

Q. Determine $\mathcal{L} \left\{ \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{t}} \right) \right\}$.

Solution: By the definition of Laplace transform we have

$$L \left[\operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{t}} \right) \right] = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^{\frac{1}{\sqrt{t}}} e^{-u^2} du dt$$

Changing the order of integration and evaluating the inner integral, we get

$$L \left[\operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{t}} \right) \right] = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^\infty \int_0^{\frac{1}{u^2}} e^{-st} e^{-u^2} dt du = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{1}{s} \int_0^\infty e^{-u^2} \left(1 - e^{-s \frac{1}{u^2}} \right) du$$

Using the value of Gaussian integral we have

$$L \left[\operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{t}} \right) \right] = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{1}{s} \left[\frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} - \int_0^\infty \left(e^{-u^2 - s \frac{1}{u^2}} \right) du \right]$$

Let us assume

$$I(s) = \int_0^\infty e^{-u^2 - s \frac{1}{u^2}} du$$

By differentiation under integral sign

$$\frac{dI}{ds} = \int_0^\infty e^{-u^2 - s \frac{1}{u^2}} \left(-\frac{1}{u^2} \right) du$$

Substitution $\frac{\sqrt{s}}{u} = x \Rightarrow -\frac{\sqrt{s}}{u^2} du = dx$ leads to

$$\frac{dI}{ds} = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{s}} \int_0^\infty e^{-x^2 - s \frac{1}{x^2}} dx = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{s}} I$$

Solving the above differential equation we get

$$\ln I(s) = -2\sqrt{s} + \ln c \Rightarrow I(s) = ce^{-2\sqrt{s}}$$

Further note that

$$I(0) = \int_0^\infty e^{-u^2} du = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} \Rightarrow c = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}$$

Therefore, we get

$$I(s) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} e^{-2\sqrt{s}}$$

Substituting this value in the equation (0.1), we obtain

$$L \left[\operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{t}} \right) \right] = \frac{2}{s\sqrt{\pi}} \left[\frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} e^{-2\sqrt{s}} \right] = \frac{1 - e^{-2\sqrt{s}}}{s}$$