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## SUMMATION OPERATORS AND 'EXPLICIT FORMULAS'

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**Abstract.** A general class of summation operators on  $L^2(\mathbf{A})$  is analyzed using the spectral theorem. As an example of number-theoretical interest, Weil's 'explicit formula' is used to reformulate the Riemann hypothesis in terms of tempered distributions.

### 1 - Introduction

In this paper, a simple theory is given for the operators of the form

$$\phi(x) \mapsto \sum_{\gamma \in L} a(\gamma) \phi(x + \gamma), \quad x \in \mathbf{R} \times \prod \mathbf{Z}_p \subseteq \mathbf{A},$$

where the  $a(\gamma)$  are complex numbers satisfying  $a(\gamma) \ll (1 + |\gamma|_{\mathbf{A}})^C$ ,  $C$  a positive constant,  $L \subseteq \mathbf{A}^\times / \mathbf{Q}^\times$  is usually a semigroup contained in the ideles of  $\mathbf{Q}$ , and the sum, using a suitable summability method, will usually be defined initially as a distribution-valued function then extended as an unbounded operator to a dense subspace of  $L^2(\mathbf{R} \times \prod \mathbf{Z}_p) \hookrightarrow L^2(\mathbf{A})$ . These operators form a fairly broad class of unbounded normal operators, well-suited for explicit computations, and provide a useful source of examples.

A short summary of results follows. In Section 2, a classification is given for the sequence  $\{a(\gamma)\}_{\gamma \in L}$  having the property that the above operator is unitarily equivalent to a certain multiplication operator. For such  $a(\gamma)$ , the invariant subspaces are easy to classify, its adjoint

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operator can be explicitly determined, and its (usually continuous) spectrum can be given. Finally, in Section 3 a number-theoretic example is given concerning the Weil distribution.

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## 2 – Basic Theory

Some notation must be introduced. Let

$$(1) \quad h(x) = h_{\infty}(x_{\infty}) h_2(x_2) \dots h_p(x_p) \dots, \quad x \in \mathbf{A},$$

where  $h_{\infty}(t) = (2\pi)^{-1/2} \exp(-t^2/2)$ , and

$$h_p(x_p) = \begin{cases} 1 & |x_p|_p \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

Let  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  be the natural pairing of  $\mathbf{A}$ , as a self-dual locally compact topological group, let  $dx$  be a Haar measure on  $\mathbf{A}$  normalized so that the Fourier transform

$$\hat{f}(y) = \int f(x) \langle x, y \rangle dx$$

satisfies

$$f(x) = \int \hat{f}(y) \overline{\langle x, y \rangle} dy.$$

In this case, recall

$$(2) \quad \hat{\hat{h}}(x) = h(x).$$

Let  $\omega$  be a quasi-character (in the sense of Weil) of  $\mathbf{A}^{\times}/\mathbf{Q}^{\times}$ , and let

$$Z(\omega) = \sum_{\gamma \in L} a(\gamma) \omega(\gamma)$$

denote the formal series on which the involution  $*$  acts by

$$Z^*(\omega) = \sum_{\gamma \in L} \overline{a(\gamma)} \omega(-\gamma).$$

It will always be assumed that  $Z(\omega)$  converges absolutely somewhere. Recall any quasi-character of  $\mathbf{A}^\times/\mathbf{Q}^\times$  can be written in the form

$$(3) \quad \omega(x) = |x|_{\mathbf{A}}^s \psi(x), \quad s \in \mathbf{C}, \quad x \in \mathbf{A}^\times,$$

where  $x \mapsto |x|_{\mathbf{A}}^s$  is a principal quasi-character trivial on  $\mathbf{Q}^\times \times \prod \mathbf{Z}_p^\times$  and  $\psi$  is a character of finite order, trivial on  $\mathbf{Q}^\times \times \mathbf{R}_+^\times$ . In this way we may regard  $Z(\omega)$ , in its region of absolute convergence, as an analytic function of  $s$ .

The Dirichlet series  $Z(\omega) = Z(s, \psi)$  is said to satisfy the *summability condition* (briefly, *SC*) if

a)  $Z$  is analytically continuable to  $\{\operatorname{Re} s \geq 0\}$ ,

and

b) For all  $s$ ,  $\operatorname{Re} s \geq 0$ , we have

$$Z(s, \psi) \ll e^{(\frac{\pi}{2} - \epsilon)|\operatorname{Im} s|}$$

According to Hardy [3], if  $Z$  satisfies the *SC* then for all  $s$  with  $\operatorname{Re} s \geq 0$ , and  $\omega$  given by (3),

$$(4) \quad Z(\omega) = \lim_{r \rightarrow 1^-} \sum_{\gamma \in L} a(\gamma) r^{|\gamma|} \omega(\gamma)$$

(the limit being uniform on compacta), and conversely. Observe that any Hecke  $L$ -series corresponding to a nontrivial  $\psi$  satisfies the *SC*.

Let  $\chi_0(x) = \exp 2\pi i \sigma(x)$ , where

$$\sigma(x) = -x_\infty + x_2 + \dots + x_p + \dots \pmod{1},$$

so that  $\langle x, y \rangle = \chi_0(xy)$ . Let  $\chi_y: x \mapsto \chi_0(xy)$ . The condition which determines whether or not the operator

$$(5) \quad \phi(x) \mapsto \lim_{r \rightarrow 1^-} \sum_{\gamma \in L} a(\gamma) r^{|\gamma|} \phi(x + \gamma)$$

is unitarily equivalent to multiplication by  $Z(\chi_y)$  is precisely that (4) hold with  $\omega(y) = \chi_y$  (assuming a weak finiteness condition). However, the stronger *SC* is much more convenient in applications.

Denote the operator (5) by  $P = P(Z)$ , and let  $L = L(Z)$  denote

$$\phi(x) \mapsto \int Z(\chi_y) \overline{\langle x, y \rangle} \hat{\phi}(x) dx.$$

Let  $S = \mathbf{R} \times \prod \mathbf{Z}_p$ , let  $L^2(S) \hookrightarrow L^2(\mathbf{A})$  be functions restricted to  $S$ , and let  $H$  be the subspace of Fourier transforms of functions in  $L^2(S)$ . Note that  $H$  can also be realized as the space of functions whose Fourier transforms belong to  $L^2(S)$ . Since  $L$  is unitarily equivalent to multiplication by  $Z(\chi_y)$  it is easy to check that  $L^2(S) \cong H$  is an invariant subspace of  $L$ .

As usual, an unbounded operator  $T$  on a Hilbert space is called *normal* in case  $T$  is densely defined (so  $T^*$  exists), closed, and  $TT^* = T^*T$ . From this it follows  $D(T) = D(T^*)$ , where  $D$  denotes domain (see Rudin [5, chapter 13] for example).

The main result is the following

**Theorem.** Assume  $h(y) Z(\chi_y) \in L^2(\mathbf{A})$ .

- a)  $Z$  satisfies (4) with  $\omega = \chi_y$  if and only if
- (i)  $L(Z)$  and  $P(Z)$  are normal in  $H$ ,
  - (ii)  $P = L$  on  $D(L) = D(P) \subseteq H$ ,
  - (iii) for all  $f \in D(L)$ ,

$$\|P(Z)f\| = \|P(Z^*)f\| = \|L(Z)f\| = \|L(\bar{Z})f\| < \infty.$$

Assume  $Z$  satisfies (4) with  $\omega = \chi_y$ ,  $y \in \mathbf{A}$ , and is continuous in  $y$ .

- b) On  $D(L) = D(P) \subseteq H$ ,

$$L(Z)^* = L(\bar{Z}), \quad P(Z)^* = P(Z^*).$$

- c)  $\sigma(P) = \sigma(L) = \{Z(\chi_y) \mid y \in S\}$ ,  $Z \neq \text{constant} \Rightarrow \sigma_{\text{point}}(P) = \emptyset$ .

d) Let  $E \subseteq D(P)$  be a subspace stable under  $\phi(x) \mapsto \phi(-x)$ .  $E$  is an invariant subspace of  $P$  if and only if  $\hat{E}$ , the image of  $E$  under Fourier transform, is of the form  $L^2(M) \hookrightarrow L^2(S)$ , where  $M \subseteq S$  is a measurable, not locally null subset, and functions in  $L^2(M)$  are extended by 0 outside of  $M$ .

e) If  $Z(\chi_y)$  has a zero then  $P(Z) = L(Z)$  has dense range on  $L^2(S)$ .

- f)  $P$  commutes with the unitary representation of  $H$  induced by

$$R_y \mapsto \phi(x) \mapsto \phi(x - y), \quad y \in S,$$

on  $L^2(S)$ .

**Remark.** The assumptions made on  $Z$  can be weakened in certain cases. Consider, for example, the distribution

$$P(x): \phi \mapsto \sum_{\alpha \in \mathbf{Q}} \phi(\alpha x), \quad x \in \mathbf{A},$$

where  $\phi$  is a Schwartz-Bruhat function. With respect to the  $L^2(\mathbf{A})$  inner product, the adjoint  $P^*$  is given by

$$P^*(x) \phi = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathbf{Q}} |\alpha|^{-1} \phi(x/\alpha),$$

where the  $\alpha = 0$  term is defined distributionally as the limit  $\alpha \rightarrow 0^+$ . Let

$$\phi^*(x) = |x|_{\mathbf{A}}^{-1} \phi(1/x).$$

Evidently, this is an involution and the Poisson summation formula can be rewritten as  $P(x) \phi = P^*(x) (\hat{\phi})^*$ . This, of course, leads to the functional equation for all the Hecke  $L$ -series (provided one first replaces  $\mathbf{Q}$  by an arbitrary number field  $k$ ).

Since the proof of the theorem is based on well-known ideas it shall only be sketched in the following series of lemmas.

**Lemma 1.** *The SC implies  $h(y) Z(\chi_y) \in L^2(\mathbf{A})$  and that  $Z$  satisfies (4) with  $\omega = \chi_y$ . Moreover,  $h(y) Z(\chi_y) \in L^2(\mathbf{A})$  implies that  $L(Z(\chi_y))$  is densely defined on  $H$ .*

**Proof:** The first claim is clear. The second claim follows from

$$\int |L \phi(x)|^2 dx = \int |Z(\chi_y)|^2 |\phi(y)|^2 dy$$

(by Plancherel's formula),  $h(x) = \hat{h}(x)$ , and Wiener's  $L^2$ -Tauberian Theorem. ■

**Lemma 2.** *If  $L(Z)$  is densely defined then  $L(Z)$  is normal and  $L(Z)^* = L(\bar{Z})$ .*

**Proof:**  $L(Z)^* = L(\bar{Z})$  follows from the formula

$$\int \phi(x) \overline{\psi(x)} dx = \int \hat{\phi}(y) \overline{\hat{\psi}(y)} dy.$$

To see  $L$  is normal it suffices to prove that the graph

$$G = \{(\hat{\phi}, (L\phi)^\wedge), \phi \in D(L)\}$$

is closed in  $L^2(S) \times L^2(S)$ . This follows from a standard density argument. ■

**Lemma 3.** Assume  $L(Z)$  is densely defined.  $Z(\chi_y)$  satisfies (4), uniformly on compact  $\alpha$  in  $y$ , if and only if  $P(Z) = L(Z)$ .

**Proof:** Let

$$T_R \phi(x) = \int_{|y|_{\mathbf{A}} \leq R} \hat{\phi}(y) \overline{\langle x, y \rangle} dy,$$

so  $T_R$  forms an approximate identity. Let

$$P_{N,r} \phi(x) = \sum_{|\gamma|_{\mathbf{A}} \leq N} \alpha(\gamma) \phi(x + \gamma) r^{|\gamma|_{\mathbf{A}}}.$$

For convenience, write  $|| = ||_{\mathbf{A}}$ . It is easy to compute

$$P_{N,r} T_R \phi(x) = \int_{|\gamma| \leq R} \left( \sum_{|\gamma| \leq N} \alpha(\gamma) r^{|\gamma|} \overline{\langle \gamma, y \rangle} \right) \hat{\phi}(y) \overline{\langle x, y \rangle} dy$$

and

$$(P_{N,r} \phi)^\wedge(y) = \sum_{|\gamma| \leq N} \alpha(\gamma) r^{|\gamma|} \overline{\langle \gamma, y \rangle} \hat{\phi}(y).$$

Therefore,  $T_R$  commutes with  $P_{N,r}$ . The lemma now follows from a limiting argument. ■

**Proof of the theorem:** Parts a), b), and f) now follow from Lemmas 1,2,3 and an easy computation of  $P(Z)^*$ ,  $L(Z)^*$ . Parts c) and e) follow from well-known facts about normal operators (see Rudin [5, Theorem 13.27]). Part d) follows from a well-known result on multiplication operators (see Mozak [4, Lemma 7.2 (c)]). ■

### 3 - An Example

There are many distributions of the form

$$\phi \mapsto \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \phi(\lambda_n),$$

and under certain conditions on  $a_n$ ,  $\lambda_n$  these give rise to summation operators (replacing  $\phi$  by  $R_x \phi$  where  $R$  is the regular representation). In this context, such distributions coming from the Weil explicit formula [7] provide interesting examples.

First, recall Weil's formula. Let  $L(s, \chi)$  be the Hecke  $L$ -function corresponding to an idele class character  $\chi$  of a number field  $k$ . Let

$$(6) \quad W(F) = \sum_{\rho} \hat{F}(\rho),$$

where the sum runs over all non-trivial zeros of  $L(s, \chi)$ ,

$$\hat{F}(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(x) e^{(s-1/2)x} dx,$$

and  $F$  (to begin with) belongs to  $C_c^{\infty}(\mathbf{R})$ . In the notation of Benedetto [1], let

$$\begin{aligned} W_2(F) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(x) (e^{x/2} + e^{-x/2}) dx \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} \left( F(\log y) + F(-\log y) \right) \frac{dy}{\sqrt{y}}, \end{aligned}$$

$$W_3(F) = \sum_{\underline{a} \neq 0} \frac{\Lambda(\underline{a})}{\sqrt{N\underline{a}}} \left[ \chi(\underline{a}) F(\log N\underline{a}) + \chi(\underline{a})^{-1} F(-\log N\underline{a}) \right],$$

where  $\Lambda(\underline{a})$  is the von Mangoldt function on the ring of integral ideals of  $k$  and  $N\underline{a}$  is the norm of an integral ideal  $\underline{a}$ . Let

$$W_0(F) = 2 F(0) \log A,$$

where  $A = A(k, \chi) > 0$  is a number theoretic constant (see [7]), and let

$$W_1(F) = \sum_{m=1}^{r_1+r_2} \text{P.V.} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(x) e^{-i\phi_m x} K_{\eta_k, f_m}(x) dx,$$



where  $\eta_k \in \{1, 2\}$ ,  $\phi_m$ ,  $f_m$ ,  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  are as in Weil [7], and

$$K_{1,f}(x) = \frac{e^{(\frac{1}{2}-f)|x|}}{|e^x - e^{-x}|}, \quad K_{2,f}(x) = \frac{e^{-f|x|/2}}{|e^{x/2} - e^{-x/2}|}.$$

As in Benedetto [1], define  $V = V_\chi$  by

$$\delta(\chi) W_2 + W_3 = V_\chi + \check{V}_{\bar{\chi}}, \quad \check{V}(F)(x) = V(F(-x)), \quad \delta(\chi) = \begin{cases} 1 & \chi \neq \chi_0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases},$$

and put

$$V = T + U,$$

where

$$T(F) = \sum_{\underline{a}} \int_{N\underline{a}-1}^{N\underline{a}} \left( \frac{\delta(\chi)}{\sqrt{x}} - \frac{\Lambda(\underline{a}) \chi(\underline{a})}{\sqrt{N\underline{a}}} \right) dx \cdot F(\log N\underline{a}),$$

$$U(F) = \sum_{\underline{a}} \int_{N\underline{a}-1}^{N\underline{a}} \frac{F(\log x) - \delta(\chi) F(\log N\underline{a})}{\sqrt{x}} dx.$$

Weil's explicit formula states

$$(7) \quad W = W_0 + W_1 + (\delta(\chi) W_2 + W_3)$$

as distributions on  $C_c^\infty(\mathbf{R})$ . For these distributions, the following result is known.

**Theorem** (Benedetto [1]). (a)  $W_0, W_1$  and  $U$  are all tempered distributions. In particular,  $W$  is tempered if and only if  $T$  is tempered.

(b) If  $W$  is tempered then the Riemann hypothesis for  $L(s, \chi)$  holds. ■

**Remark.** The converse to (b) was stated without proof.

Let  $S = S(\mathbf{R})$  be the Schwartz space of rapidly decreasing functions. The statement  $W \in S'$  means that the (bracketed) Weil explicit formula is valid for all rapidly decreasing functions. For comparison, recall that Weil [7] assumed all his functions satisfied

A)  $F'(x)$  exists everywhere except possibly at a finite number of points  $\alpha_j$  where

$$F'(\alpha_j) = \frac{1}{2} \left( F'(\alpha_j + 0) + F'(\alpha_j - 0) \right),$$

B)  $F(x)$  and  $F'(x)$  are both

$$\ll e^{-(\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon)|x|}.$$

Clearly, the growth condition for  $S$  is much weaker than B).

In view of this, it may be of interest to examine the operator

$$T(y)(F) = \sum_{\underline{a}} \int_{N\underline{a}-1}^{N\underline{a}} \left( \frac{\delta(\chi)}{\sqrt{x}} - \frac{\Lambda(\underline{a}) \chi(\underline{a})}{\sqrt{N\underline{a}}} \right) dx F(y + \log N\underline{a}).$$

As a distribution,  $T(y)$  has the following remarkable property.

**Theorem.** a) The Riemann hypothesis holds for  $L(s, \chi)$  if and only if, for some real  $y$ ,  $T(y) \in S'$ .

b) Assume the Riemann hypothesis and let  $C(y) \geq 1$  be a monotonely increasing function.

$$\sum_{N\underline{a} \leq x} \chi(\underline{a}) \Lambda(\underline{a}) = \delta(\chi) x + O(\sqrt{x} C(\log x))$$

if and only if

$$\sum_{|\rho| \leq x} \frac{\sin(\gamma \log x)}{\gamma} \ll C(\log x),$$

where the sum runs over zeros  $\rho = \frac{1}{2} + i\gamma$  of  $L(s, \chi)$ .

**Remarks.** a) The proof of a) implicitly uses a classical special case (8) of the Weil explicit formula, mentioned below in the proof of b). The proof of a) also uses the following fact (implied by a theorem of L. Schwartz) concerning the second primitive  $T_{(2)}$  of  $T$ :  $T_{(2)} \in S' \Rightarrow T \in S'$ . This unfortunately forces the functions to be  $C^\infty$ .

b) Part b) is essentially well-known although this version has not been stated in the literature. It is implicit for example in Gallagher [2] and in one sense it improves Benedetto [1, Proposition 4.1]. It is well-known from Koch that the Riemann hypothesis implies  $C(y) \ll y^2$  (the converse is obvious).

**Proof of the theorem:** a) This is a direct consequence of the calculations in Benedetto [1, pp.161-162], using a structure theorem of L. Schwartz for tempered distributions [6, Théorème VI, p.239] and Koch's result mentioned above.

b) This is immediate from

$$(8) \quad \sum_{N\underline{a} \leq x} \chi(\underline{a}) \Lambda(\underline{a}) = \delta(\chi) x - \sum_{|\gamma| \leq x} \frac{x^\rho}{\rho} + O(\log^2 x)$$

since

$$\sum_{|\rho| \leq x} \frac{x^\rho}{\rho} = 2\sqrt{x} \sum_{|\gamma| \leq x} \frac{\sin(\gamma \log x)}{\gamma} + O(\sqrt{x}) . \blacksquare$$

Now consider the distribution-valued function

$$(9) \quad T_\sigma(x): \phi \mapsto \lim_{r \rightarrow 1^-} \sum_{\underline{a} \neq 0} N\underline{a}^{-\sigma} C(\underline{a}) r^{N\underline{a}} \phi(x + \log N\underline{a}) ,$$

$\phi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbf{R})$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} C(\underline{a}) &= \int_{N\underline{a}-1}^{N\underline{a}} \frac{\delta(\chi)}{\sqrt{x}} - \frac{\Lambda(\underline{a}) \chi(\underline{a})}{\sqrt{N\underline{a}}} dx \\ &= (\delta(\chi) - \chi(\underline{a}) N\underline{a}) / \sqrt{N\underline{a}} + O(N\underline{a}^{-3/2}) . \end{aligned}$$

Clearly  $T_0(0)$  is identical with Benedetto's distribution  $T$ .

The singularity at  $s = 1/2$  of

$$Z(s) = \sum_{\underline{a} \neq 0} C(\underline{a}) N\underline{a}^{-s}$$

is removable and  $Z(s)$  analytically continues as a meromorphic function of the entire plane having simple poles at  $\rho - 1/2$ ,  $\rho$  a zero of  $L(s, \chi)$ .

Let

$$Z_\sigma(s) = \sum_{\underline{a} \neq 0} C(\underline{a}) N\underline{a}^{-\sigma} N\underline{a}^{-s} ,$$

so  $Z_\sigma$  satisfies the SC if and only if  $\sigma > \theta$ , where

$$\theta = \sup \left\{ |\beta| \mid L(\beta + i\gamma, \chi) = 0 \right\} - 1/2 .$$

Considering only the real (i.e., infinite) component of the operator  $L(Z_\sigma)$ , the Plancherel formula implies, for  $f \in D(L) \subseteq L^2(\mathbf{R})$ ,  $\sigma > \theta$ ,

$$\|T_\sigma(x) \phi\|^2 = \|L(Z_\sigma) f\|^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |Z_\sigma(it)|^2 |\hat{f}(t)|^2 dt =$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\zeta(\sigma + \frac{1}{2} + it, k) - \frac{L'}{L}(\sigma + \frac{1}{2} + it, X)|^2 |\hat{f}(t)|^2 dt + O(\|f\|^2),$$

where  $\zeta(s, k)$  is the Dedekind zeta function. This shows, that, for  $\sigma = 0$ ,  $L(Z_0)$  cannot be thought of as a densely defined operator on  $L^2(\mathbf{R})$ . However, there is a rather natural subspace, given below, on which  $L(Z_\sigma)$  is defined,  $0 \leq \sigma \leq \theta$ .

Let

$$S_0 = \left\{ \phi \in S \mid \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{|\phi^{(n)}(x)|}{n!} \in S \right\},$$

so for example  $e^{-x^2/2} \in S_0$ . On this space, which is dense in  $L^2(\mathbf{R})$  by Wiener's  $L^2$ -Tauberian theorem, one can compute the inverse Fourier transform  $K_\sigma$  of  $L(\sigma + \frac{1}{2} + it, \chi)$ , regarded as a tempered distribution. (The exact expression for  $K_\sigma$  is a rather messy convolution and not of particular importance.) When  $K_\sigma$  acts on  $S_0$  by convolution,  $K_\sigma: \phi \in S_0 \rightarrow K_\sigma * \phi \in S$ , and, of course,

$$(K_\sigma * \phi)^\wedge(it) = L(\sigma + \frac{1}{2} + it, \chi) \hat{\phi}(t).$$

In particular,  $L(Z_\sigma)$  is defined on  $K_\sigma * S_0$ , even if  $0 \leq \sigma \leq \theta$ . Moreover, functions in  $K_0 * S_0$  satisfying Weil's conditions A) and B) above must belong to the kernel of the Weil distribution  $W$ .

Although these remarks may illuminate the structure of  $W$  and  $T$ , unfortunately I do not think they can be used to attack the Riemann hypothesis.

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