

Lemma. If $T \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ satisfies

$$\Delta T = \eta \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n),$$

then $T = T_\psi$ for some $\psi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ such that $\Delta \psi = \eta$.

If $\Delta T = \eta$ means that $\eta = T\eta$, for $\eta \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$

Proof. We will write down an explicit solution $P \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ to the equation

$$\Delta P = \eta,$$

using the classical Green's function

$$G(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\|x-y\|^{n-2}}, & n \geq 3 \\ \log \|x-y\|, & n = 2. \end{cases}$$

Then

$$\Delta(T - T_P) = 0,$$

and this lemma follows from the preceding one.

We shall assume that $n \geq 3$, the case $n = 2$ being essentially the same.

Define

$$\begin{aligned} P(x) &= C_n \int_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{\eta(y) dy}{\|x-y\|^{n-2}} \\ &= \pm C_n \int_{u \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{\eta(x-u) du}{\|u\|^{n-2}} \end{aligned}$$

where the equality follows from the change of variables $y = x - u$.