**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

Autor: Ahlfors, Lars V.

Kapitel: 6. POTENTIALS

**DOI:** https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-49703

#### Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.

### Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. <u>Voir Informations légales.</u>

#### Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. See Legal notice.

**Download PDF: 20.05.2025** 

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, https://www.e-periodica.ch

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

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

We note that  $\gamma_{...}(x, 0) = \gamma_{...}(x)$  and  $\gamma_{...}(0, y) = -(1-|y|^2)^{n+1}\gamma_{...}(y)$ . We shall need to apply S to either variable in  $\gamma_{...}(x, y)$ . 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  $S_1^* \Gamma_{...,hk}(x,y) = 0$ . 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  $x-y\to 0$ . We observe first that

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

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

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

Elementary estimates show that

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

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

$$I v(y)_k = \int_{R} v_{ij}(x) \gamma_{ij,k}(x,y) dx.$$

The integral converges if  $v \in L^p(B)$  for some p with n . In fact, one proves that

$$|Iv(y)| \le C_{n,n} ||v||_n (1-|y|)^{1-n/p}$$

if  $p < \infty$  and

$$|Iv(y)| \le C_n ||v||_{\infty} (1 - |y|) (1 + \log 1/|(1 - |y|)$$

if  $p = \infty$ . In any event Iv(y) vanishes at a fixed rate for  $|y| \to 1$ .

The forming of the potential is an invariant operation in the sense that  $IA^*v = A^*Iv$  for every  $A \in G$ . The potential is harmonic outside the support of v, for  $(S^* \rho S)_2 \gamma_{ij}$ , (x, y) = 0.

The following theorem serves to recover f from Sf and its boundary values:

Theorem 1. If  $Sf \in L^p(B)$ , p > n, then

(8) 
$$c_n f(y) = -ISf(y) + c_n Hf(y)$$

with

$$Hf(y) = \frac{1}{c_n} \int_{S(1)} \gamma_{ij,.}(x,y) x_j f_i d\sigma(x) .$$

Moreover, Hf is the unique harmonic function with the same boundary values as f, and if  $x \cdot f = 0$  on S(1) it can also be written in the form

$$Hf(y) = \frac{1}{c_n} \int_{S(1)} \frac{(1-|y|^2)^{n+1}}{|x-y|^{2n}} \Delta(x,y) f(x) d\sigma(x).$$

Remarks.  $d\sigma$  refers to the (n-1)-dimensional measure on S(1), and  $c_n = 2(n-1) \omega_n/n$  where  $\omega_n$  is the total measure of S(1). We are assuming that f has a continuous extension to S(1). Actually, this is automatically true if we assume the side condition in the form  $x \cdot f(x) \to 0$  as  $|x| \to 1$ , for it can be shown that  $Sf \in L^p$  forces f to satisfy a uniform Hölder condition.

The proof is a straight-forward application of Stokes' formula. The passage from the differentiable to the distributional case is elementary. The fact that a harmonic function is uniquely determined by its boundary values can be demonstrated as follows: Suppose that f is harmonic and zero on S(1). It is readily shown that

$$\int_{S(r)} Sf(x)_{ij} \gamma_{ij,k}(x) d\sigma = 0$$

for all r. Therefore ISf(0) = 0 and hence f(0) = 0 by (8). If this result is applied to  $(T_y^{-1})^* f$  it follows that f(y) = 0 for arbitrary y, so that f is indeed identically zero.

## 7. Computation of SIv

It is easy to show that  $S_{ij,hk}(y) = [S\gamma_{ij,.}(y)]_{hk}$  is a Calderon-Zygmund kernel for any choice of the indices; in other words, it is homogeneous of degree -n, and its mean-value over the unit sphere is 0. If  $v \in L^p$ , 1 , it follows by the Calderon-Zygmund theory that the principal value

pr. v. 
$$\int_{B} v_{ij}(x) S_{ij,hk}(x-y) dx$$

exists almost everywhere, and that it is the limit in  $L^{p}(B)$  of the corresponding truncated integrals. In view of (7) it follows that the integral

(9) 
$$\Gamma v(y)_{hk} = \int_{B} v_{ij}(x) \Gamma_{ij,hk}(x,y) dx$$

will also exist as a principal value almost everywhere. One finds, however, that the remainder in (7) makes it possible to assert merely that the principal value is a limit in  $L^{p'}$  for any p' < p/n. In these circumstances it is natural to assume that  $v \in L^p(B)$  for all  $p \ge 1$ .

Theorem 2. If  $v \in L^p(B)$  with p > n, then  $SIv \in L^{p'}(B)$  for all  $1 \le p' < p/n$ , and

$$(10) SI v = -b_n v + \Gamma v$$

where  $b_n = 4 \omega_n/(n+2)$  and  $\Gamma v$  is defined by (9).

*Proof.* Let  $\varphi$  be an  $SM_n$ -valued test-function. The definition of SIv as a distribution leads to the following formal computation:

$$\int_{B} SI v(y)_{hk} \varphi(y)_{hk} dy = -\int_{B} Iv(y)_{k} S^{*} \varphi(y)_{k} dy$$

$$= -\int_{B} S^{*} \varphi(y)_{k} dy \int_{B} v_{ij}(x) \gamma_{ij,k}(x, y) dx$$

$$= -\int_{B} v_{ij}(x) dx \int_{B} S^{*} \varphi(y)_{k} \gamma_{ij,k}(x, y) dy$$

$$= -\int_{B} v_{ij}(x) dx \left[ b_{n} \varphi_{ij}(x) - \int_{B} \varphi(y)_{hk} \Gamma_{ij,hk}(x, y) dy \right].$$