



Laplace transform of periodic functions

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Let $f(t)$ be periodic with the positive <http://planetmath.org/PeriodicFunctionsperiod> p . Denote by $H(t)$ the Heaviside step function. If now

$$g(t) := f(t)H(t) - f(t-p)H(t-p),$$

then it follows

$$g(t) = \begin{cases} f(t) & \text{for } 0 < t < p, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

By the <http://planetmath.org/DelayTheorem> entry, the Laplace transform of g is

$$G(s) = F(s) - e^{-ps}F(s),$$

whence

$$F(s) = \frac{G(s)}{1 - e^{-ps}} = \frac{1}{1 - e^{-ps}} \int_0^\infty e^{-st} g(t) dt = \frac{1}{1 - e^{-ps}} \int_0^p e^{-st} f(t) dt.$$

Thus we have the rule

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \frac{1}{1 - e^{-ps}} \int_0^p e^{-st} f(t) dt \quad (\text{period } p). \quad (2)$$

On the contrary, if $f(t)$ is antiperiodic with positive antiperiod p , then the function

$$g(t) := f(t)H(t) + f(t-p)H(t-p)$$

also has the property (1). Analogically with the preceding procedure, one may derive the rule

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-ps}} \int_0^p e^{-st} f(t) dt \quad (\text{antiperiod } p). \quad (3)$$