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Homogeneous Distributions

by

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## Introduction

In this article the nature of an arbitrary distribution  $f$ , homogeneous of degree  $\lambda$  for a complex  $\lambda$ , is described in terms of an expansion  $f = \sum_{mn} b_{mn} r^\lambda S_{mn}$  in spherical harmonics, and the Fourier transform is shown to have the form  $\hat{f} = \sum_{mn} b_{mn} \gamma_m(\lambda) r^\lambda S_{mn}$ . The form of these expansions is slightly different for certain integer values of  $\lambda$ . The expansion of singular integral operators in spherical harmonics as in [2] together with the discussion of homogeneous distributions in [3], form the background of this investigation.

We consider distributions on real  $\nu$ -dimensional space  $R_\nu$ . Points in  $R_\nu$  are denoted by  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_\nu)$ , and  $|x|^2 = \sum_{j=1}^{\nu} x_j^2$ . The spherical coordinates  $(r, \omega)$  of  $x$  are determined by  $r = |x|$ ,  $x = r\omega$ . The unit sphere in  $R_\nu$  is denoted by  $\Omega$ .

Several spaces of test functions on  $R_\nu$  appear, namely  $D_K \subset D \subset S$ , all consisting of infinitely differentiable functions. Those in  $D_K$  vanish for  $|x| \geq K$ ; those in  $S$  have  $p(x)q(\partial/\partial x_1, \dots, \partial/\partial x_\nu)\varphi$  bounded for each polynomial  $p$  and  $q$ ; and  $D = \bigcup_{K=1}^{\infty} D_K$ . In  $S$  (in  $D_K$ ) there is a base of neighbourhoods of zero given by  $U_n = \{ \varphi; \varphi \text{ in } S \text{ (in } D_K), (1+|x|)^n |D^k \varphi(x)| < 1/n \text{ for } 0 \leq k \leq n \}$ , where  $D^k$  runs over all differentiations  $\partial^k / \partial x_1^{k_1} \dots \partial x_\nu^{k_\nu}$  of order  $k$ .  $D$  is usually not given a topology. At times the alternate notations  $D(|x| < K)$ ,  $D(R_\nu)$ , and  $S(R_\nu)$  are used.

The spaces  $D_K'$  and  $S'$  of distributions are respectively the continuous linear functionals on  $D_K$  and  $S$ ; and  $D' = \bigcap_{K=1}^{\infty} D_K'$ .

Thus  $S' \subset D' \subset D_K'$ . Sometimes the notations  $D'(R_\nu)$  and  $S'(R_\nu)$  are used. The value of the distribution  $f$  on the test function  $\varphi$  is  $\langle f, \varphi \rangle$ .

$D(\Omega)$  is the space of  $C^\infty$  functions on the unit sphere  $\Omega$ , with a base of neighbourhoods of zero given by  $U_n = \{ \psi; |D^k \psi(x/|x|) < 1/n, \text{ for } 0 \leq k \leq n \text{ and } |x| \geq 1 \}$ .  $D'(\Omega)$

is then the space of continuous functionals on  $D(\Omega)$ .

For  $\varphi$  in  $S$ ,  $\varphi_t$  is defined by  $\varphi_t(x) = \varphi(tx)$ . Since for a continuous function  $f$  homogeneous of degree  $\lambda$ , with  $\text{Re}(\lambda) > -\nu$ , we have  $\int f(x) \varphi(x) dx = t^{\lambda+\nu} \int f(x) \varphi(tx) dx$ , the following definition (given in [3]) is natural.

Definition 1. The distribution  $f$  in  $D'(R_\nu)$  is homogeneous of degree  $\lambda$  if and only if, for each  $t > 0$ ,  $\langle f, \varphi \rangle = t^{\lambda+\nu} \langle f, \varphi_t \rangle$ .

The steps to the main theorem are as follows:

§ 1 obtains for  $\text{Re}(\lambda) > -\nu$  a representation  $f = r^\lambda F$ , where  $F$  is in  $D'(\Omega)$ ; § 2 discusses the convergence of the expansion in spherical harmonics of a distribution  $F$  in  $D'(\Omega)$ ; § 3 computes the Fourier transform of the individual terms in the expansion of  $f$ ; § 4 combines these into the theorem, and makes a few applications.

§ 1 Here we establish Lemma 2, and the following corollary: if  $\lambda$  is any complex number, and  $f$  is in  $D'$  and homogeneous of degree  $\lambda$ , then  $f$  has an extension in  $S'$ ; i.e.  $f$  is continuous on the larger space  $S$ .

Definition 2. Let  $\text{Re}(\lambda) > -\nu$ , and  $\varphi$  be in  $S$ . Then  $P_\lambda \varphi$  is the function on  $\Omega$  defined by  $(P_\lambda \varphi)(\omega) = \int_0^\infty t^{\lambda+\nu-1} \varphi(t\omega) dt$ .

$P_\lambda$  is continuous from  $S$  to  $D(\Omega)$ , since  $\int_0^\infty t^{\lambda+\nu-1} D^n \varphi(tx/|x|) dt$  can be estimated in terms of the supremum of  $(1+|x|)^m |D^k \varphi(x)|$  for  $k \leq n$  and sufficiently large  $m$ .

Definition 3. If  $F$  is in  $D'(\Omega)$ , and  $\text{Re}(\lambda) > -\nu$ , then  $r^\lambda F$  is the distribution in  $S'(R_\nu)$  defined by  $\langle r^\lambda F, \varphi \rangle = \langle F, P_\lambda \varphi \rangle$ .

Since  $P_\lambda$  is continuous from  $S$  to  $D(\Omega)$ , the composition of  $F$  and  $P_\lambda$  is a continuous linear functional on  $S$ . Informally written,  $\langle r^\lambda F, \varphi \rangle = \int_0^\infty \langle r^\lambda F(\omega), \varphi(r\omega) \rangle r^{-1} dr$ .

Definition 4. Let  $a(t)$  be a non-negative  $C^\infty$  function on  $R_1$  with support in  $1/2 \leq t \leq 2$ . Then for  $\gamma$  in  $D(\Omega)$ ,  $A_\lambda \gamma$  is defined by  $(A_\lambda \gamma)(x) = a(|x|) |x|^{-\lambda-\nu+1} \gamma(x/|x|) / \int_0^\infty a(t) dt$ .

Thus  $A_\lambda$  depends on the arbitrarily chosen function  $a(t)$ ; but since we consider a fixed  $a(t)$  this dependence is not indicated in the notation. It is clear that  $A_\lambda$  is continuous from  $D(\Omega)$  to  $D(|x| < 2)$ .

Lemma 1. Let  $\text{Re}(\lambda) > -\nu$ , and  $f$  in  $D'$  be homogeneous of degree  $\lambda$ . Then  $\langle f, \varphi \rangle = \langle f, A_\lambda P \varphi \rangle$  for each  $\varphi$  in  $D$ .

Proof. The basic calculation is

$$\begin{aligned}
 1) \quad & \left( \int_0^\infty a \right) \langle f, A_\lambda P_\lambda \varphi \rangle = \langle f(x), |x| a(|x|) \int_0^\infty s^{\lambda+\nu-1} \varphi(sx) ds \rangle \\
 & = \int_0^\infty s^{\lambda+\nu-1} \langle f(x), [\varphi(x) a(|x|/s) |x|/s]_s \rangle ds \\
 & = \int_0^\infty s^{-2} \langle f(x), \varphi(x) a(|x|/s) |x| \rangle ds \\
 & = \int_0^\infty \langle f(x), \varphi(x) a(t|x|) |x| \rangle dt \\
 & = \langle f(x), \varphi(x) \int_0^\infty a(t|x|) d(t|x|) \rangle \\
 & = \left( \int_0^\infty a \right) \langle f, \varphi \rangle.
 \end{aligned}$$

The interchange of  $\int$  and  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  seems to be difficult to justify unless  $\varphi$  vanishes in a neighbourhood of the origin, so we first consider a  $\varphi$  with  $\varphi = 0$  for  $|x| \leq \epsilon \leq 1/2$  and  $|x| \geq M \geq 2$ . Then the interchanges can be justified by showing that if  $\psi$  and  $\psi_1$  are  $C^\infty$  functions vanishing for  $|x| \leq \epsilon$  and  $|x| \geq M$ , and  $\mu$  is any complex number then, in the topology of  $D(|x| < M)$ ,  $\psi_1(x) \int_0^A s^\mu \psi(sx) ds \rightarrow \psi_1(x) \int_0^\infty s^\mu \psi(sx) ds$  and  $\psi_1(x) (A/N) \sum_{n=1}^N (An/N)^\mu \psi(Anx/N) \rightarrow \int_0^A s^\mu \psi(sx) ds$ . Since the derivatives of each of these expressions are linear combinations of the same type, it suffices to show that  $\int_0^A s^\mu \psi(sx) ds \rightarrow \int_0^\infty s^\mu \psi(sx) ds$  and  $(A/N) \sum_{n=1}^N (An/N)^\mu \psi(Anx/N) \rightarrow \int_0^A s^\mu \psi(sx) ds$

uniformly in  $\epsilon \leq |x| \leq M$ , for each  $\mu$ .

For the first we have in  $|x| \geq \epsilon$  that  $|\int_0^\infty s^\mu \psi(sx) ds|$

$$\leq \sup_{t > \epsilon x} (1+|x|t)^k |\psi(tx)| (1+t)^k (1+\epsilon t)^{-k} \int_A^\infty s^{\text{Re}(\mu)} (1+s)^{-k} ds ;$$

choosing  $k > \text{Re}(\mu) - 1$  yields the result. For the convergence of the Riemann sums, we have

$$\left| \int_0^A - (A/N) \sum_1^N \right| \leq (A^2/N) \max_{\epsilon \leq |x| \leq M} |ds^\mu \psi(sx)/ds| ;$$

since  $\psi(y)$  vanishes for  $|y| \leq \epsilon$ , we need only consider  $\epsilon/M \leq s \leq A$ , and  $\max_{\substack{|x| \leq M \\ \epsilon/M \leq s \leq A}} |ds^\mu \psi(sx)/ds|$  is finite.

This justifies formula (1), and hence completes the lemma, for functions  $\varphi$  vanishing in a neighbourhood of the origin. Thus if  $g$  is defined by  $\langle g, \varphi \rangle = \langle f, A_\lambda P_\lambda \varphi \rangle$ , then  $f-g$  has support  $\{x = 0\}$ , and hence (see [4], p.99)  $f-g = \sum_1^N L_n \delta$ , where  $L_n$  is a homogeneous differential operator of order  $n$  with constant coefficients.

Now the  $n^{\text{th}}$  term of this sum is homogeneous of degree  $-1-n$ , and  $g$  is easily shown to be homogeneous of degree  $\lambda$ . Since distributions which are homogeneous of different degrees are linearly independent (see [3], p.86), we are led to  $f=g$ , and Lemma 1 is proved.

Now it is easy to define an  $F$  in  $D'(\Omega)$  such that  $f=r^\lambda F$ , i.e. such that  $\langle f, \varphi \rangle = \langle F, P_\lambda \varphi \rangle$ : set  $\langle F, \psi \rangle = \langle f, A_\lambda \psi \rangle$ . Then  $\langle f, \varphi \rangle = \langle f, A_\lambda P_\lambda \varphi \rangle = \langle F, P_\lambda \varphi \rangle$  as desired. In spite of the arbitrariness in  $A_\lambda$ ,  $F$  is unique; for if  $\psi$  is in  $D(\Omega)$  we have  $\psi = P_\lambda A_\lambda \psi$ , so that  $r^\lambda G=f$  implies  $\langle G, \psi \rangle = \langle G, P_\lambda A_\lambda \psi \rangle = \langle f, A_\lambda \psi \rangle = \langle F, \psi \rangle$  for each  $\psi$ . Thus we have established

Lemma 2. If  $\text{Re}(\lambda) > -1$ , and  $f$  in  $D'(R^1)$  is homogeneous of degree  $\lambda$ , then there is a unique  $F$  in  $D'(\Omega)$  such that  $f=r^\lambda F$ .

Corollary. If  $f$  is in  $D'(R^1)$ , homogeneous of any complex degree  $\lambda$ , then  $f$  has an extension in  $S'$ .

Proof. If  $\text{Re}(\lambda) > -1$ , this follows from Lemma 1; for  $A_\lambda P_\lambda$  is bounded from  $S$  to  $D(|x| < 2)$ , so  $\langle f, \varphi \rangle = \langle f, A_\lambda P_\lambda \varphi \rangle$  defines the extension. If  $\text{Re}(\lambda) \leq -1$ , choose an integer  $k$  so that  $2k+\text{Re}(\lambda) > -1$ . It is easy to check  $|x|^{2k} f$  is homogeneous of degree  $2k+\lambda$ , hence continuous on  $S$ ; and if  $\chi(|x|)$  is a  $C^\infty$

cut-off function such that  $\chi(|x|)=1$  for  $|x| \leq 1$ ,  $\chi(|x|)=0$  for  $|x| \geq 2$ , we have

$$2) \quad \langle f, \varphi \rangle = \langle f, \chi \varphi \rangle + \langle |x|^{2k} f, |x|^{-2k} (1-\chi) \varphi \rangle .$$

Here  $\varphi \rightarrow \chi \varphi$  is continuous from  $S$  to  $D(|x| < 2)$ , and  $\varphi \rightarrow |x|^{-2k} (1-\chi) \varphi$  is continuous from  $S$  to  $S$ , so the right hand side of (2) is continuous on  $S$ .

§ 2 The-spherical harmonic expansion in  $D'(\Omega)$ .

Let  $S_m$  denote a real-valued normalized spherical harmonic of degree  $m$ ; thus  $S_m$  is the restriction to  $\Omega$  of a homogeneous harmonic polynomial of degree  $m$ , and  $\int_{\Omega} |S_m|^2 = 1$ . Let  $\{S_{mn}\}$  denote an orthonormal basis for  $L^2(\Omega)$  consisting of such spherical harmonics,  $S_{mn}$  being of degree  $m$  and  $n$  running from 1 to  $(2m+\nu-2)(m+\nu-3)!/m!(\nu-2)!$  (see [1], p.237). If we define an operator  $L$  on  $D(\Omega)$  by  $L\psi =$  the restriction to  $\Omega$  of  $\Delta \psi(x/|x|)$ , we have from [2] that

$$3) \quad -m(m+\nu-2) \int_{\Omega} S_{mn} \psi = \int_{\Omega} S_{mn} L \psi .$$

The same reference shows that there are constants  $C_{k,m}$  such that

$$4) \quad D^k S_{mn}(x/|x|) \leq C_{k,m} m^{k-1+\nu/2} \text{ in } |x| \geq 1,$$

where  $D^k$  is an arbitrary differentiation of order  $k$ .

Each  $\psi$  in  $D(\Omega)$  has an expansion  $\psi = \sum a_{mn} S_{mn}$ , with  $a_{mn} = \int_{\Omega} S_{mn} \psi$ . The estimate (3) shows that  $a_{mn} = O(m^{-k})$  for every  $k$ . Taking into account the number of  $S_{mn}$  for each  $m$ , estimate (4) then shows that  $\sum a_{mn} S_{mn}$  and all its derivatives converge uniformly in  $|x| \geq 1$ , so that the series converges in  $D(\Omega)$  to  $\psi$ .

To each  $F$  in  $D'(\Omega)$  there corresponds a sequence of coefficients  $b_{mn} = \langle F, S_{mn} \rangle$ . If we set  $F_M = \sum_{m \leq M} \sum_n b_{mn} S_{mn}$ , then  $F_M$  converges weakly to  $F$ :

$$\langle F_M, \psi \rangle = \sum_{m=M}^{\infty} \sum_n b_{mn} a_{mn} = \langle F, \psi \rangle \rightarrow \langle F, \psi \rangle \text{ for each } \psi . \text{ Since}$$

$\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{m \leq M} \sum_n b_{mn} a_{mn}$  exists for each  $\{a_{mn}\}$  such that  $a_{mn} = O(m^{-k})$  for all  $k$ , it follows that  $b_{mn} = O(m^k)$  for some  $k$ .

We now have the expansion described in Theorem 1 below for the case  $\text{Re}(\lambda) > -\nu$ . Expand the  $F$  of Lemma 2 as  $F = \sum \sum b_{mn} S_{mn}$ . Then  $\sum \sum b_{mn} r^\lambda S_{mn}$  converges weakly (in  $S'(R_\nu)$ ) to  $f$ , since  $\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{m=M} \sum_n b_{mn} \langle r^\lambda S_{mn}, \varphi \rangle = \lim \langle F_M, P_\lambda \varphi \rangle = \langle F, P_\lambda \varphi \rangle = \langle f, \varphi \rangle$ .

§ 3 Fourier transforms.

For  $\text{Re}(\lambda) > -\nu$ ,  $r^\lambda S_m(\omega)$  is a locally integrable function on  $R$  with polynomial growth at  $\infty$ , hence defines a distribution on  $S$ , homogeneous of degree  $\lambda$ . Here we compute its Fourier transform  $(r^\lambda S_m)^\wedge$ , and consider the analytic extension to  $\text{Re}(\lambda) \leq -\nu$ . The method of calculation is borrowed from [2].

The Fourier transform of  $\varphi$  in  $S$  is the function  $\varphi^\wedge$  defined by  $\varphi^\wedge(y) = \int e^{ix \cdot y} \varphi(x) dx$ ; this is a continuous 1-1 transformation on  $S$ , whose inverse is given by  $\varphi^\vee(x) = (2\pi)^{-\nu} \int e^{-ix \cdot y} \varphi(y) dy$ . (See [5], p.105). The Fourier transform of  $f$  in  $S'$  is the distribution  $f^\wedge$  in  $S'$  given by  $\langle f^\wedge, \varphi \rangle = \langle f, \varphi^\wedge \rangle$ . Thus  $\wedge$  and  $\vee$  are reciprocal isomorphisms on  $S'$ . One has, immediately, for an arbitrary polynomial  $P$ , that

$$5) \quad [P(x)]^\wedge = (2\pi)^\nu P(-i \partial / \partial x_1, \dots, -i \partial / \partial x_\nu) \delta$$

and

$$6) \quad [P(\partial / \partial x_1, \dots, \partial / \partial x_\nu) \delta]^\wedge = P(-ix_1, \dots, -ix_\nu).$$

It is easy to see that the distribution  $(r^\lambda S_m)^\wedge$  corresponds to the function  $(r^\lambda S_m)^\wedge(y) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\epsilon \leq |x| \leq 1/\epsilon} |x|^\lambda e^{-ix \cdot y} S_m(x/|x|) dx$ , for all values of  $\lambda$  such that this limit exists uniformly in each ball  $|y| \leq K$ . This turns out to include the strip  $-\nu < \text{Re}(\lambda) < (1-\nu)/2$ . The analytic expression obtained in this strip is then valid for all values of  $\lambda$ , by analytic continuation.

Consider thus  $-\nu < \text{Re}(\lambda) < (1-\nu)/2$ , and set  $x=r\omega$ ,  $y=\rho\sigma$  ( $|\omega|=|\sigma|=1$ ); then  $(r^\lambda S_m)^\wedge(\rho\sigma) =$   
 $\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\epsilon}^{1/\epsilon} r^{\lambda+\nu-1} \int_{\Omega} e^{i\rho r\sigma \cdot \omega} S_m(\omega) d\Omega dr =$   
 $\lim_{\epsilon} \rho^{-\lambda-\nu} \int_{\epsilon}^{1/\epsilon} s^{\lambda+\nu-1} \int_{\Omega} e^{-is\sigma \cdot \omega} S_m(\omega) d\Omega ds.$

Further calculation depends on the formulas

$$7) \quad e^{is \cos \varphi} = 2^a \Gamma(a) s^{-a} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (i)^k (k+a) J_{k+a}(s) C_k^a(\cos \varphi)$$

([1], p.213),

where  $C_k^a(t)$  is a Gegenbauer polynomial;

$$8) \quad \int_{\Omega} C_j^a(\sigma \cdot \omega) S_m(\omega) d\Omega = \delta_{jm} S_m(\sigma) 4\pi^{1+a} / (2m+\nu-2) \Gamma(a)$$

([1], p.247);

and

$$9) \quad \int_0^{\infty} t^{\lambda+\nu/2} J_{m-1+\nu/2}(t) dt =$$

$$2^{\lambda+\nu/2} \Gamma((m+\nu+\lambda)/2) / \Gamma((m-\lambda)/2),$$

for  $-m-\nu < \text{Re}(\lambda) < (1-\nu)/2$ . ([1], p.49).

Thus setting the letter a in formulas (7) and (8) equal to  $(\nu/2)-1$ , we obtain

$$10) \quad \int_{\Omega} e^{-is\sigma \cdot \omega} S_m(\omega) d\Omega =$$

$$2\pi^{\nu/2} (-i)^m (s/2)^{1-\nu/2} J_{m-1+\nu/2}(s) S_m(\sigma),$$

and

$$11) \quad (r^\lambda S_m)^\wedge(\rho\sigma) = \rho^{-\lambda-\nu} S_m(\sigma) (-i)^m \pi^{1/2} 2^{\lambda+\nu} \Gamma((m+\nu+\lambda)/2) /$$

$$\Gamma((m-\lambda)/2),$$

for  $-\nu < \text{Re}(\lambda) < (1-\nu)/2$ . It follows easily that for the same values of  $\lambda$

$$12) \quad (r^\lambda S_m)^\vee(\rho\sigma) = \rho^{-\lambda-\nu} S_m(\sigma) (i)^m \pi^{-\nu/2} 2^\lambda \Gamma((m+\nu+\lambda)/2) / \Gamma((m-\lambda)/2)$$

Then, if  $r^\lambda S_m$  is defined for all  $\lambda$  (except possible poles) as the analytic extension from  $\text{Re}(\lambda) > -\nu$ , we have for all  $\lambda$

$$13) \quad [1/\Gamma((m+\nu+\lambda)/2)] (r^\lambda S_m)^\wedge = \\ [(-i)^m \pi^{\nu/2} 2^{\lambda+\nu} / \Gamma((m-\lambda)/2)] r^{-\lambda-\nu} S_m.$$

Since for any  $\lambda$  either  $\text{Re}(\lambda) > -\nu$  or  $\text{Re}(-\lambda-\nu) > -\nu$ , at least one of  $r^\lambda S_m$  and  $r^{-\lambda-\nu} S_m$  is always defined as a regular distribution. Formula (13) then defines the other of these as a Fourier transform or inverse Fourier Transform, except for the values of  $\lambda$  which yield a pole of the gamma functions occurring in (13). In this way  $r^\lambda S_m$  is defined by formula (13) as a distribution in  $S'(R)$  except for  $\lambda = -\nu - m - 2k$ ,  $k=0,1,2,\dots$ . The fact that this extension is possible can also be checked directly by using a Taylor expansion of the test functions; this is done for the case  $m=0$  in [3].

Since at least one side in (13) is always non-zero, the poles of the gamma function do not correspond to the zero distribution, but rather to distributions concentrated at the origin. In fact, if  $\lambda = m + 2k$  then  $r^\lambda S_m$  is  $r^{2k} H_m$ , where  $H_m$  is a harmonic polynomial. Thus from (5) we have

$$14) \quad (r^{m+2k} S_m)^\wedge = (2\pi)^\nu (-i)^{m+2k} \Delta^k H_m(\partial/\partial x_1, \dots, \partial/\partial x_\nu) \delta$$

and

$$15) \quad (r^{m+2k} S_m)^\vee = (i)^{m+2k} \Delta^k H_m(\partial/\partial x_1, \dots, \partial/\partial x_\nu) \delta,$$

where  $\Delta$  is the Laplacian, and the  $\delta$  is Dirac's.

Thus  $r^\lambda S_m$ , defined for  $\text{Re}(\lambda) > -\nu$  as a regular distribution, has an analytic extension to the whole complex  $\lambda$ -plane except for poles at  $\lambda = -m - 2k$ . Its Fourier transform is given either by (13) or by (14), and the inverse transform by (13) or by (15).

§ 4 The expansion and transform of a homogeneous distribution

Theorem 1. Let  $f$  be a distribution in  $D'(R_\nu)$ , homogeneous of degree  $\lambda$ , and  $r^\lambda S_{mn}$  be defined for  $\lambda \neq -\nu, -\nu-1, \dots$  by analytic continuation from  $\text{Re}(\lambda) > -\nu$ .

i) If  $\lambda$  is not an integer of the form  $-\nu-k$  ( $k=0,1,\dots$ ), then  $f = \sum_m \sum_n b_{mn} r^\lambda S_{mn}$ , where  $b_{mn} = O(m^k)$  for some  $k$ , and the series is weakly convergent in  $S'(R_\nu)$ .

ii) If  $\lambda = -\nu-N$  for some  $N=0,1,\dots$ , then  $f = P_N(\partial/\partial x_1, \dots, \partial/\partial x_\nu) \delta + \sum_{m=n}^* \sum b_{mn} r^{-\nu-N} S_{mn}$ , where  $P_N$  is a homogeneous polynomial of degree  $N$ ,  $\delta$  is the Dirac  $\delta$ , and  $\sum^*$  is the sum over all  $m \geq 0$  such that  $m \neq N-2k$  for a  $k=0,1,2,\dots$ . The series converges as in (i).

iii) The Fourier transform of  $f$  is obtained by term-by-term application of (13), (14), or (6).

Proof. Part (iii) follows from the fact that the Fourier transform is continuous in the weak topology of distributions. Part (i) follows, for  $\text{Re}(\lambda) > -\nu$ , from Lemma 2 and the last paragraph of § 2. If  $\text{Re}(\lambda) \leq -\nu$ , then a trivial check shows that  $f^\wedge$  is homogeneous of degree  $-\lambda-\nu$ ; and  $\text{Re}(-\lambda-\nu) \geq 0$ , so  $f^\wedge$  may be expanded as in (i). Applying the inverse Fourier transform term-by-term yields the expansion for  $f$ .

An immediate consequence is

Corollary 1. Any distribution homogeneous of degree  $\lambda$ ,  $\lambda \neq -\nu-N$ , has the form  $r^\lambda F$ , where  $F$  is in  $D'(\Omega)$ . If  $\lambda = -\nu-N$ , then  $f = P_N(\partial/\partial x) \delta + r^{-\nu-N} F$ , where  $F$  is orthogonal to all  $S_m$  with  $m=N, N-2, \dots$ .

We say that a distribution  $F$  in  $D'(\Omega)$  corresponds to a distribution  $f_\lambda = r^\lambda F$  in  $S'(R_\nu)$  if and only if, for each  $\varphi$  vanishing in a neighbourhood of the origin,  $\langle f, \varphi \rangle = \int_0^\infty r^{\lambda+\nu-1} \langle F, \varphi_r \rangle dr$ . Thus if  $\lambda = -\nu-N$ , the  $f_\lambda$  above is not uniquely determined by  $F$ .

Corollary 2. For each  $F$  in  $D'(\Omega)$ , and for  $\lambda \neq -\nu-N$ , there is a corresponding unique distribution  $f_\lambda = r^\lambda F$ .

If  $\lambda = -\nu - N$ , there is a corresponding  $f_\lambda$  if and only if  $\langle F, S_{mn} \rangle = 0$  for  $m=N, N-2, \dots$ .

Proof. Let  $F = \sum b_{mn} S_{mn}$ . If  $\lambda \neq -\nu - N$ , then  $f_\lambda$  is uniquely determined as  $f_\lambda = \sum \sum b_{mn} r^\lambda S_{mn}$ . If  $\lambda = -\nu - N$ , and  $f_{-\nu - N}$  corresponds to  $F$ , we can expand  $f_{-\nu - N} =$

$$\sum^* \sum c_{mn} r^{-\nu - N} S_{mn} + P_N(\partial/\partial x) \delta.$$

Applying  $f_{-\nu - N}$  to  $A_\lambda S_{mn}$  we find that  $c_{mn} = b_{mn}$  for all  $m, n$ , and that  $b_{mn}$  vanishes for those  $m$  not occurring in  $\Sigma^*$ . The polynomial  $P_N$  is thus arbitrary, and the rest determined by  $F$ .

It is easy to show that, when it exists,  $r^\lambda \circ F$  is the analytic extension of  $r^\lambda F$  from  $\text{Re}(\lambda) > -\nu$ .

Applying Corollary 2 to regular (integrable) distributions in  $D'(\Omega)$ , we have

Corollary 3. If  $f$  is a function homogeneous of degree  $\lambda$  and locally integrable in  $|x| \geq 1$ , and  $\lambda \neq -\nu - N$ , then  $f$  corresponds to a unique distribution homogeneous of degree  $\lambda$ .  
If  $\lambda = -\nu - N$ , then  $f$  corresponds to a distribution homogeneous of degree  $\lambda$  if and only if  $\int_\Omega f(\omega) S_{mn}(\omega) d\Omega$  for all   
 $m=N, N-2, \dots \geq 0$ .

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