

Distribution theory

Γ X Banach space, X' dual space

$$x' \in X' \Leftrightarrow x' : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \text{ continuous}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \text{whenever } x_n \rightarrow x \text{ then } x'(x_n) \rightarrow x'(x)$$

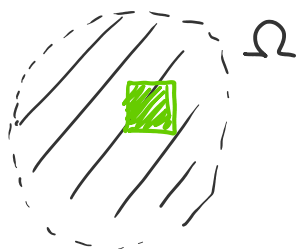
$$\Leftrightarrow x' \text{ is bounded, i.e.}$$

$$\exists M \geq 0 \quad \forall x \in X : |x'(x)| \leq M \|x\| \quad]$$

Notation

$\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ open set

$K \subset\subset \Omega \Leftrightarrow K \subset \Omega$ and K compact



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

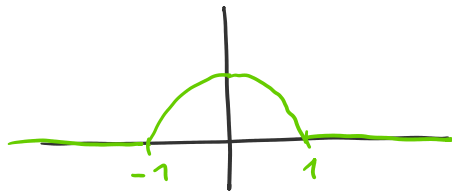
Let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be continuous. Then

$$\text{supp } f := \overline{\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid f(x) \neq 0\}} \quad (\text{support of } f)$$

↖ closure in \mathbb{R}^n

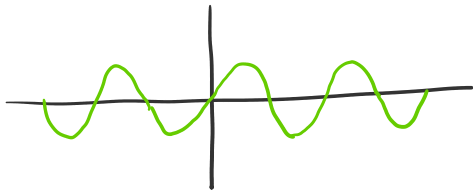
Example • $f(x) = \max(1-x^2, 0)$

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$$\text{supp } f = [-1, 1]$$

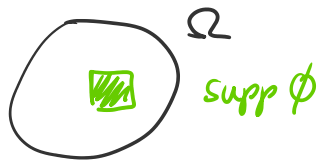
• $f(x) = \sin x$



$$\{x \mid \sin x \neq 0\} = \mathbb{R} \setminus \{\pi k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

$$\text{supp } f = \mathbb{R}$$

Definition $\mathcal{D}(\Omega) = \{ \phi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \mid \text{supp } \phi \subset \subset \Omega \}$



$$\phi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

Is a vector space : $\phi_1, \phi_2 \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega), \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \Rightarrow$

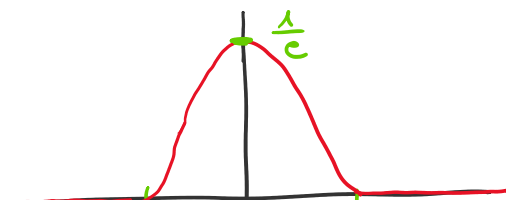
$$\phi_1 + \phi_2 \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega) \quad , \quad \lambda \phi_1 \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega)$$

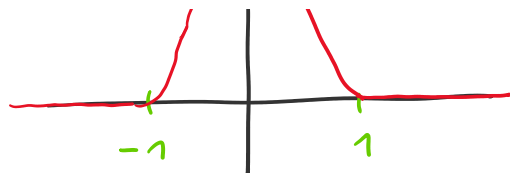
↑

$$[\text{supp}(\phi_1 + \phi_2) \subset \text{supp } \phi_1 \cup \text{supp } \phi_2]$$

Example:

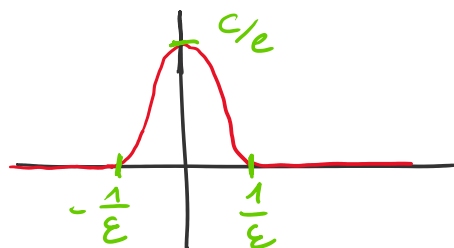
$$\bullet \quad \phi(x) = \begin{cases} \exp\left(\frac{1}{\|x\|^2 - 1}\right) & , \|x\| < 1 \\ 0 & , \|x\| \geq 1 \end{cases} \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}^n)$$





$\phi \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, $\text{supp } \phi = \{x \mid \|x\| \leq 1\}$ unit ball in \mathbb{R}^n

- $\eta(x) = C \phi(\varepsilon x)$ ($\varepsilon > 0, C \in \mathbb{C}$)



$\eta \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

"Multi-index notation for derivatives":

$$u: \Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C} , u(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

$$\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) , \alpha_i \in \mathbb{N}_0$$

$$\partial_x^\alpha u = \partial_{x_1}^{\alpha_1} \partial_{x_2}^{\alpha_2} \dots \partial_{x_n}^{\alpha_n} u$$

$$|\alpha| = \alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_n$$

$$\left[\sin(xy^2) , \partial^{(1,3)} \sin(xy^2) = \partial_x \partial_y^3 \sin(xy^2) = \dots \right]$$

$u \in C^\infty \Rightarrow$ the order of the derivatives does not matter!

(Schwarz theorem)

Definition Define

$$\|\phi\|_j := \max_{\substack{x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \\ |\alpha| \leq j}} |\partial_x^\alpha \phi(x)| , j = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Definition $(\phi_k)_k \subset \mathcal{D}(\Omega)$ is said to converge to $\phi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega)$ if

i) there exists $K \subset \subset \Omega$ s.t. $\text{supp } \phi_k, \text{supp } \phi \subseteq K$

ii) $\|\phi_k - \phi\|_j \longrightarrow 0 \quad \forall j=0,1,2,\dots$

Lemma If $\phi_k \rightarrow \phi$ then $\partial_x^\alpha \phi_k \longrightarrow \partial_x^\alpha \phi$

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

Def $T \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ if $T: \mathcal{D}(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is ^{linear and} continuous, i.e.

$$\underbrace{\phi_k \rightarrow \phi}_{\text{in } \mathcal{D}(\Omega)} \text{ implies } \underbrace{T(\phi_k) \rightarrow T(\phi)}_{\text{in } \mathbb{C}}$$

Theorem Let $T: \mathcal{D}(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be linear. Then the following are equiv:

a) $T \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$

b) $\forall K \subset \subset \Omega \exists C=C(K) \geq 0 \exists j=j(K) \in \mathbb{N} :$

$$|T(\phi)| \leq C \|\phi\|_j \quad \forall \phi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega) \quad \text{supp } \phi \subseteq K$$

Proof: b) \rightarrow a)

a) \Rightarrow b) Assume b) is wrong.

$\Rightarrow \exists K \subset \subset \Omega \exists (\phi_k)_k$ with $\text{supp } \phi_k \subseteq K$ s.t.

$$|T(\phi_k)| > k \|\phi_k\|_k, \quad k=1,2,3,\dots$$

We may assume $T(\phi_k) = 1$ (otherwise we substitute ϕ_k by $\psi_k = \frac{\phi_k}{T(\phi_k)}$)

Then given arbitrary j

$$\|\phi_k\|_j \stackrel{k \gg j}{\leq} \|\phi_k\|_k < \frac{1}{k} \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow +\infty} 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi_k \longrightarrow 0 \text{ in } \mathcal{D}(\Omega)$$

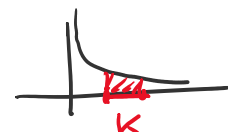
$$\text{but } T(\phi_k) = 1 \not\rightarrow 0 \quad (T \in \mathcal{D}') \quad \square$$

Def If j can be chosen independent of k , the smallest such j is called the order of T (and T has finite order).

Example "Functions are distributions"

Write $u \in L^1_{loc}(\Omega)$ if $u: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ measurable and

$$\int_K |u(x)| dx < +\infty \quad \forall K \subset\subset \Omega$$

Example: $u(x) = \frac{1}{x} : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ 

$$\int_0^{+\infty} \frac{1}{x} dx = +\infty \quad \text{but} \quad \int_K \frac{1}{x} dx < +\infty \quad \forall K \subset\subset \mathbb{R}_+$$

Define

$$T_u(\phi) := \int_{\Omega} u(x) \phi(x) dx, \quad \phi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega)$$

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Then $T_u \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$: Let $\text{supp } \phi \subseteq K$

$$|T_u(\phi)| = \left| \int_K u(x) \phi(x) dx \right|$$

$$\leq \int_K |u(x)| \underbrace{|\phi(x)|}_{\leq \|\phi\|_0} dx$$

$$\leq C_K \|\phi\|_0, \quad C_K = \int_K |u|$$

$\Rightarrow T_u$ has order 0

Such distr. are called regular distributions.

One can show

$$T_u = T_v \Leftrightarrow u = v \text{ almost everywhere}$$

Example $\delta: \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$

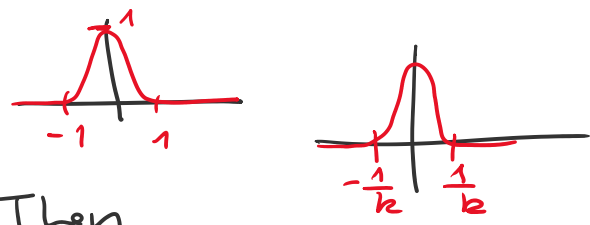
$$\delta(\phi) = \phi(0), \quad \phi \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n)$$

$$|\delta(\phi)| = |\phi(0)| \leq \|\phi\|_0 \quad \forall \phi$$

δ has order 0. δ is not regular :

Suppose $u \in L^1_{loc}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ s.t. $T_u = \delta$ i.e.

$$\phi(0) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} u(x) \phi(x) dx \quad \forall \phi \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n)$$

Let η be as above : 

Let $\phi_k(x) := \eta(kx)$. Then

$$1 = \phi_k(0) = \int \underbrace{u(x) \phi_k(x)}_{\substack{\bullet \longrightarrow 0 \quad \forall x \\ \bullet |\dots| \leq C |u|}} dx \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow +\infty} 0 \quad \text{Lebesgue dominated conv. theorem}$$