

**Mathematical methods and its applications**  
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**Lecture – 33**  
**Laplace Transforms of Periodic Functions**

So, welcome to the lectures series on mathematical methods and its applications. In the last lecture we have seen initial and final value theorems and we have solved some problems based on it. So, we have also seen that when they are important; like initial and final value theorem when they are applied basically. In this type of problems we can apply initial and final value theorems.

Now, in this lecture we will see Laplace transforms of periodic functions. So, we already know periodic functions. Periodic functions are those functions which repeat after some  $t$ ; that means, if function  $f(t)$  is said to be a periodic function, if  $f(t + T)$  is equal to  $f(t)$  and  $T$  is not equal to 0, and that  $T$  is a smallest one.

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$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-pt} f(t) dt \\
 &= \int_0^T e^{-pt} f(t) dt + \int_T^{2T} e^{-pt} f(t) dt + \int_{2T}^{3T} e^{-pt} f(t) dt + \dots \\
 &= \int_0^T e^{-pt} f(t) dt + \int_0^T e^{-p(z+T)} f(T+z) dz + \int_0^T e^{-p(z+2T)} f(2T+z) dz + \dots \\
 &= \int_0^T e^{-pt} f(t) dt + e^{-pT} \int_0^T e^{-pz} f(z) dz + e^{-2pT} \int_0^T e^{-pz} f(z) dz + \dots \\
 &= \int_0^T e^{-pt} f(t) dt + e^{-pT} \int_0^T e^{-pz} f(z) dz + e^{-2pT} \int_0^T e^{-pz} f(z) dz + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

$f(t+T) = f(t)$

Smallest positive number, is smallest positive real number; such that  $f(t + T)$  equal to  $f(t)$ , then we say that  $T$  is period of the function  $f$ . Now to find Laplace transform from a periodic functions. So, we have a direct expression to find out Laplace transform of periodic functions, what is that. Suppose  $f(t)$  has a period  $T$ ; of course,  $T$  greater than 0,

then the Laplace transform  $f(t)$  is given this expression. Now how we obtain this expression.

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Laplace transforms of Periodic functions

Suppose  $f(t)$  has period  $T > 0$ . Then

$$L\{f(t)\} = \frac{\int_0^T e^{-pt} f(t) dt}{1 - e^{-pT}}$$

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Let us see. So, what is Laplace transform  $f(t)$ , it is nothing, but  $\int_0^{\infty} e^{-pt} f(t) dt$ .

Now, what is the period of  $f$ , a period is  $T$ , period  $T$  means it is the smallest real number  $t$ ; such that  $f(t + T) = f(t)$  that is by the definition of the periodic functions. Now since it is period  $T$ , we can write it like this  $\int_0^T e^{-pt} f(t) dt + \int_T^{2T} e^{-pt} f(t) dt + \int_{2T}^{3T} e^{-pt} f(t) dt$  and so on, up to infinity. Now you this first integral remain put it as it is. For a second integral let  $T$  minus capital minus as  $z$  for second integral. So, what will be expression when small  $t$  is  $T$ , the  $z$  will be  $0$ , and when it is  $2T$ . So,  $2T$  minus  $t$  is  $T$   $z$  will be  $t$ , and  $e^{-pz}$  what is  $t$  caps small  $t$  is  $z + T$  it is  $z + T$   $f$  of, and  $t$  is nothing, but  $z + T$  into and  $dz$  is, from here  $dt$  is nothing, but  $dz$ . So, it is  $dz$  plus.

Now, for the next expression, for the next integral again suppose say  $t$  minus  $2T$  is capital  $Z$  suppose. So,  $dt$  will be nothing, but  $d$  capital  $Z$ , and when a small  $t$  is  $2T$ , capital  $Z$  will be  $0$ . So, it is  $0$  and where it is  $3T$ ,  $3T$  minus  $2T$  is  $T$ , capital  $Z$  will be  $t - k$  power minus  $p$ , and small  $t$  from here is nothing, but  $z + 2T$ . So, it is capital  $Z$  plus  $2T$   $f$  of  $t$  is nothing, but  $2T$  plus  $z$  into  $dz$  plus and. So, on in a same way we will get another

terms of this infinite series. So, this is nothing, but this integral remains as it is;  $\int_0^t e^{kz} f(z) dz$ . Now this term  $e^{kz}$  is free from  $z$  and can be taken out from the integral. So, it is  $e^{kz} \int_0^t f(z) dz$ , and since function is periodic has a period  $T$ . So,  $f(z+T)$  is nothing, but  $f(z)$  and  $f(z+T)$  is  $f(z)$  here  $z$  is  $z$ . And similarly here  $e^{2kz}$ , we can take outside the integral  $\int_0^t e^{2kz} f(z) dz$ .

Again functions of period  $T$ , so this will be nothing, but  $f(z)$  itself into  $dz$ , because functions of period  $T$  means after every  $T$  interval the function repeat itself. So, if function is has a period  $T$  so; that means,  $f(z+T)$  will be nothing, but  $f(z)$ , because after every  $T$  function repeat itself. So, after  $n$  interval also function will be itself only, because period is  $T$ ; that is by definition of periodic functions.

Now, rather you integrate taking variable  $z$  or you integrate taking variable  $t$ , it is same by the definition of, by the properties of definite integrals. And here also rather you integral with respect to capital  $Z$  or small  $t$  all are same. So, this is nothing, but this can be written as  $\int_0^t e^{kz} f(z) dz$ , plus  $\int_0^t e^{kz} f(z) dz$ . So, we can write it like this  $e^{kz} \int_0^t f(z) dz$ . In this expression you can also write  $e^{kz} \int_0^t f(z) dz$  and so on. So, what is the final expression now? So, in the final expression you can easily see that this term is common from all the terms. This expression is common in all the terms. In the first term we have 1, second we have  $e^{kz}$ , the third term here  $e^{2kz}$  and so on.

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$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} &= (1 + e^{-pT} + e^{-2pT} + \dots) \int_0^T e^{-pt} f(t) dt \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - e^{-pT}} \int_0^T e^{-pt} f(t) dt \end{aligned}$$

$f(nT+t) = f(t)$

So, what will be the Laplace transform of  $f(t)$ ? This we were calculating, this is nothing, but this equal to this. So, when we simplify this. So, we will get  $1 + e^{-k p t} + e^{-2 p t} + \dots$ , and this is common from all the terms  $\int_0^T e^{-k p t} f(t) dt$ .

So, this after simplification we get this. Now what is the first, what is the first term? It is a geometric progression. So, how to sum up, using the formula for geometric progression for infinite series, and when we have  $a$ . So, it is nothing, but  $a$  upon  $1 - r$ . here  $a$  is a first term first term is  $1$ , and  $1 - r$  is  $1 - e^{-k p t}$  integral  $0$  to  $t$   $e^{-k p t} f(t) dt$ . So, this is the required expression, which is same as this expression. So, this is how we can find out Laplace transforms of periodic functions. So, whenever any function is given to you and you know the period of that function. So, you can simply find out Laplace transform of such function by simply using this expression, I mean this formula. So, now let us solve some problems on periodic functions. First is square wave function, how it is defined. It is defined like this when  $f(t)$  is  $k$  when  $t$  is from  $0$  to  $a$ .

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**Problems**

Find the Laplace transform of the following functions:



- **Square wave** function defined by:

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} k & \text{if } 0 \leq t < a, \\ -k & \text{if } a \leq t < 2a. \end{cases}$$

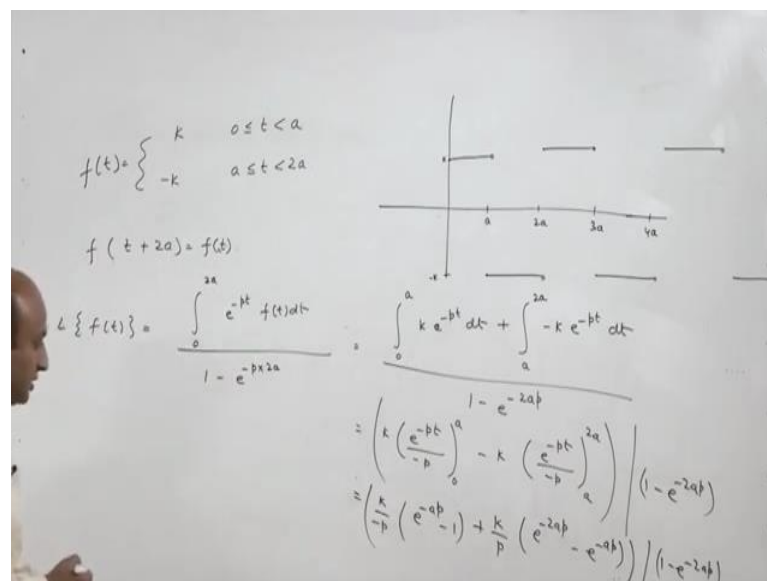
Here  $f(t)$  is a periodic function of period  $2a$ .

- **Saw-toothed wave** function of period  $T$  defined as:

$$f(t) = \frac{t}{T}, 0 < t < T$$



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Handwritten derivation for the Laplace transform of a square wave function:

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} k & 0 \leq t < a \\ -k & a \leq t < 2a \end{cases}$$

Graph showing the periodic nature of the function with period  $2a$ .

$$f(t + 2a) = f(t)$$

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \frac{\int_0^{2a} e^{-pt} f(t) dt}{1 - e^{-p \cdot 2a}}$$

$$= \frac{\int_0^a k e^{-pt} dt + \int_a^{2a} -k e^{-pt} dt}{1 - e^{-2ap}}$$

$$= \frac{\left( k \left( \frac{e^{-pt}}{-p} \right) \Big|_0^a - k \left( \frac{e^{-pt}}{-p} \right) \Big|_a^{2a} \right)}{(1 - e^{-2ap})}$$

$$= \frac{\left( \frac{k}{-p} (e^{-ap} - 1) + \frac{k}{p} (e^{-2ap} - e^{-ap}) \right)}{(1 - e^{-2ap})}$$

So, it is  $f(t) = k$ , when  $t$  varying from  $0$  to  $a$ , and it is minus  $k$  when  $t$  varying from  $a$  to  $2a$ , and period is  $2a$ ; that means,  $f(t + 2a) = f(t)$ . So, what is the shape of this function. From  $0$  to it is  $a$ , it is  $2a$ ,  $3a$ ,  $4a$  and so on. Now from  $0$  to  $a$ , it is having a value  $k$ , assume  $k$  to be positive. So, it is a value  $k$ ; that means, suppose this is  $k$ . So, this is the  $k$ , and from  $a$  to  $2a$  it has value minus  $k$ . So, suppose minus  $k$  is somewhere here, from  $a$  to  $2a$  it has minus  $k$  again. So, this repeat itself. So, now, from  $2a$  to  $3a$ , it has

a value  $k$ . and from  $3a$  to  $4a$  it has a value  $-k$ , and the process continues. Since it has a period  $2a$ .

Now, how to find Laplace of this function? So, finding Laplace of this function is easy, you can simply find Laplace of this  $f(t)$ , by using that expression which is nothing, but  $0$  to  $t$ ,  $t$  is the  $T$  is the period of function, that we have seen. If you see this for expression here  $T$  is the period of the function, period of this function is  $2a$ . So, it is  $0$  to  $2a$   $e^{-pt}$   $f(t) dt$  upon  $1 - e^{-k} e^{-p \cdot 2a}$ , and  $T$  and  $T$  is period which is  $2a$ . So, now, we can compute the numerator part, denominator is constant, I mean function of  $p$  it is we can we have to simplify. Now again from  $0$  to  $a$  it is  $f(t) = k$ . So, it is  $k \int_0^a e^{-pt} dt$  plus  $a$  to  $2a$  it is  $-k \int_a^{2a} e^{-pt} dt$  divided by  $1 - e^{-k} e^{-2ap}$ . So, this can be further written as  $k \int_0^a e^{-pt} dt - k \int_a^{2a} e^{-pt} dt$  upon  $1 - e^{-k} e^{-2ap}$ . now when you take the, when you plan the limit is. So, it is  $k$  upon  $1 - e^{-k} e^{-2ap}$  minus  $k$  by  $p$ , numerator is  $e^{-k} e^{-2ap}$ , denominator is  $1 - e^{-k} e^{-2ap}$ , and this whole expression divided by  $1 - e^{-k} e^{-2ap}$ .

So, you can simplify this expression to get the final answer of Laplace transform of this function. So, what we will obtain. So, when you simplify this. So, Laplace transform of  $f(t)$  will be nothing, but of the first problem, of the first problem is nothing, but you can take  $k$  upon  $p$  common, it is  $e^{-k} e^{-2ap}$ .

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The image shows a handwritten derivation of the Laplace transform of a periodic function. On the left, the Laplace transform of  $f(t)$  is calculated as follows:

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \frac{k}{p} \left\{ e^{-2ap} - 2e^{-ap} + 1 \right\}$$

$$= \frac{k}{p} \frac{(1 - e^{-ap})^2}{1 - e^{-2ap}}$$

On the right, a graph shows a periodic sawtooth wave function  $f(t)$  with period  $2a$ . The function is zero for  $0 \leq t < a$  and increases linearly from  $0$  to  $k$  for  $a \leq t < 2a$ . The graph is labeled with  $a, 2a, 3a, 4a$  on the horizontal axis. Below the graph, the Laplace transform is derived using integration by parts:

$$= \frac{\int_0^a k e^{-pt} dt + \int_a^{2a} -k e^{-pt} dt}{1 - e^{-2ap}}$$

$$= \left( k \left( \frac{e^{-pt}}{-p} \right)_0^a - k \left( \frac{e^{-pt}}{-p} \right)_a^{2a} \right) / (1 - e^{-2ap})$$

$$= \left( \frac{k}{-p} (e^{-ap} - 1) + \frac{k}{p} (e^{-2ap} - e^{-ap}) \right) / (1 - e^{-2ap})$$

Now, this is negative and this is also negative. So, it is minus 2 e k power minus a p k upon p is common, and this is minus minus plus, it is plus 1, and whole divided by 1 minus e k power minus 2 a p. So, this is nothing, but k upon p. So, it is nothing, but 1 minus e k power minus a p whole square, upon 1 minus e k minus 2 a p. So, this will be the final expression. Now, the second problem, we call it saw toothed wave function which is defined like this. Now what is the shape of this function let us see it has a period T. So, what is the shape of this function functions defined like this it is f t, which is equals to t upon T, when t varying from 0 to t, and period is T.

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$f(t) = \frac{t}{T}; 0 < t < T$   
 $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \int_0^T e^{-bt} \cdot \frac{t}{T} dt$   
 $\frac{1 - e^{-bT}}{1 - e^{-bT}}$   
 $= \frac{1}{T} \left[ t \frac{e^{-bt}}{-b} - \int \frac{e^{-bt}}{(-b)^2} dt \right]_0^T = \frac{1}{T(1 - e^{-bT})} \left( \frac{T e^{-bT}}{-b} - \frac{e^{-bT}}{b^2} + \frac{1}{b^2} \right)$

So, it is T it is 2 t, it is 3 and 3 t and. So, on from 0 to t it is t upon T, it is something like a straight line passing through origin. So, it is t to t, when it is T it is 1. Now this value is 1, this basically, and when it is 0 it is 0. So, we have a hollow here we have a hollow here. Now from t to t t, the same will repeat from t to 2 t itself, because it is a period T as given the problem. So, the same will repeat here also, the same will repeat here also, the same will repeat here also. So, likewise we can draw this function.

So, this is this function we call at, all heights are same, all heights are same. So, this is saw toothed wave. Now how to find Laplace of this function? again we can use the same expression the same formula, Laplace of f t will be nothing, but it is 0 to t T T is T here, e k power minus p t f t, f t is p upon T into d t and 1 upon 1 minus e k power minus p t t is t is here. So, it is nothing, but this T is constant it will come out. And to integrate this we will use by parts, integration by parts. So, what is the expression for this t into e k power minus p t upon minus p minus 1 into e k power minus p t upon minus p square? It is from 0 to T and whole divided by 1 minus e k power minus p t.

So, you can substitute a small t as T, it is 1 upon t into 1 minus e k power minus p t. when you take small t as T it is nothing, but t into e k power minus p t upon minus p and when you take t as 0, so it is 0. Now here where you take t as t, so it is negative is already outside, it is e k power minus p t upon p square and minus minus plus 1 upon p square.



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Continued...

- Given a function of period  $2\pi$  as below:

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} \sin t & \text{if } 0 < t < \pi, \\ 0 & \text{if } \pi < t < 2\pi, \end{cases}$$

Find  $L[f(t)]$ .

- If  $f(t) = t^2$ ,  $0 < t < 2$  and  $f(t+2) = f(t)$ , find  $L[f(t)]$ ?

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So, you can take l c m and simplify this. So, which will be the Laplace transform of this f t? Similarly we have this problem, period is 2 pi f t it is defined like this, what is f t here. So, here f t from 0 to pi is sin t, and pi to 2 pi is 0.

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The whiteboard shows the Laplace transform of a periodic function  $f(t)$  with period  $2\pi$ . The formula is:

$$L\{f(t)\} = \frac{\int_0^{2\pi} e^{-bt} f(t) dt}{1 - e^{-b \cdot 2\pi}}$$

$$= \frac{\int_0^{\pi} e^{-bt} \sin t dt + 0}{1 - e^{-2\pi b}}$$

The graph on the right shows a periodic function  $f(t)$  with period  $2\pi$ . The function is  $\sin t$  for  $0 < t < \pi$  and 0 for  $\pi < t < 2\pi$ . The x-axis is labeled with  $\pi$ ,  $2\pi$ ,  $3\pi$ , and  $4\pi$ .

So, it is pi it is 2 pi. So, from 0 to pi it is sin t, it is something like this and from pi to 2 pi it is 0 to 0. Again it has a period 2 pi, same will repeat after 2 pi also. So, from 2 pi to 3 pi it is sin t, having the same heights, and from 3 pi to 4 pi it is 0. Again from 4 pi to 5 pi it is sin t, and from 5 pi to 6 pi it is 0.

So, how to find Laplace of this function? Again we will use a same expression Laplace of  $f(t)$  will be nothing, but it is 0 to  $T$ ,  $T$  is  $2\pi$  here  $e^{k \text{ power minus } p t}$  into  $f(t) dt$  upon  $1 \text{ minus } e^{k \text{ power minus } p \text{ into } 2\pi}$ . you can break it from 0 to  $\pi$   $e^{k \text{ power minus } p t}$  0 to  $\pi$  it is  $\sin t dt$ , and  $\pi$  to  $2\pi$  it is 0 so plus 0, upon  $1 \text{ minus } e^{k \text{ power minus } 2\pi p}$ .

Now, one can easily solve this expression by applying integration by parts, and we can get the final answer. now the next problem if  $f(t)$  equal to  $t$  square, when  $t$  varying from 0 to  $t$ , and  $f(t) + 2$  is 2; that means, period is 2. So, what is the shape of this function? First we can visualize what is the shape, and then we can try to find out the Laplace of this function. So, what is the shape of this function? This is from 0 to 2 0 to 4 then 6 and so on.

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$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \int_0^2 t^2 e^{-pt} dt / (1 - e^{-2p})$$

$$= \left[ t^2 \left( \frac{e^{-pt}}{-p} \right) - (2t) \left( \frac{e^{-pt}}{p^2} \right) + 2 \left( \frac{e^{-pt}}{(-p)^3} \right) \right]_0^2 / (1 - e^{-2p})$$

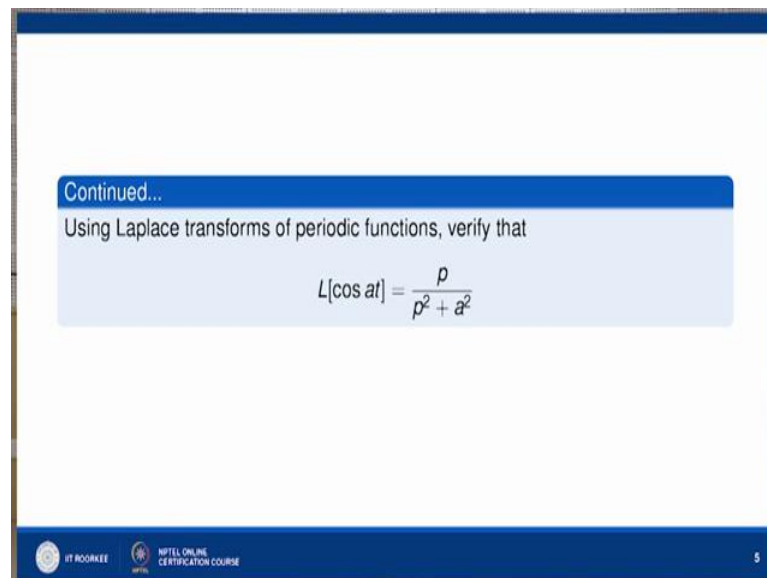
So, from 0 to 2 it is  $t$  square; that is parabola, and when it is 2 it is 4. So, it is something like this expression, and this is 4. When  $t$  is 2  $f(t)$  is 4. Now from 2 to 4 again it is parabola. So, it is something like this expression, height remains same and 4 6 it is something like this expression. So, it is the same expression. Again from 6 to 8 it is something like expression.

So, that, this will be the rough shape of this function  $f(t)$ . Now how to find Laplace of this, again using the same expression? So, Laplace of this  $f(t)$  will be nothing, but 0 to  $t$ , here  $t$

is  $2\pi$  and it is  $t^2 e^{k t} dt$  and whole divided by  $1 - e^{k t}$ , because  $T$  is  $2\pi$ .

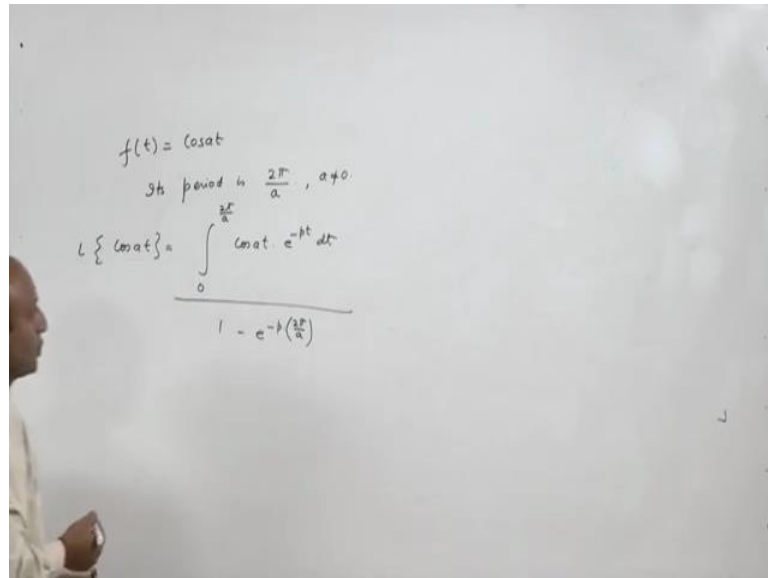
So, this you can integrate by applying integration by parts. So, how to find integration is simple  $t^2 e^{k t}$  upon  $1 - e^{k t}$  then negative and  $2 t e^{k t}$  upon  $1 - e^{k t}$  plus it is  $2 e^{k t}$  upon  $1 - e^{k t}$ . Here I have applied the concept of partial integration of parts directly, you can find it by applying integration by parts also, and then the whole expression divided by  $1 - e^{k t}$ . So, this you can simplify, and you can find out the Laplace transform of this function  $f(t)$  by substituting  $t = 0$  and  $t = 2\pi$ .

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So, if you want to verify, say Laplace transform  $\cos at$  which we have already find out, which is  $p$  upon  $p^2 + a^2$  that also we can verify by using periodicity also. So, period of  $\cos at$  is what, is  $2\pi$  upon  $a$ . So, using periodicity also, we can find out Laplace transform of  $\cos at$ . So, what will be the expression for this? If you use the periodicity of  $\cos at$ ,  $f(t)$  is  $\cos at$ . So, it is period is  $2\pi$  upon  $a$ , a should not equal to; of course, a should not equal to 0,  $2\pi$  upon  $a$ .

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So, how to find Laplace of  $\cos at$  now? Using property of Laplace transform of periodic functions, so it is nothing, but 0 to T, T is  $2\pi$  upon  $a$  and it is  $\cos at$   $f(t)$  into  $e^{-st}$  power minus  $pt$   $d t$  and whole divided by  $1 - e^{-s(2\pi/a)}$ . So, you can easily verify, you can apply integration by parts over here, and when you simplify. So, you will derive you will definitely get, you will get  $p$  upon  $p^2 + a^2$  which is the Laplace transform of  $\cos at$ . Now the last problem, suppose we have to find out Laplace transform of this triangular wave function.

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**Problem**

Fig. 1

Find the Laplace transform of the triangular wave function  $f(t)$  whose graph is shown in Fig. 1?

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So, first we have to construct the function. So, one can easily see that the period of this function is 2, because after every  $t$  equal to 2 function repeats, and what is the nature of the function at  $t$  equal to, from 0 to  $t$ . So, that we have to construct that one can easily see, that from 0 to  $t$ . So,  $f(t)$  is nothing, but. When  $t$  is varying from 0 to 1, it is straight line passing through origin and from 0.1 comma 1.

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The image shows a whiteboard with handwritten mathematical work. At the top, the function  $f(t)$  is defined as a piecewise function:  $f(t) = \begin{cases} t & 0 \leq t \leq 1 \\ 2-t & 1 \leq t \leq 2 \end{cases}$ . Below this, the periodicity is noted as  $f(t+2) = f(t)$ . The main part of the work is the Laplace transform calculation: 
$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \frac{\int_0^2 f(t)e^{-pt} dt}{1 - e^{-2p}} = \frac{\int_0^1 t e^{-pt} dt + \int_1^2 (2-t)e^{-pt} dt}{1 - e^{-2p}}$$

So, it is remain 1, when  $t$  is varying from 0 to 1. When  $t$  is 0 it is 0 when  $t$  is 1 it is 1, and from 1 to 2 it is a decreasing straight line. So, it is something like 2 minus  $t$  when  $t$  varying from 1 to 2, because when  $t$  is 1. So,  $f(t)$  is 1 which is a tip point of this figure, and when  $t$  is 2 it is 0. So, that will be the function, of this function, and with  $f(t)$  plus 2 is nothing, but  $f(t)$ . So, this is this function.

Now, we can easily find out Laplace transform of this function using the expression for Laplace transforms of periodic functions. So, what will Laplace transform of this  $f(t)$ . This is nothing, but  $\int_0^T f(t)e^{-pt} dt$  upon  $1 - e^{-kT}$  which is equal to. Now that to break it  $\int_0^1 t e^{-pt} dt$  plus, from 1 to 2  $\int_1^2 (2-t)e^{-pt} dt$  and whole divided by  $1 - e^{-2p}$ . So, you can apply by parts here and here also, and simplify to get the Laplace transform of this triangular wave function.

Thank you very much.