

QUESTION

Use the complex inversion formula to show that

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1} \frac{\sinh sx}{s^2 \sinh sa} = \frac{xt}{a} + \frac{2a}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n^2} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{a} \sin \frac{n\pi t}{a}.$$

ANSWER

$$f(s) = \frac{\sinh sx}{s^2 \sinh sa}$$

This has simple poles at $s = \frac{n\pi i}{a}$ and a double pole at $s = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} f(s)e^{st} &= \frac{\left(sx + \frac{(sx)^3}{3!} + \dots\right) \left(1 + st + \frac{(st)^2}{2!} + \dots\right)}{s^2 \left(sa + \frac{(sa)^3}{s!} + \dots\right)} \\ &= \frac{x}{as^2} \frac{\left(1 + \frac{(3x)^2}{6} + \dots\right) \left(1 + st + \frac{(st)^2}{2!} + \dots\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{(sa)^2}{6} + \dots\right)} \\ &= \frac{x}{as^2} (1 + st + O(s^2)) \\ &\Rightarrow \text{Res}(0) = \frac{xt}{a} \end{aligned}$$

To find $\text{Res}\left(\frac{n\pi i}{a}\right)$ use l'Hôpital's rule for simple poles

$$\begin{aligned} f(s)e^{st} &= \lim_{s \rightarrow \frac{n\pi i}{a}} \frac{\sinh sxe^{st}}{s^2 a \cosh sa + 2s \sinh sa} \\ &= \frac{\sinh \frac{n\pi i}{a} x e^{\frac{n\pi i}{a} t}}{\left(\frac{n\pi i}{a}\right)^2 a \cosh n\pi i} \\ &= \frac{i \sin \frac{n\pi x}{a} e^{\frac{n\pi i}{a} t}}{-\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}\right)^2 a (-1)^n} \\ F(t) &= \frac{xt}{a} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \text{Res}\left(\frac{n\pi i}{a}\right) + \text{Res}\left(-\frac{n\pi i}{a}\right) \\ &= \frac{xt}{a} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2a}{n^2 \pi^2} (-1)^n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{a} \sin \frac{n\pi t}{a} \end{aligned}$$