International Tables for Crystallography (2006). Vol. B, Section 1.3.2.3.9.6, p. 33.

1.3.2.3.9.4. *Division of distributions by functions*

Given a distribution S on $\mathbb{R}^n$ and an infinitely differentiable multiplier function α, the division problem consists in finding a distribution T such that $\alpha T = S$.

If α never vanishes, $T = S/\alpha$ is the unique answer. If $n = 1$, and if α has only isolated zeros of finite order, it can be reduced to a collection of cases where the multiplier is x^m, for which the general solution can be shown to be of the form

$$T = U + \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} c_i \delta^{(i)},$$

where U is a particular solution of the division problem $x^m U = S$ and the c_i are arbitrary constants.

In dimension $n > 1$, the problem is much more difficult, but is of fundamental importance in the theory of linear partial differential equations, since the Fourier transformation turns the problem of solving these into a division problem for distributions [see Hörmander (1963)].

1.3.2.3.9.5. *Transformation of coordinates*

Let σ be a smooth non-singular change of variables in $\mathbb{R}^n$, *i.e.* an infinitely differentiable mapping from an open subset Ω of $\mathbb{R}^n$ to Ω' in $\mathbb{R}^n$, whose Jacobian

$$J(\sigma) = \det \left[\frac{\partial \sigma(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}}\right]$$

vanishes nowhere in Ω. By the implicit function theorem, the inverse mapping σ^{-1} from Ω' to Ω is well defined.

If f is a locally summable function on Ω, then the function $\sigma^{\#} f$ defined by

$$(\sigma^{\#} f)(\mathbf{x}) = f[\sigma^{-1}(\mathbf{x})]$$

is a locally summable function on Ω', and for any $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega')$ we may write:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\Omega'} (\sigma^{\#} f)(\mathbf{x}) \varphi(\mathbf{x}) \,\mathrm{d}^n\mathbf{x} &= \int_{\Omega'} f[\sigma^{-1}(\mathbf{x})] \varphi(\mathbf{x}) \,\mathrm{d}^n\mathbf{x} \\ &= \int_{\Omega'} f(\mathbf{y}) \varphi[\sigma(\mathbf{y})] |J(\sigma)| \,\mathrm{d}^n\mathbf{y} \quad \text{by } \mathbf{x} = \sigma(\mathbf{y}).\end{aligned}$$

In terms of the associated distributions

$$\langle T_{\sigma^{\#} f}, \varphi \rangle = \langle T_f, |J(\sigma)| (\sigma^{-1})^{\#} \varphi \rangle.$$

This operation can be extended to an arbitrary distribution T by defining its *image* $\sigma^{\#} T$ under coordinate transformation σ through

$$\langle \sigma^{\#} T, \varphi \rangle = \langle T, |J(\sigma)| (\sigma^{-1})^{\#} \varphi \rangle,$$

which is well defined provided that σ is *proper*, *i.e.* that $\sigma^{-1}(K)$ is compact whenever K is compact.

For instance, if $\sigma : \mathbf{x} \longmapsto \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{a}$ is a *translation* by a vector $\mathbf{a}$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$, then $|J(\sigma)| = 1$; $\sigma^{\#}$ is denoted by $\tau_{\mathbf{a}}$, and the translate $\tau_{\mathbf{a}} T$ of a distribution T is defined by

$$\langle \tau_{\mathbf{a}} T, \varphi \rangle = \langle T, \tau_{-\mathbf{a}} \varphi \rangle.$$

Let $A : \mathbf{x} \longmapsto \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$ be a linear transformation defined by a non-singular matrix $\mathbf{A}$. Then $J(A) = \det \mathbf{A}$, and

$$\langle A^{\#} T, \varphi \rangle = |\det \mathbf{A}| \langle T, (A^{-1})^{\#} \varphi \rangle.$$

This formula will be shown later (Sections 1.3.2.6.5, 1.3.4.2.1.1) to be the basis for the definition of the reciprocal lattice.

In particular, if $\mathbf{A} = -\mathbf{I}$, where $\mathbf{I}$ is the identity matrix, A is an inversion through a centre of symmetry at the origin, and denoting $A^{\#} \varphi$ by $\breve{\varphi}$ we have:

$$\langle \breve{T}, \varphi \rangle = \langle T, \breve{\varphi} \rangle.$$

T is called an even distribution if $\breve{T} = T$, an odd distribution if $\breve{T} = -T$.

If $\mathbf{A} = \lambda \mathbf{I}$ with $\lambda > 0$, A is called a *dilation* and

$$\langle A^{\#} T, \varphi \rangle = \lambda^n \langle T, (A^{-1})^{\#} \varphi \rangle.$$

Writing symbolically δ as $\delta(\mathbf{x})$ and $A^{\#}\delta$ as $\delta(\mathbf{x}/\lambda)$, we have:

$$\delta(\mathbf{x}/\lambda) = \lambda^n \delta(\mathbf{x}).$$

If $n = 1$ and f is a function with isolated simple zeros x_j, then in the same symbolic notation

$$\delta[f(x)] = \sum_j \frac{1}{|f'(x_j)|} \delta(x_j),$$

where each $\lambda_j = 1/|f'(x_j)|$ is analogous to a 'Lorentz factor' at zero x_j.

1.3.2.3.9.6. *Tensor product of distributions*

The purpose of this construction is to extend Fubini's theorem to distributions. Following Section 1.3.2.2.5, we may define the tensor product $L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^m) \otimes L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ as the vector space of finite linear combinations of functions of the form

$$f \otimes g : (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \longmapsto f(\mathbf{x}) g(\mathbf{y}),$$

where $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$, $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $f \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^m)$ and $g \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

Let $S_{\mathbf{x}}$ and $T_{\mathbf{y}}$ denote the distributions associated to f and g, respectively, the subscripts $\mathbf{x}$ and $\mathbf{y}$ acting as mnemonics for $\mathbb{R}^m$ and $\mathbb{R}^n$. It follows from Fubini's theorem (Section 1.3.2.2.5) that $f \otimes g \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^n)$, and hence defines a distribution over $\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^n$; the rearrangement of integral signs gives

$$\langle S_{\mathbf{x}} \otimes T_{\mathbf{y}}, \varphi_{\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}} \rangle = \langle S_{\mathbf{x}}, \langle T_{\mathbf{y}}, \varphi_{\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}} \rangle \rangle = \langle T_{\mathbf{y}}, \langle S_{\mathbf{x}}, \varphi_{\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}} \rangle \rangle$$

for all $\varphi_{\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}} \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^n)$. In particular, if $\varphi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = u(\mathbf{x}) v(\mathbf{y})$ with $u \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^m)$, $v \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, then

$$\langle S \otimes T, u \otimes v \rangle = \langle S, u \rangle \langle T, v \rangle.$$

This construction can be extended to general distributions $S \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^m)$ and $T \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Given any test function $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^n)$, let $\varphi_{\mathbf{x}}$ denote the map $\mathbf{y} \longmapsto \varphi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$; let $\varphi_{\mathbf{y}}$ denote the map $\mathbf{x} \longmapsto \varphi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$; and define the two functions $\theta(\mathbf{x}) = \langle T, \varphi_{\mathbf{x}} \rangle$ and $\omega(\mathbf{y}) = \langle S, \varphi_{\mathbf{y}} \rangle$. Then, by the lemma on differentiation under the $\langle , \rangle$ sign of Section 1.3.2.3.9.1, $\theta \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^m)$, $\omega \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, and there exists a unique distribution $S \otimes T$ such that

$$\langle S \otimes T, \varphi \rangle = \langle S, \theta \rangle = \langle T, \omega \rangle.$$

$S \otimes T$ is called the *tensor product* of S and T.

With the mnemonic introduced above, this definition reads identically to that given above for distributions associated to locally integrable functions:

$$\langle S_{\mathbf{x}} \otimes T_{\mathbf{y}}, \varphi_{\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}} \rangle = \langle S_{\mathbf{x}}, \langle T_{\mathbf{y}}, \varphi_{\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}} \rangle \rangle = \langle T_{\mathbf{y}}, \langle S_{\mathbf{x}}, \varphi_{\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}} \rangle \rangle.$$

The tensor product of distributions is associative:

$$(R \otimes S) \otimes T = R \otimes (S \otimes T).$$

Derivatives may be calculated by

$$D^{\mathbf{p}}_{\mathbf{x}} D^{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{y}} (S_{\mathbf{x}} \otimes T_{\mathbf{y}}) = (D^{\mathbf{p}}_{\mathbf{x}} S_{\mathbf{x}}) \otimes (D^{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{y}} T_{\mathbf{y}}).$$

The support of a tensor product is the Cartesian product of the supports of the two factors.

1.3.2.3.9.7. *Convolution of distributions*

The convolution $f * g$ of two functions f and g on $\mathbb{R}^n$ is defined by

$$(f * g)(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(\mathbf{y}) g(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) \,\mathrm{d}^n\mathbf{y} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) g(\mathbf{y}) \,\mathrm{d}^n\mathbf{y}$$

references