

## Laplace Transform Method for Heat Dissipation in an Infinite Fin Surface

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### ABSTRACT

In many practical situations, to improve the heat transfer rate extended surfaces, called fins or spines are stuck out from the conducting medium. The amount of heat dissipated from the infinite fin surface into its surroundings can be determined by solving the general differential equation describing one – dimensional heat dissipation from the infinite fin via Laplace transform method. This paper presents a new approach to illustrate the use of Laplace transform in obtaining the rate of heat dissipated into the surroundings from an infinite uniform fin by solving the general form of energy equation describing one–dimensional heat dissipation from the conducting medium. This approach put forward the Laplace transform method as a powerful technique in solving the linear differential equations of second order.

**Keywords:** Heat Dissipation, Infinite Fin, Laplace transform, Surroundings.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Fins or spines are the extended surfaces projected from heat conducting surfaces to improve the heat dissipation into the surroundings. Heat transfers by virtue of temperature gradient and the three modes which transfer heat from one part of the medium to another part are conduction, convection and radiation. In conduction mode, heat energy transfers from a part of the medium at a higher temperature to another part of the medium at a lower temperature without any macroscopic motion in the medium. Fourier's law is the basic law of conduction of heat and is expressed as  $\mathcal{H} = -\mathcal{K}\mathcal{A} \frac{dt}{dy}$ , where  $\mathcal{K}$  is the thermal conductivity of the material of the conducting medium,  $\mathcal{A}$  is the area of the cross-section of the conducting medium,  $\mathcal{H}$  is the rate of heat conducted,  $\frac{dt}{dy}$  is the temperature gradient and the negative sign indicates that the heat is transferring in the direction of decreasing temperature. In convection mode, heat energy transfers from a part of the medium at a higher temperature to another part of the medium at a lower temperature with the macroscopic motion in the medium [1-5].

### II. DEFINITION OF LAPLACE TRANSFORMATIONS

Let  $h(y)$  is a well-defined function of real numbers  $y \geq 0$ . The Laplace transformation of  $h(y)$  is denoted by  $H(q)$  or  $L\{h(y)\}$  and is defined as

$L\{h(y)\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-qy} h(y) dy = H(q)$ , provided that the integral exists, i.e. convergent. If the integral is convergent for some value of  $q$ , then the Laplace transformation of  $h(y)$  exists otherwise not. Where  $q$  is the parameter which may be a real or complex number and  $L$  is the Laplace transform operator [6-8].

**Laplace transformation of elementary functions:**

1.  $L\{1\} = \frac{1}{q}, q > 0$

2.  $L\{y^n\} = \frac{n!}{q^{n+1}},$  where  $n = 0, 1, 2, 3 \dots \dots$

3.  $L\{e^{dy}\} = \frac{1}{q-d}, q > d$

4.  $L\{\sin dy\} = \frac{d}{q^2 + d^2}, q > 0$

5.  $L\{\sinh dy\} = \frac{d}{q^2 - d^2}, q > |d|$

$$6. L \{ \cos dy \} = \frac{q}{q^2 + d^2}, \quad q > 0$$

$$7. L \{ \cosh dy \} = \frac{q}{q^2 - d^2}, \quad q > |d|$$

**Laplace Transformation of derivatives:**

Let the function  $h(y)$  is having an exponential order, that is  $h(y)$  is continuous function and is piecewise continuous function on any interval, then the Laplace transform of derivative of  $h(y)$  i.e.  $L \{ h'(y) \}$  is given by

$$L \{ h'(y) \} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-ay} h'(y) dy$$

Integrating by parts and using the condition that,  $e^{-ay} h(y) = 0$  when  $y = \infty$  we get

$$L \{ h'(y) \} = [0 - h(0)] - \int_0^{\infty} -q e^{-ay} h(y) dy,$$

$$\text{Or } L \{ h'(y) \} = -h(0) + q \int_0^{\infty} e^{-ay} h(y) dy$$

$$\text{Or } L \{ h'(y) \} = qL \{ h(y) \} - h(0)$$

$$\text{Or } L \{ h'(y) \} = qH(q) - h(0)$$

Now, since  $L \{ h'(y) \} = qL \{ h(y) \} - h(0)$ ,

Therefore,  $L \{ h''(y) \} = qL \{ h'(y) \} - h'(0)$

$$\text{Or } L \{ h''(y) \} = q \{ qL \{ h(y) \} - h(0) \} - h'(0)$$

$$\text{Or } L \{ h''(y) \} = q^2 L \{ h(y) \} - qh(0) - h'(0)$$

$\text{Or } L \{ h''(y) \} = q^2 H(q) - qh(0) - h'(0)$ , and so on.

**Inverse Laplace transformation:**

The inverse Laplace transform of the function  $H(q)$  is  $L^{-1}[H(q)]$  or  $h(y)$ . If we write  $L[h(y)] = H(q)$ , then  $L^{-1}[H(q)] = h(y)$ , where  $L^{-1}$  is called the inverse Laplace transform operator [6-8].

**Inverse Laplace transformations of some functions:**

$$1. L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{q} \right\} = 1$$

$$2. L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{(q-d)} \right\} = e^{dy}$$

$$3. L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{q^2+d^2} \right\} = \frac{1}{d} \sin dy$$

$$4. L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{q}{q^2+d^2} \right\} = \cos dy$$

$$5. L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{q}{q^2-d^2} \right\} = \cosh dy$$

$$6. L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{q^2-d^2} \right\} = \frac{1}{d} \sinh dy$$

$$7. L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{q^n} \right\} = \frac{y^{n-1}}{(n-1)!}, \quad n > 0.$$

### III. FORMULATION

**Governing differential equation:**

The differential equation which describes heat dissipation from an infinite fin can be derived by considering an infinite fin having uniform area of cross-section ' $\mathcal{A}$ ' and perimeter ' $P$ '. One end of the infinite fin is connected to a heat source at  $y = 0$  and the other end (i.e. tip of the fin) at  $y = \infty$  is free for losing heat into the surroundings. The source of heat is maintained at fixed temperature  $T$ . If the temperature of the surroundings of the infinite fin is denoted by  $t_s$  and is kept constant, then the convective heat will flow from the infinite fin into the surroundings which lead to a dissipation of heat from its surface into the surroundings [1-5].

Consider an infinitesimal section of thickness  $\Delta y$  of the infinite fin located at a distance of  $y$  from the source  $R$  as shown in figure 1.

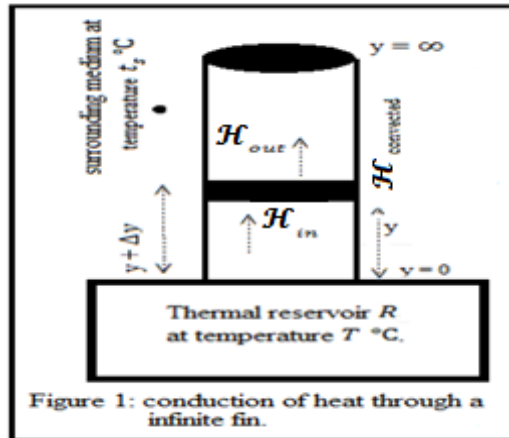


Figure 1: conduction of heat through a infinite fin.

Heat entering into the infinitesimal section is given by

$$\mathcal{H}_{in} = -\mathcal{K}\mathcal{A} [D_y t(y)]_y \dots \dots \dots (1) \quad D_y \equiv \frac{d}{dy} .$$

Where  $t(y)$  is the temperature of the finite fin and is assumed to be constant for the infinitesimal section of the finite fin.

Heat conducted out of the infinitesimal section is given by

$$\mathcal{H}_{out} = -\mathcal{K}\mathcal{A} [D_y t(y)]_{y+\Delta y}$$

Or

$$\mathcal{H}_{out} = -\mathcal{K}\mathcal{A} \{ [D_y t(y) + D_y^2 t(y)] \Delta y \} \dots \dots (2)$$

Heat convected of the infinitesimal section is given by

$$\mathcal{H}_{convected} = \sigma P \Delta y [t(y) - t_s] \dots \dots (3)$$

, where  $\sigma$  is the coefficient of heat transferred by convection mode.

By steady state heat balance, we can write

$$\mathcal{H}_{in} = \mathcal{H}_{out} + \mathcal{H}_{convected} \dots \dots \dots (4)$$

Put equations (1), (2) and (3) in equation (4), we get

$$-\mathcal{K}\mathcal{A} [D_y t(y)] = -\mathcal{K}\mathcal{A} \{ [D_y t(y) + D_y^2 t(y)] \Delta y \} + \sigma P \Delta y [t(y) - t_s].$$

Simplifying this equation, we get

$$D_y^2 t(y) - \frac{\sigma P}{\mathcal{K}\mathcal{A}} [t(y) - t_s] = 0 \dots \dots \dots (5)$$

For convenience, let us put

$$\left( \frac{\sigma P}{\mathcal{K}\mathcal{A}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \beta \dots \dots \dots (6)$$

And define  $t(y) - t_s = \tau(y) \dots \dots (7)$

Where  $\tau(y)$  is known excess temperature at length  $y$  of the infinite fin.

Then  $D_y [t(y) - t_s] = D_y \tau(y)$ .

As  $t_s$  is constant, therefore, we can write  $D_y^2 t(y) = D_y^2 \tau(y)$ ,

Therefore, equation (5) can be rewritten as

$$D_y^2 \tau(y) - \beta^2 \tau(y) = 0 \dots \dots \dots (8)$$

Equations (5) and (8) are the general form of energy equations for one-dimensional heat dissipation from the surface of the finite fin.

In equation (6),  $\beta$  is constant provided that  $\sigma$  is constant over the entire surface of the finite fin and  $\mathcal{K}$  is constant within the range of temperature considered.

**Solution of the differential equation:**

To solve equation (8), the necessary boundary conditions<sup>[1-2]</sup> are given below:

- (i)  $t(0) = T$ . In terms of excess temperature, we can write, at  $y = 0$ ,  $t - t_s = T - t_s$  or  $\tau(0) = \tau_0$ .
- (ii)  $t(\infty) = t_s$ . In terms of excess temperature, we can write, at  $y = \infty$ ,  $\tau(\infty) = 0$ .

Taking Laplace Transform of equation (8), we get

$$L[D_y^2 \tau(y)] - \beta^2 L[\tau(y)] = 0$$

This equation gives

$$q^2 \bar{\tau}(q) - q\tau(0) - D_y \tau(0) - \beta^2 \bar{\tau}(q) = 0 \dots (9)$$

Applying boundary condition:  $\tau(0) = \tau_0$ , equation (9) becomes

$$q^2 \bar{\tau}(q) - q\tau_0 - D_y \tau(0) - \beta^2 \bar{\tau}(q) = 0$$

Or

$$q^2 \bar{\tau}(q) - \beta^2 \bar{\tau}(q) = D_y \tau(0) + q\tau_0 \dots (10)$$

In this equation,  $D_y \tau(0)$  is some constant.

Let us substitute  $D_y \tau(0) = \varepsilon$ ,

Equation (10) becomes

$$q^2 \bar{\tau}(q) - \beta^2 \bar{\tau}(q) = \varepsilon + q\tau_0$$

$$\text{Or } \bar{\tau}(q) = \frac{\varepsilon}{(q^2 - \beta^2)} + \frac{q\tau_0}{(q^2 - \beta^2)} \dots (11)$$

Taking inverse Laplace transform of above equation, we get

$$\tau(y) = \frac{\varepsilon}{\beta} \sinh \beta y + \tau_0 \cos h \beta y$$

Or

$$\tau(y) = \frac{\varepsilon}{2\beta} [e^{\beta y} - e^{-\beta y}] + \tau_0 \left[ \frac{e^{\beta y} + e^{-\beta y}}{2} \right] \dots (12)$$

**Determination of the constant  $\varepsilon$ :**

Applying boundary condition:  $\tau(\infty) = 0$ , we can write

$$\frac{\varepsilon}{2\beta} [e^{\beta(\infty)} - e^{-\beta(\infty)}] + \tau_0 \left[ \frac{e^{\beta(\infty)} + e^{-\beta(\infty)}}{2} \right] = 0$$

$$\text{Or } \frac{\varepsilon}{2\beta} [e^{\beta(\infty)} - 0] + \tau_0 \left[ \frac{e^{\beta(\infty)} + 0}{2} \right] = 0$$

$$\text{Or } \left[ \frac{\varepsilon}{2\beta} + \frac{\tau_0}{2} \right] e^{\beta(\infty)} = 0$$

As  $e^{\beta(\infty)} \neq 0$ , therefore,

$$\left[ \frac{\varepsilon}{2\beta} + \frac{\tau_0}{2} \right] = 0$$

Or

$$\varepsilon = -\beta \tau_0 \dots (13)$$

Put the value of  $\varepsilon$  equation (13) in equation (12), we get

$$\tau(y) = \frac{-\beta \tau_0}{2\beta} [e^{\beta y} - e^{-\beta y}] + \tau_0 \left[ \frac{e^{\beta y} + e^{-\beta y}}{2} \right]$$

Or

$$\tau(y) = \frac{-\tau_0}{2} [e^{\beta y} - e^{-\beta y}] + \tau_0 \left[ \frac{e^{\beta y} + e^{-\beta y}}{2} \right]$$

Or

$$\tau(y) = \frac{\tau_0}{2} [e^{\beta y} + e^{-\beta y} - e^{\beta y} + e^{-\beta y}]$$