

Differential Equations

Problem Set 15

The Laplace Transform: Differential Equations with Variable Coefficients

1. Solve the following equations.

- (a) $\ddot{X}(t) + t\dot{X}(t) - 2X(t) = 1, X(0) = \dot{X}(0) = 0.$
- (b) $t\ddot{X}(t) + (2t + 3)\dot{X}(t) + (t + 3)X(t) = e^{-t}$
- (c) $t\ddot{X}(t) + (1 - a - t)\dot{X}(t) + aX(t) = t - 1, X(0) = 0, a > 0$ and $a \neq 1.$
- (d) $t\ddot{X}(t) - (2t + 1)\dot{X}(t) + (t + 1)X(t) = 0, X(0) = 0.$

2. The Laplace transform of Bessel's equation

$$t^2\ddot{X}(t) + t\dot{X}(t) + (t^2 - n^2)X(t) = 0$$

is

$$(s^2 + 1)x''(s) + 3sx'(s) + (1 - n^2)x(s) = 0$$

This equation is unfortunately not any easier to solve than Bessel's equation. Let $X(t) = t^{-n}Y(t).$

(a) Show that $Y(t)$ satisfies the equation

$$t\ddot{Y}(t) + (1 - 2n)\dot{Y}(t) + tY(t) = 0$$

(b) Solve the equation in part (a) with condition $Y(0) = 0$ and derive the solution $X(t) = CJ_n(t)$ of Bessel's equation where $J_n(t), n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ is Bessel function of the first kind

$$J_n(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{k!(n+k)!} \left(\frac{t}{2}\right)^{n+2k}$$