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## Laplace transform of a Gaussian function

Canonical name	LaplaceTransformOfAGaussianFunction
Date of creation	2013-03-22 16:03:21
Last modified on	2013-03-22 16:03:21
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Last modified by	perucho (2192)
Numerical id	5
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Entry type	Application
Classification	msc 42-01

We evaluate the Laplace transform <sup>1</sup>

$$\mathcal{L}\{e^{-t^2}\} = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} e^{-t^2} dt = F(s). \quad (1)$$

In fact,

$$\mathcal{L}\{e^{-t^2}\} = \int_0^\infty e^{-(t^2 + 2\frac{s}{2}t + \frac{s^2}{4} - \frac{s^2}{4})} dt = e^{\frac{s^2}{4}} \int_0^\infty e^{-(t + \frac{s}{2})^2} dt.$$

By making the change of variable  $t + \frac{s}{2} = u$ , we have (by the second equality in (1), the variable on operator's argument is immaterial)

$$\mathcal{L}\{e^{-t^2}\} = e^{\frac{s^2}{4}} \int_{\frac{s}{2}}^\infty e^{-u^2} du.$$

That is,

$$\mathcal{L}\{e^{-t^2}\} = F(s) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} e^{\frac{s^2}{4}} \operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{s}{2}\right),$$

where  $\operatorname{erfc}(\cdot)$  is the complementary error function. Its path of integration is subject to the restriction  $\arg(u) \rightarrow \theta$ , with  $|\theta| \leq \pi/4$  as  $u \rightarrow \infty$  along the path, with equality only if  $\Re(u^2)$  remains bounded to the left.

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<sup>1</sup>cf. *Gaussian function*, wikipedia.org