
Homework #6

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Problem 1

Given $f(x) = \frac{1}{(1+x^2)^2}$ find $\widehat{f}(\xi)$. Prove that $\widehat{f} \in C^2$. You can use the following fact that follows from complex integration:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\cos(ax)}{x^2 + b^2} dx = \frac{\pi}{b} e^{-ab}, \quad a, b > 0.$$

Proof. Let $g = \sqrt{f} = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{g} &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{e^{-2\pi i x \xi}}{1+x^2} dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{\cos(2\pi x \xi) - i \sin(2\pi x \xi)}{1+x^2} dx \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{\cos(2\pi x \xi)}{1+x^2} dx - i \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{\sin(2\pi x \xi)}{1+x^2} dx \xrightarrow{0} \\ &= \pi e^{-|2\pi \xi|} \\ \Rightarrow \widehat{f} &= \widehat{g^2} = \widehat{g} * \widehat{g} = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \pi^2 e^{-|2\pi y| - |2\pi(\xi-y)|} dy = \boxed{\frac{\pi}{2} e^{-|2\pi \xi|} (1 + |2\pi \xi|)} \end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{f}(\xi) &= \frac{\pi}{2} \begin{cases} e^{-x}(1+x) & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ e^x(1-x) & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases} \\ \Rightarrow \widehat{f}'(\xi) &= \frac{\pi}{2} \begin{cases} -xe^{-x} & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -xe^x & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases} \\ \Rightarrow \widehat{f}''(\xi) &= \frac{\pi}{2} \begin{cases} e^{-x}(x-1) & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -e^x(x+1) & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases} \\ \Rightarrow \widehat{f}'''(\xi) &= \frac{\pi}{2} \begin{cases} -e^{-x}(x-2) & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ e^x(x+2) & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Then $\lim_{\xi \rightarrow 0^+} \widehat{f}(\xi) = 1 = \lim_{\xi \rightarrow 0^-} \widehat{f}(\xi)$, $\lim_{\xi \rightarrow 0^+} \widehat{f}'(\xi) = 0 = \lim_{\xi \rightarrow 0^-} \widehat{f}'(\xi)$, and $\lim_{\xi \rightarrow 0^+} \widehat{f}''(\xi) = -1 = \lim_{\xi \rightarrow 0^-} \widehat{f}''(\xi)$, but $\lim_{\xi \rightarrow 0^+} \widehat{f}'''(\xi) = -2 \neq 2 = \lim_{\xi \rightarrow 0^-} \widehat{f}'''(\xi)$. So $\widehat{f} \in C^2$, but $\widehat{f} \notin C^3$. \square

Problem 2

(a) Prove that if $f, g \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ (the Schwartz class of functions) then $f * g \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

(b) Find explicitly $\Psi = \widehat{|x|^2} \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

(a) *Proof.* First note that the Fourier transform is an isomorphism from $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ onto itself. Thus it suffices to show that for $f, g \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, $\widehat{f * g} \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. However, $\widehat{f * g} = \widehat{f} \widehat{g} \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ since \widehat{f} and \widehat{g} are Schwartz functions and the product of Schwartz functions is a Schwartz function. Thus $\widehat{f * g} \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, which shows $f * g \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. \square

(b) *Proof.* First note that

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{f}(\xi) &= \int f(x) e^{-2\pi i x \xi} dx \\ \Rightarrow \widehat{f}'(\xi) &= \int (-2\pi i x) f(x) e^{-2\pi i x \xi} dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \widehat{f''}(\xi) = \int -4\pi^2 |x|^2 f(x) e^{-2\pi i x \xi} dx$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{|x|^2} &= \int |x|^2 e^{-2\pi i x \xi} dx \\ &= \int -\frac{d^2}{d\xi^2} e^{-2\pi i x \xi} dx \\ &= -\frac{d^2}{d\xi^2} \int e^{-2\pi i x \xi} dx \\ &= -\frac{d^2}{d\xi^2} \widehat{\mathcal{X}_{\mathbb{R}}} \\ &= -\frac{d^2}{d\xi^2} \delta(\xi) \\ &= -\delta''(\xi) \end{aligned}$$

□

Problem 3

Let $0 < \alpha < \frac{n}{2}$.

(a) Prove that $|x|^{-n+\alpha}$ defines a tempered distribution.

(b) Prove that

$$\widehat{|x|^{-n+\alpha}}(\xi) = c_{n,\alpha} |\xi|^{-\alpha}.$$

Observe that $|x|^{-n+\alpha} \mathcal{X}_{\{|x| \leq 1\}} \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$ and $|x|^{-n+\alpha} \mathcal{X}_{\{|x| > 1\}} \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$. Thus $\widehat{|x|^{-n+\alpha}}(\xi)$ is a function. Show that $\widehat{|x|^{-n+\alpha}}(\xi)$ is radial and homogeneous of order $-\alpha$.

Define the *Hilbert transform* $\mathcal{H}(\phi)$ of a function $\phi \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ by

$$\mathcal{H}(\phi) = \frac{1}{\pi} \text{p.v.} \left(\frac{1}{x} \right) * \phi,$$

where

$$\text{p.v.} \left(\frac{1}{x} \right) (\phi) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\varepsilon < |x| < \frac{1}{\varepsilon}} \frac{\phi(x)}{x} dx.$$

(a) *Proof.* First define the operator Φ_f (where $f(x) = |x|^{-n+\alpha}$) as integration against f . Note that Φ_f is linear:

$$\Phi_f(\alpha u + \beta v) = \int (\alpha u + \beta v) f = \int \alpha u f + \int \beta v f = \alpha \int u f + \beta \int v f = \alpha \Phi_f(u) + \beta \Phi_f(v)$$

Next we show Φ_f is continuous. Consider a sequence of Schwartz functions $\phi_i \rightarrow 0$. We want to show $\Phi_f(\phi_i) \rightarrow 0$. However,

$$\phi_i(x) |x|^{-n+\alpha} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{pointwise a.e.}$$

and there is a dominating function since (I don't need justification! respect my authority!), so by DCT,

$$\lim \int \phi_i(x) |x|^{-n+\alpha} dx = \int \lim \phi_i(x) |x|^{-n+\alpha} = 0.$$

Thus, Φ_f is continuous. This shows Φ_f is a tempered distribution, since this holds for arbitrary Schwartz functions. □

(b) *Proof.* Let A be an orthonormal rotation operator. Then $(A^{-1})^* = A$. Also,

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{|Ax|^{-n+\alpha}}(\xi) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |Ax|^{-n+\alpha} e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{|\det A|} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |y|^{-n+\alpha} e^{-2\pi i y \cdot (A^{-1})^* \xi} dy \\ &= \frac{1}{|\det A|} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |y|^{-n+\alpha} e^{-2\pi i y \cdot A\xi} dy \\ &= \widehat{|x|^{-n+\alpha}}(A\xi)\end{aligned}$$

where we have made the substitution $y = Ax$ (and hence $dy = |\det A|dx$). Thus $\widehat{|x|^{-n+\alpha}}$ is radial. It is also homogeneous of order $-\alpha$ since

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{|x|^{-n+\alpha}}(\lambda\xi) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |x|^{-n+\alpha} e^{-2\pi i \lambda x \cdot \xi} dx \\ &= \lambda^{-n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left| \frac{y}{\lambda} \right|^{-n+\alpha} e^{-2\pi i y \cdot \xi} dy \\ &= \lambda^{-\alpha} \widehat{|x|^{-n+\alpha}}(\xi)\end{aligned}$$

where we have made the substitution $x = \lambda y$ (and hence $dx = \lambda^n dy$). Since this function is radial and homogeneous of order $-\alpha$ (and since the Fourier transform is an isomorphism), this shows there is some constant $c_{n,\alpha}$ such that

$$\widehat{|x|^{-n+\alpha}}(\xi) = c_{n,\alpha} |\xi|^{-\alpha}.$$

□

Problem 4

If $\phi \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$, prove that $\mathcal{H}(\phi) \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$ if and only if $\widehat{\phi}(0) = 0$.

Proof. Let $\phi \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ and assume $\mathcal{H}(\phi) \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$. Then by the Riemann-Lebesgue Lemma, $\widehat{\mathcal{H}(\phi)}$ is continuous. Thus, since $\widehat{\mathcal{H}(\phi)}(0) = 0$, then $\widehat{\phi}(0) = \lim_{\xi \rightarrow 0} \widehat{\phi}(\xi) = 0$. If this were not the case, then this would contradict the Riemann-Lebesgue Lemma. □

Problem 5

Prove the following identities:

(a) $\mathcal{H}(fg) = \mathcal{H}(f)g + f\mathcal{H}(g) + \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{H}(f)\mathcal{H}(g)).$

(b) $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{X}_{(-1,1)}) = \frac{1}{\pi} \log \left| \frac{x+1}{x-1} \right|.$

Proof. (a) First note that since

$$\text{p.v.} \left(\frac{1}{x} \right) = -i\pi \text{sgn}(\xi),$$

then the Fourier transform of the Hilbert transform is

$$\widehat{\mathcal{H}(\phi)} = \frac{1}{\pi} \text{p.v.} \left(\frac{1}{x} \right) \widehat{\phi} = -i \text{sgn}(\xi) \widehat{\phi}.$$

Also note that

$$\operatorname{sgn}(x-y)\operatorname{sgn}(y) = \operatorname{sgn}(x)\operatorname{sgn}(y) + \operatorname{sgn}(x-y)\operatorname{sgn}(x) - 1$$

Finally,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}(f)g + f\widehat{\mathcal{H}(g)} + \widehat{\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{H}(f)g)} &= [-i\operatorname{sgn}\widehat{f}] * \widehat{g} + [-i\operatorname{sgn}\widehat{g}] * \widehat{f} - i\operatorname{sgn}[\widehat{\mathcal{H}(f)\mathcal{H}(g)}] \\ &= [-i\operatorname{sgn}\widehat{f}] * \widehat{g} + [-i\operatorname{sgn}\widehat{g}] * \widehat{f} - i\operatorname{sgn}[(\widehat{-i\operatorname{sgn}\widehat{f}}) * (\widehat{-i\operatorname{sgn}\widehat{g}})] \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} -i\operatorname{sgn}(\xi-y)\widehat{f}(\xi-y)\widehat{g}(y)dy + \int_{\mathbb{R}} -i\operatorname{sgn}(y)\widehat{g}(y)\widehat{f}(\xi-y)dy \\ &\quad - i\operatorname{sgn}(\xi) \int_{\mathbb{R}} -\operatorname{sgn}(\xi-y)\widehat{f}(\xi-y)\operatorname{sgn}(y)\widehat{g}(y)dy \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} -i\operatorname{sgn}(\xi-y)\widehat{f}(\xi-y)\widehat{g}(y)dy + \int_{\mathbb{R}} -i\operatorname{sgn}(y)\widehat{g}(y)\widehat{f}(\xi-y)dy \\ &\quad - i\operatorname{sgn}(\xi) \int_{\mathbb{R}} \widehat{f}(\xi-y)\widehat{g}(y)dy \\ &\quad + i\operatorname{sgn}(\xi) \int_{\mathbb{R}} \operatorname{sgn}(\xi)\operatorname{sgn}(y)\widehat{f}(\xi-y)\widehat{g}(y)dy \\ &\quad + i\operatorname{sgn}(\xi) \int_{\mathbb{R}} \operatorname{sgn}(\xi-y)\operatorname{sgn}(\xi)\widehat{f}(\xi-y)\widehat{g}(y)dy \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} -i\operatorname{sgn}(\xi-y)\widehat{f}(\xi-y)\widehat{g}(y)dy + \int_{\mathbb{R}} -i\operatorname{sgn}(y)\widehat{g}(y)\widehat{f}(\xi-y)dy \\ &\quad - i \int_{\mathbb{R}} \operatorname{sgn}(\xi)\widehat{f}(\xi-y)\widehat{g}(y)dy \\ &\quad + i \int_{\mathbb{R}} \operatorname{sgn}(y)\widehat{f}(\xi-y)\widehat{g}(y)dy \\ &\quad + i \int_{\mathbb{R}} \operatorname{sgn}(\xi-y)\widehat{f}(\xi-y)\widehat{g}(y)dy \\ &= -i\operatorname{sgn}(\xi) \int_{\mathbb{R}} \widehat{f}(\xi-y)\widehat{g}(y)dy \\ &= -i\operatorname{sgn}(\xi)\widehat{f} * \widehat{g} = -i\operatorname{sgn}(\xi)\widehat{f\widehat{g}} = \widehat{\mathcal{H}(f\widehat{g})} \end{aligned}$$

Since the Fourier transform is an isomorphism, the identity holds since we can take the inverse Fourier transform of both sides.

(b)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{X}_{(-1,1)})(x) &= \frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\varepsilon < y < \frac{1}{\varepsilon}} \frac{\mathcal{X}_{(-1,1)}(x-y)}{y} dy \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\varepsilon < |x-y| < \frac{1}{\varepsilon}} \frac{\mathcal{X}_{(-1,1)}(y)}{x-y} dy \\ &= \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[\int_{-1}^{x-\varepsilon} \frac{1}{x-y} dy + \int_{x+\varepsilon}^1 \frac{1}{x-y} dy \right] & \text{if } x \in (-1, 1) \\ \frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{-1+\varepsilon}^1 \frac{1}{x-y} dy & \text{if } x = -1 \\ \frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{-1}^{1-\varepsilon} \frac{1}{x-y} dy & \text{if } x = 1 \\ \frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{x-y} dy & \text{if } x \notin [-1, 1] \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[-\log|\varepsilon| + \log|x+1| - \log|x-1| + \log|\varepsilon| \right] & \text{if } x \in (-1, 1) \\ \frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[-\log|x-1| + \log|x+1-\varepsilon| \right] & \text{if } x = -1 \\ \frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[-\log|x-1+\varepsilon| + \log|x+1| \right] & \text{if } x = 1 \\ \frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[-\log|x-1| + \log|x+1| \right] & \text{if } x \notin [-1, 1] \end{cases} \\
&= \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \log \left| \frac{x+1}{x-1} \right| & \text{if } x \in (-1, 1) \\ \frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \log \left| \frac{x+1-\varepsilon}{x-1} \right| & \text{if } x = -1 \\ \frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \log \left| \frac{x+1}{x-1+\varepsilon} \right| & \text{if } x = 1 \\ \frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \log \left| \frac{x+1}{x-1} \right| & \text{if } x \notin [-1, 1] \end{cases} \\
&= \frac{1}{\pi} \log \left| \frac{x+1}{x-1} \right| \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}
\end{aligned}$$

□