



GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
COMMISSIONERATE OF COLLEGIATE EDUCATION



INVERSE LAPLACE TRANSFORMATION

HEAVISIDE'S EXPANSION FORMULA

MATHEMATICS

GOGULAMUDI. SYAM PRASAD ,
M.Sc.,M.Phil.,B.Ed.,SET

P.R.GOV.T.COLLEGE(A):KAKINADA
Email ID :syam.g.reddy@gmail.com



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Inverse Laplace Transformation – Heaviside's Expansion Formula

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to recognize the following properties of the Inverse Laplace Transformation.

- Understand the Heaviside's Expansion formula in Inverse Laplace transforms.
- Get an idea about degree of a polynomial.
- Get the knowledge of application of Laplace transformations.
- Students will be able to know the use of Inverse Laplace transform in system modeling, digital signal processing, etc.,

Heaviside's Expansion Formula

Theorem: Let $F(p)$ and $G(p)$ be two polynomials in p , where $F(p)$ has degree less than that of $G(p)$. If $G(p)$ has n distinct zeros α_i , $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

i.e $G(p) = (p - \alpha_1)(p - \alpha_2)(p - \alpha_3) \dots (p - \alpha_n)$ then

$$L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{F(p)}{G(p)} \right\} = \sum_{r=1}^n \frac{F(\alpha_r)}{G'(\alpha_r)} e^{\alpha_r t}.$$

Proof: Since $F(p)$ is a polynomial of degree less than that of $G(p)$ and $G(p)$ has n distinct zeros α_i , $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

$$\frac{F(p)}{G(p)} = \frac{F(p)}{(p - \alpha_1)(p - \alpha_2)(p - \alpha_3) \dots (p - \alpha_n)} = \frac{A_1}{(p - \alpha_1)} + \frac{A_2}{(p - \alpha_2)} + \dots + \frac{A_n}{(p - \alpha_n)}$$

Multiplying both sides by $(p - \alpha_i)$ and taking limits as $p \rightarrow \alpha_r$, we have

$$A_r = \lim_{p \rightarrow \alpha_r} \frac{F(p)(p - \alpha_r)}{G(p)} = F(\alpha_r) \lim_{p \rightarrow \alpha_r} \frac{(p - \alpha_r)}{G(p)} = F(\alpha_r) \lim_{p \rightarrow \alpha_r} \frac{1}{G'(\alpha_r)}$$

$$\therefore \frac{F(p)}{G(p)} = \frac{F(\alpha_1)}{G'(\alpha_1)} \frac{1}{p - \alpha_1} + \frac{F(\alpha_2)}{G'(\alpha_2)} \frac{1}{p - \alpha_2} + \dots + \frac{F(\alpha_r)}{G'(\alpha_r)} \frac{1}{p - \alpha_r} + \dots + \frac{F(\alpha_n)}{G'(\alpha_n)} \frac{1}{p - \alpha_n}$$

$$\therefore L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{F(p)}{G(p)} \right\} =$$

$$\frac{F(\alpha_1)}{G'(\alpha_1)} L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{p - \alpha_1} \right\} + \frac{F(\alpha_2)}{G'(\alpha_2)} L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{p - \alpha_2} \right\} + \dots + \frac{F(\alpha_r)}{G'(\alpha_r)} L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{p - \alpha_r} \right\} + \dots +$$

$$\frac{F(\alpha_n)}{G'(\alpha_n)} L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{p - \alpha_n} \right\} \equiv \sum_{r=1}^n \frac{F(\alpha_r)}{G'(\alpha_r)} e^{\alpha_r t}$$

Ex 1: Apply Heaviside's expansion formula to find $L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{6p^2+22p+18}{p^3+6p^2+11p+6} \right\}$

Sol: Let $F(p) = 6p^2 + 22p + 18$ and $G(p) = p^3 + 6p^2 + 11p + 6$
 $= (p + 1)(p + 2)(p + 3)$

Then $G'(p) = 3p^2 + 12p + 11$

Therefore $G(p)$ has three distinct zeros $\alpha_1 = -1$, $\alpha_2 = -2$, $\alpha_3 = -3$

By Heaviside's expansion formula, we have

$$\begin{aligned} L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{F(p)}{G(p)} \right\} &= L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{6p^2+22p+18}{p^3+6p^2+11p+6} \right\} = \sum_{r=1}^3 \frac{F(\alpha_r)}{G'(\alpha_r)} e^{\alpha_r t} \\ &= \frac{F(-1)}{G'(-1)} e^{-t} + \frac{F(-2)}{G'(-2)} e^{-2t} + \frac{F(-3)}{G'(-3)} e^{-3t} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{2}{2}e^{-t} + \frac{-2}{-1}e^{-2t} + \frac{6}{2}e^{-3t}$$

$$= e^{-t} + 2e^{-2t} + 3e^{-3t}$$

$$\therefore L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{6p^2 + 22p + 18}{p^3 + 6p^2 + 11p + 6} \right\} = e^{-t} + 2e^{-2t} + 3e^{-3t}$$

Ex 3: Apply Heaviside's expansion formula to find

$$L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{2p^2 - 6p + 11}{p^3 - 6p^2 + 11p - 6} \right\}$$

Sol: Let $F(p) = 2p^2 - 6p + 11$ and $G(p) = p^3 - 6p^2 + 11p - 6$

$$= (p - 1)(p - 2)(p - 3)$$

Then $G'(p) = 3p^2 - 12p + 11$

Therefore $G(p)$ has three distinct zeros $\alpha_1 = 1$, $\alpha_2 = 2$, $\alpha_3 = 3$

By Heaviside's expansion formula, we have

$$\begin{aligned} L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{F(p)}{G(p)} \right\} &= L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{6p^2 - 6p + 11}{p^3 - 6p^2 + 11p - 6} \right\} = \sum_{r=1}^3 \frac{F(\alpha_r)}{G'(\alpha_r)} e^{\alpha_r t} \\ &= \frac{F(1)}{G'(1)} e^t + \frac{F(2)}{G'(2)} e^{2t} + \frac{F(3)}{G'(3)} e^{3t} \\ &= \frac{7}{2} e^t + \frac{7}{-1} e^{2t} + \frac{11}{2} e^{3t} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{2p^2 - 6p + 11}{p^3 - 6p^2 + 11p - 6} \right\} = \frac{7}{2} e^t - 7e^{2t} + \frac{11}{2} e^{3t}$$

Ex 4: Apply Heaviside's expansion formula to find $L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{3p+1}{(p-1)(p^2+1)} \right\}$

Sol: Let $f(p) = 3p + 1$ and $G(p) = (p - 1)(p^2 + 1)$

and $G'(p) = 3p^2 - 2p + 1$

Therefore $G(p)$ has three distinct zeros $\alpha_1 = 1$, $\alpha_2 = i$, $\alpha_3 = -i$

By Heaviside's expansion formula, we have

$$L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{F(p)}{G(p)} \right\} = L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{3p+1}{(p+1)(p^2+1)} \right\} = \sum_{r=1}^3 \frac{F(\alpha_r)}{G'(\alpha_r)} e^{\alpha_r t}$$

$$= \frac{F(1)}{G'(1)} e^t + \frac{F(i)}{G'(i)} e^{it} + \frac{F(-i)}{G'(-i)} e^{-it}$$

$$= \frac{4}{2} e^t + \frac{(3i+1)}{-2-2i} e^{it} + \frac{-3i+1}{-2+2i} e^{-it}$$

$$= 2e^t + \frac{(3i+1)(1-i)}{-2(1+i)(1-i)} e^{it} + \frac{(1+i)(-3i+1)}{2(1-i)(1+i)} e^{-it}$$

$$= 2e^t + \frac{(2i+4)}{4} e^{it} + \frac{(2i-4)}{4} e^{-it}$$

$$= 2e^t - \frac{i}{2} (e^{it} - e^{-it}) - (e^{it} + e^{-it})$$

$$= 2e^t - \frac{i}{2} (2i \sin t) - (2 \cos t)$$

$$= 2e^t - \sin t - 2 \cos t$$

$$\therefore L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{3p+1}{(p+1)(p^2+1)} \right\} = 2e^t - \sin t - 2 \cos t$$

Practice Questions:

Using Heaviside's expansion formula, find

$$1. L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{p^2 - 6}{p^3 + 4p^2 + 3p} \right\} \quad 2. L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{2p^2 + 5p - 4}{p^3 + p^2 - 2p} \right\} \quad 3. L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{p - 1}{(p + 3)(p^2 + 2p + 2)} \right\}$$

Reference Books:

- Integral transforms by Ian Sneddon, Mc Graw hill publications.
- Introduction to Applied Mathematics by Gilbert Strang, Cambridge Press
- Laplace and Fouries transforms by Dr.J.K. Goyal and K.P. Guptha, Pragathi Prakashan, Meerut.
- The Laplace Transform: Theory and Applications by [Joel L. Schiff](#)
- Student's Guide to Laplace Transforms (Student's Guides) by Daniel Fleisch.



Thank you!

