

g. Show, using definitions, that $L[t^\alpha] = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+1)}{s^{\alpha+1}}$, $\alpha > -1$.

Clearly, $\Gamma(\alpha) = \int_0^\infty t^{\alpha-1} e^{-t} dt \Rightarrow \Gamma(\alpha+1) = \int_0^\infty t^\alpha e^{-t} dt$. Also,

$$L[f(x)] = \int_0^\infty e^{-sx} f(x) dx \Rightarrow L[t^\alpha] = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} t^\alpha dt. \text{ Let } u = st \Rightarrow t = \frac{u}{s} \text{ and } du = s dt \Rightarrow dt = \frac{1}{s} du.$$

Notice that with this substitution our limits of integration are still from zero to infinity.

$$\text{Thus, } L[t^\alpha] = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} t^\alpha dt = \int_0^\infty e^{-u} \left(\frac{u}{s}\right)^\alpha \frac{1}{s} du = \frac{1}{s^{\alpha+1}} \int_0^\infty u^\alpha e^{-u} du = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+1)}{s^{\alpha+1}}, \alpha > -1.$$