

# Lectures on Boundary Integral Equations

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## Plan

1. PDEs and Sobolev spaces.
2. Fredholm property for elliptic BVPs.
3. Surface potentials.
4. Boundary integral equations.

# 1. PDEs and Sobolev Spaces

## Basic Notations

Second-order partial differential operator

$$\mathcal{P}u = - \sum_{j=1}^n \partial_j \left( \sum_{k=1}^n A_{jk} \partial_k u - A_j u \right) + \sum_{j=1}^n A_j \partial_j u + Au$$

with  $\mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ -valued coefficients (possibly functions of  $x$ )

$$A_{jk} = [a_{pq}^{jk}], \quad A_j = [a_{pq}^j], \quad A = [a_{pq}], \quad 1 \leq p \leq m, \quad 1 \leq q \leq m.$$

Thus, with  $u = [u_q]$ , and using the summation convention,

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathcal{P}u)_p &= -\partial_j \left( a_{pq}^{jk} \partial_k u_q - a_{pq}^j u_q \right) + a_{pq}^j \partial_j u_q + a_{pq} u_q \\ &= -\partial_j \left( a_{pq}^{jk} \partial_k u_q \right) + \partial_j \left( a_{pq}^j u_q \right) + a_{pq}^j \partial_j u_q + a_{pq} u_q \\ &= -\partial_j \left( a_{pq}^{jk} \partial_k u_q \right) + 2a_{pq}^j \partial_j u_q + \left( \partial_j a_{pq}^j + a_{pq} \right) u_q. \end{aligned}$$

*Formal adjoint:*

$$\mathcal{P}^* u = - \sum_{j=1}^n \partial_j \left( \sum_{k=1}^n A_{kj}^* \partial_k u + A_j^* u \right) - \sum_{j=1}^n A_j^* \partial_j u + A^* u$$

satisfies

$$\int_{\Omega} (\mathcal{P}u)^* v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} u^* (\mathcal{P}^*v) \, dx \quad \text{for } u, v \in C_{\text{comp}}^2(\Omega)^m,$$

because if  $u, v$  vanish on  $\Gamma = \partial\Omega$  then

$$\int_{\Omega} \partial_j (Au)^* v \, dx = - \int_{\Omega} (Au)^* \partial_j v \, dx = - \int_{\Omega} u^* (A^* \partial_j v) \, dx.$$

We say  $\mathcal{P}$  is *formally self-adjoint* if  $\mathcal{P}^* = \mathcal{P}$ , i.e., if

$$A_{kj}^* = A_{jk}, \quad A_j^* = -A_j, \quad A^* = A.$$

(Wrongly stated in [SESBIE, p. 116].)

*Conormal derivative* w.r.t. a Lipschitz domain  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  with outward unit normal  $\nu$  on boundary  $\Gamma = \partial\Omega$ :

$$\mathcal{B}_\nu u = \mathcal{B}_{\nu, \Omega} u = \sum_{j=1}^n \nu_j \left( \sum_{k=1}^n A_{jk} \partial_k u - A_j u \right) \quad \text{on } \Gamma.$$

Conormal derivative for  $\mathcal{P}^*$ :

$$\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_\nu u = \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\nu, \Omega} u = \sum_{j=1}^n \nu_j \left( \sum_{k=1}^n A_{kj}^* \partial_k u + A_j^* u \right) \quad \text{on } \Gamma.$$

*Sesquilinear form* determined by  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\Omega$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(u, v) = \Phi_\Omega(u, v) = & \int_\Omega \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (A_{jk} \partial_k u)^* \partial_j v \right. \\ & \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n \left( (A_j \partial_j u)^* v - (A_j u)^* \partial_j v \right) + (Au)^* v \right) dx. \end{aligned}$$

*First Green identity:* if  $u, v \in C_{\text{comp}}^2(\overline{\Omega})^m$  then

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_{\Omega}(u, v) &= \int_{\Omega} (\mathcal{P}u)^* v \, dx + \int_{\Gamma} (\mathcal{B}_{\nu}u)^* v \, d\sigma \\ &= \int_{\Omega} u^* (\mathcal{P}^*v) \, dx + \int_{\Gamma} u^* (\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\nu}v) \, d\sigma.\end{aligned}$$

Proof uses the divergence theorem:

$$\int_{\Omega} \operatorname{div} F \, dx = \int_{\Gamma} \nu \cdot F \, d\sigma,$$

i.e.,

$$\int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=1}^n \partial_j F_j \, dx = \int_{\Gamma} \sum_{j=1}^n \nu_j F_j \, d\sigma.$$

Key step:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\Omega} (A_{jk} \partial_k u)^* \partial_j v \, dx &= \int_{\Omega} \partial_j \left( (A_{jk} \partial_k u)^* v \right) \, dx - \int_{\Omega} \partial_j (A_{jk} \partial_k u)^* v \, dx \\ &= \int_{\Gamma} (\nu_j A_{jk} \partial_k u)^* v \, d\sigma - \int_{\Omega} \partial_j (A_{jk} \partial_k u)^* v \, dx.\end{aligned}$$

## Laplace Operator

The *Laplacian* ( $m = 1$ )

$$\mathcal{P}u = -\nabla^2 u = -\sum_{j=1}^n \partial_j^2 u = -\left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_1^2} + \cdots + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_n^2}\right),$$

is formally self-adjoint ( $\mathcal{P}^* = \mathcal{P}$ ) with

$$\mathcal{B}_\nu u = \partial_\nu u = \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} = \sum_{j=1}^n \nu_j \partial_j u = \nu \cdot \nabla u,$$

$$\Phi(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} \sum_{j=1}^n (\partial_j \bar{u}) \partial_j v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} \nabla \bar{u} \cdot \nabla v \, dx,$$

and

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla \bar{u} \cdot \nabla v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} (-\nabla^2 \bar{u}) v \, dx + \int_{\Gamma} (\partial_\nu \bar{u}) v \, d\sigma.$$

## Linear Elasticity

*Strain tensor:*

$$E_{jk}(u) = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_j u_k + \partial_k u_j).$$

*Stress tensor*, for a homogeneous and isotropic elastic medium:

$$\Sigma_{jk}(u) = 2\mu E_{jk}(u) + \lambda(\operatorname{div} u)\delta_{jk},$$

where the *Lamé coefficients*  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are real constants. In equilibrium,

$$-\partial_j \Sigma_{jk}(u) = f_k \quad \text{where } f = \text{body force density.}$$

Since

$$\partial_j \Sigma_{jk}(u) = \mu \partial_j (\partial_j u_k + \partial_k u_j) + \lambda \partial_k (\operatorname{div} u) = \mu \partial_j \partial_j u_k + (\mu + \lambda) \partial_k (\operatorname{div} u)$$

we have  $\mathcal{P}u = f$  where

$$\mathcal{P}u = -\mu \nabla^2 u - (\nu + \lambda) \nabla(\operatorname{div} u).$$



Conormal derivative

$$\mathcal{B}_\nu u = \nu_j \Sigma_{jk}(u) e_k = \text{surface traction.}$$

Bilinear form

$$\Phi(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} \Sigma_{jk}(u) \partial_j v_k \, dx.$$

Since

$$2E_{jk}(u) \partial_j v_k = E_{jk}(u) (\partial_j v_k + \partial_k v_j) = E_{jk}(u) E_{jk}(v),$$

we have

$$\Phi(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} \left( \mu E_{jk}(u) E_{jk}(v) + \lambda (\operatorname{div} u) (\operatorname{div} v) \right) dx.$$

Quadratic form

$$\Phi(u, u) = 2 \times (\text{free energy}).$$

## Sobolev Spaces — First Definition

Consider scalar-valued functions  $u : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ .

Test functions  $\mathcal{D}(\Omega) = C_{\text{comp}}^{\infty}(\Omega)$ .

Imbed  $L_{1,\text{loc}}(\Omega)$  in space of *Schwartz distributions*  $\mathcal{D}^*(\Omega)$  by writing

$$\langle u, \phi \rangle_{\Omega} = \int_{\Omega} u(x) \phi(x) dx \quad \text{for } \phi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega).$$

Also write

$$(u, \phi)_{\Omega} = \langle \bar{u}, \phi \rangle_{\Omega} = \int_{\Omega} \overline{u(x)} \phi(x) dx.$$

Multi-index notation

$$\partial^\alpha u(x) = \partial_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots \partial_n^{\alpha_n} u(x) = \frac{\partial^{|\alpha|} u}{\partial x_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots \partial x_n^{\alpha_n}}$$

for

$$\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n), \quad |\alpha| = \alpha_1 + \cdots + \alpha_n.$$

*Sobolev space* of integer order  $r \geq 0$  based on  $L_p(\Omega)$  ( $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ ):

$$W_p^r(\Omega) = \{ u \in L_p(\Omega) : \partial^\alpha u \in L_p(\Omega) \text{ for } |\alpha| \leq r \}.$$

This is a Banach space with norm

$$\|u\|_{W_p^r(\Omega)} = \left( \sum_{|\alpha| \leq r} \int_{\Omega} |\partial^\alpha u(x)|^p dx \right)^{1/p}, \quad 1 \leq p < \infty,$$

with usual modification for  $p = \infty$ .

## Slobodeckii seminorm

$$|u|_{\mu,p,\Omega} = \left( \iint_{\Omega \times \Omega} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|^p}{|x - y|^{n+p\mu}} dx dy \right)^{1/p}, \quad 0 < \mu < 1.$$

Here, integrand is  $(|u(x) - u(y)|/|x - y|^{\mu+n/p})^p$  so for  $p = \infty$  we get a Hölder inequality:

$$|u(x) - u(y)| \leq |u|_{\mu,\infty,\Omega} |x - y|^\mu.$$

Sobolev space of *fractional order*  $s = r + \mu$ ,

$$W_p^s(\Omega) = \{ u \in W_p^r(\Omega) : |\partial^\alpha u|_{\mu,p,\Omega} < \infty \text{ for } |\alpha| = r \}.$$

Obvious norm

$$\|u\|_{W_p^s(\Omega)} = \left( \|u\|_{W_p^r(\Omega)}^p + \sum_{|\alpha|=r} |\partial^\alpha u|_{\mu,p,\Omega}^p \right)^{1/p}.$$

Negative-order space  $W_p^{-r}(\Omega)$  consists of all distributions  $u \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$  of the form

$$u = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq r} \partial^\alpha f_\alpha \quad \text{for some } f_\alpha \in L_p(\Omega).$$

Norm

$$\|u\|_{W_p^{-r}(\Omega)} = \inf \left( \sum_{|\alpha| \leq r} \|f_\alpha\|_{L_p(\Omega)}^p \right)^{1/p}.$$

In this way,

$$|\langle u, v \rangle_\Omega| \leq \|u\|_{W_{p^*}^{-r}(\Omega)} \|v\|_{W_p^r(\Omega)}$$

for

$$u \in W_{p^*}^{-r}(\Omega), \quad v \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega), \quad \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{p^*} = 1, \quad 1 \leq p < \infty.$$

## Sobolev Spaces — Second Definition

Denote the *Fourier transform* of  $u : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  by

$$\widehat{u}(\xi) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-i2\pi\xi \cdot x} u(x) dx$$

and recall the inversion formula

$$u(x) \sim \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \widehat{u}(\xi) e^{i2\pi\xi \cdot x} d\xi.$$

Note that

$$\widehat{\partial^\alpha u}(\xi) = (i2\pi\xi_1)^{\alpha_1} \cdots (i2\pi\xi_n)^{\alpha_n} = (i2\pi\xi)^\alpha \widehat{u}(\xi).$$

*Bessel potential* of order  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ :

$$\mathcal{J}^s u(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (1 + |\xi|^2)^{s/2} \widehat{u}(\xi) e^{i2\pi\xi \cdot x} dx, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

Notice

$$\mathcal{J}^{s+t} = \mathcal{J}^s \mathcal{J}^t = \mathcal{J}^t \mathcal{J}^s, \quad (\mathcal{J}^s)^{-1} = \mathcal{J}^{-s}, \quad \mathcal{J}^0 = \text{identity}.$$

In fact,

$$\mathcal{J}^s = \left(1 - (2\pi)^{-2} \nabla^2\right)^{s/2}.$$

Space of *rapidly decreasing test functions*  $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

Space of *temperate distributions*  $\mathcal{S}^*(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

Sobolev space of order  $s$  (second definition):

$$H^s(\mathbb{R}^n) = \{u \in \mathcal{S}^*(\mathbb{R}^n) : \mathcal{J}^s u \in L_2(\mathbb{R}^n)\}.$$

This is a Hilbert space with inner product

$$(u, v)_{H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)} = (\mathcal{J}^s u, \mathcal{J}^s v).$$

*Parseval–Plancherel* identity,

$$(\widehat{u}, \widehat{v})_{\mathbb{R}^n} = (u, v)_{\mathbb{R}^n},$$

easily implies that, for  $r = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ ,

$$H^r(\mathbb{R}^n) = W_2^r(\mathbb{R}^n) \quad \text{with} \quad \|u\|_{H^r(\mathbb{R}^n)} \sim \|u\|_{W_2^r(\mathbb{R}^n)}$$

Fractional-order case is a bit harder, but find  $H^s(\mathbb{R}^n) = W_2^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$  for all real  $s \geq 0$ .

For any closed set  $F \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  and any open set  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  define

$$H_F^s = \{ u \in H^s(\mathbb{R}^n) : \text{supp } u \subseteq F \},$$

$$H^s(\Omega) = \{ u \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega) : u = U|_{\Omega} \text{ for some } U \in H^s(\mathbb{R}^n) \},$$

$$\widetilde{H}^s(\Omega) = \text{completion of } \mathcal{D}(\Omega) \text{ in } H^s(\mathbb{R}^n),$$

$$H_0^s(\Omega) = \text{completion of } \mathcal{D}(\Omega) \text{ in } H^s(\Omega).$$



Always have

$$\widetilde{H}^s(\Omega) \subseteq H_{\Omega}^s \quad \text{and} \quad H_0^s(\Omega) \subseteq H^s(\Omega).$$

**1.1 Theorem.** If  $\Omega$  is a Lipschitz domain then

1.  $H^s(\Omega) = W_2^s(\Omega)$  for all real  $s \geq 0$  and all integer  $s < 0$ ;
2.  $H^s(\Omega)^* = \widetilde{H}^{-s}(\Omega)$  and  $\widetilde{H}^s(\Omega)^* = H^{-s}(\Omega)$  for all  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ ;
3.  $\widetilde{H}^s(\Omega) = H_{\Omega}^s$  for all  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ ;
4.  $\widetilde{H}^s(\Omega) \subseteq H_0^s(\Omega)$  for all  $s \geq 0$ ;
5.  $\widetilde{H}^s(\Omega) = H_0^s(\Omega)$  for all real  $s \geq 0$  except  $s = \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{5}{2}, \dots$

## Vector-Valued Functions

If  $u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^m$  then write

$$\langle u, \phi \rangle = \int_{\Omega} u(x)^T \phi(x) dx = \int_{\Omega} u(x) \cdot \phi(x) dx = \int_{\Omega} u_i(x) \phi_i(x) dx$$

and

$$(u, \phi) = \int_{\Omega} u(x)^* \phi(x) dx = \int_{\Omega} \bar{u}(x) \cdot \phi(x) dx = \int_{\Omega} \bar{u}_i(x) \phi_i(x) dx.$$

Denote vector function spaces by

$$\mathcal{D}(\Omega)^m = C_{\text{comp}}^{\infty}(\Omega)^m, \quad W_p^s(\Omega)^m, \quad H^s(\Omega)^m, \quad \text{etc.}$$

## 2. Fredholm Property and Elliptic BVPs

### Boundary Values

**2.1 Lemma.** Consider the linear operator  $\gamma : \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^{n-1})$  defined by

$$\gamma u(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}) = u(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, 0).$$

If  $s > 1/2$  then  $\gamma$  has a unique extension to a bounded linear operator

$$\gamma : H^s(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow H^{s-1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{n-1}).$$

Moreover, this extension has a continuous right inverse, i.e., there exists a bounded linear operator

$$\eta : H^{s-1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{n-1}) \rightarrow H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$$

such that  $\gamma\eta v = v$  for  $v \in H^{s-1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{n-1})$ .

For any subset  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  we write

$$\mathcal{D}(S) = \{ u : u = U|_S \text{ for some } U \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n) \}.$$

We define the *trace operator* for  $\Omega$ ,

$$\gamma : \mathcal{D}(\overline{\Omega}) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(\Gamma)$$

by putting

$$\gamma u = u|_{\Gamma}.$$

**2.2 Theorem.** If  $\Omega$  is a  $C^{k-1,1}$  domain ( $k \geq 0$ ), then its trace operator has a unique extension to a bounded linear operator

$$\gamma : H^s(\Omega) \rightarrow H^{s-1/2}(\Gamma) \quad \text{for } \frac{1}{2} < s \leq k.$$

Moreover, this extension has a continuous right inverse.

**2.3 Theorem.** (Martin Costabel) If  $\Omega$  is a Lipschitz (i.e.,  $C^{0,1}$ ) domain, then its trace operator is bounded for  $\frac{1}{2} < s < \frac{3}{2}$ .

**2.4 Theorem.** If  $\Omega$  is a  $C^{k-1,1}$  domain then

$$H_0^s(\Omega) = \left\{ u \in H^s(\Omega) : \gamma(\partial^\alpha u) = 0 \text{ for } |\alpha| < s - \frac{1}{2} \right\}$$

for  $0 \leq s \leq k$ . In particular,

$$H_0^s(\Omega) = H^s(\Omega) \quad \text{for } 0 \leq s \leq \frac{1}{2}$$

Recall the sesquilinear form

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(u, v) = \Phi_\Omega(u, v) = & \int_\Omega \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (A_{jk} \partial_k u)^* \partial_j v \right. \\ & \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n \left( (A_j \partial_j u)^* v - (A_j u)^* \partial_j v \right) + (Au)^* v \right) dx. \end{aligned}$$

Easy to see that

$$|\Phi(u, v)| \leq C \|u\|_{H^1(\Omega)^m} \|v\|_{H^1(\Omega)^m} \quad \text{for } u, v \in H^s(\Omega)^m.$$

If  $u \in H^1(\Omega)^m$  then its restriction  $u|_\Gamma$ , or rather the trace  $\gamma u$ , makes sense as an element of  $H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m$ .

The next result allows us to define the *generalized conormal derivative*  $\mathcal{B}_\nu u = g$  in such a way that the first Green identity is valid for  $H^1$  functions.

**2.5 Lemma.** Assume that  $\Omega$  is a Lipschitz domain. If  $u \in H^1(\Omega)^m$  and  $f \in \widetilde{H}^{-1}(\Omega)^m$  satisfy

$$\mathcal{P}u = f \quad \text{on } \Omega,$$

then there exists a unique  $g \in H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m$  such that

$$\Phi(u, v) = (f, v)_\Omega + (g, \gamma v)_\Gamma \quad \text{for all } v \in H^1(\Omega)^m.$$

## Abstract Variational Problems

Let  $V$  be a complex Hilbert space with inner product  $(u, v)_V$  and consider a sesquilinear form

$$\Phi : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}.$$

Assume that  $\Phi$  is *bounded*, i.e.,

$$|\Phi(u, v)| \leq C \|u\|_V \|v\|_V \quad \text{for all } u, v \in V.$$

We can define a bounded linear operator  $A : V \rightarrow V^*$  by

$$(Au, v) = \Phi(u, v) \quad \text{for all } u, v \in V,$$

where  $(f, v)$  is the dual pairing on  $V^* \times V$ .

Note:  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  may differ from  $(\cdot, \cdot)_V$ , so we cannot identify  $V^*$  with  $V$ , although we will freely take  $V^{**} = V$  so that  $A^* : V \rightarrow V^*$  is given by

$$(A^*u, v) = (u, Av) = \overline{(Av, u)} = \overline{\Phi(v, u)}.$$

Given  $f \in V^*$ , we seek  $u \in V$  satisfying the linear equation

$$Au = f,$$

or equivalently, the *variational problem*

$$\Phi(u, v) = (f, v) \quad \text{for all } v \in V.$$

The *dual problem*

$$A^*v = g$$

is equivalent to

$$\overline{\Phi(u, v)} = (g, u) \quad \text{for all } u \in V.$$



We say that  $\Phi$  and  $A$  are *positive and bounded below* (PBB) if

$$\operatorname{Re} \Phi(v, v) \geq c \|v\|_V^2 \quad \text{for all } v \in V.$$

Obviously,  $A$  is PBB iff  $A^*$  is PBB.

**2.6 Lemma.** (Lax–Milgram) If  $\Phi$  is positive and bounded below then  $A : V \rightarrow V^*$  has a bounded inverse  $A^{-1} : V^* \rightarrow V$ .

Constructive proof due to Hildebrandt and Wienholtz (1964) uses *Galerkin's method*: take any increasing sequence of finite dimensional subspaces

$$V_1 \subseteq V_2 \subseteq V_3 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq V$$

such that  $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} V_n$  is dense in  $V$  and find  $u_n \in V_n$  satisfying

$$\Phi(u_n, v) = (f, v) \quad \text{for all } v \in V_n,$$

then  $u_n \rightarrow u$ .

**2.7 Theorem.** (Fredholm Alternative) Assume that  $A = A_0 + K$ , where  $A_0 : V \rightarrow V^*$  is PBB and  $K : V \rightarrow V^*$  is compact. Either

the homogeneous equation  $Au = 0$  has only the trivial solution  $u = 0$ , in which case  $A : V \rightarrow V^*$  has a bounded inverse  $A^{-1} : V^* \rightarrow V$  and  $A^* : V \rightarrow V^*$  has a bounded inverse  $(A^*)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^* : V^* \rightarrow V$ .

or else

the homogeneous equation  $Au = 0$  has  $p$  linearly independent solutions  $u_1, \dots, u_p$  for some (finite)  $p \geq 1$ , in which case

the homogeneous adjoint equation  $A^*v = 0$  has the same number of linearly independent solutions  $v_1, \dots, v_p$ ;

for each  $f \in V^*$ , the inhomogeneous equation  $Au = f$  is solvable iff  $(f, v_j) = 0$  for  $j = 1, \dots, p$ ;

for each  $g \in V^*$ , the inhomogeneous adjoint equation  $A^*v = g$  is solvable iff  $(g, u_j) = 0$  for  $j = 1, \dots, p$ .

Compatibility conditions: if  $Au = f$  then

$$(f, v_j) = (Au, v_j) = (u, A^*v_j) = (u, 0) = 0$$

and likewise if  $A^*v = g$  then

$$(g, u_j) = (A^*v, u_j) = (v, Au_j) = (v, 0) = 0.$$

## Strong Ellipticity

*Principal part* of  $\mathcal{P}$ :

$$\mathcal{P}_0 u = - \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \partial_j (A_{jk} \partial_k u),$$

so

$$\mathcal{P}u = \mathcal{P}_0 u + \text{lower-order terms.}$$

If  $u \in C_{\text{comp}}^\infty(\Omega)^m$  then

$$\mathcal{P}_0 u(x) \sim \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} P_0(x, \xi) \hat{u}(\xi) e^{i2\pi\xi \cdot x} d\xi$$

where the *principal symbol* of  $\mathcal{P}$  is given by

$$P_0(x, \xi) = (2\pi)^2 \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n A_{jk}(x) \xi_j \xi_k, \quad x \in \Omega, \xi \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

We say that  $\mathcal{P}$  is *strongly elliptic* if

$$\operatorname{Re}\left(P_0(x, \xi)\eta\right)^* \eta \geq c|\xi|^2|\eta|^2$$

for all  $x \in \Omega$ ,  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\eta \in \mathbb{C}^m$ .

**2.8 Example.** If  $\mathcal{P}u = -\mu\nabla^2 u - (\nu + \lambda)\nabla(\operatorname{div} u)$  then

$$P_0(\xi) = (2\pi)^2\left(\mu|\xi|^2 I + (\mu + \lambda)\xi\xi^T\right)$$

so

$$\left(P_0(\xi)\eta\right)^* \eta = (2\pi)^2\left(\mu|\xi|^2|\eta|^2 + (\mu + \lambda)|\eta \cdot \xi|^2\right)$$

for  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^3$  and  $\eta \in \mathbb{C}^3$ . Hence,  $\mathcal{P}$  is strongly elliptic iff the Lamé coefficients satisfy

$$\mu > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad 2\mu + \lambda > 0.$$

When  $m = 1$ , strong ellipticity reduces to

$$\operatorname{Re} P_0(x, \xi) \geq c|\xi|^2.$$

**2.9 Example.** If  $\mathcal{P}u = -\nabla^2 u$  then  $P_0(\xi) = (2\pi)^2|\xi|^2$  so  $\mathcal{P}$  is strongly elliptic.

We say that  $\mathcal{P}$  (or  $\Phi$ ) is *coercive* on a subspace  $V \subseteq H^1(\Omega)^m$  if

$$\operatorname{Re} \Phi(v, v) \geq c\|v\|_{H^1(\Omega)^m}^2 - C\|v\|_{L_2(\Omega)^m}^2 \quad \text{for all } v \in V.$$

**2.10 Theorem.**  $\mathcal{P}$  is strongly elliptic iff it is coercive on  $H_0^1(\Omega)^m$ . In the scalar case  $m = 1$ , if  $\mathcal{P}$  is strongly elliptic then it is coercive on all of  $H^1(\Omega)^m$ .

For linear elasticity, *Korn's inequality* implies that  $\mathcal{P}$  is coercive on all of  $H^1(\Omega)^m$ .

## Dirichlet Problem

Assume that  $\Omega$  is a bounded, Lipschitz domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with boundary  $\Gamma = \partial\Omega$ , and let  $f \in H^{-1}(\Omega)^m$  and  $g \in H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m$  be given.

We seek  $u \in H^1(\Omega)^m$  satisfying

$$\mathcal{P}u = f \quad \text{in } \Omega \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma u = g \quad \text{on } \Gamma. \quad (1)$$

To formulate the Fredholm alternative, we consider also the *homogeneous problem*,

$$\mathcal{P}u = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma u = 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma. \quad (2)$$

and the *homogeneous adjoint problem*,

$$\mathcal{P}^*v = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma v = 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma. \quad (3)$$

**2.11 Theorem.** If  $\mathcal{P}$  is strongly elliptic, then either

the Dirichlet problem (1) has a unique solution  $u \in H^1(\Omega)^m$  for each  $f \in H^{-1}(\Omega)^m$  and  $g \in H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m$  and the homogeneous adjoint problem (3) has only the trivial solution  $v = 0$ ,

or else

the homogeneous Dirichlet problem (2) has  $p$  linearly independent solutions in  $H_0^1(\Omega)^m$ ;

the homogeneous adjoint problem (3) has the same number of linearly independent solutions  $v_1, \dots, v_p \in H_0^1(\Omega)^m$ ;

the inhomogeneous Dirichlet problem (1) is solvable iff  $f$  and  $g$  satisfy the compatibility conditions

$$(f, v_j)_\Omega = (g, \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_\nu v_j)_\Gamma \quad \text{for } 1 \leq j \leq p.$$



Sketch of proof: by the Rellich theorem we have a compact imbedding

$$H_0^1(\Omega) \subseteq L_2(\Omega)^m$$

and by coercivity,  $\Phi + C$  is PBB on  $H_0^1(\Omega)^m$ , so we can apply the abstract Fredholm alternative in  $H_0^1(\Omega)^m$ . This proves the result in the special case  $g = 0$  because then, by the first Green identity,  $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)^m$  satisfies  $\Phi(u, v) = (f, v)_\Omega$  for all  $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)^m$ .

If  $g \neq 0$ , then  $u = u_0 + u_1$  where  $u_0 \in H_0^1(\Omega)^m$  is a solution of

$$\mathcal{P}u_0 = f - \mathcal{P}\eta g \quad \text{in } \Omega \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma u_0 = 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma,$$

and  $u_1 = \eta g$  with  $\eta : H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m \rightarrow H^1(\Omega)^m$  a continuous right inverse of  $\gamma$ . By the first Green identity,

$$(g, \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_\nu v_j)_\Gamma = \Phi(\eta g, v_j) = (\mathcal{P}\eta g, v_j)_\Omega,$$

so  $(f - \mathcal{P}\eta g, v_j)_\Omega = 0$  iff  $(f, v_j)_\Omega = (g, \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_\nu v_j)_\Gamma$ .

## Neumann Problem

Assume that  $\Omega$  is a bounded, Lipschitz domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with boundary  $\Gamma = \partial\Omega$ , and let  $f \in \widetilde{H}^{-1}(\Omega)^m$  and  $g \in H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m$  be given.

We seek  $u \in H^1(\Omega)^m$  satisfying

$$\mathcal{P}u = f \quad \text{in } \Omega \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{B}_\nu u = g \quad \text{on } \Gamma. \quad (4)$$

To formulate the Fredholm alternative, we consider also the homogeneous problem,

$$\mathcal{P}u = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{B}_\nu u = 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma. \quad (5)$$

and the homogeneous adjoint problem,

$$\mathcal{P}^*v = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega \quad \text{and} \quad \widetilde{\mathcal{B}}_\nu v = 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma. \quad (6)$$

**2.12 Theorem.** If  $\Phi$  is coercive on  $H^1(\Omega)^m$ , then either

the Neumann problem (4) has a unique solution  $u \in H^1(\Omega)^m$  for each  $f \in \widetilde{H}^{-1}(\Omega)^m$  and  $g \in H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m$  and the homogeneous adjoint problem (3) has only the trivial solution  $v = 0$ ,

or else

the homogeneous Neumann problem (5) has  $p$  linearly independent solutions in  $H_0^1(\Omega)^m$ ;

the homogeneous adjoint problem (6) has the same number of linearly independent solutions  $v_1, \dots, v_p \in H_0^1(\Omega)^m$ ;

the inhomogeneous Neumann problem (4) is solvable iff  $f$  and  $g$  satisfy the compatibility conditions

$$(f, v_j)_\Omega + (g, \gamma v_j)_\Gamma = 0 \quad \text{for } 1 \leq j \leq p.$$

**2.13 Example.** In linear elasticity,

$$\mathcal{P}u = -\lambda \nabla^2 u - (\nu + \lambda) \nabla(\operatorname{div} u) = \mathcal{P}^*u$$

and, for a connected Lipschitz domain  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$ ,

$$\mathcal{P}v = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

iff  $v$  is an infinitesimal rigid motion, i.e.,

$$v(x) = a + b \times x$$

for some constant vectors  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . For  $v$  of this form,

$$\gamma v = 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma \quad \text{only if } a = b = 0,$$

but

$$\mathcal{B}_\nu v = 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma \quad \text{for all } a, b \in \mathbb{R}^3.$$

# 3. Surface Potentials

## Fundamental Solutions

Assume that  $\mathcal{P}$  is a strongly elliptic, second-order partial differential operator on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

A *volume potential* for  $\mathcal{P}$  is an integral operator

$$\mathcal{G}u(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} G(x, y)u(y) dy, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

satisfying

$$\mathcal{P}\mathcal{G}u = u = \mathcal{G}\mathcal{P}u \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^n,$$

for all distributions  $u$  with compact support. The kernel  $G(x, y)$  is said to be a *fundamental solution* for  $\mathcal{P}$ .

If  $\mathcal{P}$  has constant coefficients then  $\mathcal{P}$  is *translation invariant* so it is natural to seek  $G$  in the form

$$G(x, y) = G(x - y).$$

**3.1 Theorem.** Assume that  $\mathcal{P}$  has constant coefficients and no lower-order terms, so that its symbol is a homogeneous polynomial

$$P(\xi) = \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n A_{jk} \xi_j \xi_k.$$

1. If  $n = 2$  then a fundamental solution for  $\mathcal{P}$  is given by

$$G(z) = \int_{|\omega|=1} \left[ \Gamma'(1) - \log(2\pi|\omega \cdot z|) \right] P(\omega)^{-1} d\omega.$$

2. If  $n = 3$  then a fundamental solution for  $\mathcal{P}$  is given by

$$G(z) = \frac{1}{2|z|} \int_{\mathbb{S}_z^\perp} P(\omega_\perp)^{-1} d\omega_\perp,$$

where  $\mathbb{S}_z^\perp = \{ \omega_\perp \in \mathbb{S}^2 : \omega_\perp \cdot z = 0 \}$  is the unit circle in the plane normal to  $z$  and  $d\omega_\perp$  is the element of arc length along  $\mathbb{S}_z^\perp$ .

**3.2 Example.** In the case of the Laplacian  $\mathcal{P} = -\nabla^2$  we have

$$G(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \log \frac{1}{|z|} \quad \text{if } n = 2,$$

and

$$G(z) = \frac{1}{4\pi|z|} \quad \text{if } n = 3.$$

In fact,

$$G(z) = \frac{1}{(n-2)|\mathbb{S}^{n-1}||z|^{n-2}} \quad \text{if } n \geq 3.$$

**3.3 Example.** For linear elasticity in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ,

$$\mathcal{P}u = -\lambda\nabla^2 u - (\nu + \lambda)\nabla(\operatorname{div} u),$$

we have

$$G_{jk}(z) = \frac{1}{8\pi\mu(2\mu + \lambda)} \left( (3\mu + \lambda) \frac{\delta_{jk}}{|z|} + (\mu + \lambda) \frac{z_j z_k}{|z|^3} \right).$$

## Third Green Identity

Notation:

$$\begin{aligned}\Omega^- &= \text{bounded, Lipschitz domain,} \\ \Omega^+ &= \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \overline{\Omega^-} = \text{complementary, unbounded domain,} \\ \Gamma &= \partial\Omega^- = \partial\Omega^+ = \text{common boundary.}\end{aligned}$$

One-sided trace operators

$$\gamma^\pm : H^s(\Omega^\pm)^m \rightarrow H^{s-1/2}(\Gamma)^m, \quad \frac{1}{2} < s < \frac{3}{2}.$$

One-sided (generalized) conormal derivatives  $\mathcal{B}_\nu^\pm$  and  $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_\nu^\pm$ .

For  $u$  defined on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , write  $u^\pm = u|_{\Omega^\pm}$  but use  $\gamma^+u$  in preference to  $\gamma^+u^+$ .



Jumps accross  $\Gamma$  denoted by

$$[u]_{\Gamma} = \gamma^{+}u - \gamma^{-}u, \quad [\mathcal{B}_{\nu}u]_{\Gamma} = \mathcal{B}_{\nu}^{+}u - \mathcal{B}_{\nu}^{-}u, \quad [\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\nu}u]_{\Gamma} = \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\nu}^{+}u - \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\nu}^{-}u.$$

May drop  $+$  or  $-$  superscript when jump vanishes, e.g.,

$$\gamma u = \gamma^{+}u = \gamma^{-}u \quad \text{if } [u]_{\Gamma} = 0.$$

Adjoint of two-sided trace:

$$(\gamma^{*}\psi, \phi)_{\mathbb{R}^n} = (\psi, \gamma\phi)_{\Gamma}, \quad \psi \in \mathcal{D}(\Gamma), \phi \in C^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)^m.$$

Clear that

$$\text{supp } \gamma^{*}\psi \subseteq \text{supp } \psi \subseteq \Gamma.$$

Adjoint of two-sided conormal derivative:

$$(\mathcal{B}_{\nu}^{*}\psi, \phi)_{\mathbb{R}^n} = (\psi, \mathcal{B}_{\nu}\phi)_{\Gamma} \quad \text{and} \quad (\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\nu}^{*}\psi, \phi)_{\mathbb{R}^n} = (\psi, \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\nu}\phi)_{\Gamma}.$$

**3.4 Lemma.** Let  $f^\pm \in \widetilde{H}^{-1}(\Omega^\pm)^m$  and put  $f = f^+ + f^- \in H^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Suppose that  $u \in L_2(\mathbb{R}^n)^m$  with  $u^\pm \in H^1(\Omega^\pm)^m$ . If

$$\mathcal{P}u^\pm = f^\pm \quad \text{on } \Omega^\pm,$$

then

$$\mathcal{P}u = f + \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_\nu^*[u]_\Gamma - \gamma^*[\mathcal{B}_\nu u]_\Gamma \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^n.$$

Proof: the definition of  $\mathcal{P}u$  as a distribution on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  means that

$$(\mathcal{P}u, \phi)_{\mathbb{R}^n} = (u, \mathcal{P}^*\phi)_{\mathbb{R}^n} = (u^+, \mathcal{P}^*\phi)_{\Omega^+} + (u^-, \mathcal{P}^*\phi)_{\Omega^-},$$

and by the first Green identity,

$$(f^\pm, \phi)_{\Omega^\pm} \mp (\mathcal{B}_\nu^\pm u, \gamma\phi)_\Gamma = \Phi^\pm(u^\pm, \phi) = (u^\pm, \mathcal{P}^*\phi)_{\Omega^\pm} \mp (\gamma^\pm u, \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_\nu\phi)_\Gamma,$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathcal{P}u, \phi)_{\mathbb{R}^n} &= \Phi^+(u, \phi) + \Phi^-(u, \phi) + ([u]_\Gamma, \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_\nu\phi)_\Gamma \\ &= (f, \phi)_{\mathbb{R}^n} - ([\mathcal{B}_\nu u]_\Gamma, \gamma\phi)_\Gamma + ([u]_\Gamma, \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_\nu\phi)_\Gamma. \end{aligned}$$

We define the *single-layer potential* SL and the *double-layer potential* DL by

$$\text{SL } \psi = \mathcal{G}\gamma^*\psi \quad \text{and} \quad \text{DL } \psi = \mathcal{G}\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_\nu^*\psi,$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{SL } \psi, \phi)_{\mathbb{R}^n} &= (\psi, \gamma\mathcal{G}^*\phi)_\Gamma = \int_\Gamma \psi(y)^* \mathcal{G}^*\phi(y) d\sigma_y \\ &= \int_\Gamma \psi(y)^* \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} G(x, y)^* \phi(x) dx d\sigma_y \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( \int_\Gamma G(x, y)\psi(y) d\sigma_y \right)^* \phi(x) dx, \end{aligned}$$

and similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{DL } \psi, \phi)_{\mathbb{R}^n} &= (\psi, \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_\nu\mathcal{G}^*\phi)_\Gamma = \int_\Gamma \psi(y)^* (\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_\nu\mathcal{G}^*\phi)(y) d\sigma_y \\ &= \int_\Gamma \psi(y)^* \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\nu, y} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} G(x, y)^* \phi(x) dx d\sigma_y \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( \int_\Gamma (\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\nu, y}G(x, y)^*)^* \psi(y) d\sigma_y \right)^* \phi(x) dx. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\text{SL } \psi(x) = \int_{\Gamma} G(x, y) \psi(y) d\sigma_y.$$

and

$$\text{DL } \psi(x) = \int_{\Gamma} \left( \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\nu, y} G(x, y)^* \right)^* \psi(y) d\sigma_y, \quad x \notin \Gamma.$$

**3.5 Theorem.** (Third Green Identity) Let  $f^{\pm} \in \tilde{H}^{-1}(\Omega^{\pm})^m$  and put  $f = f^+ + f^- \in H^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Suppose that  $u \in L_2(\mathbb{R}^n)^m$  with  $u^{\pm} \in H^1(\Omega^{\pm})^m$ . If

$$\mathcal{P}u^{\pm} = f^{\pm} \quad \text{on } \Omega^{\pm},$$

and if  $u$  has compact support, then

$$u = \mathcal{G}f + \text{DL}[u]_{\Gamma} - \text{SL}[\mathcal{B}_{\nu}u]_{\Gamma} \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^n.$$

Proof:  $u = \mathcal{G}\mathcal{P}u = \mathcal{G}\left(f + \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\nu}^*[u]_{\Gamma} - \gamma^*[\mathcal{B}_{\nu}u]_{\Gamma}\right).$

## Jump Relations

Since  $\mathcal{P} \text{SL} \psi = \mathcal{P} \mathcal{G} \gamma^* \psi = \gamma^* \psi$  and  $\mathcal{P} \text{DL} \psi = \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_\nu^* \psi$  we have

$$\mathcal{P} \text{SL} \psi = 0 = \mathcal{P} \text{DL} \psi \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Gamma.$$

We describe some results of Nedelec and Planchard (1973), Le Roux (1974), Hsiao and Wendland (1977) and Costabel (1988).

**3.6 Theorem.** Fix a cutoff function  $\chi \in C_{\text{comp}}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . The single-layer potential gives rise to bounded linear operators

$$\begin{aligned} \chi \text{SL} &: H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m \rightarrow H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)^m, \\ \gamma \text{SL} &: H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m \rightarrow H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m, \\ \mathcal{B}_\nu^\pm \text{SL} &: H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m \rightarrow H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m, \end{aligned}$$

satisfying the jump relations

$$[\text{SL} \psi]_\Gamma = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad [\mathcal{B}_\nu \text{SL} \psi]_\Gamma = -\psi \quad \text{for } \psi \in H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m.$$

Sketch of Proof: Fix a second cutoff function  $\chi_1 \in C_{\text{comp}}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  satisfying  $\chi_1 = 1$  on a neighbourhood of  $\overline{\Omega^-}$ . We have

$$(\chi \text{SL} \psi, \phi)_{\mathbb{R}^n} = (\chi \mathcal{G} \chi_1 \gamma^* \psi, \phi)_{\mathbb{R}^n} = (\psi, \gamma \chi_1 \mathcal{G}^* \chi \phi)_{\mathbb{R}^n}$$

and

$$H^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^n)^m \xrightarrow{\chi_1 \mathcal{G}^* \chi} H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)^m \xrightarrow{\gamma} H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m.$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} |(\chi \text{SL} \psi, \phi)_{\mathbb{R}^n}| &\leq C \|\psi\|_{H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m} \|\gamma \chi_1 \mathcal{G}^* \chi \phi\|_{H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m} \\ &\leq C \|\psi\|_{H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m} \|\phi\|_{H^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^n)^m} \end{aligned}$$

which gives  $\|\chi \text{SL} \psi\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)^m} \leq C \|\psi\|_{H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m}$ , proving the mapping property for  $\chi \text{SL}$ . The mapping property for  $\gamma \text{SL}$  follows at once, and since  $\chi_1 \text{SL} \psi \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)^m$ ,

$$[\gamma \text{SL} \psi]_\Gamma = [\gamma(\chi_1 \text{SL} \psi)]_\Gamma = 0.$$

Let  $u = \chi_1 \text{SL} \psi$ . We have

$$\mathcal{P}u^\pm = f^\pm \quad \text{on } \Omega^\pm,$$

with  $f^- = 0$  and  $f^+ \in C_{\text{comp}}^\infty(\Omega^-)^m$ . By the definition of  $\mathcal{B}_\nu u$ ,

$$\Phi^\pm(u, v) = (f^\pm, v)_{\Omega^\pm} \mp (\mathcal{B}_\nu^\pm u, \gamma^\pm v)_\Gamma \quad \text{for all } v \in H^1(\Omega^\pm)^m,$$

and given  $\phi \in H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m$  we put  $v = \eta\phi$  to obtain

$$|(\mathcal{B}_\nu^\pm u, \phi)_\Gamma| \leq C \|u\|_{H^1(\Omega^\pm)^m} \|\phi\|_{H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m} \leq C \|\psi\|_{H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m} \|\phi\|_{H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m}.$$

Hence,  $\|\mathcal{B}_\nu^\pm \text{SL} u\|_{H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m} \leq C \|\psi\|_{H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m}$ .

The definition of  $\text{SL}$  gives  $\mathcal{P}u = \mathcal{P}\chi_1 \text{SL} \psi = \gamma^* \psi + f^+$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , so

$$\gamma^* \psi + f^+ = \mathcal{P}u = f + \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_\nu^*[u]_\Gamma - \gamma^*[\mathcal{B}_\nu u]_\Gamma = f^+ - \gamma^*[\mathcal{B}_\nu u]_\Gamma,$$

and hence  $\gamma^*(\psi + [\mathcal{B}_\nu u]_\Gamma) = 0$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . i.e.,

$$(\psi + [\mathcal{B}_\nu u]_\Gamma, \phi)_{\Omega'} = 0 \quad \text{for all } \phi \in C_{\text{comp}}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)^m.$$

**3.7 Theorem.** Fix a cutoff function  $\chi \in C_{\text{comp}}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . The double-layer potential gives rise to bounded linear operators

$$\begin{aligned}\chi \text{DL} &: H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m \rightarrow H^1(\Omega^\pm)^m, \\ \gamma \text{DL} &: H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m \rightarrow H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m, \\ \mathcal{B}_\nu^\pm \text{DL} &: H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m \rightarrow H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m,\end{aligned}$$

satisfying the jump relations

$$[\text{DL} \psi]_\Gamma = \psi \quad \text{and} \quad [\mathcal{B}_\nu \text{DL} \psi]_\Gamma = 0 \quad \text{for } \psi \in H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m.$$

Proof: Choose  $\lambda > 0$  such that the interior Dirichlet problem

$$(\mathcal{P} + \lambda)u = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega^-, \quad \gamma^- u = g \quad \text{on } \Gamma,$$

is uniquely solvable for all  $g \in H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m$ , and denote the solution operator by  $\mathcal{U} : g \mapsto u$ .



Let  $\psi \in H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m$  and define  $u \in L_2(\mathbb{R}^n)^m$  by

$$u = \begin{cases} \mathcal{U}\psi & \text{in } \Omega^-, \\ 0 & \text{in } \Omega^+. \end{cases}$$

Since  $\mathcal{P}u^\pm = -\lambda u^\pm$  on  $\Omega^\pm$ , the third Green identity gives

$$u = -\lambda \mathcal{G}u + \text{DL}[u]_\Gamma - \text{SL}[\mathcal{B}_\nu u]_\Gamma = -\lambda \mathcal{G}u - \text{DL} \psi + \text{SL} \mathcal{B}_\nu^- \mathcal{U}\psi$$

so

$$\text{DL} \psi = \text{SL} \mathcal{B}_\nu^- \mathcal{U}\psi - u - \lambda \mathcal{G}u \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^n.$$

Mapping properties for DL follow from those for SL and  $\mathcal{U}$ .

Since  $\chi \mathcal{G}u \in H^2(\mathbb{R}^n)^m$  we have  $[\mathcal{G}u]_\Gamma = [\mathcal{B}_\nu \mathcal{G}u]_\Gamma = 0$ , and the jump relations for SL give  $[\text{SL} \mathcal{B}_\nu^- \mathcal{U}\psi]_\Gamma = 0$  and  $[\mathcal{B}_\nu^- \text{SL} \mathcal{B}_\nu^- \mathcal{U}\psi]_\Gamma = -\mathcal{B}_\nu^- \mathcal{U}\psi$ ,

so

$$[\text{DL} \psi]_\Gamma = -[u]_\Gamma = \psi \quad \text{and} \quad [\mathcal{B}_\nu \text{DL} \psi]_\Gamma = -\mathcal{B}_\nu^- \mathcal{U}\psi + \mathcal{B}_\nu^- u = 0.$$

Fundamental solution for  $\mathcal{P}^*$  is just  $\mathcal{G}^*$ .

Single- and double-layer potentials for  $\mathcal{P}^*$  denoted by

$$\widetilde{\text{SL}}\psi = \mathcal{G}^* \gamma^* \psi \quad \text{and} \quad \widetilde{\text{DL}}\psi = \mathcal{G}^* \mathcal{B}_\nu^* \psi.$$

**3.8 Theorem.** Let  $\psi = \gamma u$  for some  $u \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)^m$ .

1. For all  $\phi \in H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m$ ,

$$\left( \gamma^\pm \text{DL} \psi, \phi \right)_\Gamma = \pm \Phi^\mp(u, \widetilde{\text{SL}}\phi) = \left( \psi, \widetilde{\mathcal{B}}_\nu^\mp \widetilde{\text{SL}}\phi \right)_\Gamma.$$

2. For all  $\phi \in H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m$ ,

$$\left( \mathcal{B}_\nu \text{DL} \psi, \phi \right)_\Gamma = \pm \Phi^\mp(u, \widetilde{\text{DL}}\phi) = \left( \psi, \widetilde{\mathcal{B}}_\nu \widetilde{\text{DL}}\phi \right)_\Gamma.$$

## 4. Boundary Integral Equations

### Operators on the Boundary

For simplicity, we assume from now on that  $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}^*$ , i.e.,

$$A_{kj} = A_{jk}^*, \quad A_j^* = -A_j, \quad A^* = A.$$

Note that consequently  $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_\nu = \mathcal{B}_\nu$ ,  $\mathcal{G}^* = \mathcal{G}$  and

$$G(y, x)^* = G(x, y).$$

Recall that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SL } \psi(x) &= \int_{\Gamma} G(x, y) \psi(y) d\sigma_y = \widetilde{\text{SL}} \psi(x), \\ \text{DL } \psi(x) &= \int_{\Gamma} \left( \mathcal{B}_{\nu, y} G(y, x) \right)^* \psi(y) d\sigma_y = \widetilde{\text{DL}} \psi(x). \end{aligned}$$

Define boundary integral operators

$$\begin{aligned} R &= -\mathcal{B}_\nu \text{DL} : H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m \rightarrow H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m, \\ S &= \gamma \text{SL} : H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m \rightarrow H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m, \\ T &= \gamma^+ \text{DL} + \gamma^- \text{DL} : H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m \rightarrow H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m, \end{aligned}$$

and note that

$$R^* = R, \quad S^* = S,$$

but

$$T^* = \mathcal{B}_\nu^- \text{SL} + \mathcal{B}_\nu^+ \text{SL} : H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m \rightarrow H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m.$$

The jump relations imply that

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma \text{SL} \psi &= S\psi, & \gamma^\pm \text{DL} \psi &= \frac{1}{2}(\pm\psi + T\psi), \\ \mathcal{B}_\nu^\pm \text{SL} \psi &= \frac{1}{2}(\mp\psi + T^*\psi), & \mathcal{B}_\nu \text{DL} \psi &= -R\psi, \end{aligned}$$

since, for example,

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma^+ \text{DL} \psi + \gamma^- \text{DL} \psi &= T\psi, \\ \gamma^+ \text{DL} \psi - \gamma^- \text{DL} \psi &= \psi. \end{aligned}$$

**4.1 Example.** If  $\mathcal{P} = -\nabla^2$  and  $n = 3$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SL } \psi(x) &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\Gamma} \frac{\psi(y)}{|x-y|} d\sigma_y, \\ \text{DL } \psi(x) &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\Gamma} \frac{\nu_y \cdot (x-y)}{|x-y|^3} \psi(y) d\sigma_y, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} R\psi(x) &= \frac{-1}{4\pi} \text{fp} \int_{\Gamma} \frac{\nu_x \cdot \nu_y}{|x-y|^3} \psi(y) d\sigma_y \\ &\quad - \frac{3}{4\pi} \int_{\Gamma} \frac{\nu_x \cdot (y-x) \nu_y \cdot (x-y)}{|x-y|^5} \psi(y) d\sigma_y, \\ S\psi(x) &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\Gamma} \frac{\psi(y)}{|x-y|} d\sigma_y, \\ T\psi(x) &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\Gamma} \frac{\nu_y \cdot (x-y)}{|x-y|^3} \psi(y) d\sigma_y. \end{aligned}$$

Note: anywhere  $\Gamma$  is  $C^2$  we have  $\nu_y \cdot (x-y) = O(|x-y|^2)$ .

## The Dirichlet Problem

**4.2 Theorem.** Let  $f \in \widetilde{H}^{-1}(\Omega^-)^m$  and  $g \in H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m$ .

1. If  $u \in H^1(\Omega^-)^m$  is a solution of the interior Dirichlet problem

$$\mathcal{P}u = f \quad \text{in } \Omega^-, \quad \gamma^- u = g \quad \text{on } \Gamma, \quad (7)$$

then the conormal derivative  $\psi = \mathcal{B}_\nu^- u \in H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m$  is a solution of the boundary integral equation

$$S\psi = \frac{1}{2}(g + Tg) - \gamma \mathcal{G}f \quad \text{on } \Gamma, \quad (8)$$

and  $u$  has the integral representation

$$u = \mathcal{G}f - \text{DL } g + \text{SL } \psi \quad \text{in } \Omega^-. \quad (9)$$

2. Conversely, if  $\psi \in H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m$  is a solution of the boundary integral equation (8), then the formula (9) defines a solution  $u \in H^1(\Omega^-)^m$  of (7).

Proof: Suppose that  $u$  satisfies (7) and define  $u = 0$  and  $f = 0$  on  $\Omega^+$ . By the third Green identity,

$$u = \mathcal{G}f + \text{DL}[\gamma u]_{\Gamma} - \text{SL}[\mathcal{B}_{\nu}u]_{\Gamma} = \mathcal{G}f - \text{DL}g + \text{SL}\mathcal{B}_{\nu}^{-}u \quad \text{on } \Omega^{-},$$

so, taking traces of both sides,

$$g = \gamma^{-}u = \gamma\mathcal{G}f - \frac{1}{2}(-g + Tg) + S\mathcal{B}_{\nu}^{-}u \quad \text{on } \Gamma,$$

and hence  $\psi = \mathcal{B}_{\nu}^{-}u$  satisfies

$$S\psi = \frac{1}{2}(g + Tg) - \gamma\mathcal{G}f \quad \text{on } \Gamma.$$

Conversely, given  $\psi$  satisfying (8) we see that  $u = \mathcal{G}f - \text{DL}g + \text{SL}\psi$  satisfies

$$\mathcal{P}u = \mathcal{P}\mathcal{G}f = f \quad \text{on } \Omega^{-}$$

and

$$\gamma^{-}u = \gamma\mathcal{G}f - \frac{1}{2}(-g + Tg) + S\psi = g.$$

**4.3 Theorem.** There exists a decomposition  $S = S_0 + L$  such that

$$\operatorname{Re}(S_0\phi, \phi)_\Gamma \geq c\|\phi\|_{H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m}^2 \quad \text{for all } \phi \in H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m$$

and  $L : H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m \rightarrow H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m$  is a compact linear operator.

Idea of proof for the case  $\mathcal{P} = -\nabla^2$  and  $n = 3$ .

The jump relations and the first Green identity give

$$\begin{aligned} (S\psi, \phi)_\Gamma &= (\gamma \operatorname{SL} \psi, \partial_\nu^- \operatorname{SL} \phi - \partial_\nu^+ \operatorname{SL} \phi)_\Gamma \\ &= \Phi^-(\operatorname{SL} \psi, \operatorname{SL} \phi) + (\operatorname{SL} \psi, \underbrace{\nabla^2 \operatorname{SL} \phi}_{=0})_{\Omega^-} \\ &\quad + \Phi^+(\operatorname{SL} \psi, \operatorname{SL} \phi) + (\operatorname{SL} \psi, \underbrace{\nabla^2 \operatorname{SL} \phi}_{=0})_{\Omega^+}, \end{aligned}$$

so

$$(S\phi, \phi)_\Gamma = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |\nabla \operatorname{SL} \phi|^2 dx.$$



Hence, again using one of the jump relations,

$$\|\phi\|_{H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)_m}^2 = \left\| [\mathcal{B}_\nu \text{SL } \phi]_\Gamma \right\|_{H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)_m}^2 \leq C \|\chi \text{SL } \phi\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^n)_m}^2.$$

Also, for  $\mathcal{P} = -\nabla^2$  and  $n = 3$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} (S\psi, \psi)_\Gamma = 0 &\Rightarrow \nabla \text{SL } \psi = 0 \text{ on } \Omega^\pm \\ &\Rightarrow \psi = -[\partial_\nu \text{SL } \psi]_\Gamma = 0, \end{aligned}$$

so  $S\psi = 0$  has only the trivial solution, and hence  $S$  has a bounded inverse

$$S^{-1} : H^{1/2}(\Gamma) \rightarrow H^{-1/2}(\Gamma).$$

However, for  $n = 2$ ,

$S$  is invertible  $\iff$  logarithmic capacity of  $\Gamma \neq 1$ .

## The Neumann Problem

**4.4 Theorem.** Let  $f \in \widetilde{H}^{-1}(\Omega^-)^m$  and  $g \in H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m$ .

1. If  $u \in H^1(\Omega^-)^m$  is a solution of the interior Neumann problem

$$\mathcal{P}u = f \quad \text{in } \Omega^-, \quad \mathcal{B}_\nu^- u = g \quad \text{on } \Gamma, \quad (10)$$

then the trace  $\psi = \gamma^- u \in H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m$  is a solution of the boundary integral equation

$$R\psi = \frac{1}{2}(g - T^*g) - \mathcal{B}_\nu \mathcal{G}f \quad \text{on } \Gamma, \quad (11)$$

and  $u$  has the integral representation

$$u = \mathcal{G}f - \text{DL } \psi + \text{SL } g \quad \text{in } \Omega^-. \quad (12)$$

2. Conversely, if  $\psi \in H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m$  is a solution of the boundary integral equation (11), then the formula (12) defines a solution  $u \in H^1(\Omega^-)^m$  of (10).

Notation:  $\Omega_\rho^+ = \{x \in \Omega^+ : |x| < \rho\}$  for  $\rho$  sufficiently large.

**4.5 Theorem.** If  $\mathcal{P}$  is coercive on  $H^1(\Omega^-)^m$  and on  $H^1(\Omega_\rho^+)^m$ , then  $R$  is coercive on  $H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m$ , i.e.,

$$\operatorname{Re}(R\phi, \phi)_\Gamma \geq c\|\phi\|_{H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m}^2 - C\|\phi\|_{L_2(\Gamma)^m}^2 \quad \text{for all } \phi \in H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m.$$

For  $\mathcal{P} = -\nabla^2$  it can be shown that

$$(R\psi, \phi)_\Gamma = \int_{\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-} \nabla \operatorname{DL} \bar{\psi} \cdot \nabla \operatorname{DL} \phi \, dx,$$

but, if  $\Gamma$  is connected,

$$\begin{aligned} (R\psi, \psi)_\Gamma = 0 &\Rightarrow \nabla \operatorname{DL} \psi = 0 \text{ on } \Omega^\pm \\ &\Rightarrow \psi = [\gamma \operatorname{DL} \psi]_\Gamma = \text{const.} \end{aligned}$$

Conversely, if  $\psi = 1$  then it follows from the third Green identity that  $\operatorname{DL} \psi = 1$  on  $\Omega^-$  and 0 on  $\Omega^+$ , so  $R\psi = -\partial_\nu \operatorname{DL} \psi = 0$ .

## Mixed Boundary Conditions

Suppose we have a *Lipschitz dissection*

$$\Gamma = \Gamma_D \cup \Pi \cup \Gamma_N.$$

Given  $f \in \widetilde{H}^{-1}(\Omega)^m$ ,  $g_D \in H^{1/2}(\Gamma_D)^m$  and  $g_N \in H^{-1/2}(\Gamma_N)^m$ , we seek  $u \in H^1(\Omega)^m$  satisfying

$$\mathcal{P}u = f \text{ in } \Omega, \quad \gamma u = g_D \text{ on } \Gamma_D, \quad \mathcal{B}_\nu u = g_N \text{ on } \Gamma_N. \quad (13)$$

To state the Fredholm alternative, we consider at the same time the homogeneous problem

$$\mathcal{P}v = 0 \text{ in } \Omega, \quad \gamma v = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_D, \quad \mathcal{B}_\nu v = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_N. \quad (14)$$

**4.6 Theorem.** If  $\Phi$  is coercive on  $H^1(\Omega)^m$ , then either

the mixed problem (13) has a unique solution  $u \in H^1(\Omega)^m$  and the homogeneous problem (14) has only the trivial solution  $v = 0$ ,

or else

the homogeneous mixed problem (14) has  $p$  linearly independent solutions  $v_1, \dots, v_p \in H^1(\Omega)^m$  and the inhomogeneous mixed problem (13) is solvable iff  $f$ ,  $g_D$  and  $g_N$  satisfy the compatibility conditions

$$(f, v_j)_\Omega + (g_N, \gamma v_j)_{\Gamma_N} = (g_D, \mathcal{B}_\nu v_j)_{\Gamma_D} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq j \leq p.$$

Proof based on variational formulation. Let

$$H_D^1(\Omega)^m = \{ u : \gamma u = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_D \}.$$

If  $u \in H^1(\Omega)^m$  is a solution of (13) and if  $v \in H_D^1(\Omega)^m$  then the first Green identity gives

$$\Phi(u, v) = (\mathcal{P}u, v)_\Omega + (\mathcal{B}_\nu u, \gamma v)_\Gamma = (f, v)_\Omega + (g_N, \gamma v)_{\Gamma_N}.$$

Introduce restricted boundary integral operators

$$S_{DD}\psi = (S\psi)|_{\Gamma_D} \quad \text{and} \quad T_{ND}^*\psi = (T^*\psi)|_{\Gamma_N} \quad \text{if } \text{supp } \psi \subseteq \Gamma_D \cup \Pi,$$

and

$$R_{NN}\psi = (R\psi)|_{\Gamma_N} \quad \text{and} \quad T_{DN}\psi = (T\psi)|_{\Gamma_D} \quad \text{if } \text{supp } \psi \subseteq \Gamma_N \cup \Pi.$$

Thus,

$$\left. \begin{aligned} S_{DD}\psi(x) &= \int_{\Gamma_D} G(x, y)\psi(y) d\sigma_y, \\ T_{DN}\psi(x) &= \text{pv} \int_{\Gamma_N} \mathcal{B}_{\nu, y} G(x, y)\psi(y) d\sigma_y \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ for } x \in \Gamma_D,$$

and

$$\left. \begin{aligned} R_{NN}\psi(x) &= \text{fp} \int_{\Gamma_N} \mathcal{B}_{\nu, x} \mathcal{B}_{\nu, y} G(x, y)\psi(y) d\sigma_y, \\ T_{ND}^*\psi(x) &= \text{pv} \int_{\Gamma_D} \mathcal{B}_{\nu, x} G(x, y)\psi(y) d\sigma_y \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ for } x \in \Gamma_N.$$

Mapping properties:

$$\begin{aligned} S_{DD} &: \widetilde{H}^{-1/2}(\Gamma_D)^m \rightarrow H^{1/2}(\Gamma_D)^m, \\ T_{DN} &: \widetilde{H}^{1/2}(\Gamma_N)^m \rightarrow H^{1/2}(\Gamma_D)^m, \\ R_{NN} &: \widetilde{H}^{1/2}(\Gamma_N)^m \rightarrow H^{-1/2}(\Gamma_N)^m, \\ T_{ND}^* &: \widetilde{H}^{-1/2}(\Gamma_D)^m \rightarrow H^{-1/2}(\Gamma_N)^m. \end{aligned}$$

**4.7 Theorem.** Let

$$f \in \widetilde{H}^{-1}(\Omega^-)^m, \quad g_D \in H^{1/2}(\Gamma)^m, \quad g_N \in H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m$$

and put

$$h_D = \left( \frac{1}{2}(g_D + Tg_D) - Sg_N - \gamma \mathcal{G}f \right) \Big|_{\Gamma_D} \in H^{1/2}(\Gamma_D)^m,$$

$$h_N = \left( \frac{1}{2}(g_N - T^*g_N) - Rg_D - \mathcal{B}_\nu \mathcal{G}f \right) \Big|_{\Gamma_N} \in H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)^m,$$

The function  $u \in H^1(\Omega^-)^m$  is a solution of the mixed problem (13) iff the differences

$$\psi_D = \mathcal{B}_\nu^- u - g_N \in \widetilde{H}^{-1/2}(\Gamma_D)^m,$$

$$\psi_N = \gamma^- u - g_D \in \widetilde{H}^{1/2}(\Gamma_N)^m,$$

satisfy the  $2 \times 2$  system of integral equations

$$\begin{bmatrix} S_{DD} & -\frac{1}{2}T_{DN} \\ \frac{1}{2}T_{ND}^* & R_{NN} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \psi_D \\ \psi_N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} h_D \\ h_N \end{bmatrix},$$

in which case  $u$  has the integral representation

$$u = \mathcal{G}f - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{L}(\psi_N + g_D) + \mathbf{S}\mathbf{L}(\psi_D + g_N) \quad \text{on } \Omega^-.$$



Can show that the Fredholm alternative holds for

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} S_{DD} & -\frac{1}{2}T_{DN} \\ \frac{1}{2}T_{ND}^* & R_{NN} \end{bmatrix}$$

as an operator

$$\widetilde{H}^{-1/2}(\Gamma_D)^m \times \widetilde{H}^{1/2}(\Gamma_N)^m \rightarrow H^{1/2}(\Gamma_D)^m \times H^{-1/2}(\Gamma_N)^m$$

by observing that

$$\begin{aligned} (A\psi, \psi)_{\Gamma_D \times \Gamma_N} &= \left( S_{DD}\psi_D - \frac{1}{2}T_{DN}\psi_N, \psi_D \right)_{\Gamma_D} \\ &\quad + \left( \frac{1}{2}T_{ND}^*\psi_D + R_{NN}\psi_N, \psi_N \right)_{\Gamma_N} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$(T_{ND}^*\psi_D, \psi_N)_{\Gamma_N} = (\psi_D, T_{DN}\psi_N)_{\Gamma_D},$$

so

$$\operatorname{Re}(A\psi, \psi)_{\Gamma_D \times \Gamma_N} = (S_{DD}\psi_D, \psi_D)_{\Gamma_D} + (R_{NN}\psi_N, \psi_N)_{\Gamma_N}.$$