

A Note on the Complexified Weyl Derivative

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Abstract. This note explores the complexified Weyl derivative, ∂^s acting on Fourier series. We demonstrate that its action can be decomposed into a sum involving two generalized zeta functions. A conjecture is presented regarding the non-trivial zeros of these zeta functions, suggesting that they are too "special" for the Weyl derivative to annihilate a function unless the Fourier coefficients exhibit a specific symmetry.

Mathematics Subject Classification 2010: 11M41, 17B65, 17B66, 81T40.

Key Words and Phrases: Weyl Derivative, Complexification, Zeta Functions.

1. Introduction

The study of infinite-dimensional Lie algebras, such as the Witt and Virasoro algebras, is a cornerstone of modern mathematical physics, with profound applications in conformal field theory and string theory. Central to these structures are the derivations that act on the underlying spaces of functions. In this note, we focus on a fundamental operator in this context: the complexified Weyl derivative, ∂^s [1]. Our primary result is a reformulation of this action, showing that $\partial^s f, s \in \mathbb{C}$ can be expressed as a linear combination of two generalized zeta functions, $L(-s, \chi(n)), L(-s, \chi(-n))$, where $\chi(n) = a_n e^{in\theta}$. This decomposition connects the spectral properties of the derivative to the analytic number-theoretic properties of zeta functions. Based on this connection, we posit a conjecture 3.1 that the annihilation of a function by ∂^s imposes a strong symmetry condition on its Fourier coefficients, as the non-trivial zeros of the associated zeta functions are generically insufficient to cause cancellation.

2. Generalized Zeta Functions

We can generalize a zeta function in the numerator of each summation term by:

$$L(s, \chi(n)) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\chi(n)}{n^s}$$

Where $\chi(n) = a_n e^{in\theta}$ depends only on n, θ but could be complex.

3. The Weyl Derivative as the sum of two generalized Zeta functions

The Weyl derivative ∂^s [1] acts on Fourier representable functions $f(\theta) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a_n e^{in\theta}$, $a_0 = 0$ by:

$$\partial^s f(\theta) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (in)^s a_n e^{in\theta}$$

Then we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (in)^s a_n e^{in\theta} &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (in)^s a_n e^{in\theta} + (-in)^s a_{-n} e^{-in\theta} \\ &= i^s \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n)^s a_n e^{in\theta} + (-n)^s a_{-n} e^{-in\theta} \\ &= i^s \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^s a_n e^{in\theta} + i^s \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^s n^s a_{-n} e^{-in\theta} \\ &= i^s \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^s \chi(n) + i^s (-1)^s \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^s (a_{-n} e^{-in\theta}) \\ &= i^s L(-s, \chi(n)) + i^s e^{i\pi s} L(-s, \chi(-n)) \end{aligned}$$

Conjecture 3.1 (Generic Disjointness of Zero Sets). Let $\{a_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of complex coefficients such that the Dirichlet series

$$\mathcal{L}_+(s) := L(s, \chi(n)) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{L}_-(s) := L(s, \chi(-n))$$

define entire functions of s . Let Z_+ and Z_- denote their respective sets of zeros in \mathbb{C} .

We conjecture that for a generic sequence $\{a_n\}$ (in an appropriate function space topology), the zero sets Z_+ and Z_- are disjoint:

$$Z_+ \cap Z_- = \emptyset.$$

Corollary 3.2. *Under Conjecture 3.1, if $\partial^s f \equiv 0$ for some $s \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, then necessarily $\mathcal{L}_+(-s) = \mathcal{L}_-(-s) = 0$. The generic disjointness of Z_+ and Z_- implies that this simultaneous vanishing is impossible unless the sequences $\{\chi(n)\}$ and $\{\chi(-n)\}$ are identical, i.e., $a_n = a_{-n}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Therefore, the kernel of ∂^s for non-integer s is generically trivial, and non-trivial elements exist only when f exhibits even or odd symmetry.*

4. Conclusion

In this note, we have elucidated a connection between the complexified Weyl derivative and the theory of zeta functions. By expressing the action of ∂^s on a Fourier series as a linear combination

$$\partial^s f(\theta) = i^s L(-s, \chi(n)) + i^s e^{i\pi s} L(-s, \chi(-n)),$$

we establish a direct bridge between spectral operators on function spaces and Dirichlet series dependent on the Fourier data of the function itself.

This formulation naturally leads to Conjecture 3.1, which posits that the annihilation of a function by ∂^s for a non-integer value of s imposes a strong symmetry condition $\chi(n) = \chi(-n)$ on its Fourier coefficients. This conjecture stems from the perspective that the non-trivial zeros of the associated generalized zeta functions $L(s, \chi(\pm n))$ are highly specialized and cannot generically force the cancellation of the two distinct terms in the sum above.

The primary implication of this work is the introduction of a number-theoretic lens through which to analyze the kernel and spectral properties of fractional differential operators. Future work will focus on providing a rigorous proof of Conjecture 3.1. This will involve a deeper study of the zero sets of the Dirichlet series $L(s, \chi(n))$ for arbitrary coefficient sequences $\{a_n\}$. Furthermore, this connection invites exploration into potential applications in conformal field theory and the study of representations of infinite-dimensional Lie algebras, where the Weyl derivative and its complex powers play a fundamental role.

Conflict of Interest

On behalf of all authors, the corresponding author states that there is no conflict of interest.

Data Availability Statement

This manuscript contains no external data libraries.

References

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