Problem 13

In each of Problems 11 through 23, use the Laplace transform to solve the given initial value problem.

$$y'' - 2y' + 2y = 0;$$
 $y(0) = 0,$ $y'(0) = 1$

Solution

Because the ODE is linear, the Laplace transform can be applied to solve it. The Laplace transform of a function y(t) is defined here as

$$Y(s) = \mathcal{L}\{y(t)\} = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} y(t) dt.$$

Consequently, the first and second derivatives transform as follows.

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{dy}{dt}\right\} = sY(s) - y(0)$$

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{d^2y}{dt^2}\right\} = s^2Y(s) - sy(0) - y'(0)$$

Apply the Laplace transform to both sides of the ODE.

$$\mathcal{L}\{y'' - 2y' + 2y\} = \mathcal{L}\{0\}$$

Use the fact that the transform is a linear operator.

$$\mathcal{L}\{y''\} - 2\mathcal{L}\{y'\} + 2\mathcal{L}\{y\} = 0$$
$$[s^2Y(s) - sy(0) - y'(0)] - 2[sY(s) - y(0)] + 2Y(s) = 0$$

Plug in the initial conditions, y(0) = 0 and y'(0) = 1.

$$[s^{2}Y(s) - 1] - 2[sY(s)] + 2Y(s) = 0$$

As a result of applying the Laplace transform, the ODE has reduced to an algebraic equation for Y, the transformed solution.

$$s^{2}Y(s) - 2sY(s) + 2Y(s) - 1 = 0$$

$$(s^{2} - 2s + 2)Y(s) = 1$$

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

$$= \frac{1}{s^{2} - 2s + 1 + 2 - 1}$$

$$= \frac{1}{(s - 1)^{2} + 1}$$

Take the inverse Laplace transform of Y(s) now to recover y(t).

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

