Asymptotic expansions for Riesz potentials of Airy functions and their products

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Abstract. Riesz potentials of a function are defined as fractional powers of the Laplacian. Asymptotic expansions for $x \to \pm \infty$ are derived for the Riesz potentials of the Airy function Ai(x) and the Scorer function Gi(x). Reduction formulas are provided that allow to compute Riesz potentials of the products of Airy functions $Ai^2(x)$ and Ai(x)Bi(x), where Bi(x) is the Airy function of the second type, via the Riesz potentials of Ai(x) and Gi(x). Integral representations are given for the function $A_2(a,b;x) = Ai(x-a)Ai(x-b)$ with $a,b \in \mathbf{R}$, and its Hilbert transform. Combined with the above asymptotic expansions they can be used for obtaining asymptotics of the Hankel transform of Riesz potentials of $A_2(a,b;x)$. The study of the above Riesz fractional derivatives can be used for establishing new properties of Korteweg-de Vries-type equations.

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1. Introduction

It is well known that fundamental solutions of equations of the Korteweg-de Vries (KdV henceforth) type are expressed in terms of the Airy function of the first type Ai(x). Indeed, the fundamental solution of the linearized Cauchy problem for the classical Korteweg-de Vries equation,

$$u_t + u_{xxx} = -\left(u^2\right)_x,$$

can be written in the form

$$\mathcal{E}_0(x,t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{3t}} Ai \left(\frac{x}{\sqrt[3]{3t}}\right).$$

It was shown in [1] that for the close relative of KdV, the Ostrovsky equation,

$$u_t + u_{xxx} = \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{x} u \, \mathrm{d}y - \left(u^2\right)_x,$$

where $\gamma = const > 0$ is the rotation parameter, the corresponding fundamental solution can be represented in the form

$$\mathcal{E}(x,t) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{3t}} \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x} \int_0^\infty Ai \left(\frac{x+y}{\sqrt[3]{3t}} \right) J_0 \left(2\sqrt{\gamma t y} \right) \, \mathrm{d}y$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{3t}} Ai \left(\frac{x}{\sqrt[3]{3t}} \right) - \frac{\sqrt{\gamma t}}{\sqrt[3]{3t}} \int_0^\infty Ai \left(\frac{x+y}{\sqrt[3]{3t}} \right) \frac{J_1 \left(2\sqrt{\gamma t y} \right)}{\sqrt{y}} \, \mathrm{d}y, \tag{1}$$

where $J_{\nu}(x)$ is the Bessel function of order ν .

Riesz potentials (sometimes also called Riesz fractional derivatives) of fundamental solutions are of great importance in studying global solvability, properties and the long-time behavior of the corresponding Cauchy problems (see [2, 3, 4, 5] and the references therein). In the current paper we are concerned with obtaining asymptotic expansions as $x \to \pm \infty$ of the Riesz potentials of the Airy function Ai(x) and the Scorer function Gi(x) = -HAi(x), where H is the Hilbert transform (see (5) below). Riesz fractional derivatives of these functions of order $\alpha = 1/2$ stand out as the highest Riesz potentials that are still uniformly bounded on the whole real axis (see [2, 3]). Moreover, all semi-integer derivatives of Ai(x) and Gi(x) can be expressed in terms of the products of Airy functions (see [5]). We also provide formulas that allow one to obtain asymptotic expansions of the products of Airy functions Ai(x)Bi(x), $Ai^2(x)$ and Ai(x-a)Ai(x-b) with $a, b \in R$. Here Bi(x) is the Airy function of the second type.

The next statement was proved in [6]. It provides reduction formulas that allow to compute Riesz potentials of the products of Airy functions once $D_x^{\alpha}Ai(x)$ and $D_x^{\alpha}Gi(x)$ are known.

Theorem 1 Riesz fractional derivatives of the products of Airy functions have the following representations for $\alpha > -1/2$ and $x \in \mathbf{R}$:

$$D_x^{\alpha} \left\{ Ai^2(x) \right\} = k_{\alpha} \left[\left(D^{\alpha - 1/2} Ai \right) \left(2^{2/3} x \right) - \left(D^{\alpha - 1/2} Gi \right) \left(2^{2/3} x \right) \right]$$

$$(2)$$

and

$$D_x^{\alpha} \left\{ Ai(x)Bi(x) \right\} = k_{\alpha} \left[\left(D^{\alpha - 1/2}Ai \right) \left(2^{2/3}x \right) + \left(D^{\alpha - 1/2}Gi \right) \left(2^{2/3}x \right) \right], \tag{3}$$

where

$$k_{\alpha} = \frac{2^{2(\alpha - 1)/3}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}.$$
 (4)

2. Definitions

The Fourier transform of the function $f: \mathbf{R} \to \mathbf{R}$ is defined by the formula

$$\hat{f}(\xi) = \mathcal{F} \{f\} (\xi) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-i\xi x} f(x) dx$$

and the inverse Fourier transform by

$$f(x) = \mathcal{F}^{-1}\left\{\hat{f}\right\}(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i\xi x} \hat{f}(\xi) d\xi.$$

Introduce the Hankel transform of the function f by the formula (see [7, p. 316])

$$\tilde{f}(k) = \mathcal{H}_{x \to k} \{f\}(k) = \int_0^\infty f(x) J_m(kx) x \, \mathrm{d}x$$

and the corresponding inverse transform by

$$\mathcal{H}_{k\to x}^{-1}\left\{\tilde{f}\right\}(x) = \int_0^\infty \tilde{f}(k)J_m(kx)k\,\mathrm{d}k.$$

Introduce the Hilbert transform of the function f by the formula (see [8, p. 120])

$$H\left\{f\right\}(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} P.V. \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{f(y)}{y - x} \,\mathrm{d}y,\tag{5}$$

where $x \in \mathbf{R}$ and P.V. denotes the Cauchy principal value of an integral. Notice that this definition differs by the opposite sign from the convolution-type definition of [9, p. 26]. According to our choice of the Fourier transform, $(\widehat{H}f)(\xi) = i \operatorname{sgn}(\xi) \widehat{f}(\xi)$. One can see that $H^2 = -I$ on $L_p(\mathbf{R})$, $p \geq 1$, where I is the identity operator.

For $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ Riesz potentials are defined via the Fourier transform (see [9, p. 117] and [10, p. 88])

$$\left(\left(-\Delta \right)^{\alpha/2} f \right)^{\wedge} (\xi) = |\xi|^{\alpha} \hat{f}(\xi). \tag{6}$$

For $\alpha, x \in \mathbf{R}$ define the Riesz potentials by

$$D_x^{\alpha} \{ f(x) \} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\xi|^{\alpha} \hat{f}(\xi) e^{i\xi x} d\xi, \tag{7}$$

provided that the integral in the right-hand side exists. Notice that for any a > 0

$$D_x^{\alpha} \{ f(ax) \} = a^{\alpha} D_y^{\alpha} \{ f(y) \} |_{y=ax}.$$
 (8)

Introduce the function

$$A_2(a,b;x) = Ai(x-a) Ai(x-b).$$
 (9)

This function appears in the studies of the Gelfand-Levitan-Marchenko equation (see [11, p. 408]), the second Painlevé equation (see [12, p. 134]) and the limit at the "edge of the spectrum" of the level spacing distribution functions obtained from scaling random models of Hermitian matrices in the Gaussian Unitary Ensemble ([13] and [14]).

3. Asymptotic expansions of Riesz potentials of the Airy and Scorer functions for $x \to +\infty$

The Riesz potentials of Ai(x) and Gi(x) can be written as

$$D_x^{\alpha} Ai(x) = \Re F(x), \quad D_x^{\alpha} Gi(x) = \Im F(x), \tag{10}$$

where $\Re f$ and $\Im f$ denote the real and imaginary parts of f, respectively, and

$$F(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \xi^\alpha e^{i(x\xi + \frac{1}{3}\xi^3)} d\xi.$$
 (11)

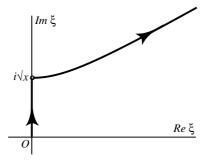


Figure 1. Modification of the path of integration giving the integral in (14) and an integral that is exponentially small.

Theorem 2 The following asymptotic expansions hold for $\alpha > -1$ and $x \to +\infty$:

$$D_x^{\alpha} Ai(x) \sim \frac{\cos(\pi(\alpha+1)/2)}{\pi x^{\alpha+1}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+3k+1)}{3^k k!} \frac{1}{x^{3k}}$$
, (12)

where $\alpha \neq 0, 2, 4 \dots$, and

$$D_x^{\alpha} Gi(x) \sim \frac{\sin(\pi(\alpha+1)/2)}{\pi x^{\alpha+1}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+3k+1)}{3^k k!} \frac{1}{x^{3k}},$$
 (13)

where $\alpha \neq 1, 3, 5 \dots$

Proof We use a representation of the integral in (11) similar to the one for Gi(x) in (3.18) of [15]. To do so, notice that the exponential function in the integrand in (11) has a saddle point at $\xi = i\sqrt{x}$. We integrate from the origin to this saddle point, and from there to ∞ , inside the valley at $\infty \exp(\pi i/6)$. The latter part can be neglected, because it is exponentially small compared with the first part. Therefore we have for large positive x

$$F(x) = \frac{e^{\frac{1}{2}\pi i(\alpha+1)}}{\pi} \int_0^{\sqrt{x}} v^{\alpha} e^{-xv + \frac{1}{3}v^3} dv + \mathcal{O}\left(x^{\alpha} e^{-\frac{2}{3}x^{3/2}}\right).$$
(14)

The asymptotic expansion follows from applying Watson's lemma (see [16, pp. 112–116]). We expand $\exp(\frac{1}{3}v^3) = \sum v^{3k}/(3^k k!)$, and integrate termwise (replacing the upper limit of the interval by ∞). As a result we obtain

$$F(x) \sim \frac{e^{\frac{1}{2}\pi i(\alpha+1)}}{\pi} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{3^k k!} \int_0^{\infty} v^{\alpha+3k} e^{-xv} dv.$$
 (15)

Evaluating these integrals we get

$$F(x) \sim \frac{e^{\frac{1}{2}\pi i(\alpha+1)}}{\pi x^{\alpha+1}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+3k+1)}{3^k k!} \frac{1}{x^{3k}}, \qquad x \to +\infty.$$
 (16)

Taking the real and imaginary parts of the last expression we deduce (12) and (13).

Remark. In order to recover the known asymptotic expansions for $\alpha = 0, 1, 2, ...$ we need to complement (12) and (13) with the corresponding exponentially decaying terms from (14), that is the real and imaginary parts of the integral from $i\sqrt{x}$ to $\propto \exp(\pi i/6)$.

4. Asymptotic expansions of Riesz potentials of the Airy and Scorer functions f for $x \to -\infty$

Theorem 3 The following asymptotic expansions hold for $x \to -\infty$:

$$D_{x}^{\alpha}Ai(x) \sim \frac{|x|^{\frac{1}{2}\alpha - \frac{1}{4}}\cos\left(\frac{1}{4}\pi - \frac{2}{3}|x|^{3/2}\right)}{\sqrt{\pi}} - \frac{|x|^{\frac{1}{2}\alpha - \frac{1}{4}}\sin\left(\frac{1}{4}\pi - \frac{2}{3}|x|^{3/2}\right)\left(12\alpha^{2} - 24\alpha + 5\right)}{\sqrt{\pi}48|x|^{3/2}} + \frac{\cos\left(\frac{1}{2}\pi(\alpha + 1)\right)}{\pi|x|^{\alpha + 1}}\left[\Gamma(\alpha + 1) - \frac{\Gamma(\alpha + 4)}{3|x|^{3}} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{|x|^{6}}\right)\right]$$

$$(17)$$

and

$$D_x^{\alpha}Gi(x) \sim \frac{|x|^{\frac{1}{2}\alpha - \frac{1}{4}} \sin\left(\frac{1}{4}\pi - \frac{2}{3}|x|^{3/2}\right)}{\sqrt{\pi}} - \frac{|x|^{\frac{1}{2}\alpha - \frac{1}{4}} \cos\left(\frac{1}{4}\pi - \frac{2}{3}|x|^{3/2}\right) (12\alpha^2 - 24\alpha + 5)}{\sqrt{\pi}48|x|^{3/2}} - \frac{\sin\left(\frac{1}{2}\pi(\alpha + 1)\right)}{\pi|x|^{\alpha + 1}} \left[\Gamma(\alpha + 1) - \frac{\Gamma(\alpha + 4)}{3|x|^3} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{|x|^6}\right)\right].$$

$$(18)$$

Proof We write

$$F(-x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \xi^\alpha e^{i(-x\xi + \frac{1}{3}\xi^3)} d\xi,$$
 (19)

and assume that in the proof $x \to +\infty$. For the integral (19) there is a positive stationary point at $\xi = \sqrt{x}$, which gives a contribution to the asymptotic expansion, but there is also a contribution from the origin. To handle both contributions, we replace the original path of integration by two new contours, giving two integrals $F(-x) = F_1(-x) + F_2(-x)$, where F_i are defined by

$$F_{1}(-x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{0}^{-i\infty} \xi^{\alpha} e^{i(-x\xi + \frac{1}{3}\xi^{3})} d\xi,$$

$$F_{2}(-x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-i\infty}^{\infty e^{\pi i/6}} \xi^{\alpha} e^{i(-x\xi + \frac{1}{3}\xi^{3})} d\xi.$$
(20)

So, the contour for F_2 runs from the valley at $-i\infty$ to the valley at $\infty \exp(\pi i/6)$, and we can take the contour through the saddle point at $\xi = \sqrt{x}$. See Figure 2.

For F_1 we integrate by setting $\xi = -iv$, v > 0 and obtain

$$F_1(-x) = \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{2}i(\alpha+1)}}{\pi} \int_0^\infty v^\alpha e^{-(xv+\frac{1}{3}v^3)} dv.$$
 (21)

Proceeding as for the integral in (14) we deduce that

$$F_1(-x) \sim \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{2}\pi i(\alpha+1)}}{\pi x^{\alpha+1}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+3k+1)}{3^k k!} \frac{(-1)^k}{x^{3k}},$$
 (22)

as $x \to +\infty$.

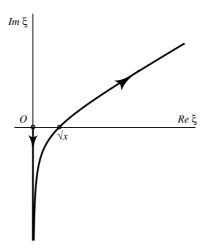


Figure 2. Modification of the path of integration giving the integrals in (20).

For F_2 we first write $\xi = \sqrt{x}\eta$, which gives

$$F_2(-x) = \frac{x^{\frac{1}{2}(\alpha+1)}}{\pi} \int_{-i\infty}^{\infty e^{\pi i/6}} \xi^{\alpha} e^{-x\sqrt{x}\phi(\eta)} d\eta,$$

$$\phi(\eta) = i \left(\eta - \frac{1}{3}\eta^3\right).$$
(23)

We have $\phi(1) = \frac{2}{3}i$ and $\phi''(1) = -2i$. Performing the transformation

$$\phi(\eta) = \phi(1) + \frac{1}{2}\phi''(1)w^2,$$

that is

$$w^{2} = \frac{2}{3} - \eta + \frac{1}{3}\eta^{3} = \frac{1}{3}(\eta + 2)(\eta - 1)^{2},$$

$$w = \sqrt{(\eta + 2)/3}(\eta - 1),$$
(24)

We integrate in the neighborhood of the saddle point at w=0 along the straight line through the origin which has an angle of $\frac{1}{4}\pi$ with the positive w-axis. This yields

$$F_2(-x) = \frac{x^{\frac{1}{2}(\alpha+1)} e^{-\frac{2}{3}x\sqrt{x}i}}{\pi} \int_{-\infty e^{-3\pi i/4}}^{\infty e^{\pi i/4}} f(w) e^{ix\sqrt{x}w^2} dw,$$
 (25)

where

$$f(w) = \eta^{\alpha} \frac{\mathrm{d}\eta}{\mathrm{d}w}.$$

We expand $f(w) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k w^k$ and deduce that

$$F_{2}(-x) \sim \frac{x^{\frac{1}{2}(\alpha+1)} e^{-\frac{2}{3}ix\sqrt{x}}}{\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_{2k} \int_{\infty e^{-3\pi i/4}}^{\infty e^{\pi i/4}} w^{2k} e^{ix\sqrt{x}w^{2}} dw.}$$
(26)

To evaluate the integrals we set $w = te^{i\pi/4}$. This yields

$$e^{i(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{2}\pi k)} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} t^{2k} e^{-x\sqrt{x}t^{2}} dt$$

$$= e^{i(\frac{1}{4}\pi + \frac{1}{2}\pi k)} \Gamma\left(k + \frac{1}{2}\right) x^{-\frac{3}{2}(k + \frac{1}{2})}.$$
(27)

So, we finally obtain

$$F_2(-x) \sim \frac{x^{\frac{1}{2}\alpha - \frac{1}{4}} e^{\frac{1}{4}\pi i - \frac{2}{3}ix\sqrt{x}}}{\pi} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_{2k} \frac{i^k \Gamma(k + \frac{1}{2})}{x^{\frac{3}{2}k}},$$
 (28)

as $x \to +\infty$. A few first coefficients are

$$c_0 = 1, \quad c_2 = \frac{1}{24} \left(12\alpha^2 - 24\alpha + 5 \right).$$
 (29)

Taking the real and imaginary parts of (21) and (28) we obtain (17) and (18).

5. Applying the asymptotic results

The next statement was proved in [17].

Theorem 4 The following representation holds for $x \in \mathbf{R}$, $a, b, \omega_1, \omega_2 \in \mathbf{R}$ and $\omega_1, \omega_2 \neq 0$:

$$Ai\left(\frac{x-a}{\omega_1}\right)Ai\left(\frac{x-b}{\omega_2}\right) = -\frac{2}{\Omega_1} \int_0^\infty J_0\left(2\left(\Omega_2 x + B\right)\eta\right) \times \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x} \left[Ai^2\left(\Omega_1 x - A + \eta^2\right)\right] \eta \,\mathrm{d}\eta,$$
(30)

where

$$\Omega_1 = \frac{\omega_1 + \omega_2}{2\omega_1\omega_2}, \qquad \Omega_2 = \frac{\omega_2 - \omega_1}{2\omega_1\omega_2},
A = \frac{a\omega_1 + b\omega_2}{2\omega_1\omega_2}, \qquad B = \frac{b\omega_1 - a\omega_2}{2\omega_1\omega_2}.$$
(31)

We list here several important corollaries that allow us to get the Hankel transforms of the function $A_2(a, b; x)$ and its Riesz fractional derivatives. Notice that

$$Ai(x-a) Ai(x-b) = Ai(x-Y-Z) Ai(x-Y+Z),$$

where

$$Y = \frac{a+b}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad Z = \frac{b-a}{2}. \tag{32}$$

Corollary 1 The following formulas hold for $x \in \mathbf{R}$ and $a, b \in \mathbf{R}$:

$$A_2(a,b;x) = -2\frac{d}{dx} \int_0^\infty Ai^2 (x - Y + \eta^2) J_0(2Z\eta) \eta \,d\eta$$
 (33)

and

$$-H_x \left\{ A_2(a,b;x) \right\} = -2 \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x} \int_0^\infty Ai \left(x - Y + \eta^2 \right) \times Bi \left(x - Y + \eta^2 \right) J_0 \left(2Z\eta \right) \eta \, \mathrm{d}\eta.$$
(34)

Proof Evidently, (33) is a particular case of (30) when $\omega_1 = \omega_2 = 1$. Taking the Hilbert transform of (33) with respect to x yields (34).

Corollary 2 For α , a, $b \in \mathbf{R}$ Riesz fractional derivatives of the function $A_2(a, b; x)$ are given by the formula

$$D_{x}^{\alpha} \left\{ A_{2}(a,b;x) \right\} = \frac{2^{2(\alpha-1)/3}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x} \int_{0}^{\infty} \left[\left(D_{x}^{\alpha-1/2} Ai \right) \left(2^{2/3} \left(x - Y + \eta^{2} \right) \right) - \left(D_{x}^{\alpha-1/2} Gi \right) \left(2^{2/3} \left(x - Y + \eta^{2} \right) \right) \right] J_{0} (2Z\eta) \eta \, \mathrm{d}\eta$$
(35)

and

$$H\left\{D_{x}^{\alpha}\left\{A_{2}(a,b;x)\right\}\right\} = \frac{2^{2(\alpha-1)/3}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x} \int_{0}^{\infty} \left[\left(D_{x}^{\alpha-1/2}Ai\right)\left(2^{2/3}\left(x-Y+\eta^{2}\right)\right) + \left(D_{x}^{\alpha-1/2}Gi\right)\left(2^{2/3}\left(x-Y+\eta^{2}\right)\right)\right] J_{0}\left(2Z\eta\right)\eta\,\mathrm{d}\eta,$$
(36)

where the integrals in the right-hand sides exist at least in the sense of distributions.

Proof Follows from (33) and (34).

Corollary 3 The following relations hold for $\alpha > -\frac{1}{2}$:

$$2\mathcal{H}_{Z\to\zeta} \left\{ D_x^{\alpha-1} \left(Ai(x-Z)Ai(x+Z) \right) \right\}$$

$$= k_\alpha \left[D^{\alpha-1/2}Ai(X) + D^{\alpha-1/2}Gi(X) \right]$$
(37)

and

$$2\mathcal{H}_{Z\to\zeta} \left\{ D_x^{\alpha-1} H_x \left(Ai(x-Z) Ai(x+Z) \right) \right\}$$

$$= k_\alpha \left[D^{\alpha-1/2} Ai(X) - D^{\alpha-1/2} Gi(X) \right], \tag{38}$$

where k_{α} is defined by (4) and $X = 2^{2/3} \left(x + \frac{1}{4} \zeta^2 \right)$.

Combining the asymptotic expansions (12), (13), (17) and (18) and Corollary 3 we can obtain asymptotic expansions of the Hankel transforms (37) and (38) for $x \to \pm \infty$ or $\zeta \to \infty$.

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