

1. GENERAL RELATIONSHIPS AND TECHNIQUES

1.3.2.5.2. \mathcal{S} as a test-function space

A notion of convergence has to be introduced in $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ in order to be able to define and test the continuity of linear functionals on it.

A sequence (φ_j) of functions in \mathcal{S} will be said to converge to 0 if, for any given multi-indices \mathbf{k} and \mathbf{p} , the sequence $(\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{k}} D^{\mathbf{p}} \varphi_j)$ tends to 0 uniformly on \mathbb{R}^n .

It can be shown that $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is dense in $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Translation is continuous for this topology. For any linear differential operator $P(D) = \sum_{\mathbf{p}} a_{\mathbf{p}} D^{\mathbf{p}}$ and any polynomial $Q(\mathbf{x})$ over \mathbb{R}^n , $(\varphi_j) \rightarrow 0$ implies $[Q(\mathbf{x}) \times P(D)\varphi_j] \rightarrow 0$ in the topology of \mathcal{S} . Therefore, differentiation and multiplication by polynomials are continuous for the topology on \mathcal{S} .

The Fourier transformations \mathcal{F} and $\bar{\mathcal{F}}$ are also continuous for the topology of \mathcal{S} . Indeed, let (φ_j) converge to 0 for the topology on \mathcal{S} . Then, by Section 1.3.2.4.2,

$$\|(2\pi\xi)^{\mathbf{m}} D^{\mathbf{p}}(\mathcal{F}[\varphi_j])\|_{\infty} \leq \|D^{\mathbf{m}}[(2\pi\mathbf{x})^{\mathbf{p}} \varphi_j]\|_1.$$

The right-hand side tends to 0 as $j \rightarrow \infty$ by definition of convergence in \mathcal{S} , hence $\|\xi\|^{\mathbf{m}} D^{\mathbf{p}}(\mathcal{F}[\varphi_j]) \rightarrow 0$ uniformly, so that $(\mathcal{F}[\varphi_j]) \rightarrow 0$ in \mathcal{S} as $j \rightarrow \infty$. The same proof applies to $\bar{\mathcal{F}}$.

1.3.2.5.3. Definition and examples of tempered distributions

A distribution $T \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is said to be *tempered* if it can be extended into a continuous linear functional on \mathcal{S} .

If $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is the topological dual of $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, and if $S \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$, then its restriction to \mathcal{D} is a tempered distribution; conversely, if $T \in \mathcal{D}'$ is tempered, then its extension to \mathcal{S} is unique (because \mathcal{D} is dense in \mathcal{S}), hence it defines an element S of \mathcal{S}' . We may therefore identify \mathcal{S}' and the space of tempered distributions.

A distribution with compact support is tempered, i.e. $\mathcal{S}' \supset \mathcal{E}'$. By transposition of the corresponding properties of \mathcal{S} , it is readily established that the derivative, translate or product by a polynomial of a tempered distribution is still a tempered distribution.

These inclusion relations may be summarized as follows: since \mathcal{S} contains \mathcal{D} but is contained in \mathcal{E} , the reverse inclusions hold for the topological duals, and hence \mathcal{S}' contains \mathcal{E}' but is contained in \mathcal{D}' .

A locally summable function f on \mathbb{R}^n will be said to be of *polynomial growth* if $|f(\mathbf{x})|$ can be majorized by a polynomial in $\|\mathbf{x}\|$ as $\|\mathbf{x}\| \rightarrow \infty$. It is easily shown that such a function f defines a tempered distribution T_f via

$$\langle T_f, \varphi \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(\mathbf{x}) \varphi(\mathbf{x}) d^n \mathbf{x}.$$

In particular, polynomials over \mathbb{R}^n define tempered distributions, and so do functions in \mathcal{S} . The latter remark, together with the transposition identity (Section 1.3.2.4.4), invites the extension of \mathcal{F} and $\bar{\mathcal{F}}$ from \mathcal{S} to \mathcal{S}' .

1.3.2.5.4. Fourier transforms of tempered distributions

The Fourier transform $\mathcal{F}[T]$ and cotransform $\bar{\mathcal{F}}[T]$ of a tempered distribution T are defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathcal{F}[T], \varphi \rangle &= \langle T, \mathcal{F}[\varphi] \rangle \\ \langle \bar{\mathcal{F}}[T], \varphi \rangle &= \langle T, \bar{\mathcal{F}}[\varphi] \rangle \end{aligned}$$

for all test functions $\varphi \in \mathcal{S}$. Both $\mathcal{F}[T]$ and $\bar{\mathcal{F}}[T]$ are themselves tempered distributions, since the maps $\varphi \mapsto \mathcal{F}[\varphi]$ and $\varphi \mapsto \bar{\mathcal{F}}[\varphi]$ are both linear and continuous for the topology of \mathcal{S} . In the same way that \mathbf{x} and ξ have been used consistently as

arguments for φ and $\mathcal{F}[\varphi]$, respectively, the notation $T_{\mathbf{x}}$ and $\mathcal{F}[T]_{\xi}$ will be used to indicate which variables are involved.

When T is a distribution with compact support, its Fourier transform may be written

$$\mathcal{F}[T_{\mathbf{x}}]_{\xi} = \langle T_{\mathbf{x}}, \exp(-2\pi i \xi \cdot \mathbf{x}) \rangle$$

since the function $\mathbf{x} \mapsto \exp(-2\pi i \xi \cdot \mathbf{x})$ is in \mathcal{E} while $T_{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathcal{E}'$. It can be shown, as in Section 1.3.2.4.2, to be analytically continuable into an entire function over \mathbb{C}^n .

1.3.2.5.5. Transposition of basic properties

The duality between differentiation and multiplication by a monomial extends from \mathcal{S} to \mathcal{S}' by transposition:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}[D_{\mathbf{x}}^{\mathbf{p}} T_{\mathbf{x}}]_{\xi} &= (2\pi i \xi)^{\mathbf{p}} \mathcal{F}[T_{\mathbf{x}}]_{\xi} \\ D_{\xi}^{\mathbf{p}} (\mathcal{F}[T_{\mathbf{x}}]_{\xi}) &= \mathcal{F}[(-2\pi i \mathbf{x})^{\mathbf{p}} T_{\mathbf{x}}]_{\xi}. \end{aligned}$$

Analogous formulae hold for $\bar{\mathcal{F}}$, with i replaced by $-i$.

The formulae expressing the duality between translation and phase shift, e.g.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}[\tau_{\mathbf{a}} T_{\mathbf{x}}]_{\xi} &= \exp(-2\pi i \mathbf{a} \cdot \xi) \mathcal{F}[T_{\mathbf{x}}]_{\xi} \\ \tau_{\mathbf{a}} (\mathcal{F}[T_{\mathbf{x}}]_{\xi}) &= \mathcal{F}[\exp(2\pi i \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{x}) T_{\mathbf{x}}]_{\xi}; \end{aligned}$$

between a linear change of variable and its contragredient, e.g.

$$\mathcal{F}[A^{\#} T] = |\det \mathbf{A}| [(\mathbf{A}^{-1})^T]^{\#} \mathcal{F}[T];$$

are obtained similarly by transposition from the corresponding identities in \mathcal{S} . They give a transposition formula for an affine change of variables $\mathbf{x} \mapsto S(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}$ with nonsingular matrix \mathbf{A} :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}[S^{\#} T] &= \exp(-2\pi i \xi \cdot \mathbf{b}) \mathcal{F}[A^{\#} T] \\ &= \exp(-2\pi i \xi \cdot \mathbf{b}) |\det \mathbf{A}| [(\mathbf{A}^{-1})^T]^{\#} \mathcal{F}[T], \end{aligned}$$

with a similar result for $\bar{\mathcal{F}}$, replacing $-i$ by $+i$.

Conjugate symmetry is obtained similarly:

$$\mathcal{F}[\bar{T}] = \overline{\mathcal{F}[T]}, \quad \bar{\mathcal{F}}[\bar{T}] = \overline{\bar{\mathcal{F}}[T]},$$

with the same identities for $\bar{\mathcal{F}}$.

The tensor product property also transposes to tempered distributions: if $U \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^m)$, $V \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}[U_{\mathbf{x}} \otimes V_{\mathbf{y}}] &= \mathcal{F}[U]_{\xi} \otimes \mathcal{F}[V]_{\eta} \\ \bar{\mathcal{F}}[U_{\mathbf{x}} \otimes V_{\mathbf{y}}] &= \bar{\mathcal{F}}[U]_{\xi} \otimes \bar{\mathcal{F}}[V]_{\eta}. \end{aligned}$$

1.3.2.5.6. Transforms of δ -functions

Since δ has compact support,

$$\mathcal{F}[\delta_{\mathbf{x}}]_{\xi} = \langle \delta_{\mathbf{x}}, \exp(-2\pi i \xi \cdot \mathbf{x}) \rangle = 1_{\xi}, \quad \text{i.e. } \mathcal{F}[\delta] = 1.$$

It is instructive to show that conversely $\mathcal{F}[1] = \delta$ without invoking the reciprocity theorem. Since $\partial_j 1 = 0$ for all $j = 1, \dots, n$, it follows from Section 1.3.2.3.9.4 that $\mathcal{F}[1] = c\delta$; the