

# Divergent Integrals and Regularization by Stratification

Third volume of the *grain program*

Hugues Genvrin

May 25, 2026

# Outline

- 1 Context and motivation
- 2 Stratified integration
- 3 Hierarchy of divergences
- 4 Regularization by projection
- 5 Critical bound and stratified convergence
- 6 Summary and outlook

# The grain program in three volumes

- 1 **Axiomatique du grain** (Volume I): construction of the partial field  $\tilde{\mathbb{R}}$  from a geometric process (circles with angle doubling); recovery of  $\mathbb{R}$  as standard restriction.
- 2 **Symétrie de résolution** (Volume II): the geometric process is bidirectional. Downward refinement ( $\mathcal{F}$ ) and upward dilation ( $\mathcal{F}^{-1}$ ) are dual. The double mosaic on  $\Delta_\infty$ . Canonical bijection  $\delta_k$ .
- 3 **Divergent integrals** (Volume III, this talk): application to divergent integrals. The natural setting for a stratified regularization.

## Central idea of Volume III

A Riemann sum on the double mosaic is *always finite* in the self-engendered hierarchy. Classical divergences become values in higher strata; the projection  $\tilde{\mathbb{R}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  acts as intrinsic regularization.

# Notation reminders

- $n_\infty$ : limit resolution level (idealized symbol added to  $\mathbb{Z}$ ).
- $L_\infty := 2\pi \cdot 2^{n_\infty}$ : total length of the deployment  $\tilde{\mathbb{R}}^+$ .
- $\Delta x := 2\pi/2^{n_\infty}$ : fine elementary length on the mosaic.
- $\tilde{\mathbb{R}}|_k$ : stratum  $k$ , set of elements with absolute value  $\leq 2^{kn_\infty}$ .
- st: standard part projection.
- Strict stratification convention:  $c \cdot 2^{kn_\infty}$  with  $c$  standard  $> 1$  does *not* lie in  $\tilde{\mathbb{R}}|_k$  but in  $\tilde{\mathbb{R}}|_{k+1}$ .

# The double mosaic of $\tilde{\mathbb{R}}^+$

$\tilde{\mathbb{R}}^+$  is the deployment of  $C_1$  at resolution  $-2n_\infty$ , segment  $[0, L_\infty[$  equipped with two levels of stratification:

- **Coarse level** ( $-n_\infty$ ):  $2^{n_\infty}$  ordinal positions, each of length  $2\pi$ .
- **Fine level** ( $-2n_\infty$ ):  $2^{2n_\infty}$  sub-positions, each of fineness  $\Delta x = 2\pi/2^{n_\infty}$ .

We write

$$x_{N,j} := (N-1) \cdot 2\pi + j \cdot \Delta x$$

for  $N \in \tilde{\mathbb{N}}_1$ ,  $j \in \tilde{\mathbb{N}}_1$ , and  $\mathcal{X} := \{x_{N,j}\}$  for the set of fine sub-positions.

# Definition of stratified integration

## Definition

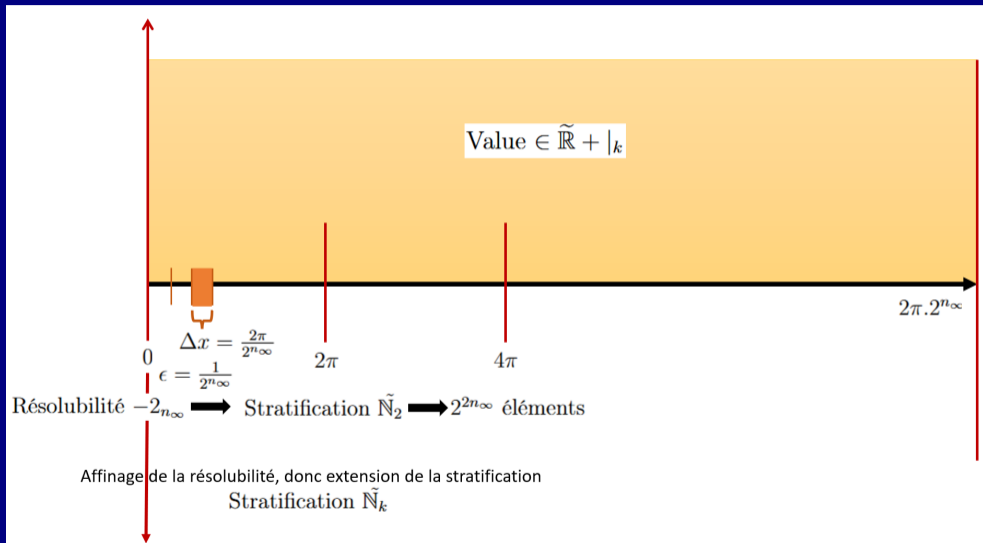
For  $f$  admissible and  $[a, b]$  in  $\widetilde{\mathbb{R}}$  with  $a, b$  mosaic positions:

$$\int_a^{\widetilde{b}} f(x) dx := \sum_{x_{N,j} \in [a, b[} f(x_{N,j}) \cdot \Delta x.$$

**Key feature.** The sum has at most  $2^{2n_\infty}$  terms; it is always finite as an element of a high-enough stratum of the self-engendered hierarchy.

**No need for limits.** Classical divergence becomes a value in some  $\widetilde{\mathbb{R}}|_k$ ; the question is only *which stratum*.

# Topological support of integration



# Compatibility with the classical Riemann integral

## Theorem (Standard compatibility)

For  $f$  continuous and Riemann-integrable on a standard interval  $[a, b] \subset \mathbb{R}$ :

$$\widetilde{\int}_a^b f(x) dx = \int_a^b f(x) dx + \varepsilon,$$

where  $\varepsilon$  is infinitesimal. In particular,  $\text{st} \left( \widetilde{\int}_a^b f \right) = \int_a^b f$ .

**Proof idea.** Classical estimate  $|\mathcal{S}_{\Delta x}(f) - \int_a^b f| \leq C\Delta x(b-a)$ , valid for continuous  $f$ . Here  $\Delta x$  is infinitesimal (but invertible: the ratio  $\Delta x/(1/L_\infty) = (2\pi)^2 \approx 39.5$  is well above the inversion threshold).

# First examples

Example 1:  $\tilde{\int}_0^{L_\infty} 1 dx$

$2^{2n_\infty}$  terms each equal to  $\Delta x$ , summing to  $L_\infty = 2\pi \cdot 2^{n_\infty}$ .

Prefactor  $2\pi > 1$ , so  $L_\infty \in \tilde{\mathbb{R}}_{|2}$  (not  $\tilde{\mathbb{R}}_{|1}$ ).

Example 2:  $\tilde{\int}_0^{L_\infty} x dx$

By Faulhaber and direct computation:

$$\tilde{\int}_0^{L_\infty} x dx \sim \frac{L_\infty^2}{2} = 2\pi^2 \cdot 2^{2n_\infty}.$$

Prefactor  $2\pi^2 \approx 19.74 > 1$ , so result lies in  $\tilde{\mathbb{R}}_{|3}$ .

# The regularization stratum $\sigma(f)$

## Definition

For  $f$  admissible and positive,

$$\sigma(f) := \min \left\{ k \in \mathbb{N} : \int_0^{\widetilde{L}_\infty} f \in \widetilde{\mathbb{R}}_{|k} \right\}.$$

**Reading.**  $\sigma(f)$  measures the *stratal resource* required to host the integral of  $f$ .

**Convention.** The name « regularization stratum » (rather than « divergence stratum ») is positive: it indicates the depth of the counter-term to bring the value back to  $\mathbb{R}$ .

# Polynomial divergences

## Theorem

For  $p \in \mathbb{N}^*$  standard,

$$\int_0^{\widetilde{L}_\infty} x^p dx = \frac{L_\infty^{p+1}}{p+1} + \varepsilon_p = \frac{(2\pi)^{p+1}}{p+1} \cdot 2^{(p+1)n_\infty} + \varepsilon_p.$$

Prefactor  $c_p := (2\pi)^{p+1}/(p+1)$  is standard,  $> 1$  for  $p \geq 1$ . Hence

$$\boxed{\sigma(x^p) = p + 2.}$$

**Note.** The shift  $\sigma(x^p) = p + 2$  (not  $p + 1$  as a naive order-of-magnitude reading would suggest) reflects that the standard analytic prefactor consumes an extra stratum.

# Inverse (UV) divergences

## Theorem

For  $q \in \mathbb{N}^*$  standard,

$$\int_{\Delta_x}^{\sim 1} \frac{dx}{x^q} \sim \begin{cases} \zeta(q) \cdot 2^{(q-1)n_\infty} / (2\pi)^{q-1} & \text{if } q \geq 2, \\ n_\infty \ln 2 + O(1) & \text{if } q = 1. \end{cases}$$

Prefactors are  $< 1$  in all cases. Hence

$$\sigma(1/x^q) = q - 1 \text{ for } q \geq 2, \quad \sigma(1/x) = 1.$$

**UV-IR symmetry.** The substitution  $u = 1/x$  exchanges divergences at the origin (UV) and at infinity (IR). Prefactors  $< 1$  vs  $> 1$  naturally distinguish them.

# Logarithmic divergences

## Theorem

For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  standard,

$$\int_1^{\sim L_\infty} (\ln x)^k dx \sim (2\pi)(n_\infty \ln 2)^k \cdot 2^{n_\infty}.$$

Global prefactor  $2\pi(\ln 2)^k$  standard; factor  $n_\infty^k$  remains sub-stratal for  $k$  standard. Hence

$$\sigma((\ln x)^k) = 2.$$

**Reading.** All powers of the logarithm sit in  $\tilde{\mathbb{R}}_2$  regardless of  $k$ : the logarithm is *too slow* to climb the hierarchy on its own.

# Exponential divergences

## Theorem

For  $c > 0$  standard,

$$\int_0^{\widetilde{L}_\infty} e^{cx} dx \sim \frac{e^{cL_\infty}}{c} = \frac{2^{\alpha \cdot 2^{n_\infty}}}{c}, \quad \alpha = \frac{c \cdot 2\pi}{\ln 2}.$$

The exponent  $\alpha \cdot 2^{n_\infty}$  exceeds  $kn_\infty$  for every standard  $k$ . Hence

$$\sigma(e^{cx}) = \infty.$$

**The exponential leaves  $\widetilde{\mathbb{R}}$ .** It lives in the extension  $\widetilde{\widetilde{\mathbb{R}}}$  (and beyond): the self-engendered hierarchy naturally hosts what classical analysis cannot.

# Summary table of strata

Function	Integral	Stratum $\sigma(f)$
$x^p$ ( $p \geq 1$ )	$\sim L_\infty^{p+1}/(p+1)$	$p+2$
$1/x^q$ ( $q \geq 2$ )	$\sim \zeta(q) \cdot 2^{(q-1)n_\infty}$	$q-1$
$1/x$	$\sim n_\infty \ln 2$	1
$(\ln x)^k$	$\sim (2\pi)n_\infty^k 2^{n_\infty}$	2
$e^{cx}$	$\sim 2^{\alpha 2^{n_\infty}}$	$\infty$

**Hierarchy reading.** Polynomial and logarithmic functions stay inside  $\widetilde{\mathbb{R}}$  (finite strata). Inverse functions also do (UV-IR duality). The exponential jumps to  $\widetilde{\widetilde{\mathbb{R}}}$  at once.

# Regularization by projection

## Definition

For  $f$  admissible and  $\tilde{f} \in \tilde{\mathbb{R}}|_k$  with  $k \geq 1$ ,

$$\text{Reg}_\sigma \left( \int f \right) := \text{st} \left( \frac{\tilde{\int}_0^{L_\infty} f(x) dx}{\lambda} \right),$$

where  $\lambda \in \tilde{\mathbb{R}}|_k$  is a *counter-term* chosen so that the ratio falls in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

**Division, not subtraction.** The counter-term is divided out, extracting the leading coefficient. This is closer in spirit to zeta-regularization than to additive renormalization schemes.

# Polynomial regularization

## Theorem

For  $p \in \mathbb{N}^*$  standard and  $\lambda_p := L_\infty^{p+1}/(p+1)$ ,

$$\text{Reg}_\sigma \left( \int_0^\infty x^p dx \right) = 1.$$

**Proof.**  $\int_0^\infty x^p \sim L_\infty^{p+1} = \lambda_p + \varepsilon_p$  with  $\varepsilon_p/\lambda_p$  infinitesimal. So  $\tilde{f}/\lambda_p = 1 + \text{infinitesimal}$ , standard part = 1.

**Geometric reading.** The counter-term  $\lambda_p$  is exactly the dominant asymptotic term. The regularized value is the *normalized leading coefficient*, here 1.

# Logarithmic regularization

## Theorem

$\text{Reg}_\sigma \left( \int_0^1 dx/x \right) = 1$  with counter-term  $\lambda = n_\infty \ln 2$ .

**Proof.**  $\int_{\Delta x}^1 dx/x \sim n_\infty \ln 2 + O(1)$ . Divided by  $\lambda$ :  $1 + O(1)/(n_\infty \ln 2)$ . The ratio is infinitesimal, standard part = 1.

**Universal reading.** Both polynomial and logarithmic regularizations give 1. The value 1 is the universal normalized leading term. The function-specific information lies in the *sub-leading corrections*.

# $\sigma$ as a function of the upper bound

## Definition

For  $f \geq 0$  admissible and  $B$  a mosaic position,

$$\sigma(f, B) := \min \left\{ k : \int_0^B f \in \tilde{\mathbb{R}}_{|k} \right\}.$$

$\sigma(f) = \sigma(f, L_\infty)$  is the maximal-bound case.

## Critical bound

$$B_k(f) := \sup \{ B : \sigma(f, B) \leq k \}.$$

**Idea.** Instead of asking « in which stratum does the integral sit? », ask « up to where can we integrate while staying in stratum  $k$ ? ».

# Critical bounds for the main classes

## Theorem

For  $f(x) = e^x$ ,

$$B_k(e^x) = k \cdot n_\infty \ln 2 \quad \text{for all } k \geq 1.$$

**Proof.**  $\int_0^B e^x dx = e^B - 1$ . At  $B = c \cdot n_\infty \ln 2$  with  $c$  standard positive:  $e^B = 2^{cn_\infty}$ . Strict stratum:  $2^{cn_\infty} \in \tilde{\mathbb{R}}_{|k}$  iff  $c \leq k$ .

**Conceptual gain.** Classical analysis says  $\int_0^\infty e^x = \infty$ . Our framework refines: for any  $B \leq n_\infty \ln 2$ , the integral is finite in  $\tilde{\mathbb{R}}$ . Beyond, it climbs into higher extensions according to  $B/(n_\infty \ln 2)$ .

# Fine classification by critical bounds

## Theorem

- *Polynomial, logarithmic:*  $B_k$  saturates at  $L_\infty$  from some finite stratum on (depending on the standard prefactor).
- *Exponential:*  $B_k(e^{cx}) = kn_\infty \ln 2/c$ , linear in  $k$ .
- *Double-exponential:*  $B_k(e^{e^x}) \sim \ln(kn_\infty)$ , logarithmic in  $k$ .

**Reading.** The critical bound  $B_k$  measures the *growth rate* of the function:

- Slow growth  $\Leftrightarrow B_k$  quickly saturates at  $L_\infty$ .
- Fast growth  $\Leftrightarrow B_k$  stays small for all  $k$ .

# Universal regularization at the critical bound

## Definition

For  $f$  admissible positive and  $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$  with  $B_k(f) > 0$ ,

$$\text{Reg}_k(f) := \text{st} \left( \frac{1}{2^{kn_\infty}} \int_0^{\widetilde{B}_k(f)} f(x) dx \right).$$

**Universal counter-term.** Here  $2^{kn_\infty}$ , the exact upper bound of  $\widetilde{\mathbb{R}}_{|k}$ . This counter-term is universal: independent of  $f$ . The adaptation to  $f$  happens through  $B_k(f)$ .

# Universal regularization theorem

## Theorem

For every admissible positive  $f$  and every  $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$  with  $B_k(f)$  non-trivial,

$$\text{Reg}_k(f) = 1.$$

**Proof sketch.** At the critical bound,  $\int_0^{\sim B_k(f)} f = 2^{kn_\infty} - \varepsilon_k$  where  $\varepsilon_k$  has strictly lower stratum. Divided by  $2^{kn_\infty}$ :  $1 - \varepsilon_k/2^{kn_\infty}$ , ratio infinitesimal, standard part = 1.

# Information lies in sub-dominants

**Universality.**  $\text{Reg}_k(f) = 1$  for every  $f$ . This is not a coincidence: the construction normalizes by design.

**Where is the function-specific information?** In the sub-leading corrections:

$$\frac{\varepsilon_k}{2^{kn_\infty}} \quad \text{viewed as an infinitesimal of } \widetilde{\mathbb{R}}.$$

**Analogy with dimensional regularization.** In dimensional reg,  $1/\epsilon$  is universal but the coefficients of  $\epsilon^{-n}$  carry the physics. Here the leading value is 1 but the sub-dominants distinguish functions. Systematic development of these sub-dominants would be the stratified analog of  $\epsilon$ -expansion.

## Example: exponential at critical bound

### Corollary

For  $f(x) = e^x$  with  $B_1(e^x) = n_\infty \ln 2$ :

$$\frac{\int_0^{\sim n_\infty \ln 2} e^x dx}{2^{n_\infty}} = \frac{2^{n_\infty} - 1}{2^{n_\infty}} = 1 - \frac{1}{2^{n_\infty}}.$$

So  $\text{Reg}_1(e^x) = 1$ , with sub-dominant  $-1/2^{n_\infty}$ .

**Reading.** The standard part is 1 (universal). The sub-dominant  $-1/2^{n_\infty}$  is an infinitesimal that encodes the specifically exponential behavior of  $f$ : namely, the integral falls short of the stratum boundary by exactly one unit out of  $2^{n_\infty}$ .

# What this volume accomplishes

- 1 **Stratified Riemann integral**  $\tilde{\int}$ , always finite by construction, compatible with classical integration on standard intervals.
- 2 **Hierarchy of divergences** via the regularization stratum  $\sigma(f)$ : a clear classification of all standard function classes.
- 3 **Strict stratification convention**: prefactors  $> 1$  consume a stratum. Precise placement of polynomial, logarithmic, inverse, exponential divergences.
- 4 **Two regularization schemes**:
  - $\text{Reg}_\sigma$ : tailored counter-term, extracts the leading coefficient (usually = 1).
  - $\text{Reg}_k$ : universal counter-term, adaptation through the critical bound  $B_k(f)$ .
- 5 **Sub-dominants as the carriers of information**: analog of  $\epsilon$ -expansion in dimensional regularization.

# Open directions

- **Algebraic auto-duality of  $\widetilde{\mathbb{R}}$** : the involution  $\iota : X \mapsto 1/X$  and its precise relation to the geometric duality  $\delta_k$ . Subject for a fourth volume.
- **Renormalization correspondences**: making the analogies with Pauli-Villars, dimensional regularization, and  $\zeta$ -regularization rigorous via explicit dictionaries.
- **Applications to physics.**

# Thank you.

Questions?

[hugues@genvrin.fr](mailto:hugues@genvrin.fr)

Hugues Genvrin

*Programme du grain*

May 25, 2026