



# Mathematical analysis and implications of new definition of singular integral operator

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## Abstract

Let  $D$  be a connected bounded domain in  $R^2$ ,  $S$  be its boundary which is closed, connected and smooth or

$$S = (-\infty, \infty). \text{ Let } \Phi(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_S \frac{f(s)}{s-z} ds$$

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## 1. Introduction

Let  $D$  be a connected bounded domain on the complex plane,  $S$  be its boundary, which is closed and  $C^{1,\alpha}$ -smooth,  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$  or  $S = (-\infty, \infty)$ . The standard definition of the singular integral operator

$$Af = \frac{1}{i\pi} \int_S \frac{f(s) ds}{s-t} \quad \text{is:} \dots\dots\dots(1)$$

We assume that  $f \in L^1(S)$ . This is the basic new assumption: in the literature it was assumed that  $f \in H^\mu(S)$ , where  $H^\mu(S)$  is the space of Hölder-continuous functions, or  $f \in L^p(S)$ ,  $p > 1$ , see [2], [4]. In [1] there is a result for  $f \in L^1(S)$ , the existence of the limit (1) is proved, and the proof is far from simple. Our goal is to give a new definition of the operator  $A$ . This definition makes the proof of the existence of  $Af$  for  $f \in L^1(S)$  very simple. It is also of great interest to have a proof of the Sokhotsky formulas for  $f \in L^1(S)$ , see also [6].

### Definition 1

$$(Af, \varphi) = (f, A\varphi) \quad \forall \varphi \in H^\mu(S), 0 < \mu < 1 \dots\dots\dots (2)$$

Here  $(Af, \varphi) = \frac{1}{i\pi} \int_S \dots$

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**Lemma 1**

Formula (2) defines  $f \in L^1(S)$  uniquely.

Proof. Suppose that  $f_1, f_2 \in L^1(S)$  satisfy (2). Then  $q := f_1 - f_2$  satisfies the relation

$(q, A\varphi) = 0$  for all  $\varphi \in H_\mu(S)$ . It is known [2] that the set  $A\varphi | \forall \varphi \in H_\mu(S) = H_\mu(S)$  if  $0 < \mu < 1$ .

Therefore,  $q \in L^1(S)$  is orthogonal to the set  $H_\mu(S)$  dense in  $L^1(S)$ . Consequently,  $q = 0$  and

$f_1 = f_2$ . Lemma 1 is proved. Q

Let us check that the right side of formula (2) makes sense. This mathematical expression can be written as

$\int_S \int_S f(s)\varphi(t) ds dt$ . The integrand here is absolutely integrable over  $S \times S$ . Therefore, the order of integration can be changed and formula (2) makes sense.

There are other advantages of Definition 1. For example, it is easy to prove that the operator  $A$  is closed.

**Lemma 2**

The operator  $A$  in  $L^1(S)$  is closed.

Proof. One has to prove that the graph  $f, Af$  is a closed set in  $L^1(S) \times L^1(S)$ . Let  $f_n \rightarrow f$  and  $Af_n \rightarrow h$ , convergence in  $L^1(S)$ . Then, by Definition 1,  $(f_n, A\varphi) = (f, A\varphi) + (A\varphi, \varphi)$  and  $(Af_n, \varphi) = (h, \varphi)$ . Therefore,  $(A\varphi, \varphi) = (h, \varphi) - (f, A\varphi)$ . Since  $H_\mu(S)$  is dense in  $L^1(S)$ , it follows that  $Af = h$ . Thus,  $A$  is closed. Q

However,  $A$  is not continuous in  $L^1(S)$ .

**Example 1**

Let us show that there is an  $f \in L^1(S)$  such that  $Af \notin L^1(S)$ .

known formula, see [3]:  $F(s^{-1}) = \pi \operatorname{sgn}(\xi)$ , where  $\operatorname{sgn}(\xi) = 1$  if  $\xi > 0$ ,  $\operatorname{sgn}(\xi) = -1$  if  $\xi < 0$ ,  $\operatorname{sgn}(0) = 0$ . The Fourier transform of  $f \in L^1(S)$  is a continuous uniformly bounded function. Therefore,  $f \operatorname{sgn}(\xi)$  is not, in general, a continuous function at  $\xi = 0$ . Thus, if  $f \neq 0$ , then the function  $Af \notin L^1(S)$ .

**2. Other results**

- Consider the equation  $Af = h$ ,  $h \in L^1(S)$ . From Example 1 it follows that a necessary and sufficient condition for the solvability of this equation in  $L^1(S)$  is the condition  $h \sim 0$ . If this equation is solvable, then its solution is unique. Indeed, if  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  are solutions, then  $q = f_1 - f_2$  solves the equation  $Aq = 0$ . Taking its Fourier transform leads to the relation  $q \operatorname{sgn}(\xi) = 0$ . Therefore,  $q \sim 0$  for  $\xi \neq 0$ . Since  $q \in L^1(S)$ , it follows that  $q \sim 0$  so  $q = 0$  and  $f_1 = f_2$ . Q
- Let us prove the generalization of the Sokhotsky-Plemelj formulas to the case when

$$f \in L^1(S). \text{ Let } \Phi(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_S \frac{f(s) ds}{s-z}. \text{ Then}$$

$$\Phi(z) = f(t)v(z) + \psi(z), \quad \psi(z) := c \int_S \frac{f(s) - f(t)}{s-z} ds, \quad t \in S, \quad v(z) := c \int_S \frac{ds}{s-z}, \quad (3)$$

and

$$v(z) = \begin{cases} i, & z \in D, \\ 1, & z \in S, \\ 0, & z \in D^c. \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

One has

$$\Phi^+(t) = \lim_{z \rightarrow t, z \in D} \Phi(z) = f(t) + \psi^+(t) \quad (5)$$

where  $\psi^+(t) = \lim_{z \rightarrow t, z \in D} \psi(z)$  and

$$\Phi^-(t) = \lim_{z \rightarrow t, z \in D} \Phi(z) = \psi^-(t). \tag{6}$$

If  $t \in S$ , then one gets (see equation (4), the line  $z \in S$ ):

$$\Phi(t) = \frac{f(t)}{2} + \psi(t) := \frac{f(t)}{2} + c \int_S \frac{f(s) - f(t)}{s - t} ds. \tag{7}$$

The  $\psi(t)$  is the value of  $\psi(z)$  at  $z = t$ . The  $\psi(t)$  and  $\Phi(t)$  are understood as in Definition 1

If some equation holds almost everywhere with respect to the Lebesgue measure on  $S$ , then we write that this equation holds a.e.

From formulas (3)–(6) one derives:

$$\Phi_+(t) - \Phi_-(t) = f(t) + \psi_+(t) - \psi_-(t) \text{ a.e., } \Phi_+(t) + \Phi_-(t) = f(t) + \psi_+(t) + \psi_-(t) \text{ a.e.} \dots\dots\dots (8)$$

In Lemma 3 we prove that  $\psi_+(t) = \psi_-(t) = \psi(t)$  a.e. Therefore, formula (8) can be rewritten as:

$$\Phi_+(t) - \Phi_-(t) = f(t) \text{ a.e., } \Phi_+(t) + \Phi_-(t) = f(t) + 2\psi(t) \text{ a.e.} \dots\dots\dots (9)$$

From equation (9) it follows that

$$\Phi_{\pm}(t) = \Phi(t) \pm \frac{f(t)}{2}, \quad \Phi_-(t) = \Phi(t) - \frac{f(t)}{2}, \text{ a.e.} \tag{10}$$

where  $\Phi(t) = \psi(t)$ . Formulas (10) are the Sokhotsky-Plemelj formulas for  $f \in L^1(S)$ .

**Theorem 1**

For  $f \in L^1(S)$  formulas (10) hold.

To finish the proof of Theorem 1 it is sufficient to prove Lemma 3.

**Lemma 3.** If  $f \in L^1(S)$  and  $S$  is  $C^{1,\alpha}$ -smooth,  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$ , then

$$\psi_+(t) = \psi_-(t) = \psi(t) \text{ a.e.} \dots\dots\dots (11)$$

Before proving Lemma 3 we prove Lemma 4.

**Lemma 4**

One has

$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{s - t \pm iN\epsilon} = \frac{1}{s - t} + \pi\delta(s - t). \tag{12}$$

Proof. Formula (12) is understood according to Definition 1. Let  $f \in L^1(S)$ ,  $\varphi \in H\mu(S)$ ,  $N_t$  be a unit normal to  $S$  directed inside  $D$ . Then Furthermore,

$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_S \frac{d\varphi(t)}{s - t - iN_\epsilon} \frac{f(s)ds}{s - t - iN_\epsilon} := \int_S \frac{d\varphi(t)}{s - t - i0} \frac{f(s)ds}{s - t - i0}$$

Furthermore,

$$\int_S \frac{d\varphi(t)}{s - t - i0} \frac{f(s)ds}{s - t - i0} = \int_S \frac{d\varphi(t)}{s - t} \frac{f(s)ds}{s - t} + i\pi \int_S \varphi(t) f(t) dt, \quad \forall \varphi \in H^\mu(S), \quad (13)$$

and

$$\int_S \frac{d\varphi(t)}{s - t} \frac{f(s)ds}{s - t} = \int_S ds f(s) \int_S \frac{\varphi(t) dt}{s - t} \quad \forall \varphi \in H^\mu(S). \quad (14)$$

We have proved formula (12) according to Definition 1 with the minus sign. Similarly one proves this formula with the plus sign. Lemma 4 is proved. Q In [3], p. 83, there is a formula  $1 = 1 + i\pi\delta(x)$  understood in the sense of distributions.

$x-i0 \quad x$

The formula in Lemma 4 is of the similar type. The Sokhotsky-Plemelj formulas (10) were

derived in [2] and [5] under the assumption that  $f \in H^\mu(S)$ . Under such an assumption, these formulas hold everywhere, not almost everywhere.

### Proof of Lemma 3

By Definition 1 one has (neglecting 1 and denoting by integration

over  $S \times S$ ):

$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_S \frac{[f(s) - f(t)]\varphi(t)}{s - t \pm iN_\epsilon} ds dt = \int_S \frac{[f(s) - f(t)]\varphi(t)}{s - t} ds dt \pm i\pi \int_S \varphi(t) f(t) dt \quad (15)$$

where

$$J := \int_S \int_S [f(s) - f(t)]\varphi(t)\delta(s - t) ds dt = \int_S \int_S [f(s) - f(t)]\varphi(t)\delta(s - t) ds dt = 0. \quad (16)$$

For  $f \in H^\mu(S)$  formula (16) is trivial by the standard definition of the delta-function. For  $f \in$

for  $f \in L^1(S)$ . Lemma 3 is proved. Q

Let  $z \in D$ . The following question is of interest:

When is the boundary value  $\Phi_+(t)$  of  $\Phi(z)$  on  $S$  equal to  $f$  a.e.?

### Equation (10)

Yields a necessary and sufficient condition for this:

$$\Phi_+(t) = f(t) \text{ iff } \Phi(z) = 0, z \in D^- \text{ and } f(t) = \Phi(t) + f(t), \text{ or } f(t) = 1 \int_S f(s) ds \quad \text{a.e.}$$

If one wants to formulate a necessary and sufficient condition for  $f(s) \in L^1(S)$  to be boundary value of an analytic in  $D^-$ -function  $\Phi(z)$ ,  $\Phi(z) = 0$ , then an argument, similar to the above yields the following conditions:

$$f(t) = -\frac{1}{i\pi} \int_{s \neq t} \frac{f(s)}{s-t} ds \quad \text{a.e.} \quad (17)$$

If equation (17) holds, then  $\Phi_+(t) = 0$  and, consequently,  $\Phi(z) = 0$  if  $z \in D^+ = D$ .

#### Remark 1

If  $\Phi(t) = f(t)$  a.e.,  $f \in L^1(S)$ , then  $Af \in L^1(S)$ , where  $Af := \int f(s) ds$  a.e. If  $-\Phi_-(t) = f(t)$  a.e.,  $f \in L^1(S)$  and  $\Phi(\infty) = 0$ , then  $Af \in L^1(\text{Supp } S - t \in L^1(S))$ . Since for some  $f \in L^1(S)$  one does not have  $\Phi(z) = 0, z \in D^-$ , it follows that not every  $f \in L^1(S)$  is a boundary value of an analytic function in  $D$ .

### 3. Conclusion

A new definition of singular integral operator in  $L^1(S)$  is given. Sokhotsky-Plemelj formulas are derived for  $f \in L^1(S)$ . Other results are obtained.

### Compliance with ethical standards

#### Disclosure of conflict of interest

No conflict of interest to disclosed.

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