



It is the work of a French Mathematician Pierre – de – Laplace (1749 – 1827). This method reduces the problem of differential equation with given boundary condition to simple Algebraic problem.

Definition

Let $F(t)$ be a function of 't' defined for all positive value of t; then the Laplace transform $F(t)$ is denoted by

$$L\{F(t)\} , f(s) \text{ or } \bar{F}(s) \text{ and is defined as } L\{F(t)\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} F(t) dt = f(s)$$

Here S is a parameter may be real or complex provided that integral is convergent.

Laplace Transformation of some Elementary Functions

(i) $L\{1\} = \frac{1}{S}$

Proof By definition $L\{F(t)\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} F(t) dt$ So $L\{1\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} 1 dt = \left[\frac{e^{-st}}{-s} \right]_0^{\infty} = -\frac{1}{s} \left[\frac{1}{e^{st}} \right]_0^{\infty} = -\frac{1}{s} \left[\frac{1}{\infty} - 1 \right] = -\frac{1}{s} [0 - 1] = \frac{1}{s}$

(ii) $L\{t^n\} = \frac{\Gamma(n+1)}{S^{n+1}}$ if $n > -1$; n is non integral / fractional value say $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{5}{2}, \dots$

(iii) $L\{t^n\} = \frac{\Gamma n}{S^{n+1}}$ if n is positive integers say $1, 2, 3, \dots$

(iv) $L\{e^{at}\} = \frac{1}{S-a}$, (for $S > a$) Corollary - $L\{c^{at}\} = L[e^{at \log c}] = \frac{1}{s - a \log c}$ if $s > a \log c$, $c > 0$

(v) $L\{\sin at\} = \frac{a}{S^2 + a^2}$ (vi) $L\{\cos at\} = \frac{S}{S^2 + a^2}$ (vii) $L\{\sin hat\} = \frac{a}{S^2 - a^2}$ (viii) $L\{\cos hat\} = \frac{S}{S^2 - a^2}$

Some Elementary Formulae

1. $\sin A \cos B = \frac{1}{2} [\sin(A+B) + \sin(A-B)]$

2. $\cos A \cos B = \frac{1}{2} [\cos(A+B) + \cos(A-B)]$

3. $\sin A \sin B = \frac{1}{2} [\cos(A-B) - \cos(A+B)]$

4. $\sin^3 A = \frac{1}{4} [3 \sin A - \sin 3A]$

5. $\cos^3 A = \frac{1}{4} [3 \cos A + \cos 3A]$

6. $\sin^2 A = \frac{1}{2} [1 - \cos 2A]$

7. $\cos^2 A = \frac{1}{2} [1 + \cos 2A]$

8. $\sin hat = \frac{e^{at} - e^{-at}}{2}$

9. $\cos hat = \frac{e^{at} + e^{-at}}{2}$

10. $\sin^2 hat + \cos^2 hat = \cos h 2at$

11. $\cos^2 hat - \sin^2 hat = 1$

12. $\Gamma(n+1) = n!$

13. $\frac{\Gamma 3}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\Gamma 1}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\pi}$

14. $\frac{\Gamma 1}{2} = \sqrt{\pi}$

Properties of Laplace Transform

1. I-Shifting theorem or I-Translation property

If $L\{f(t)\} = F(s)$ Then $L\{e^{at} f(t)\} = F(s - a)$

For e.g. – a) $L\{e^{at} \sin bt\} = \frac{b}{(s-a)^2 + b^2}$ b) $L\{e^{at} \cos bt\} = \frac{s-a}{(s-a)^2 + b^2}$ c) $L\{e^{at} \sin h bt\} = \frac{b}{(s-a)^2 - b^2}$
 d) $L\{e^{at} \cos h bt\} = \frac{s-a}{(s-a)^2 - b^2}$ e) $L\{e^{at} t^n\} = \frac{(n+1)!}{(s-a)^{n+1}}$ or $\frac{n!}{(s-a)^{n+1}}$

2. II-Shifting theorem

If $L\{f(t)\} = F(s)$, then $L[f(t - a).u(t - a)] = e^{-as} F(s)$ i.e. $t > a$

For e.g. $L\{t^2.u(t - 3)\} = e^{-3s} L\{(t+3)^2\} = e^{-3s} L[t^2 + 6t + 9] = e^{3s} \left[\frac{2}{s^3} + \frac{6}{s^2} + \frac{9}{s} \right]$

3. Multiplication by 't'

If $L\{f(t)\} = F(s)$, then $L[t^n f(t)] = (-1)^n \frac{d^n}{ds^n} [F(s)]$

For e.g. To find Laplace Transform of $f(t) = t e^{-t} \sin 2t$

[RGPV – June 2004 , Dec.2014]

Solution. $L[\sin 2t] = \frac{2}{s^2 + 4}$, $L[e^{-t} \sin 2t] = \frac{2}{(s+1)^2 + 4} = F(s)$ (say)

$$L[t e^{-t} \sin 2t] = -F'(s) = -\frac{d}{ds} \left[\frac{2}{(s+1)^2 + 4} \right] = \frac{4(s+1)}{[(s+1)^2 + 4]^2}$$

4. Division by 't'

If $L\{f(t)\} = F(s)$, then $L\left[\frac{1}{t} f(t)\right] = \int_s^\infty F(s) ds$

For e.g. To find Laplace Transform of $L\left[e^{-4t} \frac{\sin 3t}{t}\right]$

[RGPV – 2007 , 12]

Solution. $L[\sin 3t] = \frac{3}{s^2 + 3^2} \Rightarrow L\left[\frac{\sin 3t}{t}\right] = \int_s^\infty \frac{3}{s^2 + 9} ds = \left[\frac{3}{3} \tan^{-1} \frac{s}{3} \right]_s^\infty = \frac{\pi}{2} - \tan^{-1} \frac{s}{3} = \cot^{-1} \frac{s}{3}$

$$L\left[e^{-4t} \frac{\sin 3t}{t}\right] = \cot^{-1} \frac{s+4}{3} = \tan^{-1} \frac{3}{s+4}$$

5. Laplace Transform of Derivative of F(t)

If $L\{f(t)\} = F(s)$ then $L\{f'(t)\} = sL\{f(t)\} - f(0)$

In general $L\{f^n(t)\} = s^n L\{f(t)\} - s^{n-1} f(0) - s^{n-2} f'(0) - s^{n-3} f''(0) - \dots - f^{(n-1)}(0)$

6. Laplace Transform of Integral of F(t)

If $L\{f(t)\} = F(s)$ then $L\left[\int_0^t f(t) dt\right] = \frac{1}{s} F(s)$

7. Laplace Transform of periodic Function F(t) periodic with Period T

$$L\{f(t)\} = F(s) \text{ then } L\{f(t)\} = \frac{\int_0^T e^{-st} f(t) dt}{1 - e^{-sT}}$$

Evaluating Integrations using Laplace Transform –

Q. Evaluate $\int_0^\infty t e^{-t} \sin t dt$

[RGPV – 2005, 06, 13]

Solution - $\int_0^\infty t e^{-3t} \sin t dt = \int_0^\infty t e^{-st} \sin t dt$, { put $s = 3$ } , $= L(t \sin t) = -\frac{d}{ds} \left(\frac{1}{s^2 + 1} \right) = \frac{2s}{(s^2 + 1)^2} = \frac{2 \times 3}{(3^2 + 1)^2} = \frac{6}{100} = \frac{3}{50}$