

## **A Review on Improving Laplace Transform Accessibility for Basic Mathematics Instructions**

Sowmya M

*Senior Grade Lecturer, Department of Science, Government CPC Polytechnic Mysore, Karnataka, India.*

---

**Abstract:** *Through the use of the simplification approach, the purpose of this endeavor is to make the Laplace transform more accessible to students in the process of developing their fundamental mathematical skills. The purpose of this research is to investigate the many strategies that are used to clarify complex concepts for students. The dedication to enhancing the accessibility of the Laplace transform is highlighted in the abstract, and the ultimate goals are the construction of a learning environment that is more productive and inclusive.*

**Keywords:** *Laplace Transform, Accessibility, Basic Mathematic, Learning environment.*

---

Date of Submission: 20-12-2019

Date of acceptance: 30-12-2019

---

### **I. Introduction and Literature**

Improving the accessibility of Laplace Transforms (LT) in basic mathematics education is a critical challenge that is addressed in the beginning of this paper. Laplace transforms are powerful tools, but their intricacy could make them difficult for students to grasp. The goal of this study is to find ways to simplify these concepts so that they are easier to understand. The research acknowledges the need of bridging the gap between students' grasp of the Laplace transform and the topic's complexity in basic mathematics courses. The study's overarching objective is to facilitate students' learning by identifying and implementing simplification strategies that enhance their grasp of these foundational concepts. Taking into consideration the various learning styles and backgrounds of students, the research highlights the need of establishing an inclusive and conducive learning environment. Improving the teaching method is mainly driven by the need to provide a more conducive and practical setting for the instruction of basic mathematics. This introductory section lays down the groundwork for a simplified approach that may help students of varying levels understand the Laplace transform (LT). Since algebraic equations are easy to evaluate, the Laplace transform begins by transforming the fundamental differential equation (D.E.) into one. After the evaluation of these algebraic equations (AE), we convert them back into a Laplace transform (LT) using the inverse Laplace transform. Many textbooks on linear circuit analysis (LCA) and control systems include the LT, which characterizes the dynamical system. It is clearly an algebraic version of the supplied basic differential equation (DE) (Ogata K., et al., 2010). In 2011, Dorf et al. You may find the LT-generated equation  $y(s)$  in the LT tables. Get the time-response function (TRF)  $y(t)$  by dividing the function  $y(s)$  into partial fractions. Another tedious and time-consuming procedure that requires expatriation to match an item in LT tables is the method of partial fraction. It's worth mentioning that indefinite integral tables given in calculus textbooks may be used to calculate various indefinite integrals using the same approach (Thomas et al., 2015). Similar to Laplace transforms, the rather dated logarithm tables covered in secondary school mathematics include calculating the value (the antilogarithm) that matches the sum of the logarithms produced by converting products of integers. Berezovski in 2006.

Tasks must be completed: The goal of this project is to simplify the concept of Laplace Transforms such that they are more approachable to first-year math students. If complex Laplace Transform concepts are to be better understood, it is essential to devise strategies for simplification, provide explicit explanations, and make use of visual aids. Adopting interactive technologies helps bring the subject matter to life and encourages student participation. There is an emphasis on variety in the way various learning styles and abilities are addressed. The project's overarching objective is to make Laplace Transforms easier to study and understand so that more students may take pleasure in and make sense of these topics as part of their core mathematics curriculum.

### **II. Literature Review**

The Laplace transform is now under-discussed in academic literature. We were also exposed to four sources that are relevant to our inquiry. Every one of these accounts agrees that the Laplace transform was a real challenge for the pupils. In her work, Carstensen argues that students' teaching strategies must include an introduction to the Laplace transform, even though many students find the idea tough to understand. Following a

discussion of possible challenges in teaching and comprehending Laplace transforms, Carstensen and Bernhard (2004) demonstrated that this approach is among the most challenging for electrical engineering students to grasp while learning electric circuit theory (ECT). They had observed that the very complicated mathematics used makes transient response a challenging problem. Concerning the challenges of learning and the use of the Laplace transform in engineering education, the writers interviewed 22 university instructors. They found that the educators' perspectives about the LT's importance and the challenges students faced during learning were very different. Although the majority of research on education focuses on students being taught ideas and common misunderstandings, this article emphasizes the significance of studying instructors' grasp of the LT Methodology: We propose two explanations for why engineering students struggle to master the L.T. in traditional classroom settings: Instruction in the mechanization of routine computational operations; for example, students will learn to manually compute the inverse LT of an expression and then input the results into an LT table. Since they, too, struggle to manually evaluate a normal integral, many students see this as just another one of those boring mechanical tasks that must be mastered. Many engineering students may find the conventional mathematics textbook description of the L.T. to be misleading as it takes away from the concept's intended use and makes it harder to comprehend. The year 2012 was highlighted by Abou and colleagues. Traditional education also often fails to make the necessary connections between abstract ideas, their practical applications, and formal representations. The year 1997 was written by Thornton. Since it may be instructed to handle much more complicated D.E. (differential equations), it is important to assess the relevance of the L.T. method as well. Since there are more strong time-domain methods than CAS for evaluating fixed kinds of differential equations, we are wondering whether the L.T. Approach is still relevant in engineering education. The authors do not, however, want to downplay the importance of L.T. theory in fields like engineering, mathematics, and physics. On the other side, the L.T. is a useful tool for scientists, researchers, and investigators when they are trying to solve difficulties. Actually, Reddy et al. (2017) covered how to use the L.T. to answer different investigational problems by reviewing 25 research articles from different academic fields.

### III. Conclusion

Traditional approaches to studying engineering domains need to be rethought in light of the fact that they are becoming more antiquated, and new approaches should be recognized as part of updated pedagogical frameworks for these disciplines. As far back as algebra can be traced, there has always been a distinction between method and conceptual approaches in mathematics. As an example, in 1890, Indian educators were already pushing for a more grounded approach to mathematics in response to what they saw as a focus on manipulation skills in the curriculum. Year 2018 by Rachlin. Therefore, when engineering science courses include mathematical concepts like the L.T. theory A broad explanation is less important than a basic mathematical method (Bergsten et al., 2016). As an example, Flegg et al. (2012) argues that if engineering mathematics is only understood in terms of procedures and algorithms, the significance of mathematical thinking in engineering processes might be diminished. Now more than ever, engineers working in the field require a broader set of mathematical skills, including conceptual understanding, to complement their procedural expertise, all because of the proliferation of computational power. When teaching mathematics to undergraduates in the engineering field, concept-based training may help students better grasp big ideas without sacrificing their ability to do simple procedures.

### REFERENCES

- [1]. Ogata K., et al., 2010. Modern control engineering. Prentice hall Upper Saddle River, NJ, vol. 5.
- [2]. Deakin M. A., 1992. "The ascendancy of the laplace transform and how it came about," *Archive for History of Exact Sciences*, vol. 44, pp. 265–286,
- [3]. Michael A. B. Deakin "The development of the laplace transform, 1737-1937: I. euler to spitzer, 1737-1880," *Archive for History of Exact sciences*, pp. 343–390, 1981.
- [4]. Michael A. B. Deakin, "The development of the laplace transform, 1737–1937 ii. poincare to doetsch, 1880–1937," *Archive for History of Exact Sciences*, vol. 26, pp. 351–381, 1982.
- [5]. Carlson A. B. and Carlson B., 2000 *Circuits: engineering concepts and analysis of linear electric circuits*. Brooks/Cole,
- [6]. Dorf R. and Bishop R., 2011. *Modern Control Systems*, 12th ed. Pearson,.
- [7]. Thomas G. B. Jr, Weir M. D., and Hass J. R., 2015. *Thomas' Calculus: Early Transcendentals*. Pearson.
- [8]. Berezovski T., 2006, "Manifold nature of logarithms: numbers, operations and functions," in *Conference Papers–Psychology of Mathematics & Education of North America*, pp. 62–64.
- [9]. Carstensen A.-K., 2013. "Connect: modelling learning to facilitate linking models and the real world trough lab-work in electric circuit courses for engineering students," Ph.D. dissertation, Linkoping University Elec- tronic Press,
- [10]. Carstensen A.-K. And Bernhard J., 2004 "Laplace transforms: Too difficult to teach, learn, and apply, or just a matter of how to do it?"
- [11]. Holmberg M. and Bernhard J., 2017 "University teachers' perspectives on the role of the laplace transform in engineering education," *European Journal of Engineering Education*, vol. 42, no. 4, pp. 413–428,
- [12]. Lundberg K. H., Miller H. R., and Trumper D. L., 2007 "Initial conditions, generalized functions, and the laplace transform troubles at the origin," *IEEE Control Systems Magazine*, vol. 27, no. 1, pp. 22–35,.
- [13]. Chevallard Y., 1999 "L'analyse des pratiques enseignantes en theorie anthro- pologique du didactique," *Recherches en didactique des mathematiques* , vol. 19, no. 2, pp. 221–266,.

- [14]. Drijvers P. and Gravemeijer K., 2005 "Computer algebra as an instrument: Examples of algebraic schemes," The didactical challenge of symbolic calculators: Turning a computational device into a mathematical instrument, pp. 163–196,
- [15]. Lagrange J.-B., 2005. "Using symbolic calculators to study mathematics: the case of tasks and techniques," The didactical challenge of symbolic calculators: turning a computational device into a mathematical instrument, pp. 113–135,
- [16]. Chevallard, Y. 1992. "Fundamental concepts in didactics," Research in didactique of mathematics: Selected papers, pp. 131–168,
- [17]. Artigue M., 2002. "Learning mathematics in a cas environment: The genesis of a reflection about instrumentation and the dialectics between technical and conceptual work," International journal of computers for mathematical learning, vol. 7, pp. 245–274,
- [18]. Freudenthal H., 2006, Revisiting mathematics education: China lectures. Springer Science & Business Media, vol. 9.
- [19]. Chevallard, Y. 2015, "Teaching mathematics in tomorrow's society: A case for an oncoming counter paradigm," in The proceedings of the 12th international congress on mathematical education: Intellectual and attitudinal challenges. Springer International Publishing, pp. 173–187.
- [20]. Boyce W. E., DiPrima R. C., and Meade D. B., 2011. Elementary differential equations and boundary value problems. John Wiley & Sons,
- [21]. Wunsch A. D., 1983, Complex variables with applications. Addison-Wesley Reading, MA, vol. 204.
- [22]. Majid, M. A., Huneiti, Z. Balachandran, W. and Balarabe, Y. 2013. "Matlab as a teaching and learning tool for mathematics: a literature review," International Journal of Arts & Sciences, vol. 6, no. 3, p. 23,
- [23]. Abou-Hayt, Dahl, I. B. and Rump, C. Ø. 2012. "Teaching transfer functions without the laplace transform," European Journal of Engineering Education, vol. 47, no. 5, pp. 746–761,

Sowmya M" A Review on Improving Laplace Transform Accessibility for Basic Mathematics Instructions" IOSR Journal of Mathematics (IOSR-JM) 15.6 (2019): 66-68.