

**Zeitschrift:** L'Enseignement Mathématique  
**Herausgeber:** Commission Internationale de l'Enseignement Mathématique  
**Band:** 24 (1978)  
**Heft:** 1-2: L'ENSEIGNEMENT MATHÉMATIQUE

**Artikel:** SINGULAR INTEGRAL EQUATION CONNECTED WITH QUASICONFORMAL MAPPINGS IN SPACE  
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**Kapitel:** 5. FUNDAMENTAL SOLUTIONS  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-49703>

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with

$$\Delta(x, y) = (1 - 2Q(y))(1 - 2Q(x - y^*)) = (1 - 2Q(y - x^*))(1 - 2Q(x)).$$

Observe that  $\Delta(x, y) = {}^t\Delta(y, x)$  and  $\Delta(x, y)^2 = 1_n$  so that  $\Delta(x, y) \in O(n)$ . The matrix  $\Delta(x, y)$  generalizes the angle  $\arg(1 - \bar{x}y)/(1 - \bar{y}x)$ .

It is useful to note that  $|Ax - Ay|^2 = |A'(x)| |A'(y)| |x - y|^2$  for any Möbius transformation  $A$ , and  $[Ax, Ay]^2 = |A'(x)| |A'(y)| [x, y]^2$  if  $A \in G$ . There is an important relation between  $T_y x$  and  $T_x y$  expressed by

$$(4) \quad T_y x = -\Delta(x, y) T_x y.$$

We refer to [2, 3, 4, 5] for the elementary proofs of these formulas.

## 5. FUNDAMENTAL SOLUTIONS

A continuous mapping  $f: B \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$  will be called a *deformation*. In this paper we shall assume, mainly for simplicity, that  $f$  is continuous on the boundary  $S(1)$ , and that  $x \cdot f(x) = 0$  on  $S(1)$ ; this means that  $f$  maps  $B$  on itself when regarded as an infinitesimal mapping.

A deformation is *trivial* if  $Sf = 0$ . There are very few trivial deformations: a complete list is given in [3].

It is customary to say that  $f$  is a *quasiconformal* deformation if  $\|Sf\| \in L^\infty(B)$ ; here  $\|Sf\|$  is the function whose value at  $x$  is the square norm of the matrix  $Sf(x)$ . More generally, we shall also consider functions with  $\|Sf\| \in L^p(B)$ ; we abbreviate to  $Sf \in L^p$ , and we denote the  $L^p$ -norm of the square norm by  $\|Sf\|_p$ . The same convention will prevail for all matrix-valued functions.

We shall say that  $f$  is *harmonic* if  $S^* \rho Sf = 0$ ,  $\rho = (1 - |x|^2)^{-n}$ . Because of the invariance, if  $f$  is harmonic and  $A \in G$ , then  $A^* f$  is also harmonic. Harmonicity in this sense is not the same as requiring the components to be harmonic with respect to the Poincaré metric.

There are  $n$  linearly independent solutions of the equation  $S^* \gamma = 0$  which are homogeneous of degree  $1 - n$ . We denote them by  $\gamma_{\dots, k}$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, n$ , the elements being

$$\gamma_{ij,k}(x) = |x|^{-n} (\delta_{ik} x_j + \delta_{jk} x_i - \delta_{ij} x_k) + (n-2) |x|^{-n-2} x_i x_j x_k.$$

There is a unique vector-valued function  $g_{\dots, k}(x)$  with components  $g_{ik}(x)$  such that  $g_{\dots, k}(x) = 0$  for  $|x| = 1$  and  $\rho Sg_{\dots, k} = \gamma_{\dots, k}$  so that

$S^* \rho S g_{..k} = 0$ , or more precisely a Dirac distribution concentrated at 0. It is easy to see that  $g = g_{ik}$ , which we regard as a Green's matrix, will be of the form  $g_{ik}(x) = a(|x|) \delta_{ik} + b(|x|) x_i x_k$ ; the explicit expressions for  $a(r)$  and  $b(r)$  are unimportant, except that  $g$  is of order  $O((1 - |x|^2)^{n+1})$  for  $|x| \rightarrow 1$  and  $O(|x|^{-n+2})$  for  $x \rightarrow 0$  (if  $n = 2$  the latter is replaced by  $O(\log 1/|x|)$ ).

If  $U \in O(n)$  it is immediate that  $g(Ux) = Ug(x)^t U$ . If we replace  $x$  by  $T_x y$  and  $U$  by  $-A(x, y)$  it follows with the help of (4) that

$$(5) \quad A(y, x) g(T_y x) = g(T_x y) A(y, x).$$

We now define the Green's matrix with singularity at  $y$  by

*Definition 1.*

$$(6) \quad g_{..k}(x, y) = (1 - |y|^2)(T_y^* g_{..k})(x) = (1 - |y|^2) T'_y(x)^{-1} g(T_y x) \\ = [x, y]^2 A(y, x) g(T_y x).$$

It is clear that  $(S^* \rho S)_1 g(x, y) = 0$  (the subscript indicates that the operator applies to the first variable). In view of (5) we can read off the symmetry property

LEMMA 1.  $g(x, y) = {}^t g(y, x)$ .

This symmetry plays a prominent role in H. Weyl's classical paper [9] which has been a strong inspiration for this work.

If  $A \in G$  it is an easy consequence of (6) that

$$g(Ax, Ay) = A'(x) g(x, y)^t A'(y)$$

or, in a more suggestive form,

$$A_1^* A_2^* g(x, y) = g(x, y),$$

where  $A_1^*$  is  $A^*$  applied to the first variable and the first index, and similarly for  $A_2^*$ .

Next we define

*Definition 2.*

$$\gamma_{..,k}(x, y) = \rho(x) S_1 g_{..k}(x, y) = (1 - |y|^2) \rho(x) (S_1 T_y^* g_{..k})(x).$$

It is evident by invariance that  $S_1^* \gamma_{..,k}(x, y) = 0$ . When  $x$  and  $y$  are transformed by the same  $A \in G$  one finds

$$A_1^* A_2^* \gamma_{..,k}(x, y) dx = \gamma_{..,k}(x, y) dx$$

where  $A_1^*$  acts on  $x$  and the double index,  $A_2^*$  on  $y$  and the single index. For  $A = T_y$  this leads to the explicit formula

$$\gamma_{\dots,k}(x, y) = \frac{(1 - |y|^2)^{n+1}}{[x, y]^{2n}} A(y, x) \gamma_{\dots,k}(T_y x) A(x, y).$$

We note that  $\gamma_{\dots,..}(x, 0) = \gamma_{\dots,..}(x)$  and  $\gamma_{\dots,..}(0, y) = -(1 - |y|^2)^{n+1} \gamma_{\dots,..}(y)$ .

We shall need to apply  $S$  to either variable in  $\gamma_{\dots,..}(x, y)$ . For this purpose we introduce

*Definition 3.*  $\Gamma_{ij,hk}(x, y) = [S_2 \gamma_{ij,..}(x, y)]_{hk}$ .

Because differentiations with respect to  $x$  and  $y$  commute it is clear that  $S_1^* \Gamma_{\dots,hk}(x, y) = 0$ . Moreover, starting from the relation  $g_{ik}(x, y) = g_{ki}(y, x)$  it is not difficult to derive the following symmetry property:

LEMMA 2.  $\rho(y) \Gamma_{ij,hk}(x, y) = \rho(x) \Gamma_{hk,ij}(y, x)$ .

It follows, in particular, that  $S_2^* \rho(y) \Gamma_{ij,..}(x, y) = 0$ .

It is also important to know the asymptotic behavior of  $\Gamma_{ij,hk}(x, y)$  when  $x - y \rightarrow 0$ . We observe first that

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(y) \Gamma_{ij,hk}(0, y) &= -(1 - |y|^2)^{-n} [S(1 - |y|^2)^{n+1} \gamma_{ij,..}(y)]_{hk} \\ &= -S_{ij,hk}(y) + R_{ij,hk}(y) \end{aligned}$$

where  $S_{ij,hk}(y) = [S \gamma_{ij,..}(y)]_{hk}$  is homogeneous of degree  $-n$  and  $R_{ij,hk}(y)$  is homogeneous of degree  $2 - n$ . The explicit expression for  $\Gamma_{ij,hk}(x, y)$  reads

$$\Gamma_{ij,..}(x, y) = \frac{(1 - |y|^2)^n}{[x, y]^{2n}} A(x, y) \Gamma_{ij,..}(0, T_x y) A(y, x).$$

Elementary estimates show that

$$(7) \quad |\Gamma_{ij,hk}(x, y) + S_{ij,hk}(x - y)| \leq C_n |x - y|^{1-n} [x, y]^{-1}$$

with constant  $C_n$ .

## 6. POTENTIALS

Given an  $SM_n$ -valued function  $v$  on  $B$  we define its *potential* as the vector-valued function  $Iv$  with components

$$Iv(y)_k = \int_B v_{ij}(x) \gamma_{ij,k}(x, y) dx.$$