \frac{6}{s(s-3)} = -\frac{2}{s} + \frac{2}{s-3} \Rightarrow y(t) = -2 + 2e^{3t}.$$

OR

(b) $\frac{6}{s(s-3)} = \frac{1}{s} \cdot \frac{6}{s-3} = \frac{1}{s} \cdot G(s)$. Then $\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{G(s)\right\} = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{6}{s-3}\right\} = 6e^{3t} = g(t)$,
and

$$y(t) = \int_0^t g(x) dx = 6 \int_0^t e^{3x} dx = 6 \cdot \frac{1}{3} e^{3x} \Big|_0^t = 2e^{3t} - 2.$$