

We will now use smoothing to prove some regularity results concerning the Laplace equation on distributions

$$\Delta T = S,$$

where 
$$\Delta = - \sum_i \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i^2}$$

Lemma. If  $T \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$  satisfies  $\Delta T = 0$ , then  $T = T_\varphi$  for some  $\varphi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  with  $\Delta \varphi = 0$ .

Proof. Smooth functions  $\varphi$  satisfying  $\Delta \varphi = 0$  are said to be harmonic. We shall first prove that harmonic functions obey the mean-value property

$$\varphi(y) = \int_{\|x-y\|=\epsilon} \varphi(x) \sigma_y(x)$$

where, if

$$\sigma = C_n \frac{* (r dr)}{r^n}$$

is the form encountered in the preceding section, then

$$\sigma_y(x) = \sigma(x-y)$$

is the invariant <sup>volume</sup> form on the sphere  $\|x-y\|=\epsilon$  having total area 1.

Here the invariant form means that  $R_g^* \sigma = \sigma$ ,  $g \in \{A : A \text{ is a } 2 \times 2 \text{ matrix with } \det 1\}$ ,  $\sigma \in A^1(\mathbb{R}^2 - \{0\})$ .

In general,  $R_g^* \sigma = \sigma$ ,  $g$  is  $n \times n$  <sup>orthogonal</sup> matrix with  $\det 1$ , i.e.,  $g$  is a proper orthogonal matrix.

Let's prove it for  $n=2$ .

$$g = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\sigma = \frac{x dy - y dx}{x^2 + y^2}$$