

# Generalized Asymptotics and Applications

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# Introduction

- ‘Generalized asymptotics’ refers to asymptotic analysis on spaces of generalized functions
- I will focus on spaces of Schwartz distributions (in one dimension)
- Asymptotic notions lead to pointwise regularity for distributions

# Outline

- 1 Two asymptotic notions for distributions
  - Quasiasymptotics
  - The  $S$ -asymptotic behavior
- 2 Pointwise Fourier Inversion Formula
  - The structure of quasiasymptotics of degree  $-1$
  - Pointwise inversion formula
- 3 A distributional proof of the Prime Number Theorem
  - Preliminaries
  - A special distribution
  - Proof

# Notation

## from distribution theory

- $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R})$  and  $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$  denote the spaces of smooth compactly supported functions and smooth rapidly decreasing functions
- $\mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R})$  and  $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$  the spaces of distributions and tempered distributions
- The Fourier transform in  $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$  is defined as

$$\widehat{\phi}(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(t) e^{ixt} dt$$

- The evaluation of  $f$  at a test function  $\phi$  is denoted by

$$\langle f(x), \phi(x) \rangle$$

# Quasiasymptotics

The idea is to study the **weak** asymptotic behavior of the dilates of  $f$ . So we look for asymptotic representations

$$f(\lambda x) \sim \rho(\lambda)g(x).$$

## Definition

We say that  $f \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R})$  has **quasiasymptotic behavior** in  $\mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R})$  with respect to  $\rho$  if for some  $g \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R})$  and every  $\phi \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R})$ ,

$$\lim \left\langle \frac{f(\lambda x)}{\rho(\lambda)}, \phi(x) \right\rangle = \langle g(x), \phi(x) \rangle.$$

In such a case one writes  $f(\lambda x) = \rho(\lambda)g(x) + o(\rho(\lambda))$  in  $\mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R})$ .

Łojasiewicz (1957) defined the value of a distribution  $f \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R})$  at the point  $x_0$  as the limit

$$\gamma = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} f(x_0 + \varepsilon x),$$

if the limit exists in  $\mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R})$ . We use the **notation**  $f(x_0) = \gamma$ , distributionally.

It is an average notion:

### Theorem

(Łojasiewicz structural theorem, 1957)  $f(x_0) = \gamma$ , distributionally, if and only if there exist  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  a continuous  $k$ -primitive  $F$  of  $f$  (i.e.  $f = F^{(k)}$ ) such that  $F$  is continuous near  $x_0$  and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{k! F(x)}{(x - x_0)^k} = \gamma.$$

# $S$ -asymptotics

For the  $S$ -asymptotic, we look at the translates of the distribution.

## Definition

We say that  $f \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R})$  has  $S$ -asymptotic with respect to a function  $\rho$  if there exists  $g \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R})$  such that

$$f(x + h) \sim \rho(h)g(x) \quad \text{as } h \rightarrow \infty \text{ in } \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}).$$

# Pointwise Fourier inversion formula

The relationship between the value of a function at a point and the convergence or summability of its Fourier transform (or series) is an old problem. The question even makes sense for tempered distributions.

## Questions:

- If a tempered distribution has a value at a point, can it be recovered by its Fourier transform?
- Specifically, is it possible to give pointwise sense to

$$f(x_0) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}(t) e^{-itx_0} dt, \quad \text{for } f \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})?$$

- Is it possible to characterize the existence of point values by certain type of summability of the Fourier transform?

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# Point values and the Fourier transform

(quasi)asymptotic behavior of the Fourier transform

Suppose that  $f(x_0) = \gamma$  in  $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$ . Then,

$$f(x_0 + \varepsilon x) = \gamma + o(1) \Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{2\pi} e^{-i\lambda x_0 x} \hat{f}(\lambda x) = \frac{\gamma \delta(x)}{\lambda} + o\left(\frac{1}{\lambda}\right)$$

Thus, one is led to study the quasiasymptotic behavior

$$g(\lambda x) = \frac{\gamma \delta(x)}{\lambda} + o\left(\frac{1}{\lambda}\right), \quad \lambda \rightarrow \infty$$

in the space  $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$ .

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# Structure of $g(\lambda x) = \lambda^{-1} \gamma \delta(x) + o(\lambda^{-1})$

## Definition

Let  $h \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R})$ , we say that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} h(x) = \gamma \quad (\mathbb{C}, k)$ , if  $\exists F$ , continuous, such that  $h = F^{(k)}$  and  $F(x) \sim \frac{\lambda x^k}{k!}$ .

## Theorem

Let  $g \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$ . It has the behavior

$$g(\lambda x) = \frac{\gamma \delta(x)}{\lambda} + o\left(\frac{1}{\lambda}\right) \quad \text{as } \lambda \rightarrow \infty \text{ in } \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}),$$

if and only if  $\exists k$  such that for a primitive  $G$  of  $g$  ( $G' = g$ ),

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (G(ax) - G(-x)) = \gamma \quad (\mathbb{C}, k), \quad \text{for each } a > 0.$$

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# Consequences

## Corollary

Let  $f \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$ , suppose that  $\widehat{f} \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R})$ . Then,  $f(x_0) = \gamma$ , distributionally, if and only if  $\exists k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-x}^{ax} \widehat{f}(x) e^{-ix_0 x} dx = \gamma \quad (\mathbb{C}, k), \quad \text{for each } a > 0.$$

## Corollary

Let  $f(x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} c_n e^{inx}$  be a  $2\pi$ -periodic distribution. Then,  $f(x_0) = \gamma$ , distributionally, if and only if  $\exists k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

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# Pointwise Fourier inversion for tempered distributions

## Definition

Let  $g \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $\phi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ , and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . We say that e.v.  $\langle f(x), \phi(x) \rangle = \gamma \quad (\mathbb{C}, k)$  if for a primitive  $G_\phi$  of  $\phi g$ ,

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# The prime number theorem

I will present a **distributional** proof of the Prime Number Theorem

$$\pi(x) \sim \frac{x}{\log x}, \quad x \rightarrow \infty,$$

where

$$\pi(x) = \sum_{p \text{ prime}, p < x} 1.$$

The proof is based on:

- Chebyshev's elementary estimate
- The non-vanishing of the Riemann zeta function on  $\Re z = 1$
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# Preliminaries

## Some well known facts

- $\zeta(z)$  denotes the Riemann zeta function
  - $\zeta(z) - (1/(z - 1))$  continues beyond  $\Re z = 1$
  - $\zeta(1 + ix)$ ,  $x \neq 0$ , is free of zeros

- von Mangoldt function:  $\Lambda(n) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } n = 1 \\ \log p, & \text{if } n = p^m \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

- Chebyshev function:  $\psi(x) = \sum_{n < x} \Lambda(n)$

- The PNT is equivalent to  $\psi(x) \sim x$
- Chebyshev's elementary **estimate**:  $\exists M > 0$  such that  $\psi(x) < Mx$

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# The distribution $v(x)$

We shall study the (S-)asymptotic properties of the distribution

$$v(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\Lambda(n)}{n} \delta(x - \log n) .$$

clearly  $v \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$ . Let us take the Fourier-Laplace transform of  $v$ , that is, for  $\Im z > 0$

$$\langle v(t), e^{izt} \rangle = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\Lambda(n)}{n^{1-iz}} = -\frac{\zeta'(1-iz)}{\zeta(1-iz)} ,$$

a formula that Riemann obtained by logarithmic differentiation of the Euler product for the zeta function. Then,

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# Properties of $v(x)$ to be used

It follows from the properties of  $\zeta$  that the distributional **boundary** value of  $\hat{v}(z) - \frac{i}{z}$  is a function, i.e.,

- $\hat{v}(x) - \frac{i}{(x+i0)} \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R})$

In addition, we will make use of Chebyshev's estimate:

- $\psi(x) < Mx$

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# The plan

## Steps

- 1 To show that

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow \infty} v(x+h) = 1, \quad \text{in } \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$$

- 2 To show that

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \psi'(\lambda x) = \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \Lambda(n) \delta(\lambda x - n) = H(x), \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(0, \infty)$$

- 3 Final step, Step 2 is used to conclude

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Step 1

- First,  $v(x+h) = O(1)$  in  $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$ , as  $h \rightarrow \infty$

**Proof.**

Set  $g(x) = e^{-x}\psi(e^x)$ , by Chebyshev estimate  $g(x+h) = O(1)$  in  $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$ . Next,  $g'(x+h) = O(1)$ , but  $g'(x) = -g(x) + e^{-x} \sum \Lambda(n)\delta(x - \log n) = -g(x) + v(x)$ .  $\square$

- Second,  $\lim_{h \rightarrow \infty} \langle v(x+h), \phi(x) \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(x) dx$ , for  $\phi$  in a dense subspace of  $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$

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$\lim_{h \rightarrow \infty} v(x+h) = 1$  in  $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$

Step 1 (continuation)

Proof.

Let  $\phi = \widehat{\phi}_1$  with  $\text{supp } \phi_1$  compact.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle v(x+h), \phi(x) \rangle &= \int_{-h}^{\infty} \phi(x) dx + \left\langle v(x+h) - H(x+h), \widehat{\phi}_1(x) \right\rangle \\ &= \int_{-h}^{\infty} \phi(x) dx + \left\langle \widehat{v}(x) - \frac{i}{(x+i0)}, e^{-ihx} \phi_1(x) \right\rangle \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(x) dx + o(1), \quad h \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned}$$



- Banach-Steinhaus theorem immediately gives the result

$\lim_{h \rightarrow \infty} v(x+h) = 1$  in  $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$

Step 1 (continuation)

Proof.

Let  $\phi = \widehat{\phi}_1$  with  $\text{supp } \phi_1$  compact.

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- Banach-Steinhaus theorem immediately gives the result

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \psi'(\lambda x) = H(x), \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(0, \infty)$$

Step 2

Proof.

Step 2 implies that  $e^{x+h}v(x+h) \sim e^{x+h}$ , in  $\mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R})$ , explicitly,

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \Lambda(n) \phi(\log n - h) \sim e^h \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^x \phi(x) dx, \quad \forall \phi \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R})$$

Changing variable in the last integral and writing  $\lambda = e^h$ ,

$$\langle \psi'(\lambda x), \phi_1(x) \rangle = \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \Lambda(n) \phi_1\left(\frac{n}{\lambda}\right) \sim \int_0^{\infty} \phi_1(x) dx, \quad (1)$$

where  $\phi_1(x) = \phi(\log x)$ . Thus, (1) holds  $\forall \phi_1 \in \mathcal{D}(0, \infty)$ .  $\square$

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# Final Step: $\psi(x) \sim x$

## Proof

Formally,

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{n \leq \lambda} \Lambda(n) = \langle \psi'(\lambda x), \chi_{[0,1]}(x) \rangle .$$

We approximate  $\chi_{[0,1]}$  by elements of  $\mathcal{D}(0, \infty)$ .

- Let  $\varepsilon$  be an arbitrary small positive number
- Choose  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  with the properties:
  - $0 \leq \phi_1, \phi_2 \leq 1$
  - $\text{supp } \phi_1 \subseteq (0, 1]$ ,  $\phi_1(x) = 1$  on  $[\varepsilon, 1 - \varepsilon]$
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## Proof (continuation)

- Evaluating at  $\phi_2$  and using Chebyshev's estimate:

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{x < \lambda} \Lambda(n) &\leq \limsup_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{x < \varepsilon \lambda} \Lambda(n) + \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \Lambda(n) \phi_2 \left( \frac{n}{\lambda} \right) \right) \\ &\leq M\varepsilon + \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \langle \psi'(\lambda x), \phi_2(x) \rangle \\ &= M\varepsilon + \int_0^{1+\varepsilon} \phi_2(x) dx \leq 1 + \varepsilon(M + 1) \end{aligned}$$

- Likewise,  $1 - 2\varepsilon \leq \liminf_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{n < \lambda} \Lambda(n)$
- Therefore,  $\psi(\lambda) = \sum_{n < \lambda} \Lambda(n) \sim \lambda$

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