



Math for the people, by the people.

fractional integration

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The basic idea of "Riemann-Liouville" type fractional integration comes from the following observation:

Given any integrable function $f : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ in one variable, we have the following Cauchy Integration Formula:

$$D^{-n}(f)(x) = \int_{t_n=0}^x dt_n \dots \int_{t_1=0}^{t_2} f(t_1) dt_1 = \frac{1}{(n-1)!} \int_{t=0}^x f(t)(x-t)^{n-1} dt$$

when switching the index from integer n to non-integer α gives the ideas of the following definitions:

Definition 1: Left-Hand Riemann-Liouville Integration

$$I_L^\alpha(f)(s, t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_{u=s}^t f(u)(t-u)^{\alpha-1} du = \int_{u=s}^t f(u) dg_t^\alpha(u)$$

where

$$g_t^\alpha(u) = \frac{t^\alpha - (t-u)^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)}$$

Definition 2: Right-Hand Riemann-Liouville Integration

$$I_R^\alpha(f)(s, t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_{u=s}^t f(u)(u-s)^{\alpha-1} du = \int_{u=s}^t f(u) dh_t^\alpha(u)$$

where

$$h_t^\alpha(u) = \frac{s^\alpha + (u-s)^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)}$$

Definition 3: Riesz Potential

$$I_C^\alpha(f)(s, t; p) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_{u=s}^t f(u)|u-p|^{\alpha-1} du = \int_{u=s}^t f(u) dr_p^\alpha(u)$$

where

$$r_p^\alpha(u) = \frac{p^\alpha + \text{sign}(u-p)|u-p|^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)}$$

,

$\text{sign}(x) = 1$ for $x > 0$, $\text{sign}(x) = 0$ for $x = 0$, $\text{sign}(x) = -1$ for $x < 0$
and $\Gamma(x)$ is the gamma function of x