

**Ex:** Find the inverse Laplace transform for the following expression:

$$F(s) = \frac{2s - 26}{s^2 + 10s + 169}$$

**SOL'N:** Our first step in finding the inverse transform is to express the denominator in terms of roots. For a quadratic polynomial, if the square of half the coefficient of  $s$  is less than the constant coefficient, the roots are complex. In that case, we can write the denominator in terms of the real and imaginary parts of the roots:

$$s^2 + 10s + 169 = (s + a)^2 + \omega^2 = s^2 + 2as + a^2 + \omega^2$$

In this expression,  $a$  is the real part of the root and  $\omega$  is the imaginary part of the root. From this expression, we see that  $a$  equals half the middle coefficient:

$$a = \frac{10}{2} = 5$$

To find  $\omega$ , we use the value of  $a$  and the constant term in the denominator:

$$a^2 + \omega^2 = 169$$

$$5^2 + \omega^2 = 169$$

$$\omega = \pm\sqrt{169 - 5^2} = \pm\sqrt{144} = \pm 12$$

Our roots are complex conjugates:

$$s_{1,2} = -a \pm j\omega = 5 \pm j12$$

We can express the denominator in several ways:

$$s^2 + 10s + 169 = (s - (-a + j\omega))(s - (-a - j\omega)) = (s + a - j\omega)(s + a + j\omega)$$

$$s^2 + 10s + 169 = (s + 5 - j12)(s + 5 + j12)$$

or

$$s^2 + 10s + 169 = (s + a)^2 + \omega^2$$

$$s^2 + 10s + 169 = (s + 5)^2 + 12^2$$

If we choose the first form for the denominator, we express  $F(s)$  as partial fractions:

$$F(s) = \frac{A_1}{s+5-j12} + \frac{A_1^*}{s+5+j12}$$

**NOTE:** Because the roots are conjugates and all the coefficients in  $F(s)$  are real, the coefficients of the partial fractions are always complex conjugates of each other.

We find  $A_1$  by multiplying  $F(s)$  by the root term and evaluating at the value of the root.

$$A_1 = (s+5-j12)F(s)\Big|_{s=-(5-j12)} = \frac{2s-26}{s+5+j12}\Big|_{s=-(5-j12)}$$

or

$$A_1 = \frac{2[-(5-j12)]-26}{-(5-j12)+5+j12} = \frac{-36+j24}{j24} = \frac{(-j)(-36+j24)}{24} = 1 + j\frac{3}{2}$$

**NOTE:** The value in the denominator will always be two times the imaginary part of the root we are evaluating, as the real parts will cancel out.

If we use a common denominator, we can identify terms for a decaying cosine and sine.

$$F(s) = \frac{1+j\frac{3}{2}}{s+5-j12} + \frac{1-j\frac{3}{2}}{s+5+j12}$$

or

$$F(s) = \frac{\left(1+j\frac{3}{2}\right)(s+5+j12) + \left(1-j\frac{3}{2}\right)(s+5-j12)}{(s+5-j12)(s+5+j12)}$$

or

$$F(s) = \frac{2s+2\cdot 5-2\cdot\frac{3}{2}\cdot 12}{s^2+10s+169} = \frac{2s-26}{s^2+10s+169}$$

Symbolically, if we write  $A_1$  as a complex number, we can express our results in generic form.

$$A_1 \equiv c + jd$$

$$F(s) = \frac{c + jd}{s + a - j\omega} + \frac{c - jd}{s + a + j\omega} = \frac{2cs + 2ca - 2d\omega}{(s + a)^2 + \omega^2}$$

Although it appears we have simply come full circle back to our original expression for  $F(s)$ , we can ultimately express our results in terms of  $A_1$ .

We observe that the denominator is the denominator of a decaying cosine or sine. We now represent  $F(s)$  as a sum of transforms for a decaying cosine and sine:

$$F(s) = \frac{K_1(s + a)}{(s + a)^2 + \omega^2} + \frac{K_2\omega}{(s + a)^2 + \omega^2}$$

Equating the numerators with the numerator of the previous expression yields expression for  $K_1$  and  $K_2$ :

$$2cs + 2ca - 2d\omega = K_1(s + a) + K_2\omega$$

Matching the coefficient for the highest power of  $s$  first yields our result in terms of the real and complex parts of  $A_1$ :

$$K_1 = 2c \quad \text{and} \quad K_2 = -2d$$

**NOTE:** We can also bypass the steps of finding  $A_1$  and equate the numerator of  $F(s)$  directly with  $K_1(s+a)+K_2\omega$ . We see that  $K_1$  is the coefficient of  $s$ . Once we find  $K_1$ , we solve for  $K_2$ :

$$K_2 = \frac{\text{constant term} - K_1a}{\omega}$$

Here, we will have  $K_1 = 2$  and  $K_2 = -3$ .

This approach is possible, however, only if we have an expression that has only two roots. If there are more roots, we must find  $A_1$ .

Now we take the inverse transform:

$$f(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{K_1(s+a)}{(s+a)^2 + \omega^2}\right\} + \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{K_2\omega}{(s+a)^2 + \omega^2}\right\}$$

or

$$f(t) = K_1 e^{-at} \cos(\omega t) + K_2 e^{-at} \sin(\omega t)$$

or

$$f(t) = 2c e^{-at} \cos(\omega t) - 2d e^{-at} \sin(\omega t)$$

or

$$f(t) = 2\operatorname{Re}[A_1] e^{-at} \cos(\omega t) - 2\operatorname{Im}[A_1] e^{-at} \sin(\omega t)$$

**NOTE:**  $A_1$  is the coefficient of the root term in the denominator that has a minus sign in it. If we find the coefficient of the root term in the denominator that has a plus sign in it, then we must use the conjugate of  $A_1$  in the above expression. This changes the sign of the decaying sine term. (The cosine term is unaffected.)

Here, these formulas give our final result:

$$f(t) = 2e^{-5t} \cos(12t) - 3e^{-5t} \sin(12t)$$