

RESEARCH PAPER

**FRACTIONAL DERIVATIVES IN SPACES
OF GENERALIZED FUNCTIONS**

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Abstract

Dedicated to 80-th birthday of Prof. Rudolf Gorenflo

We generalize the two forms of the fractional derivatives (in Riemann-Liouville and Caputo sense) to spaces of generalized functions using appropriate techniques such as the multiplication of absolutely continuous function by the Heaviside function, and the analytical continuation. As an application, we give the two forms of the fractional derivatives of discontinuous functions in spaces of distributions.

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1. Introduction

Fractional Calculus (FC) is a field of mathematical analysis which deals integrals and derivatives of arbitrary order. FC is an old (cf. [4], [11], and references therein) as well as a new topic (cf. [10], [7], [20], [5], [8], [6], [9], [17] among the others). The main disadvantage of this calculus up to now, is the lack of appropriate functional spaces for their investigations. The first book in which the classical spaces of functions are considered is [16]. The recent book [7] is updated with some Real World's problems, where the fractional derivatives are involved in their modeling. This paper provides some contribution in that direction.

FC in spaces of distributions \mathcal{S}'_+ and \mathcal{D}'_+ as well as the distributions with compact support \mathcal{E}' is employed in papers [1], [2]. Two forms of fractional derivatives are embedded into the space of tempered distributions to obtain a framework for solving distributional diffusion-wave phenomena. FC is given in distributional setting and considered in a space of distributions over \mathbb{R} .

In this paper, we propose fractional derivatives of a discontinuous function to show how this distributional approach works. We extend the domain of orders $0 < \alpha < 1$, (resp. $m - 1 < \alpha < m$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$), to the interval $\alpha < n + 1$, (resp. $\alpha < n + m$, $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$), in which the fractional derivatives of absolutely continuous (resp. continuous) function are well-defined, using analytical continuation. The same is done for the regular distributions.

2. Basic spaces

2.1. Space of absolutely continuous functions

Let $L^1_{loc}(\mathbb{R})$ be the space of locally integrable functions in \mathbb{R} . $AC^m([0, T])$, $T > 0$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$, denotes the space of functions f , such that $f^{(k)}$, $k \in \{0, 1, \dots, m - 1\}$ are continuous and $f^{(m-1)}$ are absolutely continuous, i.e. $f^{(m)} \in L^1([0, T])$, (cf. [7]). In particular, $AC^1([0, T]) = AC([0, T])$.

Denote by $C^m(\Omega)$ the space of functions f which are m -times continuously differentiable on Ω supplied with the norm

$$\|f\|_{C^m} = \sum_{k=0}^m \|f^{(k)}\|_C = \sum_{k=0}^m \max_{x \in \Omega} |f^{(k)}(x)|, \quad m \in \mathbb{N}_0.$$

In particular, for $m = 0$, $C^0(\Omega) \equiv C(\Omega)$ is the space of continuous functions f on Ω with the norm $\|f\|_C = \max_{x \in \Omega} |f(x)|$.

2.2. Space of distributions

Denote by $P^n \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, whose elements have as coordinates entire non-negative numbers. If $k = (k_1, \dots, k_n) \in P^n$, then $|k| = k_1 + \dots + k_n$. We set $P^1 = P$, $P = \mathbb{N}_0$.

Let $C_0^m(K)$, $m \in P^1$, or $m = \infty$, where $K \subset \Omega$ is a compact, subset of $C_0^m(\Omega)$ whose elements have supports in K .

Define in the space $C_0^\infty(K)$, where K is a compact subset of Ω , the sequence of norms $\{p_{K,m}; m \in P^1\}$:

$$p_{K,m}(\phi) = \sum_{|j| \leq m} \sup_{x \in K} |\phi^{(j)}(x)|.$$

The vector space $C_0^\infty(K)$ supplied with this topology is a locally convex space $\mathcal{D}(K)$. The vector space $C_0^\infty(\Omega)$ supplied with the topology of strict inductive limit is a space $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)$. This space is the space of basic or test

functions. A linear and continuous functional on $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)$ is a distribution. The distributions map $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)$ into \mathbb{C} :

$$f : \phi \mapsto \langle f, \phi \rangle = (f, \bar{\phi}),$$

where $\bar{\phi}$ is the complex conjugate for the function ϕ . For more details, cf. [13].

The regular distributions are distributions defined by locally integrable functions with the expression

$$\langle f, \phi \rangle := \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(x)\phi(x)dx = \int_K f(x)\phi(x)dx, \text{ where } K = \text{supp } \phi, \text{ from } \mathcal{D}',$$

where $f \in L^1_{loc}(\Omega)$.

2.3. Space of rapidly decreasing functions

The space of rapidly decreasing functions which decrease faster than any polynomial, as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$, is denoted by $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ (cf. [13]). The test space

$$\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}) = \{\phi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}); \forall m, n \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} |x^m \phi^{(n)}(x)| < \infty\},$$

is supplied with convergence given by the sequence of norms

$$\|\phi\|_k = \sup_{\alpha \in \{0, 1, \dots, k\}} (1 + |x|^2)^{k/2} |\phi^{(\alpha)}(x)|, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

A set of continuous linear functionals on $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ with respect to the given sequence of norms $\|\cdot\|_k, k \in \mathbb{N}_0$, is the space of tempered distributions (space of slowly increasing functions) $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$. It holds $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}) \subset \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$, and consequently $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}) \subset \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R})$. When $\text{supp } f \subset \bar{\mathbb{R}}_+$, we deal with a space $\mathcal{S}'_+(\bar{\mathbb{R}}_+)$. The test function space $\mathcal{S}_0(\mathbb{R})$ is a nonempty subspace of $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ with the same topology induced by that in $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$. All functions in $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ that vanish at the origin along with all of their derivatives are in $\mathcal{S}_0(\mathbb{R})$.

3. From classical to distributional approach to the two forms of fractional derivatives

For basic definitions and treatment of the Riemann-Liouville and the Caputo derivative, cf. [16], [15], [7], [14], [12]. The Riemann-Liouville fractional integral of order $\alpha > 0$ reads

$$J^\alpha f(t) := \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^t (t - \tau)^{\alpha-1} f(\tau) d\tau, \quad \alpha > 0.$$

The Riemann-Liouville derivative of fractional order $D^\alpha f(t) := D^m J^{m-\alpha} f(t)$, where $m - 1 < \alpha \leq m, m \in \mathbb{N}$, is given by

$$D^\alpha f(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{d^m}{dt^m} \left[\frac{1}{\Gamma(m-\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{f(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^{\alpha+1-m}} d\tau \right], & \alpha \in (m-1, m), \\ \frac{d^m}{dt^m} f(t), & \alpha = m. \end{cases} \quad m \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (1)$$

The fractional derivative in the Caputo sense $D_*^\alpha f(t) := J^{m-\alpha} D^m f(t)$, where $m-1 < \alpha \leq m$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$, is defined as follows:

$$D_*^\alpha f(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\Gamma(m-\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{f^{(m)}(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^{\alpha+1-m}} d\tau, & \alpha \in (m-1, m), \\ \frac{d^m}{dt^m} f(t), & \alpha = m. \end{cases} \quad m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

The Riemann-Liouville and the Caputo fractional derivatives are well defined for an f from the space $AC^m([0, T])$. But,

$$D^\alpha f(t) := D^m J^{m-\alpha} f(t) \neq J^{m-\alpha} D^m f(t) := D_*^\alpha f(t),$$

unless the function $f(t)$ along with its first $(m-1)$ derivatives vanish at $t = 0^+$ (cf. [4]).

In order to extend the fractional derivatives to negative values of t , let us take sequence of functions which are smooth and defined (cf. [18])

$$\eta_\varepsilon(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & t > -a_\varepsilon \\ 0 & t < -2a_\varepsilon, \end{cases}$$

$\eta_\varepsilon \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$, $\varepsilon > 0$, then, $\forall \varepsilon \in (0, \infty)$, $t \mapsto \eta_\varepsilon(t)f(t)$ has a support in $(-\infty, t)$, $t < T$, for some $T > 0$, $a_\varepsilon > 0$ (cf. [13]). Define the generalized fractional derivative for $0 < \alpha < 1$, as

$$D^\alpha f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{-\infty}^t \frac{\eta_\varepsilon(\tau)f(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau. \quad (2)$$

This definition does not depend on the choice of ε and $\eta'_\varepsilon(t) \mapsto \delta(t)$, in $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})$.

Recall the known results concerning the two forms of distributional fractional derivatives from [1], [2]. Since fH is a regular distribution if an $f \in AC^m([0, T])$, where H is the Heaviside function (cf. [19]), we can give an extension of the fractional derivatives to $t \in \mathbb{R}$. In distributional space $f \in \mathcal{S}'_+$, or \mathcal{D}'_+ , the Riemann-Liouville and Caputo fractional derivatives equal,

$$D^\alpha f(t) := D^m J^{m-\alpha} f(t) \equiv J^{m-\alpha} D^m f(t) := D_*^\alpha f(t).$$

We have the equality of the two forms of the distributional fractional derivatives of order $0 < \alpha \in \mathbb{R}$:

$$D_t^\alpha f := f_{-\alpha} * f (= f_{m-\alpha} * \frac{d^m}{dt^m} f = \frac{d^m}{dt^m} (f_{m-\alpha} * f)), \quad m \in \mathbb{N},$$

for any $f \in \mathcal{S}'_+(\mathbb{R})$, where the fractional operator $f_{m-\alpha}$ in the space of tempered distributions is defined as follows. For any $f_\beta \in \mathcal{S}'_+$, $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$f_\beta(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{H(t)t^{\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\beta)}, & \beta > 0, \\ f_{\beta+N}^{(N)}(t), & \beta \leq 0, \beta + N > 0, N \in \mathbb{N}, \end{cases}$$

$^{(N)}$ is the distributional derivative and H is the Heaviside function. For evaluation of the fractional distributional derivatives, cf. also [18].

4. Fractional derivatives of discontinuous function

Recall from [3], p.31, the definition of the function continuous by parts which has the first derivative also continuous by parts, with discontinuity of the first kind at points t_1, t_2, \dots with jumps h_1, h_2, \dots . The first derivative $f'(t)$ is determined everywhere except at finite number of points. We shall find the derivative of the functional of the function f , which subordinates to the function $f(t)$. Define the function

$$f_1(t) = f(t) - \sum_k h_k H(t - t_k), \quad f'_1(t) = f'(t) - \sum_k h_k \delta(t - t_k)$$

and $f'(t) = f'_1(t) + \sum_k h_k \delta(t - t_k)$. If we suppose that the function $f(t)$ is continuous by parts with a continuous first derivative, then by differentiation, every discontinuous point t_k of the function $f(t)$ with jumps h_k adds to the expression of the derivative the term : $h_k \delta(t - t_k)$.

Let $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}_+)$, $\varphi \geq 0$, $\int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi(s) ds = 1$, $\varphi(0) = 0$, say a hat function. Suppose that we have only one discontinuous point x_k . The generalization for the finite number of them is then straightforward. Let $f(t) = f_1(t) + h_k H(t - t_k)$. Then, $f'(t) = f'_1(t) + h_k \delta(t - t_k)$.

PROPOSITION 4.1. *Let $0 < \alpha < 1$, and $f(t) = f_1(t) + h_k H(t - t_k)$, where there exists only one discontinuous point $t_k > 0$, with corresponding jump h_k . The distributional Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative of a discontinuous function does not correspond to the classical one, even in the case of the Caputo fractional derivative when $f(0) = 0$. Compare (4) and (3).*

P r o o f. Find the classical Riemann-Liouville derivative of the discontinuous function f with one discontinuity at a point t_k . We have

$$D^\alpha f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \frac{d}{dt} \int_0^t \frac{f(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \left[\int_0^t \frac{f'_1(\tau) + h_k \delta(\tau - t_k)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau + \frac{f(0) + h_k H(-t_k)}{t^\alpha} \right] = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \left[\int_0^t \frac{f'_1(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau + \frac{f(0)}{t^\alpha} + h_k \frac{1}{(t-t_k)^\alpha} \right].$$

Thus, the ordinary Riemann-Liouville derivative of the discontinuous function with the discontinuity at the point t_k is defined

$$D^\alpha f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \left[\int_0^t \frac{f_1'(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau + \frac{f(0)}{t^\alpha} + \frac{h_k}{(t-t_k)^\alpha} \right]. \quad (3)$$

This definition does not correspond to the definition in distributional sense (cf. (4)).

Consider the distributional Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative for $0 < \alpha < 1$, of discontinuous function with the discontinuity at point t_k . We have

$$\langle D^\alpha f(t), \varphi(t) \rangle = - \langle f(t), D^\alpha \varphi(t) \rangle = - \langle f_1(t) + h_k H(t-t_k), \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_0^t \frac{\varphi(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau \rangle = \langle f_1'(t), \int_0^t \frac{\varphi(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau \rangle + \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} h_k \langle \delta(t-t_k),$$

$$\int_0^t \frac{\varphi(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau \rangle \leq \langle \int_0^t \frac{f_1^{(1)}(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau, \varphi(\tau) \rangle + C.$$

Thus, for discontinuous function f with discontinuity point t_k we have the following expression for the Riemann-Liouville distributional fractional derivative

$$D^\alpha f = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \left[\int_0^t \frac{f_1^{(1)}(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau \right]. \quad (4)$$

□

Similar situation arises when the function f has finite number of discontinues points t_1, t_2, \dots where all discontinuities are positive or equal zero. Then, we have

$$f(t) = f_1(t) - \sum_k h_k H(t-t_k), \quad f'(t) = f_1'(t) - \sum_k h_k \delta(t-t_k).$$

Repeating the same procedure for the distributional Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative for $0 < \alpha < 1$, with one discontinuity, we obtain

$$D^\alpha f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \left[\int_0^t \frac{f_1^{(1)}(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau \right].$$

Recall that for the ordinary Riemann-Liouville derivative of the discontinues function at finite number of discontinues points in classical spaces (say $f \in AC^1([0, T])$), we have

$$D^\alpha f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \left[\int_0^t \frac{f_1^{(1)}(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau + \frac{f(0)}{t^\alpha} + \sum_k \frac{h_k}{(t-t_k)^\alpha} \right].$$

We have as in (3) for the discontinuity point t_k , $t_k > 0$, and consequently for finite sum of discontinuities t_1, t_2, \dots , with negative jumps extended to negative values of t

$$D^\alpha f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \left[\int_{-\infty}^t \frac{f_1^{(1)}(t)\eta_\varepsilon(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau - \sum_k h_k \frac{\eta_\varepsilon(t_k)}{(t-t_k)^\alpha} + \frac{f_1(0)}{t^\alpha} \right]. \quad (5)$$

Consider a regularization for the function f which have a singularity at the point $0 \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}$. Recall from [13]:

THEOREM 4.1. ([13]) *If $\tilde{f}(x)$ is a regularization for the function f which have a singularity at the point $0 \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}$, then $\tilde{f}(x) + \sum_{|k| \leq r} c_k \delta^{(k)}$ for arbitrary $r \in \mathbb{N}$ and arbitrary complex constants c_k , $|k| \leq r$, is also regularization of f .*

Considering the fractional derivative of a regularization \tilde{f} (resp. $\tilde{f} + \sum_{|k| \leq r} c_k \delta^{(k)}$) we conclude the following.

PROPOSITION 4.2. *The Riemann-Liouville and the Caputo fractional derivatives for a regularization \tilde{f} at zero, (resp. for $\tilde{f}(x) + \sum_{|k| \leq r} c_k \delta^{(k)}$) from Theorem 4.1 equal in distributional sense, resp. all singularities at point zero vanish for appropriately chosen test function $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}_+$, (resp. $\varphi \in \mathcal{S}_0$).*

P r o o f. We have for $0 < \alpha < 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} (D^\alpha \tilde{f}, \varphi) &= -\frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \left[\langle \tilde{f} + \sum_{|k| \leq r} c_k \delta^{(k)}(t), \frac{d}{dt} \int_0^t \frac{\varphi(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau \rangle \right] \\ &= -\frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \left[\langle \int_0^t \frac{\tilde{f}^{(1)}}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau, \varphi \rangle + \sum_{|k| \leq r} c_k (-1)^{k+1} \frac{\sup_{t \in [0, T]} |\varphi^{(k+1)}(t)|}{(1-\alpha)t^{\alpha-1}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{\varphi(0)}{t^\alpha} + \frac{\varphi^{(1)}(0)}{t^\alpha} + \dots + \frac{\varphi^{(k)}(0)}{t^\alpha} \right] = -\frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \left[\langle \int_0^t \frac{\tilde{f}^{(1)}}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau, \varphi \rangle \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Since the function \tilde{f} is a regularization and $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}_+)$, $\varphi \geq 0$, $\int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi(x) dx = 1$, it is allowed to apply the Fubini-Tonelli theorem.

If we choose such test function φ , that $\varphi(0) = \varphi^{(1)}(0) = \dots = \varphi^{(k+1)}(0) = 0$, where $|k| \leq r$, (say hat function massed at a point $t_0 > 0$), we obtain the assertion. Another possibility is to take $\varphi \in \mathcal{S}_0$. \square

We shall find fractional derivative extended to negative values of discontinuous function for the piecewise discontinuous function $f(t) = f_1(t) - h_k H(t - t_k)$, $t_k > 0$.

PROPOSITION 4.3. *Let a piecewise discontinuous function $f(t) = f_1(t) - h_k H(t - t_k)$, where $f \in AC^1([0, T])$, (resp. $f \in AC^m([0, T])$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$) have a discontinuity at a point t_k , $t_k > 0$ (resp. finite number of discontinuities).*

(a) *In the classical sense, we consider a discontinuity point as a singularity. The Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative $D^\alpha f$, with discontinuous point $t_k > 0$, and jump h_k , has the form (3) for one discontinuity (resp. the form (5) for finite number of discontinuities).*

(b) *In distributional sense, in the space \mathcal{D}'_+ , (resp. \mathcal{S}'_+), the discontinuity points in the Riemann-Liouville and the Caputo fractional derivatives have not influence to the form of derivatives, i.e. fractional derivative at a point of discontinuity is neutral element with respect to the operation of the fractional differentiation in the spaces of distributions \mathcal{S}'_+ , (resp. \mathcal{D}'_+).*

P r o o f. Suppose that $f \in AC^1([0, T])$, (resp. $f \in AC^m([0, T])$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$). For the first assertion, cf. Proposition 4.1. For the second assertion in the space of distributions \mathcal{S}' (resp. \mathcal{D}'), we have in distributional sense that the Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative equals the Caputo fractional derivative and they read for $0 < \alpha < 1$, and finite number of discontinuous points

$$D_*^\alpha f(t) = D^\alpha f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \left[\int_{-\infty}^t \frac{f_1^{(1)}(\tau) \eta_\varepsilon(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau \right],$$

where η_ε is defined in Section 3. In general, for $m-1 < \alpha < m$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$D_{a^+}^\alpha f(t) = D_{*a^+}^\alpha f = \frac{1}{\Gamma(m-\alpha)} \left[\int_{-\infty}^\infty \frac{(f^{(m)}(\tau) H(\tau-a))}{(t-\tau)^{\alpha+1-m}} \right], \quad a \in \mathbb{R},$$

in distributional sense. □

Invariant properties of the fractional differentiation in distributional spaces with respect to discontinuous points are the consequence of the property of the invariancy of distributional spaces with respect to the operation generated by a polynomial.

5. Regularization via analytical continuation

In the sequel, we shall use regularization via analytical continuation from [13], [3]. Let $0 < \alpha < 1$. With analytical continuation, we have for

the Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative of an $f(t) \in AC^1([0, T])$

$$D^\alpha f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \left[\int_0^1 \frac{(f^{(1)}(\tau) - f^{(1)}(0))}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau + \int_1^t \frac{f^{(1)}(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau + \frac{f(0)}{t^\alpha} + \frac{f^{(1)}(0)}{1-\alpha} \right].$$

The first integral is defined for $\alpha < 2$, the second for every α , and the last expression is defined for $\alpha \neq 1$. The only discontinuity is due to the term $\frac{f(0)}{t^\alpha}$ for $t = 0$. For the Caputo derivative (since $f(0) = 0$), there is no discontinuities and fractional derivative is regular for $\alpha < 2$, $\alpha \neq 1$. We extend the analytical distribution $(t-\tau)_+^{-\alpha}$, $\alpha < 1$, by analytical continuation to the area $\alpha < 2$, $\alpha \neq 1$, (cf. [13]).

PROPOSITION 5.1. *Let $f \in S'_+$ (resp. \mathcal{D}'_+) be a regular distribution. Then, the analytical continuation extends the region for the derivative orders from $0 < \alpha < 1$, to $\alpha < 2$, $\alpha \neq 1$, because of the distributional representation*

$$D^\alpha f = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \left[\int_0^1 \frac{(f^{(1)}(\tau) - f^{(1)}(0))}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau + \int_1^t \frac{f^{(1)}(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau \right].$$

P r o o f. Since fH is a regular distribution when $f \in AC^1([0, T])$, $0 < \alpha < 1$, we have for an $f \in AC^1([0, T])$, $0 < \alpha < 1$,

$$D_{+0}^\alpha f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \left[\int_0^1 \frac{(f^{(1)}(\tau) - f^{(1)}(0))H(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau + \int_1^t \frac{f^{(1)}(\tau)H(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau + \frac{f(0)H(0)}{t^\alpha} + \frac{f^{(1)}(0)}{1-\alpha} \right].$$

In distributional sense,

$$D_{+0}^\alpha f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \left[\int_0^1 \frac{(f^{(1)}(\tau) - f^{(1)}(0))H(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau + \int_1^t \frac{f^{(1)}(\tau)H(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau \right]$$

and the assertion follows since fH is a regular distribution for $f \in AC^1([0, T])$. \square

Continuation of this technique (cf. [13], [3]), for the Riemann-Liouville derivative for $0 < \alpha < 1$, reads

$$D^\alpha f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \left[\int_0^1 \frac{(f^{(1)}(\tau) - f^{(1)}(0) - \dots - \frac{\tau^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} f^{(n)}(0))}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau + \int_1^t \frac{f^{(1)}(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau + \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(0)}{(k-1)!(-\alpha+k)} + \frac{f(0)}{t^\alpha} + R_n \right],$$

where R_n is a regular part if $\alpha \notin \mathbb{N}$. The first integral is defined for $\alpha < n+1$, the second for every α and the third expression for $\alpha \notin \mathbb{N}$. By this regularization we extend the domain from $0 < \alpha < 1$ to $\alpha < n+1$, $\alpha \notin \mathbb{N}$. Now, by analytical continuation the Riemann-Liouville-fractional derivative defined almost everywhere for $f \in AC^m([0, T])$, $T > 0$, is extended to the orders $\alpha < n+1$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\alpha \notin \mathbb{N}$. In particular, by analytical continuation, the Riemann-Liouville derivative is defined on an interval $[0, T]$ almost everywhere for $\alpha < 2$, if $f \in AC([0, T])$, $T > 0$, (resp. f is a regular distribution). We exclude the entire points (here point 1).

Following the same lines as in Proposition 5.1, we arrive at

PROPOSITION 5.2. *Suppose that $f \in \mathcal{S}'_+$ (resp. \mathcal{D}'_+) be a regular distribution, and $0 < \alpha < 1$. Then, the Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative $D^\alpha f$ is well defined almost everywhere in $[0, T]$, $T > 0$, for $\alpha < 1+n$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, except in entire points $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}$.*

P r o o f. The written formula reads for $f \in AC^n([0, T])$. The analytical continuation of the Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative in spaces of distributions reads

$$D^\alpha f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \left[\int_0^1 \frac{(f^{(1)}(\tau) - f^{(1)}(0) - \dots - \frac{\tau^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} f^{(n)}(0))}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau + \int_1^t \frac{f^{(1)}(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} d\tau \right],$$

what gives the sufficient and necessary condition for the existence of the Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative almost everywhere in interval $[0, T]$, for $T > 0$. In distributional sense the extension is given to the area $\alpha < 1+n$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\alpha \notin \mathbb{N}$. Only the integrals in the expression for $D^\alpha f$ remain. \square

Suppose that $f \in AC^{m+n}([0, T])$, $T > 0$. Then, the Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative given with (1) is defined almost everywhere in $[0, T]$, $T > 0$, for $m-1 \leq \alpha < m$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$, (cf. [7]). The analytical continuation reads

$$\begin{aligned} D^\alpha f(t) &= \frac{d^m}{dt^m} \left[\frac{1}{\Gamma(m-\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{f(\tau) d\tau}{(t-\tau)^{\alpha+1-m}} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(m-\alpha)} \left[\int_0^t \frac{f^{(m)}(t-\tau) d\tau}{\tau^{\alpha+1-m}} + \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} \frac{f^{(k)}(0)}{t^{\alpha+1-k}} \right], \end{aligned}$$

where we denote

$$I_1 = \frac{d^m}{dt^m} \frac{1}{\Gamma(m-\alpha)} \left[\int_0^1 \frac{(f(\tau) - f(0) - \dots - \frac{\tau^{(n-1)}}{(n-1)!} f^{(n)}(0))}{(t-\tau)^{\alpha+1-m}} d\tau \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \int_1^\infty \frac{f(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^{\alpha+1-m}} d\tau + \sum_{k=1}^m \frac{f^{(k-1)}(0)}{(k-1)!(-\alpha+k)} \Big], \\
 I_2 = & \frac{1}{\Gamma(m-\alpha)} \Big[\int_0^1 \frac{(f^{(m)}(\tau) - f^{(m)}(0) - \dots - \frac{\tau^{(n-1)}}{(n-1)!} f^{(m+n)}(0))}{(t-\tau)^{\alpha+1-m}} d\tau \\
 & + \int_1^\infty \frac{f^{(m)}(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^{\alpha+1-m}} d\tau + \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{f^{(m+k-1)}(0)}{(k-1)!(-\alpha+k+m)} + \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} \frac{f^{(k)}(0)}{t^{\alpha+1-k}} \Big].
 \end{aligned}$$

In I_1 (resp. I_2) the first integral is defined for $\alpha < n + 1$, (resp. for $\alpha < n + m$), the second for every α and the third for $\alpha \notin \mathbb{N}$. By this regularization we extend the domain of I_1 (resp. I_2) from $0 < \alpha < 1$ to $\alpha < n + 1$, (resp. from $m - 1 < \alpha < m$, to $\alpha < n + m$), $\alpha \notin \mathbb{N}$.

Thus, by analytical continuation the Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative defined almost everywhere for the function $f \in AC^{m+n}([0, T])$, $T > 0$, for the orders $m - 1 < \alpha < m$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$, is extended to the orders $\alpha < n + m$, $\alpha \notin \mathbb{N}$, $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$. The discontinuity is at the point zero. For $f(0) = f^{(1)}(0) = \dots = f^{(m-1)}(0) = 0$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$, we obtain the Caputo derivative, i.e. the cut-off regularization of the Riemann-Liouville derivative at a point zero which leads to the regularization at zero.

In distributional sense in these formulas for $D^\alpha f$ we keep only the integral summands. The extension area is $\alpha < n + m$, $\alpha \notin \mathbb{N}$, $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$.

Concerning the distributional approach, we have the following

PROPOSITION 5.3. *Let $f \in \mathcal{S}'_+$, or $f \in \mathcal{D}'_+$, be a regular distribution. Let $m - 1 < \alpha < m$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$. Then, Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative $D^\alpha f$ is defined almost everywhere in interval $[0, T]$, $T > 0$, for derivative orders $\alpha < m + n$, $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, when $\alpha \notin \mathbb{N}$, more precisely when $\alpha \neq 1, 2, \dots, k + m$, $k = 1, \dots, n$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$.*

P r o o f. Analytical continuation in the space of distributions, (cf. I_2), yields

$$\begin{aligned}
 D^\alpha f(t) = & \frac{1}{\Gamma(m-\alpha)} \Big[\int_0^1 \frac{(f^{(m)}(\tau) - f^{(m)}(0) - \dots - \frac{\tau^{(n-1)}}{(n-1)!} f^{(m+n)}(0))}{(t-\tau)^{\alpha+1-m}} d\tau \\
 & + \int_1^\infty \frac{f^{(m)}(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^{\alpha+1-m}} d\tau \Big], \quad m, n \in \mathbb{N}, m - 1 < \alpha < m, \alpha \notin \mathbb{N},
 \end{aligned}$$

what gives the range of orders α , $\alpha < m + n$, $\alpha \notin \mathbb{N}$. □

Repeating the procedure given for the Riemann-Liouville-derivative, we conclude the next for the Caputo fractional derivative.

PROPOSITION 5.4. *Suppose $\alpha > 0$, $m - 1 < \alpha < m$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$. If $f \in AC^{m+n}([0, T])$, $T > 0$, then the Caputo fractional derivative exists*

almost everywhere in $[0, T]$, $T > 0$, when $m - 1 < \alpha < m$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$. If $\alpha \notin \mathbb{N}_0$, by analytical continuation the orders of α can be extended to the interval $\alpha < n + m$, $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$. In this way, the Caputo fractional derivative exists almost everywhere in $[0, T]$, $T > 0$, if $f \in AC^{m+n}([0, T])$, $T > 0$, for $\alpha < n + m$, $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$. In particular, for $0 < \alpha < 1$, the extension of the orders is given to the interval $\alpha < n + 1$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Applying Theorem 2.2 from [7], we have the next proposition.

PROPOSITION 5.5. *Let $\alpha \geq 0$, and $m - 1 < \alpha < m$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$. Let $f \in C^{m+n}([0, T])$, $T > 0$. Then, the Caputo fractional derivative with orders $m - 1 < \alpha < m$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$, is continuous in $[0, T]$, $T > 0$. If $\alpha \notin \mathbb{N}_0$, the Caputo fractional derivative is continuous for $\alpha < m + n$, $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, via analytical continuation.*

PROPOSITION 5.6. *Suppose $m - 1 < \alpha < m$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$. Using analytical continuation, the Caputo fractional derivative is bounded from the space $C^{n+m}([0, T])$, to the space $C^0([0, T])$ and the following estimate holds*

$$\|D^\alpha f\|_{C^0} \leq \frac{T^{n+m-\alpha}}{\Gamma(m-\alpha)(n+m-\alpha+1)},$$

i.e. this property given for $m - 1 < \alpha < m$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$, is extended to the orders $\alpha < n + m$, $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$.

The other properties of the Riemann-Liouville (resp. Caputo) fractional derivative can be extended similarly to the higher orders of α using analytical continuation.

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