

Given a sequence $u_n \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$, we say that u_n converges to $u \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$ if for any $\phi \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$

$$u_n(\phi) \rightarrow u(\phi)$$

in \mathbb{C} . The goal of this exercise sheet is to compute the Fourier Transform of the step function H . In the following, given a function u , we will not distinguish between it and the associated distribution T_u ;

Exercise 1

Define the distribution $\text{pv}(\frac{1}{x})$ as

$$\text{pv}(\frac{1}{x})(\phi) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{|x| > \epsilon} \frac{\phi(x)}{x} dx.$$

- Show that the formula is well defined, by proving that

$$\text{pv}(\frac{1}{x})(\phi) = \int_{|x| > 1} \frac{\phi(x)}{x} dx + \int_{|x| < 1} \frac{\phi(x) - \phi(0)}{x} dx;$$

- Show that $\text{pv}(\frac{1}{x})$ lies in $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$ (i.e. it is continuous), by proving the inequality

$$|\text{pv}(\frac{1}{x})(\phi)| \leq 2\|\phi'\|_{L^\infty} + \|x\phi\|_{L^\infty};$$

- Show that

$$\partial \log |x| = \text{pv}(\frac{1}{x})$$

as a tempered distribution. You do not need to prove that $T_{\log|x|}$ is a tempered distribution. You want to integrate by parts, but be careful about the boundaries.

Exercise 2

- Show that

$$\frac{1}{2} \log(x^2 + \epsilon^2) \xrightarrow{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \log |x| \text{ in } \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R});$$

- Use the point above to show that

$$\frac{x}{x^2 + \epsilon^2} \xrightarrow{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \text{pv}(\frac{1}{x}) \text{ in } \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}).$$

Exercise 3

Recall the Heaviside step function defined as

$$H(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x > 0 \\ 0 & x \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

- Show that

$$e^{-\epsilon x} H \xrightarrow{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} H \text{ in } \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R});$$

- Show that

$$\mathcal{F}(e^{-\epsilon x} H) = \frac{\epsilon}{\omega^2 + \epsilon^2} - i \frac{\omega}{\omega^2 + \epsilon^2}.$$

Exercise 4 (Hard)

Show that

$$\frac{\epsilon}{x^2 + \epsilon^2} \rightarrow \pi \delta \text{ in } \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R});$$

Hint: fix an arbitrary $\sigma > 0$ (different than ϵ !) and split

$$\int \frac{\epsilon \phi(x)}{x^2 + \epsilon^2} dx = \int_{|x| < \sigma} \frac{\epsilon \phi(x)}{x^2 + \epsilon^2} dx + \int_{|x| > \sigma} \frac{\epsilon \phi(x)}{x^2 + \epsilon^2} dx$$

then send $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$.

Exercise 5

Conclude that

$$\mathcal{F}H = \pi \delta - i \text{pv}\left(\frac{1}{\omega}\right).$$