

• Distribution: It is a linear, continuous functional on  $D$ .

$T: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  s.t.

•  $T$  is finite

•  $T$  is linear

$\forall \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}, \forall \varphi, \psi \in D$

$$T(\alpha\varphi + \beta\psi) = \alpha T(\varphi) + \beta T(\psi)$$

•  $T$  is continuous:

16/12/2025. if  $T$  changes little, the output changes little.

$\forall \varphi \in D: \text{supp } \varphi \subseteq [a, b]$

$$|T(\varphi)| \leq C \sum_{i=0}^k \max_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \left| \frac{\partial^i \varphi(x)}{\partial x^i} \right|$$



for each  $[a, b] \subset \mathbb{R}$  there exist  $C > 0$  and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  s.t.  $\int_a^b |f(x)| dx \leq C$

Note:  $T(\varphi) = \langle T, \varphi \rangle$

### 7.3 Examples

Example 1: let  $f$  be any integrable over  $\mathbb{R}$ .

$$f \in L_1(\mathbb{R}), \text{ i.e., } \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |f(x)| dx < \infty.$$

$$T_f(\varphi) = \langle T\varphi, \varphi \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) \varphi(x) dx \quad \text{is a distribution.}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi \in \mathcal{D} \\ \text{supp } \varphi \subseteq [a, b] \end{aligned} \quad = \int_a^b f(x) \varphi(x) dx$$

•  $\langle f, \varphi \rangle$  is finite.

•  $\langle f, \varphi \rangle$  is linear.

$$\begin{aligned}\langle f, \alpha\varphi + \beta\psi \rangle &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\alpha\varphi + \beta\psi) f \, dx \\ &= \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi(x) f(x) \, dx + \beta \int_{\mathbb{R}} \psi(x) f(x) \, dx. \\ &= \alpha \langle f, \varphi \rangle + \beta \langle f, \psi \rangle.\end{aligned}$$

Note: by abuse of notation  $\langle f, \varphi \rangle = \langle Tf, \varphi \rangle$ .

•  $\langle Tf, \varphi \rangle$  is continuous.

$$|\langle Tf, \varphi \rangle| = \left| \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(x) \varphi(x) \, dx \right| \leq \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |f(x)| \, dx \max_{x \in \mathbb{R}} |\varphi(x)|$$

$\swarrow$   $k=0$

$\wedge$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |f(x) \varphi(x)| \, dx \leq \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |f(x)| |\varphi(x)| \, dx$$

Distributions that derive from integrable functions are called regular distributions.

Example 2: Dirac-Delta

$\delta_0: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is distribution.  
 $\varphi \mapsto \varphi(0)$

- it is finite  $|\varphi(0)| < \infty$
- it is linear.

$$\delta_0(\alpha\varphi + \beta\psi) = \alpha\varphi(0) + \beta\psi(0) = \alpha\delta_0(\varphi) + \beta\delta_0(\psi)$$

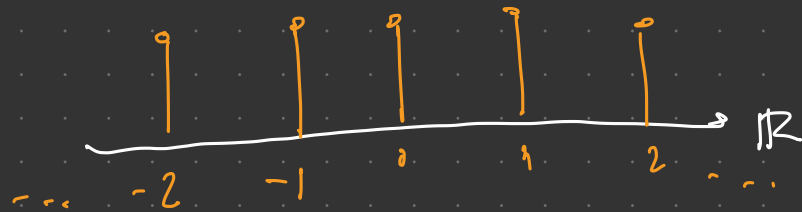
• it is continuous.  $\forall \varphi \in \mathcal{D}$

$$|\delta_0(\varphi)| = |\varphi(0)| \leq \max_{x \in \mathbb{R}} |\varphi(x)|$$

*(Note: A green arrow points from  $C=1$  to the coefficient 1 in the inequality, and another green arrow points from  $k=0$  to the argument 0 in  $\varphi(0)$ .)*

Example 3: Dirac comb.

$$\Delta_1(\varphi) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \varphi(n)$$



• finite

supp  $\varphi \subseteq [a, b]$  is bounded.

$$\Delta_1(\varphi) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \varphi(n) = \sum_{n \in [a, b]} \varphi(n) < \infty$$

there is a finite number of  $n \in [a, b]$

• linear

$$\Delta_1(\alpha\varphi + \beta\psi) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} (\alpha\varphi(n) + \beta\psi(n))$$

$$= \alpha \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \varphi(n) + \beta \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \psi(n) = \alpha \Delta_1(\varphi) + \beta \Delta_1(\psi)$$

• continuous.

$$|\Delta_1(\varphi)| = \left| \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \varphi(n) \right| = \left| \sum_{\substack{n \in \mathbb{Z} \\ n \in [a, b]}} \varphi(n) \right|$$

$$\leq \sum_{\substack{n \in \mathbb{Z} \\ n \in [a, b]}} |\varphi(n)| \leq \underbrace{M}_C \max_{x \in \mathbb{R}} |\varphi(x)| \quad \uparrow \quad \varphi=0.$$

$\uparrow$   
M term

$\uparrow$   
 $\infty$

Example 4:

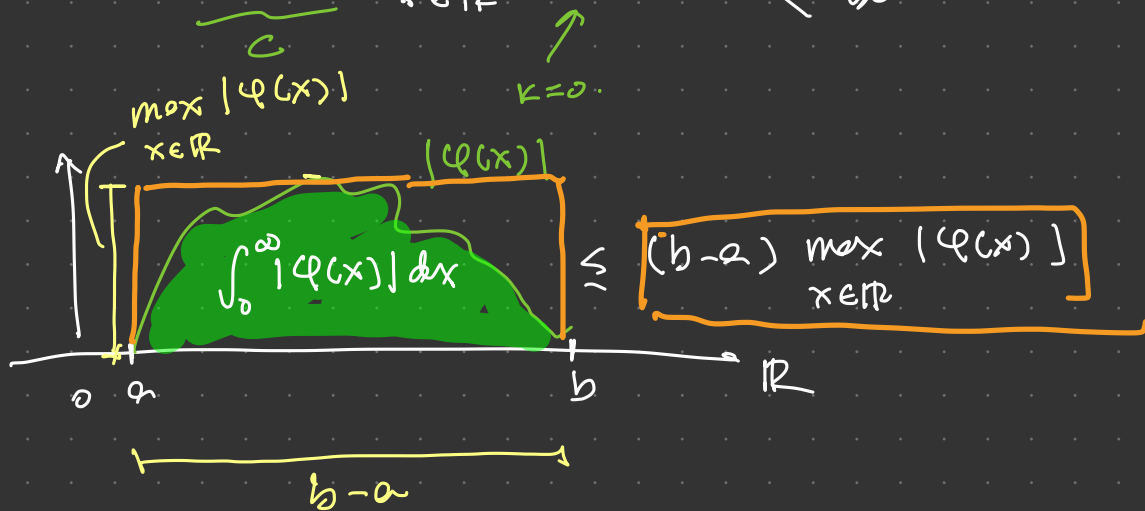
$$\langle T, \varphi \rangle = \int_0^{\infty} \varphi(x) dx$$

• finite  $|\langle T, \varphi \rangle| = \left| \int_0^{\infty} \varphi(x) dx \right| \leq \int_0^{\infty} |\varphi(x)| dx$

$$\leq (b-a) \max_{x \in \mathbb{R}} |\varphi(x)|$$

bounded and continuous.

Note



• linear.

$$\langle T, \alpha \varphi + \beta \psi \rangle = \alpha \int_0^{\infty} \varphi(x) dx + \beta \int_0^{\infty} \psi(x) dx = \alpha \langle T, \varphi \rangle + \beta \langle T, \psi \rangle$$

## 7.4 Derivatives of distributions

Let  $f \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$  and  $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}$  with  $\text{supp } \varphi \subseteq [a, b]$ . Then

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f'(x) \varphi(x) dx = \int_a^b f'(x) \varphi(x) dx + \underbrace{\int_{-\infty}^a f'(x) \varphi(x) dx + \int_b^{+\infty} f'(x) \varphi(x) dx}_{=0}$$

$$= \underbrace{f(b)\varphi(b)}_{=0} - \underbrace{f(a)\varphi(a)}_{=0} - \int_a^b f(x) \varphi'(x) dx$$

integrate  
by parts ↗

$$= - \int_a^b f(x) \varphi'(x) dx = - \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(x) \varphi'(x) dx = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f'(x) \varphi(x) dx$$

Inspired by this idea, for

$$\langle T_{f'}, \varphi \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f'(x) \varphi(x) dx = - \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(x) \varphi'(x) dx = - \langle T_f, \varphi' \rangle$$

this is the distributional derivative

Example 1: let  $f \in C^1(\mathbb{R})$ , then  $T_f$  is a distribution and its distributional derivative is just its regular derivative

Example 2:

$$\text{let } T: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ \varphi \mapsto \int_0^{\infty} \varphi(x) dx$$

fundamental theorem of calculus

$$\langle T', \varphi \rangle = -\langle T, \varphi' \rangle = -\int_0^{\infty} \varphi'(x) dx = \varphi(0) - \underbrace{\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \varphi(x)}_{=0}$$

Note:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \varphi(x) = 0$  because

Supp  $\varphi$  is bounded.

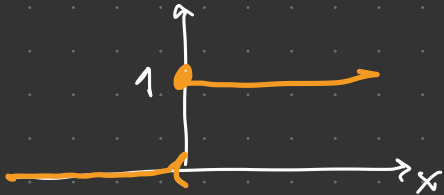
$$= \varphi(0) = \delta_0(\varphi)$$

$$= \langle \delta_0, \varphi \rangle$$

$$\langle T, \varphi \rangle = \int_0^{\infty} \varphi(x) dx = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} H(x) \varphi(x) dx$$

$$H(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x < 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\langle T', \varphi \rangle = \langle \delta_0, \varphi \rangle.$$



$$\langle T_H, \varphi \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} H(x) \varphi(x) dx$$

$$\langle T_H', \varphi \rangle = \langle \delta_0, \varphi \rangle.$$

Example 3:

$$T: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\varphi \mapsto \int_0^1 \varphi(x) dx.$$

$$\langle T', \varphi \rangle = - \langle T, \varphi' \rangle = - \int_0^1 \varphi'(x) dx = \varphi(0) - \varphi(1)$$

$$= \langle \delta_0, \varphi \rangle - \langle \delta_1, \varphi \rangle$$

↑  
connected  
after lecture

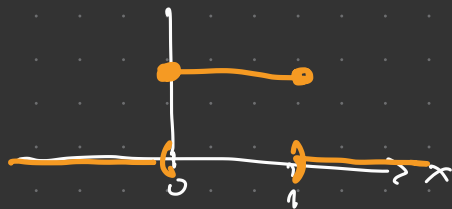
Another perspective

$$T: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

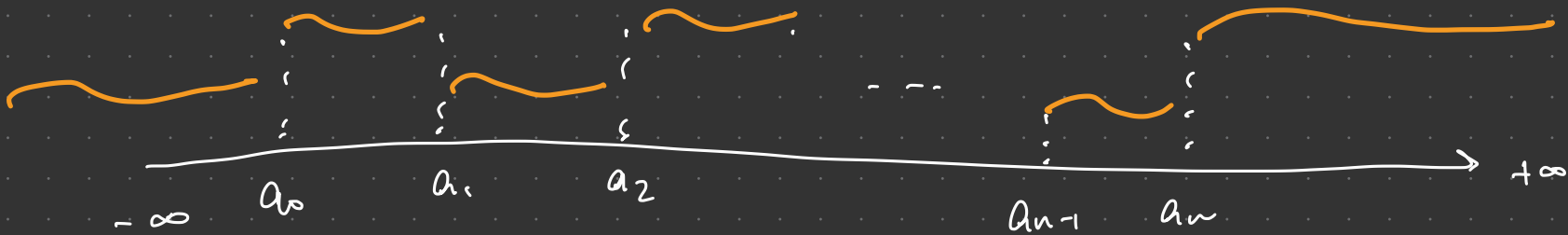
$$\varphi \mapsto \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} g(x) \varphi(x) dx,$$

$$= \int_0^1 \varphi(x) dx.$$

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x < 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$



Example 4: Let  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is piecewise defined and differentiable over the segments  $(-\infty, a_0)$ ,  $(a_0, a_1)$ ,  $(a_1, a_2)$  ...  $(a_{n-1}, a_n)$ ,  $(a_n, \infty)$



$$\langle T_f, \varphi \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(x) \varphi(x) dx.$$

$$\langle T_{f'}, \varphi \rangle = - \langle T_f, \varphi' \rangle = - \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(x) \varphi'(x) dx$$

$$= - \int_{-\infty}^{a_0} f(x) \varphi'(x) dx - \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{a_{i-1}}^{a_i} f(x) \varphi'(x) dx - \int_{a_n}^{+\infty} f(x) \varphi'(x) dx.$$

$$= -f(a_0-0)\varphi(a_0) + \int_{-\infty}^{a_0} f'(x)\varphi(x)dx + \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x)\varphi(x)$$

by parts  $\nearrow$

$$f(a_0+0) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$$

$$f(a_0-0) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x)$$

$$- \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ f(a_i-0)\varphi(a_i) - f(a_{i-1}+0)\varphi(a_{i-1}) - \int_{a_{i-1}}^{a_i} f'(x)\varphi(x)dx \right]$$

in green,  
corrections after  
lecture

$$+ f(a_n+0)\varphi(a_n) + \int_{a_n}^{\infty} f'(x)\varphi(x)dx.$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{a_0} f'(x)\varphi(x)dx + \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{a_{i-1}}^{a_i} f'(x)\varphi(x)dx + \int_{a_n}^{+\infty} f'(x)\varphi(x)dx$$

$$+ \sum_{i=0}^n \varphi(a_i) \left[ f(a_i+0) - f(a_i-0) \right]$$

jump of  $f$  at  $a_i$

Remark: if  $f$  is piecewise continuous: all the jumps are zero.

$$\langle f', \varphi \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{a_0} f'(x) \varphi(x) dx + \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{a_{i-1}}^{a_i} f'(x) \varphi(x) dx + \int_{a_n}^{\infty} f'(x) \varphi(x) dx$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f'(x) \varphi(x) dx.$$

$f \notin C^1(\mathbb{R})$

only piecewise.

This function  $f'$  is called weak derivative of  $f$ .

Classical derivatives  
Analyse I, II ...

$\subseteq$

weak derivatives  
(piecewise derivatives  
of continuous  
differentiable  
piecewise fns)

$\subseteq$

distributional  
derivatives.

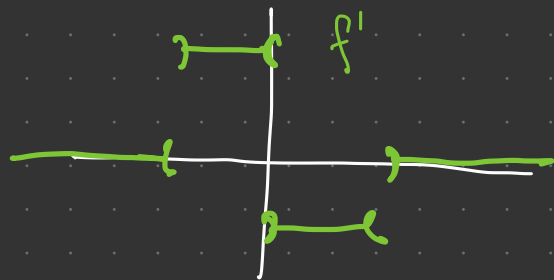
Example 5

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < -1 \\ x+1 & -1 \leq x \leq 0 \\ -x+1 & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0 & 1 < x \end{cases}$$



$$\langle T_{f'}, \varphi \rangle =$$

$$f'(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < -1 \\ 1 & -1 \leq x \leq 0 \\ -1 & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0 & 1 < x \end{cases}$$



$$\langle T_{f''}, \varphi \rangle = - \langle T_{f'}, \varphi' \rangle$$

$$= - \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f'(x) \varphi'(x) dx = \dots = \delta_{-1}(\varphi) - 2\delta_0(\varphi) + \delta_1(\varphi)$$

