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# Generalised functions as linear functionals on generalized functions<sup>\*)</sup>

by

T.H. Koornwinder & J.J. Lodder<sup>\*\*)</sup>

## ABSTRACT

We give a sketch of a rigorous foundation for the model for a symmetrical theory of generalised functions introduced earlier by the second author. On starting with a suitable subspace  $PC$  of the space  $S'$  of tempered distributions, we introduce a space  $SGF$  of "new" generalised functions as a space of linear functionals on  $PC$ . Both on  $PC$  and  $SGF$  we have all the usual operations including a product. On  $PC$  this product operation is somewhat arbitrary but on  $SGF$  it is canonical and much nicer. Finally,  $PC$  and  $SGF$  are put together into a space  $GF$  of linear functionals on  $SGF$ .

KEY WORDS & PHRASES: *symmetrical theory of generalised functions; tempered distributions; products of generalised functions*

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## 1. Introduction

Distribution theory arose out of the need to give a rigorous foundation to objects such as the delta function, which were used before in a heuristic way. In order to apply Fourier techniques, the space  $S'$  of tempered distributions was introduced. When  $S'$  is compared with other spaces invariant under the Fourier transform like  $S$  or  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$  then some simple formal properties are missing in the theory of  $S'$  like a scalar product  $S' \times S' \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  or an ordinary product  $S' \times S' \rightarrow S'$ . These shortcomings are sometimes bothersome in applications of distribution theory in mathematics or physics.

In [7] a symmetrical theory of generalised functions was designed by the second author in order to combine the desirable features of distribution theory and  $L^2$ -theory. Here by "symmetrical" we mean that there is no longer a distinction between test functions and distributions, but that a scalar product exists on the space of generalised functions constructed in [7]. Applications of this theory to quantum electrodynamics were given in [8]. While the presentation of the theory in [7] was heuristic, here we give a sketch of

a rigorous approach. Proofs are omitted; these will appear in a later paper.

The construction proceeds in several steps. In order to show the similarities and differences with distribution theory the subspace  $SGF$  of "new" generalised functions is introduced as a space of linear functionals on a suitable subspace  $PC$  of  $S'$ , in such a way that it is closed under the usual operators. On  $PC$  we define a non-associative product following Keller [4], [5], [6]. (This was earlier done in [7], but there the point singularities remained unspecified because of indeterminacy.) On  $SGF$ , being a bidual of  $S$ , a canonical product is inherited from  $S$ . The formal properties of the product on  $SGF$  are much nicer than on  $PC$ . There is also a lot of arbitrariness in the choice of the product on  $PC$ . The paper concludes with a synthesis of  $PC$  and  $SGF$  into a space  $GF$  of linear functionals on  $SGF$ . The theory of the space  $GF$ , when viewed as its own dual, may be shown to coincide with the symmetrical theory of generalised functions in [7]. Throughout the paper, "distributions" will be understood in the sense of Schwartz.

## 2. The Preliminary Class $PC$

Let  $S$  be the space of rapidly decreasing  $C^\infty$ -functions on  $\mathbb{R}$ , equipped with the usual topology. Below we list a number of continuous linear endomorphisms of  $S$  by their action on elements  $\phi$  of  $S$ :

$$(2.1) \quad (D\phi)(x) := \frac{d\phi(x)}{dx},$$

$$(2.2) \quad (X\phi)(x) := x\phi(x),$$

$$(2.3) \quad (e^{aD}\phi)(x) := \phi(x+a), \quad a \in \mathbb{R},$$

$$(2.4) \quad (e^{ibX}\phi)(x) := e^{ibx}\phi(x), \quad b \in \mathbb{R},$$

$$(2.5) \quad (S_c\phi)(x) := \phi(cx), \quad c > 0,$$

$$(2.6) \quad (F\phi)(x) := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(\xi) e^{-i\xi x} d\xi,$$

$$(2.7) \quad (P\phi)(x) = \check{\phi}(x) := \phi(-x),$$

$$(2.8) \quad (M_\psi\phi)(x) = (\psi\phi)(x) := \psi(x)\phi(x), \quad \psi \in S,$$

$$(2.9) \quad (C_\psi\phi)(x) = (\psi*\phi)(x) := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi(y)\phi(x-y)dy, \quad \psi \in S.$$

In (2.3) and (2.4) the power series  $\sum_k a^k D^k \phi / k!$  and  $\sum_k (ib)^k \chi^k \phi / k!$  do not converge in  $S$  for all  $\phi$ , only on a dense subspace of analytic functions.

There are many well-known identities involving the operators defined above. Here we only mention:

$$(2.10) \quad DX - XD = I,$$

$$(2.11) \quad FD = iXF,$$

$$(2.12) \quad F^2 = 2\pi P,$$

$$(2.13) \quad F^{-1} = (2\pi)^{-1}PF,$$

$$(2.14) \quad F(\phi * \psi) = (F\phi)(F\psi),$$

$$(2.15) \quad D(\phi\psi) = (D\phi)\psi + \phi(D\psi).$$

Consider also the integration functional  $I$  and the evaluation functional  $E$ , both continuous on  $S$ :

$$(2.16) \quad I(\phi) := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(\xi) d\xi,$$

$$(2.17) \quad E(\phi) := \phi(0).$$

They satisfy

$$(2.18) \quad I(\phi) = E(F\phi),$$

$$(2.19) \quad I(\phi\psi) = I(F\phi)(F^{-1}\psi).$$

Let  $S'$  be the space of tempered distributions, i.e. of all continuous linear functionals on  $S$ . Generally, if  $V$  is a linear space and  $V'$  its dual space then we will write  $\langle f, \phi \rangle$  for the linear functional  $f \in V'$  evaluated at  $\phi \in V$ . There is an embedding  $S \rightarrow S'$  such that

$$(2.20) \quad \langle \psi, \phi \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi(x)\phi(x)dx, \quad \psi, \phi \in S.$$

If  $A$  is any of the operators defined by (2.1)-(2.9) then there is a unique continuous linear operator  $A': S \rightarrow S$  such that

$$(2.21) \quad \langle A\psi, \phi \rangle = \langle \psi, A'\phi \rangle, \quad \psi, \phi \in S,$$

and there is an extension of  $A$  to  $S'$  (also denoted by  $A$ ) such that

$$(2.22) \quad \langle Af, \phi \rangle = \langle f, A'\phi \rangle, \quad f \in S', \quad \phi \in S.$$

For  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $q \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  we define the element  $x_+^\alpha (\log x_+)^q$  of  $S'$  as a Hadamard finite part:

$$(2.23) \quad \langle x_+^\alpha (\log x_+)^q, \phi \rangle := \text{Res}_{\lambda=0} \lambda^{-1} AC \int_0^\infty \phi(x) x^{\alpha+\lambda} (\log x)^q dx,$$

where  $AC$  means analytic continuation and  $\text{Res}_{\lambda=0}$  the residue at  $\lambda = 0$ . Also:

$$(2.24) \quad x_-^\alpha (\log x_-)^q := P(x_+^\alpha (\log x_+)^q),$$

$$(2.25) \quad \langle \delta^{(k)}, \phi \rangle := (-1)^k (D^k \phi)(0) = (-1)^k E(D^k \phi), \quad k \in \mathbb{Z}_+.$$

The linear span of the elements  $x_\pm^\alpha (\log x_\pm)^q$  and  $\delta^{(k)}$  is invariant under  $D$ ,  $X$ ,  $S_c$ ,  $F$ ,  $P$  (see [3] for explicit formulas).

Let the preliminary class  $PC$  be the smallest linear subspace of  $S'$  which contains all elements  $x_\pm^\alpha (\log x_\pm)^q$  and  $\delta^{(k)}$  and which is invariant under the operators defined by (2.1)-(2.9). We will rather use the following equivalent characterization as a definition:

DEFINITION 2.1. The space  $PC$  consists of all finite linear combinations of the elements

$$(2.26) \quad e^{aD} \delta^{(k)} \quad (k \in \mathbb{Z}_+, a \in \mathbb{R}),$$

$$(2.27) \quad \phi e^{aD} x_\pm^\alpha (\log x_\pm)^k \quad (\alpha \in \mathbb{C}, k \in \mathbb{Z}_+, a \in \mathbb{R}, \phi \in S),$$

$$(2.28) \quad \phi * e^{ibX} x_\pm^\alpha (\log x_\pm)^k \quad (\alpha \in \mathbb{C}, k \in \mathbb{Z}_+, b \in \mathbb{R}, \phi \in S).$$

The class  $PC$  defined above is somewhat smaller than the preliminary class in [7]. This is done for convenience, but the results of this paper will remain valid with respect to the larger class.

More structure can be given to  $PC$  by using the spaces  $\mathcal{O}_M$  of multipliers for  $S$  and  $\mathcal{O}'_C$  of convolutors for  $\mathcal{P}$ , as introduced by Schwartz [9]:



$$(2.29) \quad \mathcal{O}_M := \{f \in S' \mid \phi f \in S \text{ for all } \phi \in S\},$$

$$(2.30) \quad \mathcal{O}_C' := \{f \in S' \mid \phi * f \in S \text{ for all } \phi \in S\}.$$

Note that all elements of  $\mathcal{O}_M$  are  $C^\infty$ -functions and that  $\mathcal{O}_M = F(\mathcal{O}_C')$ ,  $S \cdot S' \subset \mathcal{O}_C'$ ,  $S * S' \subset \mathcal{O}_M$ . If  $f \in \mathcal{O}_M$ ,  $g \in S'$  then we can define  $M_f g = fg \in S'$  by

$$(2.31) \quad \langle fg, \phi \rangle = \langle g, \phi f \rangle, \quad \phi \in S,$$

and if  $f \in \mathcal{O}_C'$ ,  $g \in S'$  then we define  $C_f g = f * g \in S'$  by

$$(2.32) \quad \langle f * g, \phi \rangle = \langle g, \phi * f \rangle, \quad \phi \in S.$$

Now let:

$$(2.33) \quad PC_M := PC \cap \mathcal{O}_M, \quad PC_C := PC \cap \mathcal{O}_C'.$$

PROPOSITION 2.2.  $PC = PC_M + PC_C$ ;  $PC_M \cap PC_C = S$ ;  $PC_M$  is the linear span of the elements given by (2.28);  $PC_C$  is the linear span of the elements given by (2.27).

Thus  $PC_C$  consists of piecewise  $C^\infty$ -functions on  $\mathbb{R}$  which only finitely many singularities around which they have a quite specific asymptotic behaviour apparent from (2.26), (2.27). Furthermore, as  $x \rightarrow \pm \infty$  they behave as rapidly decreasing  $C^\infty$ -functions. The space  $PC_M$  can be characterized in a different way as follows:

PROPOSITION 2.3.  $f \in PC_M$  if and only if  $f \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$  and, near  $\pm \infty$ ,  $f$  is a linear combination of functions

$$x \mapsto e^{ibx} |x|^\alpha (\log|x|)^k h_\pm(x),$$

where  $b \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  and  $h_\pm \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$  with asymptotic expansion of the form

$$(2.34) \quad h_\pm(x) \sim \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} c_{j,\pm} |x|^{-j}, \quad x \rightarrow \pm \infty.$$

Here (2.34) means that for all  $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  we have:

$$\left(\frac{d}{dx}\right)^m (h_{\pm}(x) - \sum_{j=0}^n c_{j,\pm} |x|^{-j}) = O(|x|^{-n-m-1}) \text{ as } x \rightarrow \pm \infty.$$

### 3. A Product on PC

If  $f \in PC_M$  then  $M_f$  sends both  $PC_M$  and  $PC_C$  into itself. If  $f \in PC_C$ ,  $g \in PC_M$  then we may define  $f.g$  as  $M_g f$ . However, it remains a problem to give a meaning to  $f.g$  if both  $f$  and  $g$  are in  $PC_C$  with common singular points. Similarly, we can ask for the meaning of  $f * g$  if  $f, g \in PC_M$ . There have been many attempts in literature to find a reasonable definition for the product of two distributions on suitable subclasses (see for instance the references in [5]). In our opinion, the best definition for our purposes has been given by Keller [4], [5], [6]. We will adapt his approach in order to define the product on  $PC$ .

The point of departure is an extension to  $PC$  of the evaluation functional  $E$ , defined on  $S$  by (2.17).

DEFINITION 3.1. An evaluation functional  $E$  is a linear functional on  $PC$  such that  $E(f)=f(0)$  if  $f \in PC$  and  $f$  is continuous at 0.

For each choice of  $E$  we can define an integration functional  $I$  on  $PC$  by

$$(3.1) \quad I(f) := E(Ff), \quad f \in PC.$$

Then  $I(f) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(\xi) d\xi$  if  $f \in PC \cap L^1(\mathbb{R})$ . Note that we can fix any evaluation functional  $E$  by an arbitrary choice for  $E(\delta^{(k)})$  ( $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ ),  $E(x_{\pm}^{\alpha} (\log x_{\pm})^q)$  ( $\operatorname{Re} \alpha \leq 0$ ,  $\alpha \neq 0$ ,  $q \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  or  $\alpha = 0$ ,  $0 < q \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ ),  $E(x \mapsto \operatorname{sign}(x))$ .

The following theorem is closely related to Keller's results, cf. Theorem 4.3 in part II of [6].

THEOREM 3.2. For each choice of  $E$  there is a unique bilinear mapping  $(f, g) \mapsto f.g: PC \times PC \rightarrow PC$  such that:

- (i)  $f.g = M_f g$  if  $f \in PC_M$ ,  $g \in PC$ ;
- (ii)  $f.(\phi g) = \phi(f.g)$  if  $\phi \in S$ ,  $f, g \in PC$  ((S)-semi-associativity);
- (iii)  $I(P(f.g)) = I(Ff.F^{-1}g)$  if  $f, g \in PC$  (Parseval formula).

This mapping has the additional properties:

- (iv) If  $f, g \in PC$  are continuous at  $x$  then  $f.g$  is continuous at  $x$  and  $(f.g)(x) = f(x)g(x)$ ;

- (v)  $D(f.g) = (Df).g + f.(Dg)$ ;  
 (vi) If  $f \in PC_M$ ,  $g \in PC$  then  $f.g = g.f = M_{fg}$ .

Now we can define a convolution product on  $PC$  (again depending on the choice of  $E$ ) by

$$(3.2) \quad f * g := F^{-1}(Ff.Fg), \quad f, g \in PC.$$

A large numbers of further remarks can be made:

- a) If  $f, g \in PC_C$  then  $f.g$  as a linear functional on  $S$  is given by

$$\langle f.g, \phi \rangle = I((Ff)(F^{-1}_{\phi} F^{-1}g)) = E(f * \phi g), \quad \phi \in S.$$

- b) If  $f, g, h \in PC$  and  $h(x) = f(x)g(x)$  at the common regular points  $x$  of  $f$  and  $g$  then  $f.g - h$  is a finite linear combination of elements  $e^{ad_{\delta}(k)}$ , where  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ ,  $a$  is a singular point of  $f$  or  $g$ . Thus, in order to evaluate  $f.g$  it is sufficient to compute the coefficients occurring in these finite linear combinations.
- c) If  $f, g \in PC$  are boundary values in the sense of  $S'$  of analytic functions  $F, G$ , respectively, on a strip  $\{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid 0 < \text{Im } z < b\}$  then  $f.g$  is the boundary value of  $FG$ . If  $f, g \in PC$  have support bounded away from  $-\infty$  then  $f * g$  as defined by (3.2) coincides with the usual convolution product for such distributions.
- d) Whatever the choice of  $E$  may be, the multiplication on  $PC$  can never be associative or commutative. For the nonassociativity this follows by the example in Schwartz [9]:

$$(\delta.x).x^{-1} = 0.x^{-1} = 0 \neq \delta = \delta.1 = \delta.(x.x^{-1}).$$

For the noncommutativity observe that

$$x^{-1}.\delta = -E(x^{-1})\delta \neq E(x^{-1})\delta - \delta' = \delta.x^{-1}.$$

We may always pass to a commutative algebra with new product

$$f \odot g := \frac{1}{4}(f.g + (\overset{\vee}{f}.\overset{\vee}{g})^{\vee} + g.f + (\overset{\vee}{g}.\overset{\vee}{f})^{\vee}),$$

which no longer satisfies property (ii) of Theorem 2.2. Note that  $f \circ g = \frac{1}{2}(f.g + g.f)$  if  $E(f) = E(g)$  for all  $f \in PC$ .

- e) The bilinear form  $(f, g) \mapsto I(f.g)$  on  $PC \times PC$  is nondegenerate for each choice of  $E$ . The Hermitian form

$$(f, g) \mapsto \frac{1}{2}(I(f.g^*) + I(g^*.f))$$

on  $PC \times PC$  can never be positive definite. Indeed, for real-valued  $\phi \in S$

$$I((\delta + \phi).(\delta + \phi)) = E(\delta) + 2\phi(0) + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(x)^2 dx$$

and, for given  $E$ ,  $\phi$  can always be chosen such that the right hand side is negative.

- f) There is no preferred choice of  $E$ . Indeed, starting with a given  $E$ , the evaluation functionals  $S'_C E$  and  $e^{ibX} E$  ( $c > 0$ ,  $b \in \mathbb{R}$ ) defined by

$$(S'_C E)(f) := E(S_C f), \quad f \in PC,$$

$$(e^{ibX} E)(f) := E(e^{ibX} f), \quad f \in PC,$$

also satisfy Definition 3.1 and we have

$$(S'_C E)(\log|x|) = E(\log|x|) + \log c,$$

$$(e^{ibX} E)(x^{-1}) = E(x^{-1}) + ib.$$

More generally, we may transform  $E$  by multiplication with a smooth function which equals 1 at 0 or by a smooth transformation of the independent variable which leaves 0 fixed. Still we can impose an important restriction on the freedom of choice for  $E$  such that this restriction is invariant under all the above-mentioned transformations of  $E$ , namely:

$$(3.3) \quad E(\delta^{(k)}) = 0 (k \in \mathbb{Z}_+) \text{ and } E(x_{\pm}^{\alpha, q}) = 0 (-\alpha \notin \mathbb{Z}_+, q \in \mathbb{Z}_+).$$

In particular this will imply that  $\delta^{(k)}.\delta^{(\ell)} = 0$  for all  $k, \ell \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ . From now on we will assume that (3.3) holds.

g) As pointed out by Keller [6], a particular nice choice for  $E$  is

$$(3.4) \quad E(f) := \operatorname{Res}_{\lambda=0} \lambda^{-1} \operatorname{AC} E(f * \frac{|x|^{\lambda-1}}{2\Gamma(\lambda)\cos\frac{1}{2}\pi\lambda}), \quad f \in PC_{\mathbb{C}},$$

which is equivalent to the choice for  $I$  made in [7]:

$$(3.5) \quad I(g) := \operatorname{Res}_{\lambda=0} \lambda^{-1} \operatorname{AC} I(|x|^{-\lambda}g), \quad g \in PC_{\mathbb{M}}.$$

Note that (3.5) is in the spirit of the Hadamard finite part (cf. (2.23)).

#### 4. A Canonical Product on the Dual of $PC$

In the previous section we introduced a far from canonical product on  $PC$ . However, by using a simple extension principle first observed by Arens [1], [2]<sup>\*</sup>) we can define a canonical associative product on a suitable space of linear functionals on  $PC$ .

Let  $V$  be an algebra over  $\mathbb{C}$ ,  $V'$  its algebraic linear dual space and  $V''$  its bidual. Then we can define bilinear mappings

$$(\phi, f) \mapsto \phi f: V \times V' \rightarrow V',$$

$$(F, f) \mapsto Ff: V'' \times V' \rightarrow V',$$

$$(F, G) \mapsto FG: V'' \times V'' \rightarrow V'' \text{ as follows:}$$

$$(4.1) \quad \langle \phi f, \psi \rangle = \langle f, \phi \psi \rangle, \quad f \in V', \quad \phi, \psi \in V,$$

$$(4.2) \quad \langle Ff, \psi \rangle = \langle F, f\psi \rangle, \quad F \in V'', \quad f \in V', \quad \psi \in V,$$

$$(4.3) \quad \langle FG, f \rangle = \langle F, Gf \rangle, \quad F, G \in V'', \quad f \in V'.$$

$V$  is naturally embedded in  $V''$  and the product on  $V''$  restricted to  $V$  gives back the original product on  $V$ . If the product on  $V$  is associative then the same holds on  $V''$ , but if the product on  $V$  is commutative then this is not necessarily true for the product on  $V''$  (cf. R. Arens [2]). Of course, the above construction remains true if  $V'$  is replaced by a subspace  $X$  of  $V'$  and  $V''$  by a subspace  $Y$  of  $V''$ , provided  $V \times X \subset X$ ,  $Y \times X \subset X$ ,  $Y \times Y \subset Y$ .

Let us apply this construction to the case that  $V = S$ ,  $X = PC$ . Then

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<sup>\*</sup>) We thank C.B. Huijsmans for providing us these references.

$(\phi, f) \mapsto \phi f: S \times PC \rightarrow PC$  coincides with the usual action of  $S$  on  $PC$ . If  $f \in PC$  then we can define an element  $F_f$  of  $PC'$  by

$$(4.4) \quad \langle F_f, g \rangle = I(f.g), \quad g \in PC.$$

Of course, the mapping  $f \mapsto F_f$  depends on the choice of  $E$ . Now it follows from (4.2) that

$$(4.5) \quad F_f g = f.g, \quad f, g \in PC,$$

and from (4.3) that  $F_f F_g$  ( $f.g \in PC$ ) is the element of  $PC'$  defined by

$$(4.6) \quad \langle F_f F_g, h \rangle = I(f.(g.h)), \quad h \in PC.$$

Thus, if  $f, g \in PC$  then

$$(4.7) \quad \langle F_f F_g - F_{f.g}, h \rangle = I(f.(g.h) - (f.g).h), \quad h \in PC.$$

The left hand side of (4.7) vanishes whenever  $f$  and  $g$  are regular on the support of  $h$ . In order to describe  $F_f F_g - F_{f.g}$  when acting on  $h$  with support on some of the singularities of  $f$  and  $g$  we have to introduce some further elements of  $PC'$ :  $\eta_{a,+}^{(\alpha,q)}, \eta_{a,-}^{(\alpha,q)}, \eta_{\infty,b}^{(\alpha,q)}, \eta_{-\infty,b}^{(\alpha,q)}$  ( $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}, q \in \mathbb{Z}_+, a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ ),  $\theta_a^{(k)}$  ( $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+, q \in \mathbb{R}$ ):

$$(4.8) \quad \langle \eta_{a,\pm}^{(\alpha,q)}, f \rangle := \text{coefficient of } e^{aD} x_{\pm}^{\alpha} (\log x_{\pm})^q \text{ in asymptotic series of } f \text{ as } \pm(x-a) \downarrow 0,$$

$$(4.9) \quad \langle \eta_{\pm\infty,b}^{(\alpha,q)}, f \rangle := \text{coefficient of } e^{-ibx} x_{\pm}^{\alpha} (\log x_{\pm})^q \text{ in asymptotic series of } f \text{ as } x \rightarrow \pm \infty,$$

$$(4.10) \quad \langle \theta_a^{(k)}, f \rangle := \text{coefficient of } \frac{(-1)^k}{k!} e^{aD} \delta^{(k)} \text{ in } f.$$

(The normalisation in (4.8), (4.9) is slightly different from the one in [7].) Now it is clear that  $F_f F_g - F_{f.g}$  is a (possibly infinite) linear combination of elements of  $PC'$  of the type (4.8), (4.9), (4.10).

If  $F \in PC'$  and  $A$  is one of the operators given by (2.1)-(2.9) then define  $AF \in PC'$  by

$$(4.11) \quad \langle AF, f \rangle := \langle F, A'f \rangle, \quad f \in PC,$$

where  $\langle A'f, \phi \rangle := \langle f, A\phi \rangle$  ( $f \in PC$ ,  $\phi \in S$ ).

DEFINITION 4.1. Let the space SGF of special generalised functions consist of all finite linear combinations of the elements

$$(4.12) \quad F_f (f \in PC)$$

$$(4.13) \quad \sum_{p,q=0}^{\infty} c_{p,q} \eta_{a,\pm}^{(\alpha-p,q)} \quad (c_{p,q} \in \mathbb{C}, a \in \mathbb{R}, \alpha \in \mathbb{C}),$$

$$(4.14) \quad \sum_{p,q=0}^{\infty} c_{p,q} \eta_{\pm\infty,b}^{(\alpha+p,q)} \quad (c_{p,q} \in \mathbb{C}, b \in \mathbb{R}, \alpha \in \mathbb{C}),$$

$$(4.15) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k \theta_q^{(k)} \quad (c_k \in \mathbb{C}, a \in \mathbb{R}).$$

Note that an infinite sum like (4.13), when tested against an element of  $PC$ , yields only finitely many nonzero terms.

THEOREM 4.2.

- a) SGF is invariant under the operators inherited from (2.1)-(2.9).
- b)  $SGF \times PC \subset PC$  with product defined by (4.2).
- c)  $SGF \times SGF \subset SGF$  with product defined by (4.3).
- d) The product on SGF is associative.

It might seem from Definition 4.1 that the definition of SGF depends on the choice of  $E$ . However, we can define another embedding  $f \mapsto G_f$  of  $PC$  in  $PC'$ , not depending on  $E$ , as follows. If  $f$  has no singularities on  $[a,b]$  except possibly at one interior point  $c$  then put

$$(4.16) \quad \langle G_f, g \rangle := \text{Res}_{\lambda=0} \lambda^{-1} AC \langle g, |x-c|^\lambda f \rangle,$$

whenever  $g \in PC$  with support inside  $[a,b]$ . (Note that  $\langle g, |x-c|^\lambda f \rangle$  is well-defined for  $\text{Re } \lambda$  sufficiently large because  $g$  is a distribution of finite order.) Similarly, if  $f$  has no singularities at finite points in  $[a,\infty)$  then put

$$(4.17) \quad \langle G_f, g \rangle := \text{Res}_{\lambda=0} \lambda^{-1} AC \langle g, |x|^{-\lambda} f \rangle$$

whenever  $g \in PC$  with support inside  $[a, \infty)$ . The definition of  $G_f$  as  $x \rightarrow -\infty$  is analogous to (4.17). Now, for each  $f \in PC$ ,  $F_f - G_f$  is a finite linear combination of elements of the form (4.13), (4.14), (4.15) and  $\langle F_f - G_f, h \rangle = 0$  if  $h \in PC$  with support outside the singularities of  $f$ .

Let the mapping  $F \rightarrow f_F$  of  $SGF$  onto  $PC$  be defined by

$$(4.18) \quad \langle f_F, \phi \rangle = \langle F, \phi \rangle, \quad \phi \in S,$$

where at the right hand side  $\phi$  is considered as an element of  $PC$ . This mapping sends both  $F_f$  and  $G_f$  back to  $f$  and it satisfies

$$(4.19) \quad f_{F_f F_g} = f \cdot g, \quad f \cdot g \in PC.$$

Summarizing, we see that  $SGF$  is a much nicer algebra than  $PC$ . The reason is that  $SGF$  has much more elements with point support ((4.13), (4.14), (4.15)) than  $PC$  (only (2.26)). These new elements admit enough freedom to carry information in order to have a product which is associative, behaves nicely under dilatation, and so on.

There is one final step to be made in order to get the full picture of [7]. In [7] the elements of  $PC$  and  $SGF$  live together in one bigger algebra of generalised functions which we denote here by  $GF$ . We might achieve this in our present approach by applying the construction of the beginning of this section once more, such that the algebra now equals  $PC$  with product obtained by a choice of  $E$ . Then we can realize both  $PC$  and  $SGF$  as subalgebras of the dual of  $SGF$ :  $PC$  by putting  $\langle f, F \rangle := \langle F, f \rangle$  if  $f \in PC$ ,  $F \in SGF$ , and  $SGF$  by putting  $\langle F, G \rangle := \langle FG, 1 \rangle$  if  $F, G \in SGF$ . The details, in particular a minimal choice of  $GF$  as a subspace of  $SGF'$ , have yet to be worked out.

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