

Distributions - Part I

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Motivation

We would like $\delta(x) : \delta(x) = 0$ for $x \neq 0 \wedge \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \delta(x) dx = 1$.

This allows $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \delta(x)\varphi(x) dx = \varphi(0)$, for $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

Consider now:

$$\int_{-1}^1 |x|\varphi'(x) dx = - \int_{-1}^1 \text{sign}(x)\varphi(x) dx,$$

$$\int_{-1}^1 \text{sign}(x)\varphi'(x)dx = \int_{-1}^0 -\varphi'(x) dx + \int_0^1 \varphi'(x) dx = -2\varphi(0).$$

Test functions - $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)$

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ and $C_0^\infty(\Omega) = \{\varphi \in C^\infty(\Omega) \mid \text{supp}(\varphi) \subset\subset \Omega\}$.

Whereby $\text{supp}(\varphi) = \overline{\{x \in \Omega \mid \varphi(x) \neq 0\}}$.

With the usual pointwise addition and skalar multiplication this is a vector space (over \mathbb{C}).

We further define the following convergence:

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \varphi_j = \varphi \text{ in } C_0^\infty(\Omega), \text{ if}$$

- $\exists K \subset\subset \Omega \forall j : \text{supp}(\varphi_j) \subset K,$
- $\forall \alpha \in \mathbb{N}^d : D^\alpha \varphi_j \rightarrow D^\alpha \varphi$ uniformly, i. e.
 $\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{x \in K} |D^\alpha \varphi_j(x) - D^\alpha \varphi(x)| = 0.$

Distributions - $\mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$

The map $T : \mathcal{D}(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a distribution, if and only if it is a sequentially continuous linear form, i.e.

$$(\varphi_j \rightarrow \varphi \Rightarrow T(\varphi_j) \rightarrow T(\varphi)) \wedge T(\varphi + \lambda\psi) = T(\varphi) + \lambda T(\psi).$$

Equivalently:

$\forall K \subset\subset \Omega \exists c, N$ constant, such that:

$$\forall \varphi \in \mathcal{D}(K) : |T(\varphi)| \leq c \|\varphi\|_{N, \infty; K} = c \sum_{|\alpha| \leq N} \sup_{x \in K} |\partial^\alpha \varphi(x)|.$$

If in the above a certain N suffices for all compact K , then the smallest of those is called the order of T .

Regular Distributions

Let $\emptyset \neq \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ open, $(\mathbb{R}^d, \lambda^d)$ the Lebesgue measure space and $f \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega)$, then following is a Distribution of order 0:

$$T_f : C_0^\infty(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}, \varphi \mapsto \int_{\Omega} f \cdot \varphi \, d\lambda^d. \quad (= (f, \varphi))$$

If we additionally let $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^d$, then

$$(D^\alpha T_f)(\varphi) := (-1)^{|\alpha|} T_f(D^\alpha \varphi) = (-1)^{|\alpha|} \int_{\Omega} f \cdot D^\alpha \varphi \, d\lambda^d$$

is a Distribution, since for $\varphi_j \rightarrow \varphi$:

$$|(D^\alpha T_f)(\varphi_j - \varphi)| = \left| \int_K f \cdot D^\alpha(\varphi_j - \varphi) \, d\lambda^d \right| \leq \|D^\alpha(\varphi_j - \varphi)\|_{\infty; K} \|f\|_{1; K} \rightarrow 0.$$

Properties $\mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$

By definition, \mathcal{D}' permits a \mathbb{C} vectorspace structure. Denoting $T(\varphi) = (T, \varphi)$, we get a bilinear form on \mathcal{D}' .

Let now $a \in C^\infty(\Omega)$ and $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{N}^d$.

With the following definitions we get:

$$(aT, \varphi) := (T, a\varphi) \Rightarrow aT \in \mathcal{D}',$$

$$(D^\alpha T, \varphi) := (-1)^{|\alpha|} (T, D^\alpha \varphi) \Rightarrow D^\alpha T \in \mathcal{D}'.$$

And further:

$$D_i(aT) = D_i(a)T + aD_i(T),$$

$$D^{\alpha+\beta} T = D^\alpha(D^\beta T) = D^\beta(D^\alpha T).$$

Localization

For $T \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ we define its restriction on $\Omega_0 \subset \Omega$, by

$$T|_{\Omega_0}(\varphi) = T(\varphi) \quad \forall \varphi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega_0).$$

Using this we define the support of $T \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$:

$$\text{supp}(T) = \{x \in \bar{\Omega} \mid \forall \delta > 0 : T|_{\Omega \cap B_\delta(x)} \neq 0\}.$$

For regular distributions, we have: $\text{supp}(T_f) = \text{supp}(f)$.

We also have the general implication for $T \in \mathcal{D}'$ and $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}$:

$$\text{supp}(T) \cap \text{supp}(\varphi) = \emptyset \Rightarrow (T, \varphi) \equiv 0.$$

Convolution with functions

For $T \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ and $\psi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega)$ we define their convolution at $x \in \Omega$, by

$$(T * \psi)(x) := T(\psi(x - \cdot)) = (T, \psi(x - \cdot)).$$

For a regular distribution T_f we have: $(T_f * \psi)(x) = \int_{\Omega} f(y)\psi(x - y) dy$.

This convolution has the following properties:

- $T * \varphi \in C^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d)$,
- $\text{supp}(T * \varphi) \subset \text{supp}(T) + \text{supp}(\varphi)$,
- $D^{\alpha}(T * \varphi) = (D^{\alpha}T) * \varphi = T * (D^{\alpha}\varphi)$.

For $\eta \in \mathcal{D}$ as well we get further: $(T * \eta) * \varphi = T * (\eta * \varphi)$.

Convergence in \mathcal{D}'

We define the following convergence on \mathcal{D}' :

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} T_k = T \Leftrightarrow \forall \varphi \in \mathcal{D} : \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} (T_k, \varphi) = (T, \varphi).$$

This convergence makes \mathcal{D}' a complete space.

With the mollifier $J_\varepsilon(x) = \varepsilon^{-d} J(\varepsilon^{-1}x) = \varepsilon^{-d} c \exp(-\frac{1}{1-|\varepsilon^{-1}x|^2}) \mathbf{1}_{\{|\varepsilon^{-1}x| < 1\}}$

we get the convergence:

$$T * J_\varepsilon \rightarrow T \text{ in } \mathcal{D}'.$$

So the space C^∞ is dense in \mathcal{D}' and analogously for the space with compact support.

Delta Distribution

Let $a \in \Omega$ and define,

$$\delta_0 \in \mathcal{D}' : \delta_0(\varphi) = \varphi(0) \quad \forall \varphi \in \mathcal{D}. \quad \left[\int_{\Omega} f(x)\varphi(x) \, dx \right]$$

Approximation via Dirac sequences $(t_k)_k \subset L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$:

1. $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N} : t_k(x) \geq 0,$
2. $\forall k \in \mathbb{N} : \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} t_k(x) \, dx = 1,$
3. $\forall \varepsilon > 0 : \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \setminus B_\varepsilon(0)} t_k(x) \, dx = 0.$

For example:

$$t_k(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi k^{-1}}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2k^{-1}}\right) \quad \text{or} \quad t_k(x) = J_{\varepsilon=\frac{1}{k}}(x)$$

Radon Measures

Let (X, \mathcal{B}, μ) with X Hausdorff, such that

- μ is locally finite, i.e. $\forall x \in X \exists U$ open : $\mu(U) < \infty$,
- μ is inner regular, i.e. $\forall A \in \mathcal{B} : \mu(A) = \sup\{\mu(K) | K \subset A : K \text{ compact}\}$.

Let $M(\Omega)$ be the set of Radon Measures on Ω and $\mu \in M(\Omega)$, then

$$(\mu, \varphi) := \int_{\Omega} \varphi(x) d\mu(x), \text{ for } \varphi \in \mathcal{D}, \text{ defines a Distribution.}$$

In particular, the Dirac measure $\delta(A) = \begin{cases} 1, & 0 \in A, \\ 0, & 0 \notin A \end{cases} (A \subset \mathbb{R}^d)$ gives the

$$\text{Delta Distribution: } (\delta_0, \varphi) = \int_{\Omega} \varphi(x) d\delta_0(x) = \varphi(0) = \delta_0(\varphi) \text{ for } \varphi \in \mathcal{D}.$$

Distributions - Part II

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Distributional Solution

Let $T \in \mathcal{D}'$, $f \in C(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{R})$ and $P(D) = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq k} a_\alpha(x) \frac{\partial^\alpha}{\partial x^\alpha}$.

T is a distributional solution to $P(D)u = f$, if and only if

$$P(D)T = T_f \Leftrightarrow (P(D)T - T_f, \varphi) = 0 \quad \forall \varphi \in \mathcal{D}.$$

For the Laplacian Operator Δ on T we have:

$$\Delta T = \sum_{i=1}^d D_i D_i T \Rightarrow (\Delta T, \varphi) = (T, \Delta \varphi), \quad \text{for } \varphi \in \mathcal{D}.$$

If $g \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{R})$ and $T = T_g$ we have the classical Green formula

$$\int (\varphi \Delta g - g \Delta \varphi) dx = 0.$$

Fundamental Solution

For $P(D) = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq k} a_\alpha \frac{\partial^\alpha}{\partial x^\alpha}$, the solution γ of

$$P(D)u(x) = 0, \text{ i.e.}$$

$$P(D)\gamma = \delta_0$$

is called a fundamental solution.

The inhomogeneous solution to

$$P(D)u(x) = f(x) \quad \text{is} \quad u(x) = (\gamma * f)(x) = \int \gamma(x - y)f(y) dy.$$

Reminder

We have seen:

$$\int_{-1}^1 |x| \varphi'(x) \, dx = - \int_{-1}^1 \text{sign}(x) \varphi(x) \, dx$$

$$\int_{-1}^1 \text{sign}(x) \varphi'(x) \, dx = -2\varphi(0) = - \int_{-1}^1 2\delta_0(x) \varphi(x) \, dx.$$

So:

$$(\text{sign}', \varphi) = -(\text{sign}, \varphi') = -(-2\delta_0, \varphi) \Rightarrow \text{sign}' = 2\delta_0 \quad \left[= \int 2\delta_0 \cdot dx \right]$$

Example - I

For the Heaviside function $H(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & x \geq 0 \\ 0, & x < 0 \end{cases}$ we have:

$$(H', \varphi) = -(H, \varphi') = - \int_0^{\infty} 1 \varphi'(x) dx = \varphi(0) = (\delta_0, \varphi) \Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial x} H(x) = \delta_0(x)$$

So for the Laplacian Δ in \mathbb{R} :

$$\Delta \gamma = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \gamma = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \gamma \right) = \delta_0 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \gamma = H(x) + c$$

$$\Rightarrow \gamma = xH(x) + cx + c' \quad \stackrel{c=\frac{1}{2}, c'=0}{\Rightarrow} \gamma(x) = \frac{1}{2}|x|$$

Example - II

From classical theory in \mathbb{R}^d :

$$\gamma(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\pi} \ln(|x|) \\ \frac{1}{(d-2)\omega_d} |x|^{2-d} \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{|x| \leq c} |\gamma(x)| = \begin{cases} \int_0^c |\ln(r)| r \, dr, & d = 2, \\ \frac{1}{(d-2)} \int_0^c r^{2-d} r^{d-1}, & d \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

Then with R sufficiently large,

$$(\Delta\gamma, \varphi) = (\gamma, \Delta\varphi) = \int \gamma(x) \Delta\varphi(x) \, dx = \lim_{\varepsilon \searrow 0} \int_{\varepsilon < |x| < R} \gamma(x) \Delta\varphi(x) \, dx = \lim_{x \searrow 0} J_\varepsilon.$$

Using Green's second identity:

$$J_\varepsilon = \int_{\varepsilon < |x| < R} \varphi \Delta\gamma \, dx + \int_{|x|=\varepsilon} \left(\gamma \frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial\nu} - \varphi \frac{\partial\gamma}{\partial\nu} \right) d\sigma.$$

Example - II cont.

Since $\Delta\gamma = 0$ for $|x| > \varepsilon$ and for $|x| = \varepsilon$ we have $\frac{\partial}{\partial\nu} = \frac{\partial}{\partial r}$:

$$\begin{aligned} J_\varepsilon &= \int_{|x|=\varepsilon} \left(\gamma \frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial\nu} - \varphi \frac{\partial\gamma}{\partial\nu} \right) d\sigma = \int_{|x|=\varepsilon} \left(\gamma(x) \frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial r} - \varphi(x) \frac{1}{(2-d)\omega_d} (2-d)|x|^{1-d} \right) d\sigma \\ &= \frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{|x|=\varepsilon} \left(\frac{\varepsilon^{2-d}}{d-2} \frac{\partial\varphi(x)}{\partial r} - \varphi(x) \varepsilon^{1-d} \right) d\sigma \end{aligned}$$

Using the mean value theorem with $|x'| = |x''| = \varepsilon$:

$$J_\varepsilon = \frac{1}{\omega_d} \left(\frac{\varepsilon^{2-d}}{d-2} \frac{\partial(x')}{\partial r} - \varepsilon^{1-d} \varphi(x'') \right) \omega_d \varepsilon^{d-1} = \frac{\varepsilon}{d-2} \frac{\partial\varphi(x')}{\partial r} + \varphi(x'').$$

As the derivative is finite for $\varepsilon \searrow 0$ we get:

$$(\Delta\gamma, \varphi) = \lim_{\varepsilon \searrow 0} J_\varepsilon = \varphi(0) = (\delta_0, \varphi).$$

The Schwartz Space \mathcal{S}

The vector space of all rapidly decreasing functions

$$\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^d) := \{\phi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d) \mid \forall \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{N}_0^d : \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} |x^\alpha D^\beta \phi(x)| < \infty\}$$

is called Schwartz space. We have $\mathcal{D} \subsetneq \mathcal{S}$. [e.g. $\exp(-|x|^2)$]

Topology and convergence are induced by the seminorms

$$\|\phi\|_N = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \max_{|\alpha|, |\beta| < N} |x^\alpha D^\beta \phi(x)| \Leftrightarrow p_{k,l}(\phi) = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} (|x|^k + 1) \sum_{|\beta| \leq l} |D^\beta \phi(x)|$$

$$\text{and } \phi_k \rightarrow \phi \text{ in } \mathcal{S} \Leftrightarrow \forall N \in \mathbb{N}_0 : \|\phi_k - \phi\|_N \rightarrow 0.$$

Fourier Transform \mathcal{F}

For some $\phi \in \mathcal{S}$ its Fourier transform is defined as

$$\mathcal{F}\phi(\xi) = (2\pi)^{-\frac{d}{2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} e^{-ix \cdot \xi} \phi(x) dx, \quad \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

which maps as $\mathcal{F} : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ and is bijective and bicontinuous with inverse

$$(\mathcal{F}^{-1}\phi)(x) = (2\pi)^{-\frac{d}{2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} e^{ix \cdot \xi} \phi(\xi) d\xi, \quad \phi \in \mathcal{S}.$$

For $\phi \in \mathcal{S}$ we also get $x^\alpha \phi, D^\alpha \phi, \mathcal{F}\phi, D^\alpha \mathcal{F}\phi, \mathcal{F}(D^\alpha \phi) \in \mathcal{S}$ and

$$D^\alpha \mathcal{F}\phi = (-i)^{|\alpha|} \mathcal{F}(x^\alpha \phi), \quad \xi^\alpha \mathcal{F}\phi = (-i)^{|\alpha|} \mathcal{F}(D^\alpha \phi)$$

So, in particular $\mathcal{F}(D^\alpha \phi) = (-i)^{-|\alpha|} \xi^\alpha \mathcal{F}\phi$

Tempered Distributions \mathcal{S}'

The space \mathcal{S}' contains all linear forms $\mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, which are sequentially continuous, i. e.

$$\phi_k \rightarrow \phi \text{ in } \mathcal{S} \Rightarrow T(\phi_k) \rightarrow T(\phi).$$

Since $\phi_k \rightarrow \phi \text{ in } \mathcal{D} \Rightarrow \phi_k \rightarrow \phi \text{ in } \mathcal{S} \Rightarrow T(\phi_k) \rightarrow T(\phi)$,

we have $T \in \mathcal{S}' \Rightarrow T \in \mathcal{D}'$. And by

$$\mathcal{F}T(\varphi) := T(\mathcal{F}\varphi)$$

we define the Fourier transform of $T \in \mathcal{S}'$.

Example - III

The regular distribution T_e is not tempered. Let $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R})$, then

$$\psi_k(x) := e^{-k} \varphi(x - k) \rightarrow 0 \text{ in } \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}),$$

with $\psi_k \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R})$, but

$$\begin{aligned} T_e(\psi_k) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^x \psi_k(x) \, dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^x e^{-k} \varphi(x - k) \, dx \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^y \varphi(y) \, dy \neq 0 = T_e(0). \end{aligned}$$

Example - IV.1

Consider the heat equation for distributions:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} u(t, x) = \Delta_x u(t, x) & \quad \text{i.e.} & \quad \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} T, \varphi \right) = (\Delta_x T, \varphi) & \quad (0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^d \\ u(t, x) = f(t, x) & & \quad (T, \varphi) = (T_f, \varphi) & \quad \{t = 0\} \times \mathbb{R}^d \end{aligned}$$

Determine its Fourier transform for x :

$$\mathcal{F}_x(\Delta_x T, \varphi) = \mathcal{F}_x(T, \Delta_x \varphi) = (T, \mathcal{F}_x(\Delta_x \varphi)) = (T, (-i)^{-2} \xi^{(0,2)} \mathcal{F}_x \varphi)$$

Thus we get:

$$\mathcal{F}_x\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} T, \varphi\right) = \mathcal{F}_x\left(-T, \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \varphi\right) = \left(-T, \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathcal{F}_x \varphi\right) =$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} T, \mathcal{F}_x \varphi\right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (T, \mathcal{F}_x \varphi) \stackrel{!}{=} (-|\xi|^2 T, \mathcal{F}_x \varphi)$$

Example - IV.2

We have now the ordinary differential equation in $\mathcal{F}_x(T)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathcal{F}_x(T, \varphi) &= -|\xi|^2 \mathcal{F}_x(T, \varphi) & \text{i.e.} & & \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathcal{F}_x(T) &= -|\xi|^2 \mathcal{F}_x(T) & (0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^d \\ \mathcal{F}_x(T, \varphi) &= \mathcal{F}_x(T_f, \varphi) & & & \mathcal{F}_x(T) &= \mathcal{F}(T_f) & \{t = 0\} \times \mathbb{R}^d \end{aligned}$$

Thus we get:

$$\mathcal{F}_x(T) = e^{-t|\xi|^2} \mathcal{F}(T_f) \Rightarrow (T, \mathcal{F}_x \varphi) = e^{-t|\xi|^2} (T_f, \mathcal{F} \varphi)$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{F}_\xi^{-1}(T, \mathcal{F} \varphi) = \mathcal{F}_\xi^{-1}(T_f, e^{-t|\xi|^2} \mathcal{F} \varphi) \Rightarrow (T, \varphi) = (T_f, \mathcal{F}_\xi^{-1}(e^{-t|\xi|^2} \mathcal{F} \varphi))$$

Example - IV.3

The convolution theorem for $T_1 \in \mathcal{S}'$ and $T_2 \in \mathcal{E}'$:

$$\mathcal{F}(T_1 * T_2) = (2\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}} \mathcal{F}(T_1) \mathcal{F}(T_2)$$

With this we get:

$$\mathcal{F}_\xi^{-1}(e^{-t|\xi|^2} \mathcal{F}_x \varphi) = (2\pi)^{-\frac{d}{2}} \mathcal{F}_\xi^{-1}(e^{-t|\xi|^2}) * \varphi$$

Further

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}_\xi^{-1}(e^{-t|\xi|^2}) &= (2\pi)^{-\frac{d}{2}} \int e^{ix \cdot \xi} e^{-t|\xi|^2} d\xi = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} e^{ix \cdot \xi - t|\xi|^2} d\xi \\ &= (2t)^{-\frac{d}{2}} e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4t}} = g(t, x) \end{aligned}$$

Example - IV.4

So finally:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (T_f, g * \varphi) &= \int f(t, x) (2\pi)^{-\frac{d}{2}} \int g(t - t', x - x') \varphi(t', x') \, d(t', x') \, d(t, x) = \\
 &\int \varphi(t', x') (2\pi)^{-\frac{d}{2}} \int f(t, x) g(t - t', x - x') \, d(t, x) \, d(t', x') = \\
 &\int \left((2\pi)^{-\frac{d}{2}} \int f(t, x) g(t - t', x - x') \, d(t, x) \right) \varphi(t', x') \, d(t', x') = \\
 &\int \left((4\pi(t - t'))^{-\frac{d}{2}} f(t, x) e^{-\frac{|x-x'|^2}{4(t-t')}} \, d(t, x) \right) \varphi(t', x') \, d(t', x') = \\
 &\int \left((4\pi(-t'))^{-\frac{d}{2}} \int f(x) e^{-\frac{|x-x'|^2}{4(-t')}} \, d(x) \right) \varphi(t', x') \, d(t', x').
 \end{aligned}$$

Example - IV.5

The solution is the regular distribution T_h with:

$$h(t, x) = (4\pi t)^{-\frac{d}{2}} \int f(x) e^{-\frac{|x-x'|^2}{4t}} d(x)$$

