

Advanced Real Analysis

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Chapter 1

Distributions

1.1 Definitions and Examples

Throughout this section, all our functions (unless stated otherwise) will be \mathbb{C} -valued. In particular, $C_c^\infty(\Omega)$ is the set of all smooth functions $\varphi: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ with compact support, $L^p(\Omega)$ is the set of all L^p functions $f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, and so on.

Example 1.1. Consider the Poisson equation $-\Delta u = 4\pi f$ on \mathbb{R}^3 for some $f \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)$. Classic theory tells us that a solution to this equation is given by

$$u(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{f(y)}{|x-y|} dy. \quad (1.1)$$

If $u(x) = |x|^{-1}$, then $-\Delta u = 4\pi\delta_0$, in the sense that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{\Delta\varphi(x)}{|x|} dx = -4\pi\varphi(0) \quad (1.2)$$

for all $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)$. The purpose of this chapter is to provide a rigorous framework for the above idea of the derivative of nonsmooth functions.

Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be open. A linear functional $u: C_c^\infty(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a *distribution on Ω* if, for all compact $K \Subset \Omega$, there exists $C = C_K > 0$ and $N = N_K \in \mathbb{N}_0$ such that

$$|\langle u, \varphi \rangle| \leq C \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N} \|\partial^\alpha \varphi\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \text{ for all } \varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega) \text{ with } \text{supp } \varphi \subseteq K. \quad (1.3) \quad \{\text{eq:definitionOfDist}\}$$

We write $\mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ for the space of distributions on Ω . {\text{eg:locallyIntegrab}}

Example 1.2. Let $f \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega)$. Define $u_f: C_c^\infty(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ by

$$\langle u_f, \varphi \rangle := \int_{\Omega} f \varphi dx. \quad (1.4)$$

Then u_f is a distribution. Indeed, u_f is clearly linear, and if $K \Subset \Omega$ is compact, and $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$ has support contained in K , then

$$|\langle u_f, \varphi \rangle| = \left| \int_{\Omega} f \varphi dx \right| \leq \|f\|_{L^1(K)} \|\varphi\|_{L^\infty(K)} \leq \|f\|_{L^1(K)} \|\varphi\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}. \quad (1.5)$$

There is a linear map $L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ given by $f \mapsto u_f$. If $u_f = 0$, then $f = 0$ by the Fundamental Lemma of the Calculus of Variations, so this map is an injective inclusion. We will usually abuse notation and write f for the corresponding distribution u_f . Note that $L^p(\Omega) \subseteq L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega)$ for all $p \in [1, \infty]$, so already we have a wide class of distributions.

Example 1.3. Let $y \in \Omega$. Define $\delta_y: C_c^\infty(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ by

$$\langle \delta_y, \varphi \rangle := \varphi(y). \quad (1.6)$$

Then δ_y is linear, and $|\langle \delta_y, \varphi \rangle| \leq \|\varphi\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}$, so δ_y is a distribution on Ω . This example also provides us with a distribution which doesn't arise from a function as in example 1.2. Suppose it were the case that $f \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega)$ is such that $u_f = \delta_y$. Then, for all $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$ with $\text{supp } \varphi \subseteq \Omega \setminus \{y\}$, we have

$$\int_{\Omega} f \varphi \, dx = \langle \delta_y, \varphi \rangle = \varphi(y) = 0. \quad (1.7)$$

This implies $f = 0$ on $\Omega \setminus \{y\}$. But $\{y\}$ is a null set, so $\int_{\Omega} f \varphi \, dx = 0$ for all $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$, a contradiction.

Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be open. A sequence $\varphi_j \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$ converges to φ in $C_c^\infty(\Omega)$ if there exists a compact $K \Subset \Omega$ such that $\text{supp } \varphi_j \subseteq K$ for all j , $\text{supp } \varphi \subseteq K$, and

$$\|\partial^\alpha \varphi_j - \partial^\alpha \varphi\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } j \rightarrow \infty \quad (1.8)$$

for all multiindices α . The following theorem tells us that distributions are precisely the continuous linear functionals on $C_c^\infty(\Omega)$ with respect to this notion of convergence.

Theorem 1.4. A linear functional $u: C_c^\infty(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a distribution on Ω if and only if $\langle u, \varphi_j \rangle \rightarrow \langle u, \varphi \rangle$ whenever $\varphi_j \rightarrow \varphi$ in $C_c^\infty(\Omega)$.

Proof. By linearity, we may consider sequences φ_j converging to zero in $C_c^\infty(\Omega)$ without loss of generality. Suppose first that u is a distribution. Let φ_j be a sequence converging to 0 in $C_c^\infty(\Omega)$. Let $K \Subset \Omega$ be a compact set such that $\text{supp } \varphi_j \subseteq K$ for all j . Let $C = C_K > 0$ and $N = N_K \in \mathbb{N}_0$ be such that (1.3) holds. Then

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} |\langle u, \varphi_j \rangle| \leq \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} C \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N} \|\partial^\alpha \varphi_j\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} = 0, \quad (1.9)$$

which shows continuity of u .

Conversely, suppose u is continuous in the above sense. For a contradiction, suppose u is not a distribution. Then there exists a compact set K such that for all $N \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists $\varphi_N \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$ with $\text{supp } \varphi_N \subseteq K$ and

$$|\langle u, \varphi_N \rangle| > N \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N} \|\partial^\alpha \varphi_N\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}. \quad (1.10)$$

Note that the right hand side cannot be zero, since otherwise $\varphi_N = 0$, implying the left hand side is zero, which would be a contradiction. Define

$$\psi_N := \frac{\varphi_N}{N \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N} \|\partial^\alpha \varphi_N\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}}. \quad (1.11)$$

Then $\text{supp } \psi_N \subseteq K$ for all N , and whenever α is a multiindex with $|\alpha| \leq N$, we have $\|\partial^\alpha \psi_N\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq \frac{1}{N}$. Therefore $\|\partial^\alpha \psi_N\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \rightarrow 0$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$ for all multiindices α , and so $\psi_N \rightarrow 0$ in $C_c^\infty(\Omega)$. By continuity of u , $\langle u, \psi_N \rangle \rightarrow 0$. However, (1.10) implies $|\langle u, \psi_N \rangle| > 1$ for all N . We have therefore reached a contradiction. \square

A distribution $u \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ has *finite order* if the number $N = N_K$ in (1.3) can be taken independently of K . More precisely, there exists $N \in \mathbb{N}_0$ such that for all compact $K \Subset \Omega$, there exists $C = C_K > 0$ such that (1.3) holds. The *order* of u is the least such N . We write $\mathcal{D}'_m(\Omega)$ for the set of all distributions on Ω with order at most m . This is a subspace of $\mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$.

Example 1.5. (1) The delta distribution δ_y has order 0, and any locally integrable function $f \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega)$ also has order 0. This can be seen from our calculations in examples 1.2 and 1.3.

(2) Let α be a multiindex. Define $u \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ by

$$\langle u, \varphi \rangle := \partial^\alpha \varphi(0). \quad (1.12)$$

Then u has order $|\alpha|$.

(3) Let $\Omega = (0, \infty) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$. Define $u \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ by

$$\langle u, \varphi \rangle = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \varphi^{(k)}\left(\frac{1}{k}\right). \quad (1.13)$$

Then u has infinite order.

1.2 Localization and Support

Let $\Omega' \subseteq \Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be open. There is an inclusion map $i: C_c^\infty(\Omega') \hookrightarrow C_c^\infty(\Omega)$ defined by extending a function $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega')$ by zero to Ω . This map is clearly continuous with respect to the notion of convergence on $C_c^\infty(\Omega)$. So if $u \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ is a distribution, we can restrict it to a distribution $u|_{\Omega'} \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega')$ via $\langle u|_{\Omega'}, \varphi \rangle := \langle u, i(\varphi) \rangle$. Continuity of $u|_{\Omega'}$ arises from continuity of i and u . We will usually write $\langle u, \varphi \rangle$ in place of $\langle u|_{\Omega'}, \varphi \rangle$ for $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega')$.

We say distributions $u, v \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ are *equal on* $\Omega' \subseteq \Omega$ if $\langle u, \varphi \rangle = \langle v, \varphi \rangle$ for all $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega')$. That is, they are equal on Ω' if $u|_{\Omega'} = v|_{\Omega'}$. An important question to ask is, given $u \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$, can we recover u from its restrictions $u|_{\Omega_i} \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega_i)$ whenever Ω_i is an open cover of Ω . It turns out that this is indeed possible, and theorem 1.9 will show us how. To do this, we need the following notion. Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be open, and let $K \Subset \Omega$ be compact. Let $\Omega_1, \dots, \Omega_m \subseteq \Omega$ be open sets such that $K \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^m \Omega_i$. Then there exist $\psi_i \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$ such that

- (i) $\text{supp } \psi_i \subseteq \Omega_i$ for all $i = 1, \dots, m$,
- (ii) $0 \leq \psi_i \leq 1$ for all $i = 1, \dots, m$,
- (iii) $\sum_{i=1}^m \psi_i \leq 1$,
- (iv) $\sum_{i=1}^m \psi_i = 1$ on a neighborhood of K .

We call ψ_i a *partition of unity on K subordinate to Ω_i* .

Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be open, and let $u \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ be a distribution. The *support* of u is the set

$$\text{supp } u := \Omega \setminus \{x \in \Omega : u = 0 \text{ on a neighborhood of } x\}. \quad (1.14)$$

Unraveling this definition, we see that $x \in \Omega \setminus \text{supp } u$ if and only if there exists a neighborhood $U \subseteq \Omega$ of x such that $\langle u, \varphi \rangle = 0$ for all $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(U)$. On the other hand, $x \in \text{supp } u$ if and only if for all neighborhoods $U \subseteq \Omega$ of x , there exists $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(U)$ such that $\langle u, \varphi \rangle \neq 0$. The support $\text{supp } u$ is closed since its complement is open practically by definition.

Example 1.6. (1) Consider the distribution $\delta = \delta_0 \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Suppose $x = 0$, fix a neighborhood U of x , and $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(U)$ with $\varphi(0) \neq 0$. Then $\langle \delta, \varphi \rangle = \varphi(0) \neq 0$. This implies $0 \in \text{supp } \delta$.

On the other hand, fix $x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$, and let U be a neighborhood of x which does not contain 0. Then, if $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(U)$, we have $\varphi(0) = 0$, and so $\langle \delta, \varphi \rangle = \varphi(0) = 0$. Hence $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \text{supp } \delta$. We have proved that $\text{supp } \delta = \{0\}$.

(2) Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be open, and fix $f \in C^0(\Omega)$. Take $\text{supp } f$ to be the usual support of f as a function. Let $x \in \Omega \setminus \text{supp } f$ be some point, and choose a neighborhood U of x contained entirely in $\Omega \setminus \text{supp } f$. Then $f(y) = 0$ for all $y \in U$, so if we fix $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(U)$, we must have

$$\langle f, \varphi \rangle = \int_{\Omega} f \varphi \, dx = 0. \quad (1.15)$$

So the support of f as a distribution is contained in $\text{supp } f$.

Conversely, choose $x \in \text{supp } f$. Then, for a neighborhood U of x , U intersects $\{y \in \Omega : f(y) \neq 0\}$ in a nonempty set V . This set V is open since f is continuous. Choose $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(U)$ such that φ is nonzero on a subset of V with positive measure. Then $f\varphi \neq 0$ on a subset of U with positive measure, and therefore $\langle f, \varphi \rangle \neq 0$. It follows that $\text{supp } f$ is contained in the distributional support of f . We have therefore shown that the support of f as a distribution is equal to its support as a function.

We now proof an intuitively clear result.

Lemma 1.7. Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be open. Fix a distribution $u \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ and a test function $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$. If $\text{supp } u \cap \text{supp } \varphi = \emptyset$, then $\langle u, \varphi \rangle = 0$.

Proof. Write $K = \text{supp } \varphi \subseteq \Omega$. Then $K \subseteq \{x \in \Omega : u = 0 \text{ on a neighborhood of } x\}$. For all $x \in K$, choose a neighborhood $U_x \subseteq \Omega$ such that $u = 0$ on U_x . Then U_x is an open cover of the compact set K , so we can pick a finite subcover $U_1 = U_{x_1}, \dots, U_m = U_{x_m}$. Let ψ_i be a partition of unity on K subordinate to U_i . Then $\psi_i \varphi \in C_c^\infty(U_i)$ and $\sum_{i=1}^m \psi_i \varphi = \varphi$, and therefore

$$\langle u, \varphi \rangle = \left\langle u, \sum_{i=1}^m \psi_i \varphi \right\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^m \langle u, \psi_i \varphi \rangle = 0, \quad (1.16)$$

as required. \square

This lemma has an immediate corollary directly related to the problem of recovering a distribution from its localizations. In this special case, all the localizations of u are zero.

Corollary 1.8. If $u \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ is a distribution on an open set $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ with $\text{supp } u = \emptyset$ (i.e. every $x \in \Omega$ has a neighborhood on which $u = 0$), then $u = 0$.

Having shown this special case, we now aim to show the far more general case with the following *recovery theorem*.

Theorem 1.9 (Recovery). Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be open, and let $(\Omega_\lambda)_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$ be an open cover of Ω . Suppose we are given a collection $(u_\lambda)_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$ of distributions $u_\lambda \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega_\lambda)$ such that $u_\lambda = u_\mu$ on $\Omega_\lambda \cap \Omega_\mu$ for all $\lambda, \mu \in \Lambda$. Then there exists a unique $u \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ such that $u = u_\lambda$ on Ω_λ

|| for all $\lambda \in \Lambda$.

Proof. We first prove existence of u . Fix $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$, and write $K = \text{supp } \varphi$. Then Ω_λ is an open cover of K , and so we can pick a finite subcover $\Omega_1 = \Omega_{\lambda_1}, \dots, \Omega_m = \Omega_{\lambda_m}$. Choose a partition of unity ψ_i on K subordinate to Ω_i . We define

$$\langle u, \varphi \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^m \langle u_{\lambda_i}, \psi_i \varphi \rangle. \quad (1.17) \quad \{\text{eq:recoveringADist}\}$$

We must show that u is well-defined. Suppose $\tilde{\Omega}_j = \Omega_{\mu_j}$ ($j = 1, \dots, k$) is another finite subcover of K , and $\tilde{\psi}_j$ a partition of unity on K subordinate to $\tilde{\Omega}_j$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^m \langle u_{\lambda_i}, \psi_i \varphi \rangle &= \sum_{i=1}^m \left\langle u_{\lambda_i}, \sum_{j=1}^k \tilde{\psi}_j \psi_i \varphi \right\rangle \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^k \langle u_{\lambda_i}, \tilde{\psi}_j \psi_i \varphi \rangle \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^m \langle u_{\mu_j}, \psi_i \tilde{\psi}_j \varphi \rangle \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^k \langle u_{\mu_j}, \tilde{\psi}_j \varphi \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (1.18)$$

Here, we made use of the fact that $\tilde{\psi}_j \psi_i \varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega_i \cap \tilde{\Omega}_j)$, and this function has support contained in K .

So u is well-defined, and a quick glance shows us that u is linear. A further quick glance shows us that u satisfies (1.3), and is therefore a distribution. This relies on the Leibniz rule: for any multindex α ,

$$\partial^\alpha (\psi_i \varphi) = \sum_{\beta \leq \alpha} \binom{\alpha}{\beta} (\partial^\beta \varphi) (\partial^{\alpha-\beta} \psi_i), \quad (1.19)$$

where

$$\binom{\alpha}{\beta} := \frac{\alpha!}{\beta! (\alpha - \beta)!}, \quad (1.20)$$

and $\alpha! := \alpha_1! \cdots \alpha_n!$. Finally, suppose $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega_\lambda)$ for some $\lambda \in \Lambda$. Then if we choose the partition of unity ψ with one element which is equal to 1 on K and has support in Ω_λ , definition (1.17) gives us

$$\langle u, \varphi \rangle = \langle u_\lambda, \psi \varphi \rangle = \langle u_\lambda, \varphi \rangle, \quad (1.21)$$

as required.

Finally, we show uniqueness. Suppose $u, v \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ are such that $u = u_\lambda, v = u_\lambda$ on Ω_λ for all $\lambda \in \Lambda$. Then $u - v = 0$ on Ω_λ for all $\lambda \in \Lambda$. Corollary 1.8 immediately implies $u - v = 0$. \square

1.3 Convergence of Distributions

Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, and let $u_j \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ be a sequence of distributions. We say u_j converges to u in $\mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ if $\langle u_j, \varphi \rangle \rightarrow \langle u, \varphi \rangle$ for all $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$.

To study convergence a little, we introduce the notion of *mollification*

Lemma 1.10. *Let $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be such that $\text{supp } \varphi \subseteq B(0, 1)$ and $\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \varphi \, dx = 1$. Given $f \in C_c^0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and $\varepsilon > 0$, define*

$$\varphi_\varepsilon(x) := \frac{1}{\varepsilon^n} \varphi\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) \quad (1.22)$$

$$f_\varepsilon(x) := (f * \varphi_\varepsilon)(x) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(y) \varphi\left(\frac{x-y}{\varepsilon}\right) dy. \quad (1.23) \quad \{\text{eq:mollificationOfAC}$$

We call f_ε the ε -mollification of f . Then

- (i) $f_\varepsilon \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$,
- (ii) $\text{supp } f_\varepsilon \subseteq \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : d(\text{supp } f, x) \leq \varepsilon\}$,
- (iii) $f_\varepsilon \rightarrow f$ uniformly as $\varepsilon \downarrow 0$.

Thus φ_ε is what is known as an approximation to the identity.

Proof. (i) Note that the integrand and its derivatives in (1.23) are continuous with compact support. So by the dominated convergence theorem, we can differentiate under the integral sign to obtain

$$\partial^\alpha f_\varepsilon(x) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(y) \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{|\alpha|}} \partial^\alpha \varphi\left(\frac{x-y}{\varepsilon}\right) dy \quad (1.24)$$

for any multiindex α .

- (ii) Suppose $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is such that $d(\text{supp } f, x) > \varepsilon$. Then, for all $y \in \text{supp } f$, $\frac{|x-y|}{\varepsilon} > 1$, and so $\varphi\left(\frac{x-y}{\varepsilon}\right) = 0$. Thus $f_\varepsilon(x) = 0$. Now, f has compact support, so the set $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : d(\text{supp } f, x) > \varepsilon\}$ is open. This implies x has a neighborhood on which $d(\text{supp } f, x) > \varepsilon$, therefore $x \in (\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : f_\varepsilon(x) \neq 0\})^\circ = \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \text{supp } f_\varepsilon$.

- (iii) Since $\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \varphi \, dx = 1$, we also have $\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \varphi_\varepsilon \, dx = 1$ by a change of variables, and so we may write

$$\begin{aligned} |f_\varepsilon(x) - f(x)| &= \frac{1}{\varepsilon^n} \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} [f(y) - f(x)] \varphi\left(\frac{x-y}{\varepsilon}\right) dy \right| \\ &= \left| \int_{B(0,1)} [f(x) - f(x - \varepsilon z)] \varphi(z) \, dz \right| \\ &\leq \|\varphi\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} \sup_{|z| \leq 1} |f(x) - f(x - \varepsilon z)|, \end{aligned} \quad (1.25)$$

where we made the change of variables $z = \frac{x-y}{\varepsilon}$, and used the fact that φ is supported in $B(0, 1)$. Fix $\delta > 0$. By uniform continuity of f , we can find $\eta > 0$ such that for all $\varepsilon z \in \mathbb{R}^n$ with $|\varepsilon z| < \eta$, we have $|f(x) - f(x - \varepsilon z)| < \delta$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$. So $\varepsilon < \eta$ implies $\sup_{|z| \leq 1} |f(x) - f(x - \varepsilon z)| < \delta$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$. This implies $|f_\varepsilon(x) - f(x)| \rightarrow 0$ as $\varepsilon \downarrow 0$ uniformly in x

□

Example 1.11. (1) Let $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be such that $\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \varphi \, dx = 1$. Fix $\psi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\langle \varphi_\varepsilon, \psi \rangle - \langle \delta, \psi \rangle| &= \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \varphi_\varepsilon (\psi - \psi(0)) \, dx \right| \\
 &\leq \frac{1}{\varepsilon^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left| \varphi\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) \right| |\psi(x) - \psi(0)| \, dx \\
 &= \int_K |\varphi(y)| |\psi(\varepsilon y) - \psi(0)| \, dy \\
 &\leq \|\varphi\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} \sup_{y \in K} |\psi(\varepsilon y) - \psi(0)| \\
 &\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } \varepsilon \downarrow 0,
 \end{aligned} \tag{1.26}$$

where K denotes the support of φ . Therefore $\varphi_\varepsilon \rightarrow \delta$ in $\mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

(2) Define $u_j \in L_{\text{loc}}^1(\mathbb{R})$ by $u_j(x) := e^{2\pi i j x}$. Fix $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\langle u_j, \varphi \rangle| &= \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi(x) e^{2\pi i j x} \, dx \right| \\
 &= \frac{1}{2\pi j} \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi'(x) e^{2\pi i j x} \, dx \right| \\
 &\leq \frac{1}{2\pi j} \|\varphi'\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R})} \\
 &\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } j \rightarrow \infty.
 \end{aligned} \tag{1.27}$$

Therefore $u_j \rightarrow 0$ in $\mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R})$.

1.4 Operations on Distributions

Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be open, and let $u \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ be a distribution. Define the *distributional derivative of u* by

$$\langle \partial_i u, \varphi \rangle = -\langle u, \partial_i \varphi \rangle \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n. \tag{1.28}$$

If $u \in C^1(\Omega)$, note that integration by parts implies this definition agrees with the usual partial derivative. If $n = 1$, the distributional derivative is usually denoted u' , as in ordinary calculus. More generally, for a multiindex α , we define

$$\langle \partial^\alpha u, \varphi \rangle = (-1)^{|\alpha|} \langle u, \partial^\alpha \varphi \rangle. \tag{1.29}$$

And for $n = 1$, the k th distributional derivative is denoted $u^{(k)}$. Clearly, $\partial^\alpha u$ is linear. Note that $\partial^\alpha u$ is continuous with respect to the notion of convergence on $C_c^\infty(\Omega)$, so theorem 1.4 implies $\partial^\alpha u$ is a distribution.

Lemma 1.12. *Let $u_j \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ be a sequence of distributions with $u_j \rightarrow u$ in $\mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$. Then $\partial^\alpha u_j \rightarrow \partial^\alpha u$ in $\mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ for all multiindices α .*

Proof. Fix $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$. Then $\partial^\alpha \varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$, so

$$\langle \partial^\alpha u_j, \varphi \rangle = (-1)^{|\alpha|} \langle u_j, \partial^\alpha \varphi \rangle \rightarrow (-1)^{|\alpha|} \langle u, \partial^\alpha \varphi \rangle = \langle \partial^\alpha u, \varphi \rangle, \tag{1.30}$$

as required. \square

Example 1.13. (1) The derivative of the delta distribution is given by $\langle \partial^\alpha \delta, \varphi \rangle = (-1)^{|\alpha|} \langle \delta, \partial^\alpha \varphi \rangle = (-1)^{|\alpha|} \partial^\alpha \varphi(0)$.

(2) Define the Heaviside function $H \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R})$ by

$$H(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \geq 0; \\ 0 & x < 0. \end{cases} \quad (1.31)$$

Then the distributional derivative of H is given by

$$\langle H', \varphi \rangle = -\langle H, \varphi' \rangle = -\int_0^\infty \varphi' dx = \varphi(0) = \langle \delta, \varphi \rangle. \quad (1.32)$$

That is, $H' = \delta$.

(3) Fix $f \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$. The distributional derivative of the discontinuous function fH is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \langle (fH)', \varphi \rangle &= -\langle fH, \varphi' \rangle \\ &= -\int_0^\infty f \varphi' dx \\ &= -\int_0^\infty (f\varphi)' dx + \int_0^\infty f' \varphi dx \\ &= f(0)\varphi(0) + \int_{\mathbb{R}} f' H \varphi dx \\ &= \langle f(0)\delta, \varphi \rangle + \langle f'H, \varphi \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (1.33)$$

That is, $(fH)' = f(x)\delta + f'H$.

(4) Define the *principal value* of $\frac{1}{x}$ to be the distribution $\text{p.v.} \frac{1}{x} \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R})$ given by

$$\left\langle \text{p.v.} \frac{1}{x}, \varphi \right\rangle := \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \int_{\mathbb{R} \setminus [-\varepsilon, \varepsilon]} \frac{\varphi(x)}{x} dx. \quad (1.34)$$

On $\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$, $\text{p.v.} \frac{1}{x} = \frac{1}{x}$. The exercise sheets show this is a well-defined distribution. We claim that the distributional derivative of $\log|x| \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R})$ is precisely $\text{p.v.} \frac{1}{x}$. Fix $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \langle (\log|x|)', \varphi \rangle &= -\langle \log|x|, \varphi' \rangle \\ &= -\int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi'(x) \log|x| dx \\ &= -\lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{-\varepsilon} \varphi'(x) \log(-x) dx + \int_{\varepsilon}^{\infty} \varphi'(x) \log x dx \right) \\ &= -\lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \left(\varphi(-\varepsilon) \log \varepsilon - \int_{-\infty}^{-\varepsilon} \frac{\varphi(x)}{x} dx - \varphi(\varepsilon) \log \varepsilon - \int_{\varepsilon}^{\infty} \frac{\varphi(x)}{x} dx \right) \\ &= \left\langle \text{p.v.} \frac{1}{x}, \varphi \right\rangle + \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} (\varphi(\varepsilon) - \varphi(-\varepsilon)) \log \varepsilon. \end{aligned} \quad (1.35)$$

Now, $|(\varphi(\varepsilon) - \varphi(-\varepsilon)) \log \varepsilon| \leq C\varepsilon |\log \varepsilon| \rightarrow 0$, completing the proof.

Next, we show how to multiply a distribution by a smooth function. Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be open, let $u \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ and $f \in C^\infty(\Omega)$. For $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$, define

$$\langle fu, \varphi \rangle := \langle u, f\varphi \rangle \quad (1.36)$$

Then fu is linear, and is a distribution by theorem 1.4. Equivalently, we can use the Leibniz rule to check (1.3).

Example 1.14. (1) Let $u \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$, $f \in C^\infty(\Omega)$, $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$. We then calculate

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \partial_i(fu), \varphi \rangle &= -\langle fu, \partial_i \varphi \rangle \\ &= -\langle u, f \partial_i \varphi \rangle \\ &= -\langle u, \partial_i(f\varphi) \rangle + \langle u, \partial_i f \varphi \rangle \\ &= \langle f \partial_i u, \varphi \rangle + \langle \partial_i f u, \varphi \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (1.37)$$

So the distributional derivatives of fu are given by $\partial_i(fu) = f \partial_i u + \partial_i f u$.

(2) Let $f \in C^\infty(\Omega)$ and $x \in \Omega$. If $\delta_x \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ is the delta function, then $f\delta_x$ is given by

$$\langle f\delta_x, \varphi \rangle = \langle \delta_x, f\varphi \rangle = f(x)\varphi(x) = \langle f(x)\delta_x, \varphi \rangle. \quad (1.38)$$

So $f\delta_x = f(x)\delta_x$.

(3) The distribution $f\partial_i \delta_x$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \langle f\partial_i \delta_x, \varphi \rangle &= -\langle \delta_x, \partial_i(f\varphi) \rangle \\ &= -\langle \delta_x, \partial_i f \varphi \rangle - \langle \delta_x, f \partial_i \varphi \rangle \\ &= -\partial_i f(x)\varphi(x) - f(x)\partial_i \varphi(x) \\ &= -\langle \partial_i f(x)\delta_x, \varphi \rangle + \langle f(x)\partial_i \delta_x, \varphi \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (1.39)$$

So $f\partial_i \delta_x = f(x)\partial_i \delta_x - \partial_i f(x)\delta_x$.

For fixed $v \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ and $f \in C^\infty(\Omega)$, we would like to solve the equation $fu = v$ for $u \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$. In general, this is a hard problem. However, if $f \neq 0$ everywhere, then the unique solution is $u = v/f$. We will solve the following nontrivial distributional equation on \mathbb{R} .

Theorem 1.15. Let $m \in \mathbb{N}$, and suppose $u \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R})$ is a solution of $x^m u = 0$. Then there exist $c_0, \dots, c_{m-1} \in \mathbb{C}$ such that

$$u = \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} c_j \delta^{(j)}. \quad (1.40)$$

Note that all distributions of the form (1.40) solve $x^m u = 0$. So if we prove this theorem, we have classified all the distributional solutions of this equation.

Proof. Fix $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$. Let $\eta \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ be a smooth cutoff function which is equal to 1 on a neighborhood of 0. We write

$$\varphi(x) = \eta(x) \left(\sum_{j=0}^{m-1} \frac{x^j}{j!} \varphi^{(j)}(0) \right) + \psi(x) \quad (1.41)$$

for some $\psi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$. Since η is equal to 1 in a neighborhood of 0, we have $\psi^{(j)}(0) = 0$ for $j = 1, \dots, m-1$. Using Taylor's theorem A.1 with integral remainder, we write

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(x) &= \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} \frac{x^j}{j!} \psi^{(j)}(0) + \frac{1}{(m-1)!} \int_0^x \psi^{(m)}(t) (x-t)^{m-1} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{(m-1)!} \int_0^1 \psi^{(m)}(sx) (x-sx)^{m-1} x ds \\ &= x^m \left(\frac{1}{(m-1)!} \int_0^1 \psi^{(m)}(sx) (1-s)^{m-1} ds \right) \\ &=: x^m \tilde{\psi}(x). \end{aligned} \tag{1.42}$$

Note $\tilde{\psi} \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$. It follows that

$$\langle u, \psi \rangle = \langle u, x^m \tilde{\psi} \rangle = \langle x^m u, \tilde{\psi} \rangle = 0. \tag{1.43}$$

Plugging this into (1.41) and applying u , we find

$$\langle u, \varphi \rangle = \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} (-1)^j \left\langle u, \frac{\eta(x)x^j}{j!} \right\rangle \langle \delta^{(j)}, \varphi \rangle = \left\langle \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} c_j \delta^{(j)}, \varphi \right\rangle. \tag{1.44}$$

This completes the proof. \square

1.5 Distributions with Compact Support

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be open. A linear functional $u: C^\infty(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a *distribution with compact support* if there exists a compact subset $K \Subset \Omega$, $C > 0$, and $N \in \mathbb{N}$, such that

$$|\langle u, \varphi \rangle| \leq C \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N} \|\partial^\alpha \varphi\|_{L^\infty(K)^c} \quad \text{for all } \varphi \in C^\infty(\Omega). \tag{1.45}$$

The set of all distributions with compact support on Ω is denoted $\mathcal{E}'(\Omega)$

We say a sequence φ_j converges to φ in $C^\infty(\Omega)$ if, for all multiindices α , we have

$$\|\partial^\alpha \varphi_j - \partial^\alpha \varphi\|_{L^\infty(K)} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{for all compact } K \Subset \Omega. \tag{1.46}$$

The following theorem mirrors theorem 1.4:

Theorem 1.16. *Let $u: C^\infty(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a linear functional. Then u is a distribution with compact support if and only if $\langle u, \varphi_j \rangle \rightarrow \langle u, \varphi \rangle$ whenever $\varphi_j \rightarrow \varphi$ in $C^\infty(\Omega)$.*

Proof. Omitted. It follows exactly the same lines as the proof of theorem 1.4. \square

Note that by linearity, it suffices to show $\langle u, \varphi_j \rangle \rightarrow 0$ whenever $\varphi_j \rightarrow 0$ in $C^\infty(\Omega)$.

Next, we should show where the name for $\mathcal{E}'(\Omega)$ comes from. One would expect it has something to do with the compact set K in (1.45). In particular, $\text{supp } u$ should somehow be related to K .

Theorem 1.17. *Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be open. Let $u \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ be such that $\text{supp } u$ is compact. Then there exists a unique $\tilde{u} \in \mathcal{E}'(\Omega)$ such that*

$$\langle \tilde{u}, \varphi \rangle = \langle u, \varphi \rangle \quad \text{for all } \varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega). \quad (1.47)$$

Conversely, suppose \tilde{u} is a distribution with compact support. Then $u := \tilde{u}|_{C_c^\infty(\Omega)}$ is a distribution whose support is compact.

Proof. We need to extend u to $C_c^\infty(\Omega)$. Let $K = \text{supp } u \Subset \Omega$. Fix a bump function $\eta \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$ which is equal to 1 on an open neighborhood of K , and denote by \tilde{K} its support. For $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$, define

$$\langle \tilde{u}, \varphi \rangle := \langle u, \eta \varphi \rangle. \quad (1.48)$$

Note that this is well-defined, since $\eta \varphi$ is smooth and has compact support. Let $\varphi_j \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$ be a sequence converging to 0 in $C_c^\infty(\Omega)$. Then $\eta \varphi_j$ is supported in \tilde{K} for all j , and for all multiindices α ,

$$\|\partial^\alpha(\eta \varphi_j)\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} = \|\partial^\alpha(\eta \varphi_j)\|_{L^\infty(\tilde{K})} \leq \sum_{\beta \leq \alpha} c_\beta \|\partial^\beta \varphi_j\|_{L^\infty(\tilde{K})} \rightarrow 0. \quad (1.49)$$

Therefore $\eta \varphi_j \rightarrow 0$ in $C_c^\infty(\Omega)$, so by continuity of u , we must have that $\langle \tilde{u}, \varphi_j \rangle \rightarrow 0$. Thus \tilde{u} is a distribution with compact support.

Next, we check (1.47). Let $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$. We decompose φ as $\varphi = \eta \varphi + (1 - \eta) \varphi$. Then

$$\langle u, \varphi \rangle = \langle u, \eta \varphi \rangle + \langle u, (1 - \eta) \varphi \rangle = \langle \tilde{u}, \varphi \rangle + \langle u, (1 - \eta) \varphi \rangle. \quad (1.50)$$

But by assumption, $\text{supp}(1 - \eta) \subseteq \Omega \setminus K$, and so $\text{supp}((1 - \eta) \varphi) \cap \text{supp } u = \emptyset$. Lemma 1.7 then gives us $\langle u, (1 - \eta) \varphi \rangle = 0$, completing the proof.

Finally, it remains to check uniqueness. **[HEY BILLY CHECK THIS WHEN YOU WANT]**

The converse statement is easy **[BUT MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO PROVE IT???]** \square

With this theorem in hand, we will identify distributions with compact support with distributions whose support is compact. In particular, all the theory we have developed for distributions thus far applies for distributions with compact support. Note in particular that (1.45) implies every distribution with compact support has finite order.

An interesting class of distributions with compact support are those supported at a point. For example, δ is supported at the origin. More generally, the distribution $\sum_{|\alpha| \leq N} c_\alpha \partial^\alpha \delta$ is also supported at the origin. The following theorem tells us these are the only such distributions.

Theorem 1.18. *Suppose $u \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ has support $\{0\}$. Then there exists $N \in \mathbb{N}$ and $c_\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$ for $|\alpha| \leq N$ such that*

$$u = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N} c_\alpha \partial^\alpha \delta. \quad (1.51)$$

Proof. Since u has compact support, we may find a compact set $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, a constant $C > 0$, and a natural number $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that (1.45) holds. Fix $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$. We write

$$\varphi(x) = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N} \frac{x^\alpha}{\alpha!} \partial^\alpha \varphi(0) + \psi(x) \quad (1.52)$$

for some $\psi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ satisfying $\partial^\alpha \psi(0) = 0$ for all $|\alpha| \leq N$. With this, we can write

$$\langle u, \varphi \rangle = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N} \left\langle u, \frac{(-1)^{|\alpha|} x^\alpha}{\alpha!} \right\rangle \langle \partial^\alpha \delta, \varphi \rangle + \langle u, \psi \rangle. \quad (1.53)$$

Note that every expression here is well-defined since $u \in \mathcal{E}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Thus it suffices to show $\langle u, \psi \rangle = 0$.

Let $\eta \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be a bump function which is equal to 1 on $B(0, \frac{1}{2})$, and supported in $\overline{B(0, 1)}$. For $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$, define $\eta_\varepsilon(x) := \eta(x/\varepsilon)$. Then by lemma 1.7, we have $\langle u, \psi \rangle = \langle u, \eta_\varepsilon \psi \rangle$ for any $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$. By estimate (1.45) and the fact all $\eta_\varepsilon \psi$ are supported in $\overline{B(0, 1)}$, it suffices to show that for all multiindices α with $|\alpha| \leq N$, we have

$$\sup_{|x| \leq 1} |\partial^\alpha (\eta_\varepsilon \psi)| \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \varepsilon \downarrow 0. \quad (1.54)$$

First, note that $\eta_\varepsilon \psi$ has support in $\overline{B(0, \varepsilon)}$, so we will show

$$\sup_{|x| \leq \varepsilon} |\partial^\alpha (\eta_\varepsilon \psi)| \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \varepsilon \downarrow 0. \quad (1.55)$$

By the Leibniz rule, we have

$$\partial^\alpha (\eta_\varepsilon \psi) = \sum_{\beta + \gamma = \alpha} c_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma} \varepsilon^{-|\gamma|} \partial^\gamma \eta \partial^\beta \psi, \quad (1.56)$$

so that

$$\sup_{|x| \leq \varepsilon} |\partial^\alpha (\eta_\varepsilon \psi)| \leq \sum_{\beta + \gamma = \alpha} c_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma} \varepsilon^{-|\gamma|} \sup_{|x| \leq \varepsilon} |\partial^\beta \psi(x)|. \quad (1.57)$$

By Taylor's theorem, we write

$$\psi(x) = \sum_{|\delta| \leq N} \frac{x^\delta}{\delta!} \partial^\delta \psi(0) + \sum_{|\delta| = N+1} |\delta| \frac{x^\delta}{\delta!} \int_0^1 (1-t)^N \partial^\delta \psi(xt) dt. \quad (1.58)$$

The first term is zero since $\partial^\delta \psi(0) = 0$ for all $|\delta| \leq N$. Differentiating β times, we have

$$\partial^\beta \psi(x) = \sum_{|\delta| = N+1} |\delta| \frac{x^{\{\delta - \beta\}}}{\beta!} \int_0^1 (1-t)^{N-|\beta|} \partial^{\delta + \beta} \psi(xt) dt. \quad (1.59)$$

We therefore have the estimate

$$\sup_{|x| \leq \varepsilon} |\partial^\beta \psi(x)| \leq c_{\beta, N, \psi} \varepsilon^{(N+1)-|\beta|}. \quad (1.60)$$

Substituting into (1.57),

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{|x| \leq \varepsilon} |\partial^\alpha (\eta_\varepsilon \psi)| &\leq \sum_{\beta + \gamma = \alpha} c_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma, N, \psi} \varepsilon^{(N+1)-(|\beta|+|\gamma|)} \\ &= \sum_{\beta + \gamma = \alpha} c_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma, N, \psi} \varepsilon^{(N+1)-|\alpha|}. \end{aligned} \quad (1.61)$$

By assumption, $|\alpha| \leq N$ and $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$, which implies $\varepsilon^{(N+1)-|\alpha|} \leq \varepsilon$. We conclude

$$\sup_{|x| \leq \varepsilon} |\partial^\alpha (\eta_\varepsilon \psi)| \leq C \varepsilon \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \varepsilon \downarrow 0, \quad (1.62)$$

as required. \square

1.6 Tempered Distributions

Recall the *Schwartz class* $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is the set of functions $f \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ satisfying

$$\rho_{\alpha,\beta}(f) := \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} |x^\alpha \partial^\beta f(x)| < \infty \quad \text{for all multiindices } \alpha, \beta. \quad (1.63)$$

The $\rho_{\alpha,\beta}$ are called the *Schwartz seminorms*. In a sense, the Schwartz functions are the smooth functions whose decay at infinity is faster than the inverse of any polynomial.

There are strict inclusions $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \subsetneq \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n) \subsetneq C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Indeed, for strictness of the first inclusion, the Gaussian function $e^{-\pi|x|^2}$ is in $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ but doesn't have compact support. For strictness of the second inclusion, simply the function $|x|^2$ will work.

Given a Schwartz function $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, its *Fourier transform* $\mathcal{F}f = \widehat{f}$ is defined by

$$\mathcal{F}f(\xi) = \widehat{f}(\xi) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(x) e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} dx. \quad (1.64)$$

The Fourier transform of a Schwartz function is again a Schwartz function, and the map $\mathcal{F}: \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is a homeomorphism with inverse

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}f(\xi) = \check{f}(\xi) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(x) e^{2\pi i x \cdot \xi} dx. \quad (1.65)$$

We state some properties of the Fourier transform. The proofs are easy exercises.

Lemma 1.19. *Let $f, g \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Then*

- (i) $(\widehat{\partial_j f})(\xi) = 2\pi i \xi_j \widehat{f}(\xi)$.
- (ii) $\partial_j \widehat{f}(\xi) = (-2\pi i x_j f)^\wedge(\xi)$.
- (iii) $(f * g)^\wedge = \widehat{f} \widehat{g}$.
- (iv) For h in \mathbb{R}^n , define $\tau_h f(x) := f(x - h)$. Then $(\widehat{\tau_h f})(\xi) = e^{-2\pi i h \cdot \xi} \widehat{f}(\xi)$.
- (v) $(e^{2\pi i h \cdot x} f)^\wedge(\xi) = \widehat{f}(\xi - h)$.
- (vi) For $\lambda > 0$, define $f_\lambda(x) := \lambda^{-n} f(x/\lambda)$. Then $\widehat{f_\lambda}(\xi) = \widehat{f}(\lambda \xi)$.
- (vii) $\widehat{\widehat{f}}(x) = f(-x) =: \widetilde{f}$. In particular, $\mathcal{F}^4 = \text{id}$.
- (viii) (Parseval's identity) $(f, \widehat{g})_{L^2} = (\widehat{f}, g)_{L^2}$.
- (ix) (Plancherel's identity) $\|f\|_{L^2} = \|\widehat{f}\|_{L^2}$.
- (x) $(e^{-\pi|x|^2})^\wedge(\xi) = e^{-\pi|\xi|^2}$.

A linear functional $u: \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a *tempered distribution*, written $u \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$, if there exist $C > 0$ and $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$|\langle u, f \rangle| \leq C \sum_{|\alpha|, |\beta| \leq N} \rho_{\alpha,\beta}(f) \quad \text{for all } f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n). \quad (1.66) \quad \{\text{eq:temperedDistrib}\}$$

We say a sequence $f_j \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ converges to f in $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ if $\rho_{\alpha,\beta}(f_j - f) \rightarrow 0$ for all multiindices α, β . Analogous to theorem 1.4, we have the following

Theorem 1.20. A linear functional $u: \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a tempered distribution if and only if $\langle u, f_j \rangle \rightarrow \langle u, f \rangle$ whenever $f_j \rightarrow f$ in $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

Proof. Omitted. \square

Observe that $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n) \subseteq \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Indeed, fix a compact set $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$. Then, for $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with $\text{supp } \varphi \subseteq K$, we have

$$\rho_{\alpha,\beta}(\varphi) = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} |x^\alpha \partial^\beta \varphi(x)| = \sup_{x \in K} |x^\alpha \partial^\beta \varphi(x)| \leq C_K \|\partial^\beta \varphi\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)}. \quad (1.67)$$

So if $u \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$, and $C > 0$ and $N \in \mathbb{N}$ are such that (1.66) holds, we have

$$|\langle u, \varphi \rangle| \leq C \sum_{|\alpha|, |\beta| \leq N} \rho_{\alpha,\beta}(\varphi) \leq C_K \sum_{|\beta| \leq N} \|\partial^\beta \varphi\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)}. \quad (1.68)$$

In particular, note that tempered distributions have finite order. In a similar vein, observe $\mathcal{E}'(\mathbb{R}^n) \subseteq \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Indeed, this is since $\|\partial^\beta f\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)} = \rho_{0,\beta}(f)$ for any $f \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$, so (1.45) transfers to (1.66) immediately.

Lemma 1.21. The space of tempered distributions is closed under differentiation and multiplication by polynomials.

Proof. Let $u \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. Then, for $C > 0$ and $N \in \mathbb{N}$ as in (1.66), we have

$$|\langle \partial_j u, f \rangle| \leq C \sum_{|\alpha|, |\beta| \leq N} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} |x^\alpha \partial^\beta \partial_j f(x)| \leq C \sum_{|\alpha|, |\beta| \leq N+1} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} |x^\alpha \partial^\beta f(x)| \quad (1.69)$$

for all $f \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$. The proof for $x_j u$ is the same. \square

Example 1.22. For $p \in [1, \infty]$, we have $L^p(\mathbb{R}^n) \subseteq \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Indeed, this is easy for $p = 1$. For $p > 1$, let $u \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and $f \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Hölder's inequality immediately implies

$$|\langle u, f \rangle| = \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} u f \, dx \right| \leq \|u\|_{L^p} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |f(x)|^{p'} \, dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p'}}, \quad (1.70)$$

where $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{p'} = 1$. Choose $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $Np' > n$. Then $(1 + |x|)^{-Np'}$ is integrable over \mathbb{R}^n . We also have

$$\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} |(1 + |x|)^N f(x)| \leq C \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N} \rho_{\alpha,0}(f) \quad (1.71)$$

for some $C > 0$. Putting this estimate together with the previous, we have

$$|\langle u, f \rangle| \leq \|u\|_{L^p} C \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N} \rho_{0,\alpha}(f) \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{(1 + |x|)^{Np'}} \, dx. \quad (1.72)$$

This shows (1.66).

Let $u \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be a tempered distribution. Define its *Fourier transform* by

$$\langle \hat{u}, f \rangle = \langle u, \hat{f} \rangle. \quad (1.73)$$

Note that \hat{u} is linear. Furthermore, it is a tempered distribution since \mathcal{F} is a homeomorphism. In particular, if $f_j \rightarrow f$ in $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$, then $\hat{f}_j \rightarrow \hat{f}$ in $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$, so continuity of \hat{u} is immediate. Alternatively, we could figure out (1.66) directly. [try it]

Lemma 1.23. *Let $u \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Then*

- (i) *For $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, $(\partial_j u)^\wedge = 2\pi i \xi_j \widehat{u}$.*
- (ii) *Similarly, $\partial_j \widehat{u} = (-2\pi i x_j u)^\wedge$.*
- (iii) *$\widehat{\widehat{u}} = \widetilde{u}$, where $\langle \widetilde{u}, f \rangle := \langle u, \widehat{f} \rangle$.*

Proof. Fix $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. We then have

(i)

$$\langle (\partial_j u)^\wedge, f \rangle = \langle \partial_j u, \widehat{f} \rangle = -\langle u, \partial_j \widehat{f} \rangle = -\langle u, (-2\pi i x_j f)^\wedge \rangle = \langle 2\pi i \xi_j \widehat{u}, f \rangle, \quad (1.74)$$

(ii)

$$\langle \partial_j \widehat{u}, f \rangle = -\langle u, (\partial_j f)^\wedge \rangle = -\langle u, 2\pi i \xi_j \widehat{f} \rangle = \langle (-2\pi i x_j u)^\wedge, f \rangle, \quad (1.75)$$

(iii)

$$\langle \widehat{\widehat{u}}, f \rangle = \langle \widehat{u}, \widehat{\widehat{f}} \rangle = \langle u, \widehat{f} \rangle = \langle \widetilde{u}, f \rangle, \quad (1.76)$$

as required. \square

Example 1.24. (1) Note that $\delta \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ since it has compact support. Let $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Then

$$\langle \widehat{\delta}, f \rangle = \langle \delta, \widehat{f} \rangle = \widehat{f}(0) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(x) \, dx = \langle 1, f \rangle. \quad (1.77)$$

That is, $\widehat{\delta} = 1$.

Taking the Fourier transform again, we see $\widehat{1} = \widehat{\widehat{\delta}} = \widetilde{\delta} = \delta$. That is,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \widehat{f}(\xi) \, d\xi = f(0). \quad (1.78)$$

We have therefore proved the Fourier inversion formula!

(2) Let's calculate the Fourier transform of the sign function $\text{sgn} \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R})$, defined by

$$\text{sgn} x := \begin{cases} 1 & x > 0, \\ -1 & x < 0. \end{cases} \quad (1.79)$$

Recall $\text{sgn}' x = 2\delta$. Taking the Fourier transform of this, we find

$$2 = 2\widehat{\delta} = \widehat{\text{sgn}'} \xi = 2\pi i \xi \widehat{\text{sgn}} \xi. \quad (1.80)$$

Also, note that $\xi \text{p.v.} \frac{1}{\xi} = 1$, since

$$\left\langle \xi \text{p.v.} \frac{1}{\xi}, f \right\rangle = \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \int_{-\varepsilon}^{-\varepsilon} f(\xi) \, d\xi + \int_{\varepsilon}^{\infty} f(\xi) \, d\xi = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(\xi) \, d\xi = \langle 1, f \rangle. \quad (1.81)$$

So

$$\xi \left(\widehat{\text{sgn}} \xi - \frac{1}{\pi i} \text{p.v.} \frac{1}{\xi} \right) = 0. \quad (1.82)$$

Theorem 1.15 then tells us

$$\widehat{\text{sgn}} \xi = \frac{1}{\pi i} \text{p.v.} \frac{1}{\xi} + c \delta \quad (1.83) \quad \{\text{eq:fourierTransform}\}$$

for some $c \in \mathbb{C}$. Now, define $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ by $f(x) = e^{-\pi|x|^2}$, so that $\widehat{f} = f$. Since f is even, we have both $\langle \widehat{\text{sgn}} \xi, f \rangle = 0$ and $\langle \text{p.v.} \frac{1}{\xi}, f \rangle = 0$. Applying both sides of (1.83) to f , we obtain $c = 0$, and so

$$\widehat{\text{sgn}} \xi = \frac{1}{\pi i} \text{p.v.} \frac{1}{\xi} \quad (1.84)$$

- (3) The Heaviside function can be written as $H(\xi) = 1 + \frac{1}{2} \text{sgn} \xi$. Using the previous two examples, its Fourier transform is then

$$\widehat{H}(\xi) = \delta + \frac{1}{2\pi i} \text{p.v.} \frac{1}{\xi}. \quad (1.85)$$

Let $f, g \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be Schwartz functions. Their convolution is the function $f * g \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ defined by

$$(f * g)(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(y)g(x-y) \, dy. \quad (1.86)$$

Recall $(f * g)^\wedge = \widehat{f} \widehat{g}$.

Given a tempered distribution $u \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and a Schwartz function $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, define their convolution by

$$\langle u * f, g \rangle := \langle u, \widetilde{f} * g \rangle \quad \text{for } g \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n). \quad (1.87)$$

Evidently, $u * f$ is well-defined and linear. We must now check that $u * f$ is a tempered distribution [complete this](#)

| **Lemma 1.25.** *Let $u \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Then $(u * f)^\wedge = \widehat{f} \widehat{u}$.*

Proof. Fix $g \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \langle (u * f)^\wedge, g \rangle &= \langle u, \widetilde{f} * \widehat{g} \rangle \\ &= \langle u, (\widehat{f} g)^\wedge \rangle \\ &= \langle \widehat{f} \widehat{u}, g \rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (1.88)$$

as required. □

Chapter 2

Singular Integral Operators

In this chapter, we study operators of the form $Tf = K * f$ for K a “singular” integral kernel.

2.1 Prerequisites

Let (X, μ) be a measures space, and let $p \in [1, \infty]$. The *weak* L^p space $L^{p,\infty}(X, \mu)$ is the set of measurable functions $f: (X, \mu) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that quantity

$$\|f\|_{L^{p,\infty}} := \begin{cases} \sup_{\lambda > 0} \lambda \mu(\{|f| > \lambda\})^{1/p} & p < \infty, \\ \|f\|_{L^\infty} & p = \infty \end{cases} \quad (2.1)$$

is finite.

Remark 2.1. The set $L^{p,\infty}(X, \mu)$ is a vector space. However, $\|\cdot\|_{L^{p,\infty}}$ is not a norm (for $p < \infty$).

Let (Y, ν) be another measure space, and let $p, q \in [1, \infty]$. Let T be a function on $L^p(X, \mu)$ taking values in the space of measurable functions on (Y, ν) . We say T is *strong* (p, q) if there exists $C > 0$ such that

$$\|Tf\|_{L^q(Y, \nu)} \leq C \|f\|_{L^p(X, \mu)} \quad \text{for all } f \in L^p(X, \mu). \quad (2.2)$$

We say T is *weak* (p, q) if there exists $C > 0$ such that

$$\|Tf\|_{L^{q,\infty}(Y, \nu)} \leq C \|f\|_{L^p(X, \mu)} \quad \text{for all } f \in L^p(X, \mu). \quad (2.3)$$

Equivalently,

$$\nu(\{|Tf| > \lambda\}) \leq \left(\frac{C \|f\|_{L^p(X, \mu)}}{\lambda} \right)^p \quad \text{for all } \lambda > 0 \text{ and } f \in L^p(X, \mu). \quad (2.4)$$

We say T is *sublinear* if

$$\begin{aligned} |T(f+g)| &\leq |Tf| + |Tg| && \text{for all } f, g \in L^p(X, \mu), \text{ and} \\ |T(\alpha f)| &= |\alpha| |Tf| && \text{for all } f \in L^p(X, \mu) \text{ and } \alpha \in \mathbb{C}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

Theorem 2.2 (Marcinkiewicz Interpolation). *Let (X, μ) be a measure space, and (Y, ν) a σ -finite measure space. Let $1 \leq p_0 < p_1 \leq \infty$. Let T be a sublinear operator defined on $(L^{p_0} + L^{p_1})(X, \mu)$ and taking values in the space of measurable functions on (Y, ν) , such that T is weak (p_j, p_j) for $j = 0, 1$. Then T is strong (p, p) for any $p \in (p_0, p_1)$.*

Given $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, denote by \mathcal{Q}_k the set of cubes of the form $\prod_{i=1}^n [2^{-k}m_i, 2^{-k}(m_i+1))$ with $m_i \in \mathbb{Z}$. Elements of \mathcal{Q}_k are called *dyadic cubes of generation k* . Given a function $f \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, we define

$$E_k f := \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}_k} \int_Q f(x) \, dx \, \mathbb{1}_Q \quad (2.6)$$

We can interpret $E_k f$ as being the conditional expectation of f given the sigma algebra generated by \mathcal{Q}_k .

Theorem 2.3 (Calderón-Zygmund Decomposition). *Let $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be nonnegative, and let $\lambda > 0$. Then there exists a countable collection $\{Q_j\}_{j \in I}$ of disjoint dyadic cubes such that*

- (i) $f \leq \lambda$ a.e. on $(\bigcup_{j \in I} Q_j)^c$,
- (ii) $|\bigcup_{j \in I} Q_j| \leq \frac{1}{\lambda} \|f\|_{L^1}$,
- (iii) $\lambda < \int_{Q_j} f(x) \, dx \leq 2^n \lambda$ for all $j \in I$.

Proof. Given $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, define $\Omega_k := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : E_k f(x) > \lambda, E_j f(x) \leq \lambda \text{ for } j < k\}$. Then, since E_k is constant on dyadic cubes of generation k , we have that Ω_k is a union of such dyadic cubes. Note that if $Q \subseteq \Omega_k$ is a dyadic cube, then none of its descendants can lie in Ω_j for $j > k$, so $\Omega := \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \Omega_k$ is a disjoint union of dyadic cubes. Let $\{Q_j\}$ be this countable family.

It remains to prove (i), (ii), and (iii). For (i), the Lebesgue differentiation theorem with dyadic cubes implies $f = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} E_k f$ a.e. Note that if $x \in \Omega^c$, then $E_k f(x) \leq \lambda$ for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. It follows that $f(x) \leq \lambda$ for a.e. $x \in \Omega^c$.

For (ii), take $Q \subseteq \Omega$ to be a dyadic cube of generation k . By definition, $1 \leq \lambda^{-1} E_k f(x)$ for all $x \in Q$, so we estimate

$$\begin{aligned} |Q| &= \int_Q 1 \, dx \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\lambda} \int_Q E_k f(x) \, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda} \int_Q \int_Q f(y) \, dy \, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda} \int_Q f(y) \, dy. \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

Summing over all dyadic cubes $Q \subseteq \Omega$, and using the monotone convergence theorem (along with nonnegativity of f) we obtain (ii).

For (iii), note that the lower inequality holds by definition. For the upper inequality, take a dyadic cube $Q \subseteq \Omega$ of generation k . Let $Q' \in \mathcal{Q}_{k-1}$ be its parent. By definition of Ω_k , we have $E_{k-1} f(x) \leq \lambda$ for all $x \in Q'$. We estimate

$$\int_Q f(x) \, dx \leq \frac{|Q'|}{|Q|} \frac{1}{|Q'|} \int_{Q'} f(x) \, dx \leq 2^n \lambda, \quad (2.8)$$

as required. \square

Given such a family $\{Q_j\}$ and $\Omega := \bigcup_j Q_j$, we may decompose $f = g + b$, where

$$g(x) := \begin{cases} f(x) & x \notin \Omega, \\ \int_{Q_j} f(x) \, dx & x \in Q_j \end{cases} \quad (2.9)$$

is the *good part* of f , and $b := f - g$ is the *bad part*. This decomposition (along with the family $\{Q_j\}$) is called the *Calderón-Zygmund decomposition* of f at height λ .

2.2 Calderón-Zygmund Operators

In this section, we will study operators which generalize the Hilbert transform. Let $K \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be a tempered distribution. Suppose

- (i) The distribution K coincides with a locally integrable function away from the origin.
- (ii) Its Fourier transform \widehat{K} coincides with an L^∞ function on all of \mathbb{R}^n .
- (iii) (Smoothness criterion) There exists $M \geq 0$ such that

$$\int_{|x| > 2|y|} |K(x-y) - K(x)| \, dx \leq M \quad \text{for all } y \in \mathbb{R}^n. \quad (2.10)$$

We call K a *Calderón-Zygmund kernel*. Define its corresponding *Calderón-Zygmund operator* by $T_K f := K * f$ for $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

Example 2.4. On \mathbb{R} , consider $K = \frac{1}{\pi} \text{p.v.} \frac{1}{x}$. We know $K(x) = \frac{1}{\pi x}$ away from the origin, and $\widehat{K}(\xi) = -i \operatorname{sgn} \xi$. To show the smoothness criterion, fix $y \in \mathbb{R}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{|x| > 2|y|} |K(x-y) - K(x)| \, dx &= \int_{|x| > 2|y|} \frac{|y|}{|x| |x-y|} \, dx \\ &\leq \int_{|x| > 2|y|} \frac{2|y|}{|x|^2} \, dx \\ &= -\frac{4|y|}{r} \Big|_{r=2|y|}^{\infty} \\ &= 2, \end{aligned} \quad (2.11)$$

where the inequality follows from $|x-y| \geq |x| - |y| \geq |x|/2$.

The importance of Calderón-Zygmund operators is shown by the following theorem:

Theorem 2.5. *Let T be a Calderón-Zygmund operator with kernel K . Then T can be extended to an operator which is weak $(1,1)$, and strong (p,p) for $1 < p < \infty$.* {thm:caldZyg}

Proof. We first show T is strong $(2,2)$. Given $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, we know $\widehat{Tf} = \widehat{K}\widehat{f}$, which is in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ by assumption on \widehat{K} . So Tf is in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$, and by Plancherel's theorem, $\|Tf\|_{L^2} = \|\widehat{Tf}\|_{L^2} \leq$

$A\|f\|_{L^2}$ for some $A > 0$ independent of f . It follows immediately by density of $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ that T may be extended to a strong $(2, 2)$ operator.

The bulk of the proof will be from showing T can be extended to a weak $(1, 1)$ operator. Fix a nonnegative $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and $\lambda > 0$. Form the Calderón-Zygmund decomposition $f = g + b$, $\Omega = \bigcup_j Q_j$ of f , and write $b_j = b\mathbb{1}_{Q_j}$. Since f is a Schwartz function, Ω is compact (indeed, $f(x) \leq \lambda$ for x outside of a compact set). It follows that g and b are in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$, and so from the above, Tg and Tb are in $L_c^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$. We therefore have the simple estimate

$$|\{|Tf| > \lambda\}| \leq \left| \left\{ |Tg| > \frac{\lambda}{2} \right\} \right| + \left| \left\{ |Tb| > \frac{\lambda}{2} \right\} \right|. \quad (2.12)$$

The estimate on the good part is immediate from Markov's inequality:

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \left\{ |Tg| > \frac{\lambda}{2} \right\} \right| &\leq \left(\frac{2}{\lambda} \right)^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Tg|^2 \, dx \\ &\leq \frac{4A}{\lambda^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |g|^2 \, dx \\ &\leq \frac{4A}{\lambda^2} 2^n \lambda \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} g \, dx \\ &= \frac{2^{n+2}A}{\lambda} \|f\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.13)$$

where, in the third line, we used $g \leq 2^n \lambda$, and in the final line, we use $\|g\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} = \|f\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)}$. Indeed, $g = f$ on Ω^c , and for each j ,

$$\int_{Q_j} g \, dx = \int_{Q_j} \int_{Q_j} f \, dx \, dy = \int_{Q_j} f \, dx, \quad (2.14)$$

recalling $f \geq 0$. So by monotone convergence,

$$\int_{\Omega} g \, dx = \sum_j \int_{Q_j} g \, dx = \sum_j \int_{Q_j} f \, dx = \int_{\Omega} f \, dx. \quad (2.15)$$

Adding the integrals for Ω and for Ω^c to finish the claim.

We will now estimate the bad part. Let c_j denote the center of the cube Q_j , and write Q_j^* for the cube centered at c_j with side length $2\sqrt{n}\ell_j$, where ℓ_j is the side length of Q_j . We also write $\Omega^* := \bigcup_j Q_j^*$. The sum $\sum_j b_j$ converges in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ to b , so by continuity, $\sum_j Tb_j$ converges in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ to Tb . We pass to a subsequence which converges a.e. Thus $|Tb| \leq \sum_j |Tb_j|$ a.e., which implies

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \left\{ |Tb| > \frac{\lambda}{2} \right\} \right| &\leq \left| \left\{ \sum_j |Tb_j| > \frac{\lambda}{2} \right\} \right| \\ &= \left| \left\{ x \in \Omega^* : \sum_j |Tb_j| > \frac{\lambda}{2} \right\} \right| + \left| \left\{ x \notin \Omega^* : \sum_j |Tb_j| > \frac{\lambda}{2} \right\} \right|. \end{aligned} \quad (2.16)$$

The first term is easy to estimate:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left| \left\{ x \in \Omega^* : \sum_j |Tb_j| > \frac{\lambda}{2} \right\} \right| &\leq |\Omega^*| \\
 &\leq \sum_j |Q_j^*| \\
 &= \sum_j (2\sqrt{n})^n |Q_j| \\
 &= (2\sqrt{n})^n |\Omega| \\
 &\leq \frac{(2\sqrt{n})^n}{\lambda} \|f\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.17}$$

The second term is nastier. First, we will show that if a function f is in the set $L_c^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ of L^2 functions with compact essential support, then $Tf \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ has the concrete expression

$$Tf(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} K(x-y)f(y) \, dy \quad \text{for a.e. } x \in (\text{ess sup } f)^c. \tag{2.18}$$

This will be important in the forthcoming estimates. **do eet**

Returning to estimating the bad part, the Markov inequality gives us

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left| \left\{ x \notin \Omega^* : \sum_j |Tb_j| > \frac{\lambda}{2} \right\} \right| &\leq \sum_j \frac{2}{\lambda} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega^*} |Tb_j| \, dx \\
 &\leq \sum_j \frac{2}{\lambda} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus Q_j^*} |Tb_j| \, dx.
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.19} \quad \{\text{eq:reallyBadPart}\}$$

Now, each b_j is in $L_c^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with essential support contained in Q_j^* , so for a.e. $x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus Q_j^*$, we have

$$Tb_j(x) = \int_{Q_j} K(x-y)f(y) \, dy. \tag{2.20}$$

Since $\int_{Q_j} b_j \, dx = 0$, we have

$$Tb_j(x) = \int_{Q_j} (K(x-y) - K(x-c_j))b_j(y) \, dy. \tag{2.21}$$

Choose $y \in Q_j$. Then

$$|y - c_j| \leq \frac{\sqrt{n}}{2} \ell_j, \tag{2.22}$$

and if $x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus Q_j^*$, then

$$|x - c_j| > \ell_j \sqrt{n} \geq 2|y - c_j|. \tag{2.23}$$

So $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus Q_j^* \subseteq \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x - c_j| > 2|y - c_j|\}$. This allows us to estimate

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus Q_j^*} |Tb_j| \, dx &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus Q_j^*} \int_{Q_j} |K(x-y) - K(x-c_j)| |b_j(y)| \, dy \, dx \\
 &\leq \int_{Q_j} |b_j(y)| \int_{|x-c_j| > 2|y-c_j|} |K(x-y) - K(x-c_j)| \, dx \, dy \\
 &\leq \int_{Q_j} M |b_j(y)| \, dy \\
 &\leq 2M \int_{Q_j} |f(y)| \, dy
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.24}$$

by the smoothness criterion on K , and the fact that $b_j(y) = |f(y) - f_{Q_j}| f(y) \, dy|$ on Q_j . Recalling (2.19), we then have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left| \left\{ x \notin \Omega^* : \sum_j |Tb_j| > \frac{\lambda}{2} \right\} \right| &\leq \sum_j \frac{2}{\lambda} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus Q_j^*} |Tb_j| \, dx \\
 &\leq \sum_j \frac{4M}{\lambda} \int_{Q_j} |f(y)| \, dy \\
 &\leq \frac{4M}{\lambda} \|f\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)},
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.25}$$

finishing the estimate on $|\{|Tb| > \lambda/2\}|$, and therefore on $|\{|Tf| > \lambda\}|$.

finish showing T is weak (1,1) and strong (p,p)

□

do the extensions

Chapter 3

Littlewood-Paley Theory

3.1 Fourier Multipliers

Given a function $m: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, we would like to investigate the boundedness properties of the operator $m(D)f := (\widehat{mf})^\vee$ acting on suitable functions f . For example, if m has polynomial growth and f is Schwartz, then $m(D)f$ is a tempered distribution. We call m and its associated operator $m(D)$ *Fourier multipliers*. The partial derivative operators ∂_j are Fourier multipliers, with $m(\xi) = 2\pi i \xi_j$. Note that $m(D)f = \check{m} * f$ in physical space (so long as m has polynomial growth), but we will often be working in frequency space.

If $m \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$, then $m(D)$ is a bounded operator $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with operator norm $\|m\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)}$. Similarly, if $\check{m} \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$, then $m(D)$ is a bounded operator $L^r(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow L^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for any $r \in [1, \infty]$ with operator norm $\|\check{m}\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)}$ by Young's inequality.

Theorem 3.1 (Mikhlin Multiplier Theorem). *Suppose $m \in C^{n+2}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\})$ satisfies, for some $C > 0$,*

$$|\partial^\alpha m(\xi)| \leq C |\xi|^{-|\alpha|} \quad (3.1)$$

for all $\xi \neq 0$ and $|\alpha| \leq n+2$. Then, for $p \in (1, \infty)$, there exists $B = B_{m,n,p} > 0$ such that

$$\|m(D)f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq B \|f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)} \quad (3.2)$$

for all $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

Note that (3.1) implies, in particular, that m is bounded. So for any $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, the function \widehat{mf} is a tempered distribution. The idea of the proof is fairly simple: we show that $K = \check{m}$ coincides with a locally integrable function on $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$ satisfying the Hörmander condition, and is thus a Calderón-Zygmund kernel, allowing us to apply theorem 2.5. How we do this is the crux of Littlewood-Paley theory: we decompose m in the frequency domain into nicer pieces, establish bounds on these, and then sum them back together.

Lemma 3.2. *There exists a radial and nonnegative $\Psi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ such that $\text{supp } \Psi \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$*

and

$$\sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \Psi(2^{-j}x) = 1 \quad (3.3)$$

for all $x \neq 0$. Furthermore, at most two terms in this sum are nonzero for any $x \neq 0$.

Proof. Let $\chi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be radial and radially decreasing such that $\chi(x) = 1$ for $|x| \leq 1$, and $\chi(x) = 0$ for $|x| \geq 2$. We define $\Psi(x) := \chi(x) - \chi(2x)$. Then $\Psi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is radial and nonnegative, and if $|x| \leq \frac{1}{2}$, then $\chi(x) = \chi(2x) = 1$, so $\Psi(x) = 0$, implying $\text{supp } \Psi \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$. Note also that $\Psi(x) = 0$ for $|x| \geq 2$. Now, let $x \neq 0$ and $N \in \mathbb{N}$. Then

$$\sum_{j=-N}^N \Psi(2^{-j}x) = \chi(2^{-N}x) - \chi(2^{N+1}x) \rightarrow \chi(0) = 1. \quad (3.4)$$

Finally, recalling that Ψ is supported in the annulus $\frac{1}{2} \leq |x| \leq 2$, we see that at most two terms in the sum are nonzero. \square

Proof of theorem 3.1. With Ψ as in the previous lemma, we write $\Psi_j(x) := \Psi(2^{-j}x)$, and define $m_j := \Psi_j m$. Then $m_j \in (L^1 \cap L^2)(\mathbb{R}^n)$, so $m_j(D)f = K_j * f$, where $K_j = \check{m}_j \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$. The series $\sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} K_j$ converges to K in $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Indeed, for any $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \sum_{j=-N}^N K_j, f \right\rangle &= \sum_{j=-N}^N \langle \check{m}_j, f \rangle \\ &= \sum_{j=-N}^N \langle \Psi_j m, \check{f} \rangle \\ &= \left\langle m, \sum_{j=-N}^N \Psi_j \check{f} \right\rangle \\ &\rightarrow \langle m, \check{f} \rangle \\ &= \langle K, f \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

We shall now establish bounds on K_j and ∇K_j . We use the notation $A \lesssim_{a_1, \dots, a_k} B$ to mean there exists $C = C_{a_1, \dots, a_k} > 0$ such that $A \leq CB$. We will show

$$\{eq:kjBound\} \quad |K_j(x)| \lesssim_n |x|^{-n} \min \{ (2^j |x|)^n, (2^j |x|)^{-2} \}, \quad (3.6)$$

$$\{eq:gradKjBound\} \quad |\nabla K_j(x)| \lesssim_n |x|^{-(n+1)} \min \{ (2^j |x|)^{n+1}, (2^j |x|)^{-1} \} \quad (3.7)$$

for all $x \neq 0$ and $j \in \mathbb{Z}$. For the first bound on $|K_j(x)|$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |K_j(x)| &= |\check{m}_j(x)| \\ &\leq \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Psi_j(\xi) m(\xi) e^{2\pi i x \cdot \xi} d\xi \right| \\ &\leq \int_{|\xi| \leq 2^{j+1}} \Psi(2^{-j}\xi) |m(\xi)| d\xi \\ &\lesssim_n 2^{jn} \\ &\lesssim_n |x|^{-n} (2^j |x|)^n, \end{aligned} \quad (3.8)$$

noting Ψ_j is supported in the ball $B(0, 2^{j+1})$, Ψ and m are bounded, and the ball $B(0, 2^{j+1})$ has measure proportional to $2^n 2^{jn}$. For the second bound on $|K_j(x)|$, we do something a little stranger. First, note that for any $x \neq 0$, we have

$$\left(\frac{-ix}{2\pi |x|^2} \cdot \nabla_\xi \right) e^{2\pi i x \cdot \xi} = e^{2\pi i x \cdot \xi}. \quad (3.9)$$

We then estimate, for any $k \leq n+2$,

$$\begin{aligned} |K_j(x)| &= \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} m_j(\xi) e^{2\pi i x \cdot \xi} d\xi \right| \\ &= \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} m_j(\xi) \left(\frac{-ix}{2\pi |x|^2} \cdot \nabla_\xi \right)^k e^{2\pi i x \cdot \xi} d\xi \right| \\ &= \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left(\frac{-ix}{2\pi |x|^2} \cdot \nabla_\xi \right)^k m_j(\xi) e^{2\pi i x \cdot \xi} d\xi \right| \\ &\lesssim_n \frac{1}{|x|^k} 2^{-jk} 2^{jn}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.10)$$

In particular, taking $k = n+2$, we have

$$|K_j(x)| \lesssim_n |x|^{-n} (2^j |x|)^{-2} 2^{-jn} 2^{jn} = |x|^{-n} (2^j |x|)^{-2}. \quad (3.11)$$

The bound (3.6) has therefore been found.

For the bound on the gradient, we note first that for $x \neq 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} |\nabla K_j(x)| &= \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} m_j(\xi) 2\pi i \xi e^{2\pi i x \cdot \xi} d\xi \right| \\ &\leq \int_{|\xi| \leq 2^{j+1}} |m_j(\xi)| 2\pi |\xi| d\xi \\ &\lesssim_n 2^{j+1} 2^{n(j+1)} \\ &\lesssim_n |x|^{-(n+1)} (2^j |x|)^{n+1}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.12)$$

The other bound is similar, noting again that the additional ξ coming from the derivative of $e^{2\pi i x \cdot \xi}$ adds an additional factor of 2^j .

Summing the K_j , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} |K_j(x)| &\lesssim_n \frac{1}{|x|^n} \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \min \{ (2^j |x|)^n, (2^j |x|)^{-2} \} \\ &\lesssim_n \frac{1}{|x|^n} \left(\sum_{2^j |x| < 1} (2^j |x|)^n + \sum_{2^j |x| \geq 1} (2^j |x|)^{-2} \right) \\ &\lesssim_n |x|^{-n}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.13)$$

which implies that $\sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} K_j$ converges locally uniformly on $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$ to some function K . Using the dominated convergence theorem, one can check that this K agrees with the tempered distribution K as above. Finally, since the gradients of the partial sums $\sum_{j=-N}^n K_j$ also converge

locally uniformly (with bound proportional to $|x|^{-(n+1)}$), we see that K is differentiable with $|\nabla K(x)| \lesssim_n |x|^{-(n+1)}$. But this is precisely the Hörmander condition for Calderón-Zygmund kernels. Since $\widehat{K} = m$ is bounded and K is locally integrable on $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$, the proof is finished by theorem 2.5. \square

Our proof above shows that $m(D)$ can be extended to an operator which is weak $(1, 1)$ and strong (p, p) for $p \in (1, \infty)$.

Example 3.3. For $m = 1$, define the Fourier multiplier $m(\xi) = -i \operatorname{sgn} \xi$. Then, clearly, $m^{(k)}(\xi) \lesssim |\xi|^{-k}$ for $k \leq 3$, and so the Hilbert transform $Hf = (-i \operatorname{sgn} \xi \widehat{f})^\vee$ is weak $(1, 1)$ and strong (p, p) for $p \in (1, \infty)$ by the Mikhlin multiplier theorem.

Example 3.4. For $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, define the *Riesz transform* R_j to be the operator with multiplier $-i\xi_j/|\xi|$. Then R_j is weak $(1, 1)$ and strong (p, p) for $p \in (1, \infty)$ by the Mikhlin multiplier theorem.

3.2 Littlewood-Paley Inequality

We will spend this section proving the following theorem which lies at the heart of Littlewood-Paley theory. We write $A \approx_{a_1, \dots, a_k} B$ to mean $A \lesssim_{a_1, \dots, a_k} B \lesssim_{a_1, \dots, a_k} A$. We take Ψ to be the function as in the previous section, and write Δ_j for the multiplier operator $\Psi_j(D)$.

{thm:littlePaley}

Theorem 3.5 (Littlewood-Paley Inequality). *For $p \in (1, \infty)$, we have*

$$\left\| \sqrt{\sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} |\Delta_j f|^2} \right\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)} \approx_{n,p} \|f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)} \quad (3.14)$$

for all $f \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

Thus an L^p function on \mathbb{R}^n can be decomposed in frequency space into its components of frequencies approximately 2^j without changing the behavior of its norm. For $f \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$, the function

$$Sf := \sqrt{\sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} |\Delta_j f|^2} \quad (3.15)$$

is called the *Littlewood-Paley square function* of f .

There are two common proofs of the Littlewood-Paley inequality. One uses an analog of Calderón-Zygmund theory for vector-valued operators. We will do something slightly different. Namely, we will use the following inequality from probability theory:

Theorem 3.6 (Khinchine Inequality). *For $N \in \mathbb{N}$, let $x_N, \dots, x_N \in \mathbb{C}$ be constants, and $\varepsilon_N, \dots, \varepsilon_N$ i.i.d. random variables with*

$$\varepsilon_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{with probability } \frac{1}{2}, \\ -1 & \text{with probability } \frac{1}{2}. \end{cases} \quad (3.16)$$

Then, for $p \in [1, \infty)$,

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\left| \sum_{j=-N}^N \varepsilon_j x_j \right|^p \right]^{\frac{1}{p}} \approx_p \sqrt{\sum_{j=-N}^N |x_j|^2}. \quad (3.17)$$

In particular,

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\left| \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \varepsilon_j x_j \right|^p \right]^{\frac{1}{p}} \approx_p \sqrt{\sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} |x_j|^2}. \quad (3.18)$$

whenever either side is finite.

By integrating and using Fubini's theorem, we have the following immediate corollary:

Corollary 3.7. For $p \in [1, \infty)$ and $N \in \mathbb{N}$, let $f_{-N}, \dots, f_N \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be functions, and $\varepsilon_{-N}, \dots, \varepsilon_N$ i.i.d. random variables as before. Then

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\left\| \sum_{j=-N}^N \varepsilon_j f_j \right\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)}^p \right]^{\frac{1}{p}} \approx_p \left\| \sqrt{\sum_{j=-N}^N |f_j|^2} \right\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)}. \quad (3.19)$$

In particular,

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\left\| \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \varepsilon_j f_j \right\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)}^p \right]^{\frac{1}{p}} \approx_p \left\| \sqrt{\sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} |f_j|^2} \right\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n)}. \quad (3.20)$$

whenever either side is finite.

Proof of theorem ??.

□

3.3 Sobolev Spaces

Given $s \in \mathbb{R}$, we define the Sobolev space $H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$ of order s by

$$H^s(\mathbb{R}^n) := \left\{ u \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n) : (1 + |\xi|^2)^{s/2} \widehat{u} \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n) \right\}. \quad (3.21)$$

More generally, we define

$$W^{s,p}(\mathbb{R}^n) := \left\{ u \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n) : (1 + |\xi|^2)^{s/2} \widehat{u} \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^n) \right\}. \quad (3.22)$$

So $H^s(\mathbb{R}^n) = W^{s,2}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. The function $\langle \xi \rangle := (1 + |\xi|^2)^{1/2}$ is called the *Japanese bracket*. The multiplier operator corresponding to $\langle \xi \rangle^s$ is denoted D^s . That is,

$$D^s u := (\langle \xi \rangle^s \widehat{u})^\vee. \quad (3.23)$$

Note that this is well-defined whenever u is a tempered distribution. By Plancherel's theorem, u is in $H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$ if and only if $D^s u$ is in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$. For this reason, we define an inner product on $H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$ by

$$(u, v)_{H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)} := (D^s u, D^s v)_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (1 + |\xi|^2) \widehat{u}(\xi) \overline{\widehat{v}(\xi)} d\xi. \quad (3.24)$$

Appendix

 $\{\text{thm:taylor}\}$

$$f(x) = \sum_{j=0}^k \frac{x^j}{j!} f^{(j)}(0) + \frac{1}{k!} \int_0^x f^{(k+1)}(t) (x-t)^k dt. \quad (\text{A.1})$$