SPHERICAL MEANS OF SOLUTIONS OF
PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS IN A CONICAL REGION

by

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ABSTRACT

The spherical means of the solutions of a linear partial differential equation \( Lu = f \) in a conical region are studied. The conical region is bounded by a surface generated by curvilinear \( \xi \) surfaces. The spherical mean is the average of \( u \) over a constant \( \xi \) surface. The conditions on the linear differential operator, \( L \), and on the orthogonal coordinates \( \xi, \eta, \zeta \) are established so that the spherical mean of the solution subjected to the appropriate boundary and initial conditions can be determined directly as a problem with only one space variable. Conditions are then established so that the spherical mean of the solution in one conical region will be proportional to that of a known solution in another conical region. Applications to various problems of mathematical physics and their physical interpretations are presented.

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1. Introduction

In a study of the solutions of the diffraction of an incident wave by a cone of solid angle $\Omega$ with zero normal derivative thereon it was shown [1] that the resultant value at the vertex of the cone is equal to $4\pi/(4\pi-\Omega)$ times the value of the incident wave at the same point in absence of the cone. This relationship was obtained by rederiving Kirchhoff's formula [2] for the wave equation from Green's formula, for the vertex of a cone. Corresponding results can be obtained for the Poisson equation and the diffusion equation. Although the results are different for different differential equations, they can be summarized in a unified statement:

"The value at the vertex of the cone is equal to that of an extended three-dimensional problem without the cone divided by the ratio of the local solid angles of the domains i.e., by the ratio $(4\pi-\Omega)/(4\pi)$. In the extended problem the inhomogeneous term and the initial data are assigned to be zero in the interior of the cone. In case that the normal derivative on the surface of the cone is not zero, the prescribed data should be redistributed and added to the inhomogeneous term for the extended problem."

This unified statement suggests that it may be proved directly from certain properties common to the differential operators of those equations without making use of the Green's theorem and Green's function for each differential equation individually. Such a general approach can be used when the value at the vertex is identified as the limit of the mean value over the local spherical cap exterior to the cone. Therefore, the original plan of presenting the special analyses for each of these differential equations separately is abandoned in favor of the present general approach.
In the next section conditions on the linear differential operator $L$ and the curvilinear orthogonal coordinates $\xi, \eta, \zeta$ are established so that the "spherical" mean of the solution of $Lu = f$ in a domain $D$ subjected to appropriate boundary and initial conditions can be determined directly as the solution of a problem with only one space variable. The domain $D$ is bounded by a "conical" surface $S_c$ generated by the $\xi$-coordinate lines and by two truncating constant $\xi$-surfaces $S_1$ and $S_2$. The "spherical" mean $\bar{u}(\xi, t)$ is defined as the mean value of the solution $u$ over a constant $\xi$-surface in the closed region $\bar{D}$. Conditions are then established so that the "spherical" mean of the solution in $\bar{D}$ will be proportional to that of a known solution in a different region $\bar{D}^*$. For the special case that the surface $S_1$ at $\xi = \xi_1$ degenerates to a point, the vertex of the "cone", the relationship for the spherical means is also valid for the value $u$ at the vertex. These statements are the essence of the Theorems I and II and the two corollaries in Section 2. The aforementioned unified statement on the value at the vertex of a cone is included as a special case of Corollary 2.

The direct determination of the "spherical" mean $\bar{u}(\xi, t)$ provides some important information about the solution and also provides a test of the accuracy of the numerical approximation to $u$ itself (see, e.g. [3], [4].)

Sections 3 to 6 present the application of the theorems to various physical problems. They can be read independently.

Section 3 applies the theorems to biharmonic equations governing the deflection of a circular sector plate subjected to a stationary or moving load. The mean deflections and in particular the deflection at the tip are identified as the symmetric deflections of a circular plate with equivalent loads.
In section 4, the theorems are applied to unsteady three-dimensional diffusion problems in a wedge and in a domain bounded by two cones with a common vertex. The demonstrations of how to obtain results directly from the theorems due to the particular geometries of the domains are, of course, not restricted only to the diffusion problems. The third example shows their applications to the diffusion of pollutants in a moving medium.

In section 5, the theorems are applied to the diffraction of an incident wave by a cone of solid angle Ω. The spherical integral of the resultant wave is equal to that of the incident wave without the cone. The value at the vertex is equal to the value of the incident wave intensified by the factor $4\pi/(4\pi-\Omega)$ as stated in Theorem III. If the incident wave is reflected and diffracted at least by part of the surface of the cone for all time, the primary wave which is known say for $t < 0$ is composed of the incident wave and those reflected and diffracted waves. The spherical integral of the resultant wave for $t > 0$ can again be related directly to that of the primary wave as stated in Theorem IV. Their applications are demonstrated by three examples. They also illustrate how to apply the theorem to bodies which are composed of cones of finite length by making use of the finite speed of propagation.

In section 6, the theorems are applied to the reduced wave equation. In particular, for the diffraction of a plane wave or a cylindrical wave by a cone of infinite length, the Sommerfeld radiation conditions are not applicable. These theorems provide a necessary condition for the resultant wave.
2. **Direct Determinability of the Mean-value Over a Curvilinear Coordinate Surface**

Let \( u(x,y,z,t) \) be the solution of a linear partial differential equation

\[
(2.1) \quad Lu = f(x,y,z,t) \quad \text{in } D \quad \text{for } t > 0
\]

where \( x, y, \) and \( z \) are the Cartesian coordinates and \( t \) denotes the time variable.

Let \( \xi, \eta, \zeta \) be a set of curvilinear orthogonal coordinates. The element of arc length is given by

\[
(2.2) \quad dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2 = \alpha^2 d\xi^2 + \beta^2 d\eta^2 + \gamma^2 d\zeta^2
\]

The domain \( D \) is bounded by two constant \( \xi \)-surfaces \( S_1 \) and \( S_2 \) and a cylindrical surface \( S_c \) generated by \( \xi \)-coordinate lines with \( \xi_2 > \xi > \xi_1 \) (see Fig. 1). In the \( \xi, \eta, \zeta \) space, the domain \( D \) is a right cylinder parallel to the \( \xi \)-axis with base area \( B \) in the \( \eta-\zeta \) plane. The initial and boundary conditions will depend on the operator \( L \). It will be assumed henceforth that these conditions and Eq. (2.1) form a well posed problem. To be more specific, Eq. (2.1) is assumed to be second order in \( \xi \) and the standard boundary conditions of the third type [5] will be imposed, i.e.,

\[
(2.3) \quad a_j u + (-1)^j b_j u_\xi = h_j (\eta, \zeta, t) \quad \text{on } S_j \quad \text{for } j = 1, 2,
\]

where \( a_j \) and \( b_j \) are non-negative functions of \( t \) and \( a_j + b_j \) is greater than zero. The required boundary condition on \( S_c \) will be specified later in Theorem I. The initial conditions at \( t = 0 \) are
(2.4) \[ \frac{\partial^{k} u}{\partial t^{k}} = q_{k}(x,y,z) \text{ in } D \text{ for } k = 0,1...K-1 \]

where \( K \) is the order of the differential operator \( L \) with respect to \( t \). It will be assumed, throughout this paper, that all the given delta \( f \), \( h \) and \( q_{k} \) are piece-wise continuous in their domains of definition, that \( \alpha \), \( \beta \), \( \gamma \) process continuous first derivatives and that the solution \( u \) has continuous first derivative in the closed region \( D \), i.e., \( D \) and its boundary.

The generalizations of the initial conditions (2.4) and of the boundary conditions (2.3) on \( S \) when Eq. (2.1) is of any order in \( \xi \) will be discussed after Theorem I.

The "spherical" mean \( \bar{v}(\xi,t) \) of a function \( v(\xi,\eta,\zeta,t) \) is defined as the mean value of \( v \) over the constant \( \xi \) surface \( S_{\xi} \) in \( B \), i.e.,

\[ \bar{v}(\xi,t) = \iint_{S_{\xi}} v \, ds / \iint_{S_{\xi}} ds \]

(2.5) \[ = \iiint_{B} v \beta y d\eta d\zeta / \iiint_{B} \beta y d\eta d\zeta \]

Since the "spherical" mean involves only one space variable, it would be of interest to know under what conditions on the operator \( L \) and the curvilinear coordinates and with what type of boundary conditions on the surface \( S_{c} \), will it be possible to determine the "spherical" mean \( \bar{u}(\xi,t) \) directly prior to the solution \( u(\xi,\eta,\zeta,t) \) itself.

The linear differential operator \( L \) and the curvilinear coordinates are assumed to fulfill the following four conditions:
(2.6) \hspace{1cm} (i) \quad L = L_1 + L_2

where \( L_1 \) involves only \( \xi \) and \( t \).

(ii) \( L_2 \) \( u \) can be written as the divergence of a vector \( A \) in a constant \( \xi \) surfaces, i.e.,

\[
L_2 u = \text{div} \ A = \frac{1}{\alpha \beta \gamma} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} (\alpha \gamma A_\eta) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \zeta} (\alpha \beta A_\zeta) \right]
\]

where \( A_\eta \) and \( A_\zeta \) are linear combinations of \( u \) and its partial derivatives and are identified as the \( \eta \)- and \( \zeta \)-components of the vector \( A \) with \( A_\xi = 0 \).

(iii) The operator \( L_1 \) commutes with the averaging operator \( \langle \rangle \) defined by Eq. (2.5), i.e.,

\[
\langle L_1 u \rangle = L_1 \langle u \rangle.
\]

When \( L_1 \) involves differentiation with respect to \( \xi \), the dependence of the area element of the surface \( S_\xi \) on \( \xi \) should be separable, i.e.

\[
\beta \gamma = \nu(\xi) \mu(\eta, \zeta).
\]

(iv) The distance between two constant \( \xi \)-surfaces is a constant, i.e.,

\[
\alpha = \alpha(\xi).
\]

On the surface \( S_c \), the required boundary condition is to prescribe the normal component of \( A \) i.e.
where \( a \) is the arc length along the intersection of \( S_g \) and \( S_c \). If there are more than one boundary condition on \( S_c \) in the well-posed problem Eq. (2.11) has to be a linear combination of them.

The divergence theorem is applied to the vector function \( A \) for the volume \( AD \) in \( \Omega \) bounded by two constant \( g \) surfaces \( S_g \) and \( S_g + AG \). By utilizing Eq. (2.1), conditions i) and ii) and the boundary condition of Eq. (2.11), the result is

\[
\Delta g \int \int \alpha \gamma (L_1 u - f) \, d\eta d\zeta = \Delta g \int \frac{\partial g}{\partial S_g} \, \alpha g (\xi, \sigma) d\sigma
\]

Due to condition (iv), \( \alpha (\xi) \) can be moved outside the integral. After dividing the equation by the volume \( \Delta D \), the equation becomes

\[
\int \int \frac{(L_1 u) g d\eta d\zeta}{\int \int \beta g d\eta d\zeta} = \bar{f}(\xi, t) + \bar{g}(\xi, t)
\]

where

\[
\tilde{g}(\xi, t) = \int \frac{g(\xi, \sigma, t) d\sigma}{\int \int \beta g d\eta d\zeta} \int \int \beta g d\eta d\zeta
\]

The leftside of Eq. (2.12) is the "spherical" mean of \( L_1 u \) which is equal to \( L_1 \tilde{u} \) on account of condition (iii). Equation (2.12) then becomes the differential equation for \( \tilde{u} \). The boundary conditions and the initial conditions
for \( \bar{u} \) are supplied by averaging Eqs. (2.3) and (2.4). These results are summarized in the following theorem.

**Theorem I**

When the differential operator \( L \) and the orthogonal curvilinear coordinates fulfill conditions (i) to (iv), the "spherical" mean \( \tilde{u}(\xi,t) \) of the solution of \( Lu = f \) in \( D \) subjected to the boundary conditions of Eq. (2.3) and (2.11) and the initial condition of Eq. (2.4) is governed by the following equations:

\[
(2.14) \quad \text{D.E. } L_1 u(\xi,t) = \bar{f}(\xi,t) + \bar{g}(\xi,t), \text{ for } \xi_1 < \xi < \xi_2 \text{ and } t > 0,
\]

\[
(2.15) \quad \text{B.C. } a_j \bar{u} + b_j \bar{u}_\xi = \bar{h}_j(t), \text{ at } \xi = \xi_j \text{ for } j = 1,2,
\]

\[
(2.16) \quad \text{I.C. } \frac{\partial^k u}{\partial \xi^k} = \bar{q}_k(\xi), \text{ at } t = 0 \text{ for } \xi_1 < \xi < \xi_2 \text{ and } k = 0,1,...,K-1.
\]

From physical point of view, the operations leading to Eq. (2.14) is equivalent to setting up the "conservation" equation for a thin shell in \( \tilde{D} \) between surfaces \( S_\xi \) and \( S_{\xi + \Delta \xi} \) with thickness \( \alpha \Delta \xi \). If \( f \) is interpreted as the intensity of a spatial source distribution in \( D \) and \( g \) as a surface distribution of sources over \( S_c \), the inhomogeneous term in Eq. (2.14) for the "spherical" mean represents a spatial source distribution independent of \( \eta \) and \( \zeta \) with intensity equal to the "spherical" mean of the spatial distribution \( f \) plus a redistribution of the source on \( S_c \) with constant \( \xi \) uniformly over the surface \( S_\xi \).
It should be noted that in Theorem I, the operators on \( u \) in the initial conditions and in the boundary conditions at \( \xi = \xi_1 \) and \( \xi_2 \) are the same as those for \( u \) because these operators are independent of \( \eta \) and \( \zeta \). It is evident that if the operators on \( u \) in Eq. (2.4) are generalized to be any linear operator independent of \( \eta \) and \( \zeta \), then the same operators will appear in the initial conditions on \( u \). Similarly, the boundary conditions (2.3) on \( S_1 \) and \( S_2 \) can be generalized with total number of conditions equal to the order of Eq. (2.1) in \( \xi_1 \) provided that those boundary operators on \( u \) are linear and independent of \( \eta \) and \( \zeta \). The same operators will again be applied to \( \tilde{u} \) in its boundary conditions on \( \xi = \xi_1 \) and \( \xi_2 \) in Theorem I.

The geometry of the surface \( S_c \) or that of the base area \( B \) in the \( \eta-\zeta \) plane appears implicitly in the definition of the inhomogeneous terms of Eqs. (2.14) and (2.16) and has no effect on how to construct the solution \( \tilde{u} \) of those equations. The solution \( \tilde{u} \) will not be changed if there is an interchange of the surface source distribution \( g \) with the spatial distribution \( f \) so long as the sum \( \bar{f} + \bar{g} \) remains unchanged. In particular, all the surface source \( g \) can be replaced by an increment of \( f \) in \( D \) by the amount \( \bar{g} \) with \( \tilde{u} \) remaining the same. In physical problems, the inhomogeneous term \( f \) can contain point sources in \( D \), therefore, the surface source distribution can be absorbed in \( f \) directly. In this respect, the discussions can be simplified by imposing a homogeneous boundary condition on \( S_c \), i.e.

\[
(2.17) \quad A_n = 0
\]

There are cases that \( u^* (\xi, \eta, \zeta, t) \) which is the solution of the same set of equations for \( u \) but in a different domain \( D^* \), is given or can be obtained.
easily. The "spherical" mean $u(\zeta,t)$ can be computed directly from $u^*$ by the definition of Eq. (2.5). It is therefore of interest to relate the "spherical" mean in $D^*$ to that in $D$.

Domain $D^*$ is also bounded by two constant $\xi$ surfaces $S_1^*$ and $S_2^*$ with $\xi=\xi_1$ and $\xi_2$ respectively and by a cylindrical surface generated by $\xi$-coordinate lines with $\xi_2 > \xi > \xi_1$ with base area $B^*$ in the $\eta-\zeta$ plane.

From condition iii) on the curvilinear coordinates, the ratio of the area of constant-$\xi$ surface in $D^*$ to that in $D$ becomes

$$\tag{2.18} \frac{\int_S \gamma \eta d\xi}{\int_S \gamma \eta d\xi} = \frac{\int_B \mu(\eta,\zeta) d\eta d\zeta}{\int_B \mu(\eta,\zeta) d\eta d\zeta} = \Lambda$$

where $\Lambda$ is a constant.

It will be assumed that the supports in inhomogeneous terms in the differential equation and in the initial conditions lie in $D \cap D^*$, and the supports of the inhomogeneous terms in the boundary conditions on $S_j$ lie in $B \cap B^*$. The solution $u^*$ in the domain $D^*$ is then defined as the associated solution of $u$ in $D$ if they fulfill the same differential equation, the same boundary conditions on $S_1$ and $S_2$, and the same initial conditions, and the homogeneous condition $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$ on $S_c$ for $u$ and $\mathbf{A^*} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$ on $S^*_c$ for $u^*$ where $\mathbf{A^*}$ is the vector $\mathbf{A}$ with $u$ replaced by $u^*$. The last condition implies either $g = g^* = 0$ or that the surface source distribution $g$ has been absorbed in $f$.

Let $v^*$ designate the "spherical" mean of $v^*$ over a constant $\xi$ surface in $D^*$. The mean values of the inhomogeneous terms in the differential equations initial conditions and boundary conditions on $S_j^*$ for $u^*$ will be $\Lambda$ times the values for $u$, e.g.,
By theorem I, \( \tilde{u}^* \) obeys the same equations as \( \tilde{u} \) with the exception that all the inhomogeneous terms change by a factor \( \Lambda \), therefore,

\[
(2.20) \quad \tilde{u}^* (\xi, t) = \Lambda \tilde{u}(\xi, t) \quad \text{or} \quad \tilde{u}(\xi, t) = \tilde{u}^*(\xi, t)/\Lambda .
\]

This result is stated as follows:

**Theorem II**

The "spherical" mean \( \tilde{u}(\xi, t) \) of the solution \( u \) in \( D \) is equal to "spherical" mean \( \tilde{u}^*(\xi, t) \) of the associated solution \( u^* \) in \( D^* \) divided by the ratio of the area of the constant \( \xi \) surface in \( D \) to that in \( D^* \).

By using the definition of Eq. (2.5), Eq. (2.20) becomes

\[
(2.21) \quad \iint_{S_\xi} u(\xi, \eta, \zeta, t) dS = \iint_{S^*_\xi} u(\xi, \eta, \zeta, t) dS
\]

This relationship restated in the following Corollary is useful when one of the areas, say that of \( S^*_\xi \), is not finite.

**Corollary I**

The integral of \( u(\xi, \eta, \zeta, t) \) over a constant \( \xi \)-surface in \( D \) is equal to that of its associated solution \( u^* \) in \( D^* \).

**A) Admissible Orthogonal Coordinates**

Conditions iii) and iv) i.e. Eqs. (2.9 and 2.10), impose some restrictions on the curvilinear orthogonal coordinates. It is shown in an NYU Report [6] that Eq.(2.10) requires the \( \xi \)-coordinate lines to be straight
lines then the unit tangent vector $\mathbf{e}_s$ is independent of $g$. When $g$ is identified as the arc length, $\alpha(g)$ equals to 1. It is then shown in [6] that the constant $g$-surfaces and the orthogonal coordinates, which are consistent with Eq. (2.9), have to be one of the following three types:

a) $g$ is independent of $\eta$ and $\zeta$. The constant $g$ surfaces are parallel planes say normal to $x$-axis. The variable $g$ can be identified as $x$ while $\eta, \zeta$ can be identified as $y$ and $z$ or a pair of orthogonal coordinates in the $y$-$z$ plane. The domain $D$ is a right cylinder parallel to $x$-axis (see Fig. 2a).

b) $g$ is dependent only on $\eta$ and $\zeta$. The constant $g$ surfaces are coaxial circular cylindrical surfaces. If the axis is identified as the $z$-axis. The orthogonal coordinates can be identified as the cylindrical coordinates $(\rho, \theta, z)$ respectively. The domain is bounded by the cylindrical surfaces $\rho = g_1$ and $\rho = g_2$ and the "conical" surface $S_c$ which can be defined as $S(z, \theta) = 0$, (see Fig. 2b).

c) $g$ depends on both $\eta$ and $\zeta$. The variable $g$ is identified as the radial distance $r$ to the center and $\eta$ and $\zeta$ can be identified as the spherical angles $\theta$ and $\phi$ respectively or as two orthogonal coordinates on the spherical surface. The domain $D$ is a cone truncated by spherical surfaces of radii $g_1$ and $g_2$. (see Fig. 2c).

Under type c, the area $S_r$ of a spherical cap in $D$ is $r^2 \Omega_c$ where $\Omega_c$ is the solid angle of the cone. When $g_1 = 0$ the spherical cap $S_1$ at $r = g_1$ degenerates to the vertex of the cone and the spherical mean value $\bar{u}(0, t)$ becomes the value at the vertex of the cone. Theorem I will therefore relate the value at the vertex of the cone $D$ to that at the center of a spherically symmetric problem without the conical surface $S_c$, i.e.,
The boundary condition(s) at $r = r_1 = 0$ will be the specification of the behavior of $u$ and/or its derivatives with respect to $r$ as required by the order of Eq. (2.1) with respect to $\xi$. The same condition(s) will be imposed on $\tilde{u}$ at $r = 0$.

When $D^*$ is another conical domain of solid angle $\Omega_c^*$ the ratio of the area of spherical cap $S_r$ in $D$ to that of $S_r^*$ in $D^*$ is

$$\Lambda = \frac{S_r}{S_r^*} = \frac{\Omega_c}{\Omega_c^*}$$

When the required boundary condition for $u$ on $S_c$, Eq. (2.11), is homogeneous, Theorem II yields that the spherical mean of the solution $u(r,\theta,\varphi,t)$ in $D$ is equal to that of $u^*$ in $D^*$ divided by $\Lambda$ which is the ratio of the solid angles, i.e.,

$$(2.23) \quad \bar{u}(r,t) = \bar{u}^*(r,t) / (\Omega_c^*/\Omega_c)$$

At $r = 0$, the mean values $\bar{u}$, $\bar{u}^*$ are the values of $u$ and $u^*$ respectively at the vertex. The following statement is now evident.

**Corollary 2**

The solution $u$ at the vertex of a cone $D$ with $0 < r < \xi_2$ are equal to the associated solution $u^*$ at the vertex of cone $D^*$ divided by the ratio of their solid angles.

For the special case that $D^*$ is the whole sphere, $r < \xi_2$ with $\Omega^* = 4\pi$, the associated solution $u^*$ is a solution inside the sphere in absence of a
conical surface. \( u^* \) at the center of the sphere is related to the solution \( u \) and the vertex of the cone \( D \) directly,

\[
(2.24) \quad u(r = 0, \theta, \phi, t) = \frac{\delta_{tt}}{\partial_{n}^{c}} u^* (r = 0, \theta, \phi, t)
\]

This equation is equivalent to the statement in Section I which summarizes the results obtained by the applications of Green's formulas and the appropriate functions to several equations of mathematical physics.

It should be pointed out here that conditions for the direct determination of the spherical mean in Theorem I are not necessary. For example, the operator \( L_2 \) involving the variables \( \eta \) and \( \zeta \) can be removed by means of the Stokes Theorem if \( L_2 u \) can be expressed as the \( \xi \)-component of the curl of a vector. Details of the alternate approach can be found in [6]. They will not be presented in this paper because in most physical problems, the governing equations are usually derived from the conservation of certain quantities and the representation of \( L_2 u \) as the divergence of a surface vector is usually expected.

In the next sub-section it will be shown that several equations of mathematical physics fulfill the conditions stated in Theorem I.

B) Equations of Mathematical Physics

For many equations of mathematical physical, namely the Poisson equation, the unsteady diffusion equations, the wave equation, etc., the differential operator involving the space variables is the Laplacian operator, i.e.

\[
(2.25) \quad L = \text{div} \: \text{grad} + L_t
\]

where \( L_t \) involves differentiations with respect to time only.
To compare with the conditions on \( L \), the vector \( A \) in Eq. (2.7) can be identified as the projection of \( \text{grad} \ u \) on the \( \eta-\zeta \) surface, i.e.

\[
A = \frac{1}{\beta} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \eta} \eta + \frac{1}{\gamma} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \zeta} \zeta
\]

where \( \eta \) and \( \zeta \) are unit vectors along the \( \eta \) and \( \zeta \)-coordinate lines respectively. From the definition that \( L u = L_1 u + \text{div} \ A \), the operator \( L_1 \) is [7]

\[
L_1 = \frac{1}{\alpha \gamma} \frac{\partial}{\partial g} (\frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial \alpha} \frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial g}) + L_t
\]

When the coordinates are admissible in the sense defined in the preceding subsection \( L_1 \) becomes

\[
L_1 = \frac{1}{\nu(\xi)} \frac{\partial}{\partial g} [\nu(\xi) \frac{\partial}{\partial g}] + L_t
\]

It is clear that \( L_1 \) involves only \( \xi \) and \( t \) and the operator \( L \) defined by (2.25) fulfills the four conditions required for the direct determination of the "spherical" mean. The normal component of \( A \) on \( S_c \) is equal to the normal component of \( \text{grad} \ u \). The required boundary condition on \( S_c \), Eq. (2.11), becomes

\[
\frac{\partial u}{\partial g} = g (\xi, \sigma, t) \quad \text{on} \ S_c
\]

In the analysis of diffusion through a moving incompressible fluid, the equations for the velocity field \( q \) is uncoupled from the equation for the diffusion process. For a given velocity field, the operator \( L \) is of the form
(2.29) \[ L = \partial_t + q \cdot \nabla - \Delta \]

Lu can be rewritten as \( u_t + \nabla \cdot [qu - \nu u] \). To be consistent with the conditions for Theorem I, it is necessary that the \( \xi \)-component of the velocity is independent of \( \eta \) and \( \zeta \) and that \( (q \cdot n)u - (\partial u / \partial n) \) is prescribed on the surface \( S_c \). The second condition is equivalent to the prescription of the flux of \( u \) through the surface \( S_c \). For the special case that the surface \( S_c \) is a rigid wall, \( q, n \) vanishes on \( S_c \) and the required boundary condition on \( S_c \) is the prescription of \( \partial u / \partial n \) i.e. again Eq. (2.28).

For biharmonic equations, say

(2.30) \[ L = \Delta \Delta + L_t \]

the vector \( A \) in Eq. (2.7) can be identified as

(2.31) \[ A = \eta \left[ \frac{1}{\beta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \Delta u + \beta \cdot L_\xi \left( \frac{1}{\beta^2} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \eta} \right) \right] \\
+ \xi \left[ \frac{1}{\gamma} \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \Delta u + \gamma \cdot L_\xi \left( \frac{1}{\gamma^2} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \xi} \right) \right] \]

where \( L_\xi = \frac{1}{\nu(\xi)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} (\nu \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi}) \). From the definition of \( Lu = L_1 u + \text{div} A \), it can be seen that the operator \( L_1 \) is equal to \( (L_\xi)^2 + L_t \) and involves only \( t \) and \( \xi \). The required boundary condition on \( S_c \) in Theorem I becomes

(2.32) \[ A_n = \frac{\partial}{\partial n} \Delta u + n \cdot \nabla L_\xi \left( \frac{1}{\beta^2} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \eta} \right) + n \cdot \xi \cdot \nabla L_\xi \left( \frac{1}{\gamma^2} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \xi} \right) = g (\xi, \sigma, t) \]

It is obvious that the operator \( L \) in general will not be invariant with respect to a translation of the origin, see for example Eq. (2.29). However, many of the operators do have this invariant property, e.g., Eq. (2.25) and (2.30),

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and then Theorem I can be used to yield the mean-value theorem for any interior point and to develop solutions for initial value problems.

C) Connections with the Mean-Value Theorem and Initial Value Problems

In this subsection it is assumed that the operator $L$ fulfills the conditions in Theorem I and possesses the property of invariance with respect to a translation of the origin. Any interior point $P_0$ of $D$ can be chosen as the origin and Theorem I can be applied to determine directly the spherical mean $\bar{u}$ inside a sphere $S_2$ lying in $D$ and centered at $P_0$. The spherical mean and in particular the value of $u$ at $P_0$ is related to the boundary data on $S_2$ by solving a problem with only one space variable. Thus a mean value theorem for Eq. (2.1) is established. Of course the boundary conditions on the conical surface $S_c$ will not appear in this consideration.

For an initial value problem, the domain $D$ is the whole space. Any point $P_0$ can again be chosen as the origin and Theorem I will relate the solution at $P_0$ to the initial data by solving directly the equation for the spherical mean. Applications of spherical means to initial value problems in this respect can be found in [5] and [8].

The theorems in this section and the examples in the following sections deal with initial boundary-value problems. Additional examples can be found in [6].
3. The Biharmonic Equation

The biharmonic equation appears frequently in elasticity problems namely in the plane stress or plane strain problems [9] and in the deflection of thin plates [10]. It is also the governing equation for a slow viscous flow [11]. In this section, $u(r, \theta, t)$ will represent the deflection of a thin circular sector plate in polar coordinates $r, \theta$. The governing equation is

$$
\Delta \Delta u + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2} = f \quad \text{in } D.
$$

The domain $D$ is the circular sector of radius $R$ and angle $\alpha$, i.e., $0 < r < R$ and $-\alpha/2 < \theta < \alpha/2$. For the two dimensional problem, eq. (2.31) reduces to

$$
\Delta = \theta \left\{ \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \Delta u + \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[ \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( \frac{u}{\partial \theta} \right) \right] \right\}
= \theta A_\theta
$$

Under theorem I, the two boundary conditions on $S_c$, i.e., on the two straight edges $\theta = \pm \alpha/2$, should be sufficient to specify $A_\theta$. As a mathematical problem, $A_\theta$ can be specified as one boundary condition and the mean solution will be independent of the other boundary condition.

The two boundary conditions to be imposed for the plate will appear naturally in the formulation of the governing equations from the variational principal [10]. The following terms appear in the line integral along the boundary

$$
-M_n \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} + (Q_n - \frac{\partial M_n}{\partial s}) \delta u
$$

where $M_n$, $M_{ns}$ and $Q_n$ are the bending moment, torsional moment and shearing force and $n$ and $s$ are arc lengths normal to and along the boundary respectively. The line integral vanishes when one of the following four pairs
of boundary data are prescribed: (i) $u$ and $\partial u/\partial n$, (ii) $u$ and $M_n$, (iii) $M_n$ and $(Q_n - \partial M_n/\partial S)$, (iv) $\partial u/\partial n$ and $(Q_n - \partial M_n/\partial S)$. When the boundary conditions are homogeneous, the first three pairs are known as built-in, simple supported and free edge conditions. The fourth pair will be called rotation-constrained edge conditions, e.g., the edge is reinforced by a bar with torsional rigidity much larger than its flexural rigidity to constrain the deflection of the plate.

Along the straight edges of the sector plate $\theta = \pm \alpha/2$, only the fourth pair of the edge conditions will yield the data on $A_\Theta$. They are

\begin{equation}
(3.3) \quad u_\theta = 0 \quad \text{and}
\end{equation}

\begin{equation}
(3.4) \quad \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (\Delta u) + (1 - \nu) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} \left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \theta} \right) = 0
\end{equation}

for $0 < r < R$ where $\nu$ denote Poisson ratio in this section. From eq. (3.3), eq. (3.4) reduces to $\partial (\Delta u) / \partial \Theta = 0$. From the definition of $A_\Theta$ in eq. (3.2) it is clear that the combination of eqs. (3.3) and (3.4) yields

\begin{equation}
(3.5) \quad A_\Theta = 0
\end{equation}

on $\theta = \pm \alpha/2$. The two boundary conditions at the tip of the plate, $r = 0$, are

\begin{equation}
(3.6) \quad u \text{ is finite and}
\end{equation}

\begin{equation}
(3.7) \quad \lim_{r \to 0} \frac{r}{r} \left[ \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( \frac{r}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \right) \right] = 0 .
\end{equation}

Equation (3.7) implies there is no concentrated load at the tip, otherwise the limit will be non zero. The boundary conditions along the circular arc $r = R$ can be,

\begin{equation}
(3.8) \quad u = 0 \text{ and } \partial u/\partial r = 0 \text{ for a built-in edge .}
\end{equation}
(3.9) \( u = 0 \) and \( \partial^2 u / \partial r^2 + \left( v / r \right) \partial u / \partial r = 0 \) for a simply supported edge for \( |\theta| < \alpha / 2 \). The boundary conditions are at \( r = 0 \) and \( r = R \) do not involve \( \Theta \), therefore, Theorem I can be applied to the sector plate to determine the mean \( \bar{u} (r, t) \) directly and in particular the value at the tip \( u(0, \theta, t) \) which is \( \bar{u} (0, t) \). The mean \( \bar{u} \) in this two dimensional problem is defined as

\[
(3.10) \quad \bar{u}_r (r, t) = \int_{-\alpha/2}^{\alpha/2} u (r, \theta, t) \, d\theta / \alpha
\]

The following two examples will deal with the static and unsteady problems respectively.

**Example 1.** Deflection of a sector plate due to a stationary concentrated load. For a concentrated load \( P \) applied at a point \( (r_0, \Theta_0) \) in \( D \) the inhomogeneous term \( f \) in eq. (3.1) becomes

\[
(3.11) \quad f = \left( P / I \right) \delta (r-r_0) \delta (\Theta - \Theta_0) / r
\]

where \( I \) is the flexural rigidity of the plate. With a built-in edge along the circular arc (eq. 3.8) and rotation-constrained edges along the straight edge (eqs. 3.3, 3.4), the mean deflection \( \bar{u} (r) \) is governed by the equation

\[
(3.12) \quad \left( r \frac{d}{dr} \right) \left( r \frac{d^2}{dr^2} \right) \bar{u} = \left( P / I \right) \delta (r-r_0) / (r \alpha)
\]

The boundary conditions at \( r = 0 \) and \( r = R \) are given by eqs. (3.6), (3.7) and (3.8) with \( u \) replaced \( \bar{u} \). The solution is

\[
(3.13) \quad \bar{u} (r) = \frac{P}{4\alpha I} \left\{ \left( r^2 + r_0^2 \right) \log \frac{r_0}{R} + \left( R^2 + r^2 \right) (1 - \frac{r_0^2}{R^2})/2 \right.
\]

\[
+ \left[ r_0^2 - r^2 \right] \left( r_0^2 + r^2 \right) \log \left( r / r_0 \right) + \left( \frac{r}{r_0} \right) \right\} H(r - r_0)
\]

where \( H \) is the Heaviside unit step function. The deflection at the tip of the sector plate is
(3.14)  \[ u(0,0) = \bar{u}(0) = \frac{P}{4\alpha I} \left[ r_o^2 \log \frac{r_o}{R} + (R^2 - r_o^2)/2 \right] \]

The mean deflection is the same as the symmetric deflection [10] of a circular plate with built-in edge at \( r = R \) and a uniformly distributed load along a concentric circle of radius \( r_o \) with total strength \( P(2\pi/\alpha) \).

Example 2. Deflection of a sector plate due to a moving load

For a concentrated moving load of strength \( P \), the inhomogeneous term \( f(r,t) \) is again given by eq. (3.11), however, \( r_o(t) \) and \( \Theta_o(t) \) are now given functions of \( t \) describing the motion of the load. If the boundary conditions on the sector plate are the same as those in example 1, the mean deflection \( \bar{u}(r,t) \) is governed by the equation

(3.15)  \[ (r \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2}) \bar{u} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \bar{u} = \frac{P}{I} \delta[r - r_o(t)]/ (r\alpha) \]

The boundary conditions at \( r = 0 \) and \( r = R \) are eqs. (3.6), (3.7) and (3.8) with \( u \) replaced by \( \bar{u} \). If the initial condition for \( u \) is \( u = u_t = 0 \) at \( t = 0 \), then the same conditions hold for \( \bar{u} \), i.e.

(3.16)  \[ \bar{u}(r,0) = \bar{u}_t(r,0) = 0 \]

It should be noted that eq. (3.15) does not involve \( \Theta_o(t) \). Hence, the mean deflection \( \bar{u}(r,t) \) is independent of the circumferential movement of the load and remains the same if the load \( P \) moving along any radial line with instantaneous position \( r_o(t) \). \( \bar{u}(r,t) \) is equal to the symmetric deflection of a circular plate with built-in edge at \( r = R \), with same initial conditions and subjected to a load of total strength \( P (2\pi/\alpha) \) uniformly distributed along the circle \( r = r_o(t) \). The solution for the symmetric deflection can be constructed by making use of the eigenfunctions for the symmetric modes given in[12]. Procedures for the construction of the symmetric unsteady solution are described in [13] and [14].
4. The Unsteady Diffusion Equation

If \( u(x,y,z,t) \) represents the temperature variation in a stationary medium or the mass fraction of species in a diffusion problem, \( u \) obeys the simple diffusion equation

\[
Lu = \Delta u - C^2 \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = f(x,y,z,t) \quad \text{in } D \quad \text{for } t > 0.
\]

where \( C^2 \) the diffusivity constant. In addition to the boundary conditions of eqs. (2.3) and (2.11), there is one initial condition,

\[
(4.2) \quad u(x,y,z,0) = q_0(x,y,z) \quad \text{in } D
\]

Two examples are presented to illustrate how to select the curvilinear coordinates for a given domain and how to apply the Theorems and corollaries. These suggestions, which rely on the geometry of the domain, are also applicable to other problems of mathematical physics. Of course, the final explicit formulas will be different for different governing equations. The first example illustrates the use of Theorem II to obtain explicit solutions along the edge of a wedge, and those for the planar, the cylindrical and the spherical integrals in the wedge. The second example shows the use of Theorem II for the construction of the spherical mean in a domain bounded by two cones with a common vertex. The third example shows how to apply Theorem I to study the diffusion of pollutants in a moving medium and in particular to obtain directly the total flux of pollutants going upstream.

Example 1. Three dimensional heat transfer problem in a wedge

Figure 3 shows that the domain \( D \) is a wedge with angle
\[ u. \] The edge is chosen as the z-axis. One face of the edge is the x-z plane \((\phi=0)\). Due to the method of superposition and the Duhamel's principal, it suffices to consider the simple case of homogeneous equation and boundary data while the initial data is a point source located at a point \(P(x_1,y_1,0)\) with strength \(Q\), i.e., \(f = 0, g = 0\) and

\[ q_Q(x,y,z) = Q \delta(x-x_1, y-y_1, z) \]

with \(x_1 = \rho \cos \phi_1, y_1 = \rho \sin \phi_1, \rho > 0\) and \(0 < \phi_1 < \pi\).

In absence of the wedge, the solution \(u^*\) of the homogeneous heat conduction equation in the whole space under the initial condition of eq.(4.3) is [15]

\[ u^*(x,y,z,t) = Q(4\pi \kappa^2 t)^{-1/2} \exp\left[-z^2/(4\kappa^2 t)\right] \]

where \(r_1\) is the distance from \((x,y,z)\) to the location of the source.

In term of cylindrical coordinates \(\rho, \phi,\) and \(z, z\) can be identified as the \(\xi\) coordinate and the planar integral of the solution \(u^*\) in the wedges at constant \(z\) is equal to that of \(u^*\) in the whole space by Corollary 1, i.e.

\[ I(z,t) = \int_0^\infty \rho \, d\rho \int_0^\mu \, d\phi \, \mu(\rho, \phi, z, t) \]

\[ = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dy \, u^*(x,y,z,t) \]

\[ = Q(4\pi \kappa^2 t)^{-1/2} \exp\left[-z^2/(4\kappa^2 t)\right] \]

If now \(\rho\) is identified as \(\xi\). A constant \(\xi\)-surface is
a cylindrical surface with radius \( \rho \). Corollary 1 gives immediately the cylindrical surface integral of \( u \), i.e., \[ 7 \]

\[
I_c(\rho,t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{2\pi} \rho d\phi \ u(\rho,\phi,z,t)
\]

\[
= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{2\pi} \rho d\phi \ u^*(\rho \cos \phi, \rho \sin \phi,z,t)
\]

\[
= Q \rho (2C^2t)^{-1} I_0[\rho \rho / (2C^2t)] \exp\{-\rho^2
\]

\[ 4.6 \]

\[
+ \rho^2 /4C^2t\}
\]

Since any point \( A(0,0,z_o) \) on the edge can be identified as the vertex of a cone with solid angle \( 2\mu \) the point \( A \) can be chosen as the origin of the spherical coordinates \( (r,\theta,\omega) \). The value of \( u \) at \( A \) is therefore related to \( u^* \) by corollary 2,

\[
u(0,0,z_o,t) = \frac{4\pi}{2\mu} u^*(0,0,z_o,t)
\]

\[ 4.7 \]

\[
= (2\pi/\mu) Q(4\pi C^2t)^{-3/2} \exp\{-[\rho^2 + (z - z_o)^2] / (4C^2t)\}
\]

The spherical integral of \( u \) with \( A \) as the center is also related to that of \( u^* \) as follows

\[
I_s(r,z_o,t) = r^2 \int_{0}^{\pi} \sin \theta d\theta \int_{0}^{2\pi} d\phi \ u^*
\]

\[
= r^2 \int_{0}^{\pi} \sin \theta d\theta \int_{0}^{2\pi} d\phi \ u^*
\]

or

\[
I_s(r,z_o,t) = Q(4\pi C^2t)^{-1/2}(r/r_p) \{\exp\{-[\eta^2 - \eta_1^2]\}
\]

\[ 4.8 \]

\[
= \exp\{-[\eta^2 + \eta_1^2]\}
\]

where \( \eta^2 = r^2 / (4C^2t) \), \( \eta_1^2 = r_p^2 / (4C^2t) \)
and \( r_p = \left[p^2 + (z_1 - z_2)^2\right]^{1/2} \) is the distance from the point source \( P \) to \( A \).

Explicit formulas are obtained for the solution along the edge in eq. (4.7) and for the integrals of the solution on a constant \( z \)-plane, and a cylindrical surface with \( z \)-axis as its axis and with radius \( \rho \) and on a spherical surface of radius \( r \) centered at a point \((0,0,z_0)\) on the edge in eqs. (4.5), (4.6) and (4.8) respectively. The only missing information about the solution is its dependence on the variable \( \phi \). The success of obtaining so many explicit results from the corollaries is due to the special geometry of the domain, a wedge, and is, therefore, not restricted to diffusion problem only.

**Example 2. Temperature field in a solid bounded by two insulated conical surfaces with a common vertex.**

As shown in fig.4, the inner and the outer conical surfaces are nonintersecting. Their solid angles are \( \Omega_1 \) and \( \Omega_0 \) respectively with \( \Omega_0 > \Omega_1 \). With the boundary condition of \( \partial u/\partial n = 0 \) on the two conical surfaces, theorem II and the corollaries remain applicable with the solid angle of the domain \( D \) equal to \( \Omega_0 - \Omega_1 \). Based on the reason stated in the first example, it suffices to consider only the simple case of a point source of strength \( Q \) at a point \( P \) in \( D \) at the instant \( t = 0 \).

The solution \( u^* \) in the whole space without the conical boundaries is again given by eq. (4.4). The temperature \( u \) at the common vertex \( A \) is again given by the corollary 2.
\[ u(A,t) = \frac{4\pi}{\Omega_0 - \Omega_1} u^*(A,t) - \frac{r_1^2}{4C^2 t} \]
\[(4.9)\]

where \( r_1 = |PA| \) is the distance from the point source to the common vertex A. The integral of the temperature over the spherical surface \( S_r \) in D with radius \( r \) and centered at A is again given by the expression on the right side of eq.(4.8).

When the conical surfaces are of finite length \( \xi_2 \) the domain D is bounded in addition by an insulated spherical surface \( S_2 \) with radius \( \xi_2 \). The associated solution \( u^* \) should be replaced by the solution in an insulated sphere of radius \( \xi_2 \) due to a point source at P at the instant \( t = 0 \). The value at the vertex \( u(A,t) \) and the spherical mean can be related by Theorem I to a spherically symmetric problem given in [15].

The axially symmetric temperature field between two co-axial circular cones is investigated by Oberhettinger and Dressler [16] Series solution is constructed for the isothermal boundary condition; \( u = 0 \). For case of adiabatic boundary condition, \( \partial u/\partial n = 0 \), only a brief outline of the method is presented. The explicit results in this example would be useful to check the numerical results of their analysis.
Example 3. Diffusion of pollutants in a moving medium.

To be more specific, the conical domain $D$ will be an open channel connecting two large reservoirs. The channel is assumed to be of constant depth, $h$. The domain $D$ is defined by

\begin{equation}
\xi_1 < \xi < \xi_2, -\alpha/2 < \eta < \alpha/2 \quad \text{and} \quad -h < \zeta = z < 0
\end{equation}

For a constant area channel $\xi = x$ and $\eta = y$; $\alpha$ is the width of the channel. For a divergence channel, $\xi = r$, and $\eta = 0$; $\alpha$ is the divergent angle of the channel.

The flow is assumed to be incompressible and the velocity field can be represented as

\begin{equation}
\bar{q} = \xi V (\xi_1/\xi)^\lambda
\end{equation}

where $V$ is the velocity at the section $\xi = \xi_1$; $\lambda = 0$ for a constant area channel and $\lambda = 1$ for a divergence channel.

The governing equation for the diffusion of a pollutant in the channel is [15].

\begin{equation}
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \left( \frac{\xi_1}{\xi} \right)^\lambda \frac{\partial u}{\partial \xi} - C^2 \Delta u = C^2 f.
\end{equation}

The boundary condition on $S_c$ i.e., on the wetted walls of the channel and on the free surface is

\begin{equation}
\frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = 0.
\end{equation}

The boundary conditions at the upstream and downstream ends of the channel will be

\begin{equation}
u = 0 \quad \text{at} \quad \xi = \xi_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \xi = \xi_2
\end{equation}
because of the large sizes of reservoirs. The inhomogeneous term \( f \) represents the source of pollutant in the channel. For unsteady problems an initial condition, say \( u = 0 \) at \( t = 0 \), shall be added.

If the pollutant is dumped at a point \( \xi_0, \eta_0, z_0 \) in \( D \) at a rate \( Q(t) \), then \( f \) can be written as

\[
(4.14) \quad f = Q \delta(\xi - \xi_0) \delta(\eta - \eta_0) \delta(z - z_0) / \xi^\lambda
\]

The mean solution \( \bar{u}(\xi, t) \) obeys the equation

\[
(4.15) \quad \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t} + V \left( \frac{\xi_1}{\xi} \right)^\lambda \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial \xi} - C^2 \left[ \frac{\partial^2 \bar{u}}{\partial \xi^2} + \frac{\xi}{\xi_1} \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial \xi} \right] = C^2 Q \delta(\xi - \xi_0)/(\xi^\lambda)
\]

The boundary conditions are

\[
(4.16) \quad \bar{u} = 0 \text{ at } \xi = \xi_1 \text{ and } \xi_2
\]

The mean solution \( \bar{u}(\xi, t) \) can be obtained directly and is independent of \( \eta_0 \) and \( z_0 \) of the point source. From \( \bar{u}(\xi, t) \), \( \bar{u}_{\xi} \) is obtained immediately and is the quantity of interest in this problem. In particular, \( \bar{u}_{\xi} \) at \( \xi_1 \), and \( \xi_2 \) represent the rate of the pollutant entering the upstream and downstream reservoirs.

Explicit results will now be given for the steady problem to show the difference between a constant area channel and a divergent channel.

The steady solution of eqs. (4.15, 4.16) for a constant area channel \( (\lambda = 0) \) is
\[
\begin{align*}
\bar{u}(\xi) = & \begin{cases} 
\frac{Q}{\alpha V} \left[ e^{-\left(\xi_0 - \xi\right)k} - e^{-\left(\xi_0 - \xi_1\right)k} \right] [1 - e^{-\left(\xi_2 - \xi_0\right)k}] / [1 - e^{-kX}] & \text{for } \xi_0 < \xi < \xi_1 \\
\frac{Q}{\alpha V} [1 - e^{-\left(\xi_2 - \xi\right)k}] [1 - e^{-\left(\xi_0 - \xi_1\right)k}] / [1 - e^{-kX}] & \text{for } \xi_2 < \xi < \xi_0
\end{cases}
\end{align*}
\]

where \( k = V/C^2 \) and \( X = \xi_2 - \xi_1 \). The percentage of the pollutant reaching the upstream reservoir is

\[
(4.17) \quad \frac{\alpha C^2}{Q} \bar{u}(\xi_1) = e^{-\left(\xi_0 - \xi_1\right)k} [1 - e^{-\left(\xi_2 - \xi_0\right)k}] / [1 - e^{-kX}]
\]

\[
\approx e^{-\left(\xi_0 - \xi_1\right)k} \quad \text{as } k \to \infty
\]

The percentage decreases exponentially in the distance from the source of the pollution to the upstream station of the channel.

For a divergent channel (\( \lambda = 1, V > 0 \)), the steady solution is

\[
(4.18) \quad \bar{u}(\xi) = \frac{Q}{\alpha E_0 R_0} \left\{ \left[ \frac{E_1}{\xi_1} \right] - 1 \right\} \left[ \frac{E_2}{\xi_0} - 1 \right] / \left( \frac{E_2}{\xi_1} - 1 \right)
\]

\[
\quad - \frac{\xi_0}{\xi_1} \left[ \left( \frac{E_0}{\xi_0} \right) - 1 \right] \H \left( \xi - \xi_0 \right)
\]

where \( R_0 = V \xi_1/C^2 \). The percentage of the pollutant going to the upstream reservoir is

\[
(4.19) \quad \frac{\bar{u}'(\xi_1) \xi_1 \alpha}{Q} = \frac{\xi_2 / \xi_0}{\left( \xi_2 / \xi_1 \right) R_0 - 1} = \frac{\xi_1 / \xi_0}{R_0 - 1} \left[ \frac{1 - \left( \xi_0 / \xi_2 \right)}{1 - \left( \xi_1 / \xi_2 \right) R_0} \right]
\]

As \( R_0 \to \infty \), the percentage decreases as the \( R_0 \)-th power of the ratio \( \xi_1 / \xi_0 \).

When \( V < 0 \), the flow is reversed from \( \xi = \xi_2 \) to \( \xi = \xi_1 \) through a convergent channels Equations (4.18) and (4.19) remain valid for \( V < 0 \), however, eq. (4.19) defines now the percentage of pollutant going to the
downstream reservoirs and

\[
\frac{\bar{u}^*(\xi_1)}{Q} \xi_1 \sim 1 - \left( \frac{\xi_0}{\xi_2} \right)^{-Re} \quad \text{as } Re \to \infty
\]

The percentage going to the upstream reservoir can be computed from
\[\xi_2 \sim \bar{u}^*(\xi_2)/Q\] or can be seen from (4.20). It again decreases as the (-Re)-th power of the ratio \((\xi_0/\xi_2)\) as \(-Re \to \infty\) in contrast with the exponential decay law in a constant area channel.
5. The Wave Equation

The propagation of acoustic waves or that of a single component of electro or magnetic waves is governed by the simple wave equation

\[(5.1) \quad L u = \Delta u - C^{-2} u_{tt} = f(x,y,z,t)\]

where \(C\) is the speed of propagation. The usual two initial conditions are the prescription of \(u\) and \(u_t\) at a given instant, say \(t = 0\).

In diffraction problems, it is usually done to define an incident wave \(u^{(i)}(x,y,z,t)\) and to designate \(t = 0\) as the instant the incident wave front hits the body. In other words, the support of \(u^{(i)}\) does not intersect the body for \(t < 0\). The solution \(u(x,y,z,t)\) for \(t > 0\), i.e., in the domain exterior to the body is a solution of the wave equation, eq.(5.1) subjected to the initial conditions of

\[(5.2) \quad u(x,y,z,0) = u^{(i)}(x,y,z,0)\]

and

\[(5.3) \quad u_t(x,y,z,0) = u_t^{(i)}(x,y,z,0)\]

and the boundary condition

\[(5.4) \quad u_n = 0 \quad \text{on} \quad S_c\]

where \(S\) is the surface of the body. When the body is a cone of solid angle \(\Omega\), its exterior angle \(\Omega_c\), which is \(4\pi - \Omega\), is the solid angle for the domain \(D\). Since the incident wave \(u^{(i)}\) is a solution the wave equation in the whole space without the cone
for $t > 0$ with the same initial conditions of eqs. (5.2) and (5.3), $u^{(i)}$ can be identified as the associate solution $u^*$ in the whole space $D^*$ and corollaries 1 and 2 yield

$$\int_S u \, ds = \int_{D^*} u^{(i)} \, ds$$

and

$$u(o, o, o, t) = \frac{4\pi}{4\pi - \Omega} u^{(i)}(o, o, o, t)$$

with $S^*$ in $D^*$. Equation (5.6) is the result obtained previously [1] by a different method.

If the resultant wave is written as the sum of the incident wave and a secondary wave, which is the reflected and the diffracted waves, i.e.,

$$u = u^* + w$$

eq. (5.5) becomes

$$\int_{S^*} w \, dS = \int_{S^*} u^{(i)} \, ds$$

These equations can be summarized in the following statement.

**Theorem III**

When an incident wave is reflected and diffracted by a cone of solid angle $\Omega$ after the instant $t = 0$, the spherical integral of the incident wave cut off by the cone is redistributed exterior to the cone as the integral of the reflected and the diffracted waves. The redistribution of the incident wave from a spherical surface of angle $4\pi$ to that of $4\pi - \Omega$ intensifies the value at the vertex by the ratio $4\pi/(4\pi - \Omega)$.
If an instant (say \( t = 0 \)) cannot be found such that the incident wave is neither reflected nor diffracted by the core, theorem III cannot be applied since the initial data cannot be stated in terms of the incident wave alone. In other words, Theorem II cannot be employed to relate the solution \( u \) in \( D \), i.e., exterior to a conical body \( D_b \), to \( u^{(1)} \) in the whole space without the body. However, it still can be used in diffraction problems to relate the solution \( u \) to a known solution \( u^\ast \) in \( D^\ast \) which is exterior to another conical body \( D_b^\ast \) with the same vertex as stated in the following theorem:

**Theorem IV**

If the support of the solution \( u^\ast \) outside a conical body \( D_b^\ast \) does not intersect the conical body \( D_b \) for for \( t \leq 0 \) and the surface of the cone \( D_b \) contains the part of the surface of \( D_b^\ast \) where the incident wave is reflected or diffracted for \( t \leq 0 \), then the solution \( u \) in \( D \), fulfills the following relationships

\[
(5.9) \quad u = u^\ast \quad \text{for} \quad t \leq 0,
\]

\[
(5.10) \quad \iint_{S_r} u \, dS = \iint_{S_r^\ast} u^\ast dS , \quad \text{for all} \quad t
\]

and

\[
(5.11) \quad u(0,t) = \left( \frac{4\pi - \Omega^\ast}{4\pi - \Omega} \right) u^\ast(0,t) , \quad \text{for all} \quad t
\]

where \( S_r \) and \( S_r^\ast \) are the spherical surfaces outside the conical bodies \( D_c \) and \( D_c^\ast \) respectively. The spherical surfaces are centered at point 0, the vertex, and the solid angles of the conical bodies are \( \Omega \) and \( \Omega^\ast \) respectively.

The two solutions \( u \) and \( u^\ast \) differ from each other for
\( t > 0 \) because that the reflection and diffraction will then take place over different surfaces. However, \( u \) and \( u^* \) have the same initial data at \( t = 0 \), therefore, Theorem II is applicable and eqs. (5.10) and (5.11) are valid for all \( t \).

Theorems III and IV are special adaptations of Theorem II for diffraction problems. Their applications are demonstrated in the following three examples. The first example shows a direct application of Theorem IV to a trihedral and the explicit formulas become useful for the more complicated problems in the next two examples. The second and the third examples deal with bodies which are composed of cones of finite length. These examples illustrate how to apply the Theorems to each conical component for a finite interval due to the finite speed of propagation.

Example 1. Diffraction by a trihedral.

Figure 5 shows an incident wave which is diffracted all the time by one edge (OA) of a trihedral with solid angle \( \Omega \). The primary wave \( u^{(p)} \) will pass over the vertex or one of the other two edges OB and OE at the instant \( t = 0 \). The given primary wave \( u^{(p)} \) represents the incident and the diffraction waves advancing over a dihedral of angle \( \chi \) formed by the two plane OAE and OAB. The solution \( u \) exterior to the trihedral will differ from \( u^{(p)} \) only for \( t > 0 \).

If the planes OAE and OAB are extended beyond the edges OB and OE to form a wedge in place of the trihedral, \( u^{(p)} \) will be the solution also for \( t > 0 \). Point 0 which lies on the edge of the wedge can be considered as the vertex of a conical body of solid angle \( 2\chi \). With \( u^* \) identified as \( u^{(p)} \) and \( \Omega^* \) as \( 2\chi \), Theorem IV yields
\begin{equation}
(5.12) \quad u(0,t) = \frac{4\pi - \frac{2\chi}{4\pi - \Omega}}{4\pi - \Omega} \ u(0,t) \tag{5.12}
\end{equation}

and

\begin{equation}
\int S_r \ u \ dS = r^2 \int_0^\pi \sin \theta \ d\theta \int_0^{2\pi-\chi} \ d\phi \ u(\phi)(r,\theta,\phi,t) \tag{5.13}
\end{equation}

where \( r \) is the distance to the vertex 0, \( S_r \) is the spherical surface outside the trihedral, \( \theta = 0 \) is the edge OA and \( \phi = 0 \) is the plane OAB.

Example 2. Diffraction of a plane pulse by a rectangular block (a two dimensional problem)

As shows in Figure 6, a plane pulse of strength \( \varepsilon \) hits the first corner 0 of the block at the instant \( t = 0 \) at an angle \( \lambda \) with respect to the horizontal side OA. The pulse is reflected by the two sides of the corner and the influence of the vertex is confined by the circle of radius \( Ct \). The solution outside the circle and behind the reflected wave is \( 2\varepsilon \). The solution inside the circle is a conical solution\[17\] in two variables, \( u_c(\bar{x},\bar{y}) \), with \( \bar{x} = x/(Ct) \) and \( \bar{y} = y/(Ct) \). Before the construction of the conical solution, the "spherical" integral and the value at the vertex 0 will be related directly to the incident wave.

For the two dimensional problem, cylindrical coordinates, \( \rho,\theta \) with the vertex 0 as the origin will be used. The "spherical" integral will become circular integral of radius \( \rho \). Theorem III, that is, eqs. (5.5 and 5.6) yields the circular integral of the solution \( u \) due to the diffraction by the first corner at 0

\begin{equation}
\int_0^{3\pi/2} \int_0^{2\pi (i)} u(\rho,\theta,t) \rho d\theta = \int_0^{\rho} \ u(\rho,\theta,t) \rho d\theta = \begin{cases} 
\varepsilon(2\pi \rho) & \text{for } \rho < Ct \\
\varepsilon[2\pi - 2 \cos^{-1}(Ct/\rho)]\rho & \text{for } \rho > Ct > 0
\end{cases} \tag{5.14}
\end{equation}
and the value at the vertex 0,

\[(5.15) \quad u_1(0,t) = \frac{2\pi \epsilon}{3\pi/2} = \frac{4}{3} \epsilon \quad t > 0\]

Equation (5.14) is valid only when the circle of radius \( \rho \) does not receive the diffracted waves from the adjacent corners. This condition creates an upper time limit for the validity of eq.(5.14). It is

\[(5.16) \quad Ct < L (1 + \sin \lambda) - \rho\]

For equation (5.15), the time limit is given by eq.(5.16) with \( \rho = 0 \). For the convenience of explanation, the width \( L \) of the block is assumed to be shorter than its height \( H \) and the incident pulse arrives at the corner \( A(L,0) \) before at the corner \( B(0,H) \) i.e., \( L \sin \lambda < H \cos \lambda \) is also assumed.

If the conical solution \( u_c(x,y) \) is constructed by the method of [17], it defines the solution \( u_1 \) for the domain exterior to the first corner at \( 0 \). Theorem IV can be used to relate the diffracted wave at the adjacent corner \( A \), to \( u_1 \) when \( t > L \sin \lambda/C \). For a finite duration, corner \( A \) can be considered as the vertex of a wedge. In terms of the cylindrical coordinates \( \rho_1 \) and \( \theta_1 \), the domain \( D \) exterior to corner \( A \) is \(-\pi/2 < \theta_1 < \pi \) and \( \rho_1 > 0 \).

The associated domain will be the space above the line \( AO \), and its extension through \( A \) as shown by the dotted line in Fig.6, i.e. \( 0 < \theta_1 < -\pi \) and \( \rho_1 > 0 \). For the associated domain \( D^* \), there is no diffraction at the corner \( A \), therefore, the associated solution can be identified as \( u_1 \) for \( t > L \sin \lambda/C \). The circular integral of the solution \( u_2 \) exterior to the corner \( A \) is given by that of \( u_1 \),

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for $2L + L \sin \lambda - \rho > Ct > L \sin \lambda$. The ratio of the angles of the domain $D^*$ and $D$ at the vertex $A$ is $\pi/(3\pi/2) = 2/3$. The value at the vertex $A$ is
\[ u_2(A,t) = \begin{cases} 
\frac{2}{3} (2\varepsilon) = \frac{4}{3} \varepsilon & \text{for } L > Ct > L \sin \lambda \\
\frac{2}{3} u_2(\frac{L}{Ct},0) & \text{for } 2L + L \sin \lambda > Ct > L
\end{cases} \]

These equations can also be obtained by applying the results of example 1. It is clear that if the solution $u_2$ after the diffraction at corner $B$ is constructed by the method in [18], Theorem IV will be useful for the subsequent diffraction of $u_2$ at an adjacent corner.

Example 3. Diffraction of a plane pulse by a cube.

Figure 7 shows a plane pulse of strength $\varepsilon$ hitting the first corner $0$ of a cube at the instant $t = 0$. The edges $0A$, $0B$ and $0E$ are chosen as the $x_1$, $x_2$, and $x_3$-axes respectively. The directional cosines of the normal to the plane pulse are $n_1$, $n_2$, and $n_3$. They are all non-negative and the smallest one is $n_1$. Before the arrival of the plane pulse at any other corner, i.e., $t < n_1 L/C$, the solution $u_1(x_1,t)$ will remain unchanged if the cube is replaced by the three dimensional corner at $0$ with solid angle $\Omega = 4\pi/8 = \pi/2$. Equations (5.5) and (5.6) yield the spherical integral of $u_1$ outside the corner,
\[ \int_S u_1(x_1,t) ds = \int_0^{\pi} d\theta \int_0^{\pi} r^2 \sin \theta \, d\phi \]
\[ = \begin{cases} 
\varepsilon r^2 4\pi & \text{for } r \leq Ct \\
\varepsilon [r + Ct] 2\pi & \text{for } r > Ct > 0
\end{cases} \]
and for \( Ct < (1 + \frac{1}{n})L - r \) and the value at the vertex 0

\[
\bar{u}_1(0,t) = \frac{4\pi\varepsilon}{4 - \pi/2} = \frac{8}{7} \varepsilon \quad \text{for} \quad (1 + \frac{1}{n})L > Ct > 0
\]

The upper time limits are defined by the arrival of the diffracted waves from an adjacent corner. Along the edges and outside the domain of influence of the vertex i.e., \( r > Ct \), the value is same as that along the edge of a 90° wedge, i.e.,

\[
u_1(x_i,0,0,t) = (4/3)\varepsilon \quad \text{for} \quad Ct/n_i > x_i > Ct,
\]

\( i = 1,2,3. \)

To obtain the complete solution \( u_1(x,y,z,t) \) it is necessary to apply the method of \([17]\) for conical solutions of two variables outside the characteristic sphere \( r = Ct \) and the method of \([4]\) for the three dimension conical solutions inside the sphere. After the determination of the solution \( u_1 \) for the diffraction by the corner 0, Theorem IV and in particular, the results in example 1 can be applied to the solution of diffraction of \( u_1 \) by the adjacent corners.

When \( t > nL/C \), the wave front of \( u_1 \) advances over the edges AB' and AE' and the vertex A. A can be considered as the vertex of a trihedral with solid angle \( \Omega = \pi/2 \), and 0A as the edge of a dihedral with angle \( \chi = \pi/2 \). The results of example 1 i.e., eqs. (5.12) and (5.13) are applicable until the arrival of diffracted waves from other corners. The results are

\[
(5.17) \quad u_2(A,t) = 6/7 \quad u_1(A,t)
\]

and
where \( u_2 \) is the solution after the diffraction of \( u_1 \) by the
corner at \( A \), \( S_r \) is the spherical surface outside the trihedral
with radius \( r' \) to its vertex \( A \) and the extension of \( u_1 \) outside
its domain of definition is equal to zero. Similarly, eqs. (5.12)
and (5.13) can be applied for any point on the edge \( AB' \) (or \( AE' \))
before the arrival of the diffracted waves from the vertex \( A \) or
\( B' \).

The applicability of eqs. (5.12) and (5.13) to vertex
\( A \) to obtain eqs. (5.17) and (5.18) does not depend on the facts
that \( u_1 \) is a conical solution with respect to \( O \) and that \( O \) and \( A \)
are vertices of a cube. It is obvious that the results of example
1 can be applied to relate the solution \( u^* \) of diffraction of a
wave by a vertex \( A \) of a polyhedron to the solution \( u \) of the
subsequent diffraction of \( u^* \) by an adjacent vertex \( B \) of the poly-
hedron. If the polyhedron is convex, the solution \( u \) can be written
as \( u^* + u^{(d)} \). The extension of \( u^* \) outside its domain of definition
equals to zero. There is a discontinuity in \( u^* \) and also in \( u^{(d)} \) but
their sum is continuous. Theorem IV or Eqs. (5.17 and 18) yield
\[
\int_{S_r} (u^*_2 - u^*_1) \, ds = 0
\]
\[
\text{(5.18)}
\]
and
\[
(u^{(d)}_2(B,t) = u(B,t) - u^*(B,t)
\]
\[
\text{(5.19)}
\]

\[
(5.20)
\]

\[
= \frac{2\chi - \Omega}{4\pi - \Omega} u^*(B,t)
\]
where $\chi$ is the angle of the dihedral with edge AB and $\Omega$ is the solid angle of the polyhedron at the vertex B. Of course, eqs. (5.19 and 5.20) will remain valid only before the arrival of additional diffracted waves from the adjacent corners.
6. The Reduced Wave Equation

For periodic solutions of wave equation \( v(x,y,z) e^{i\omega t} \), the amplitude function \( v \) is governed by the reduced wave equation

\[
\Delta v + k^2 v = f \quad \text{in } D
\]

(6.1)

where \( k^2 = c^2 \omega^2 \).

If the domain \( D \) is bounded and in particular a truncated cone \( (\xi_2 < \infty) \) the governing equation for the spherical mean \( \bar{v}(r) \) is an ordinary differential

\[
(\bar{v}'r^2)' + k^2 r^2 \bar{v} = f
\]

(6.2)

There is no difficulty to obtain the spherical mean \( \bar{v}(r) \) for \( \xi_1 < r < \xi_2 \) and the value at the vertex of the cone when \( \xi_1 = 0 \).

When the domain \( D \) is unbounded, there is the well-known difficulty of what is the proper boundary condition at infinity. This difficulty does not appear for the solution of an initial boundary value problem of the wave equation.

For the diffraction of an incident periodic wave with amplitude \( v^{(i)} \) by an obstacle, the solution \( v \) can be represented in the form

\[
v = v^{(i)} + w
\]

(6.3)

where \( w \) is the secondary wave, the diffracted and reflected waves. When the obstacle is finite, the boundary condition at infinity is the well-known Sommerfeld radiation conditions [19]

\[
w = 0(r^{-1}) \quad \text{and} \quad w_r + i k w = o(r^{-1})
\]

(6.4)

The conditions can be deduced by treating the periodic solution
as limit of an aperiodic solution for example the principle of limiting absorption or limiting amplitude [20].

If the obstacle is unbounded, say a half plane, a wedge or a cone, and the incident wave \( i \) itself fulfills eq.(6.4), e.g. \( i \) is induced by a point source, or a source distribution of bounded support, the radiation conditions of eq.(6.4) for the secondary wave remain valid [21].

If the incident wave itself does not fulfill the Sommerfeld radiation conditions, for example, the incident waves are plane waves or cylindrical waves, the secondary wave due to an unbounded obstacle may not obey the Sommerfeld conditions. These difficulties are mentioned in [22] and suggestions are made to separate the part of \( w \) which fulfill the Sommerfeld condition from the second part, which does not. Explicit determinations of the second part are demonstrated [22] for a plane and a half plane and can be done for a wedge. For a conical body with arbitrary cross-section, the determination of the second part in \( w \) is not obvious.

In the first subsection, the incident wave is assumed to fulfill the Sommerfeld conditions and so does the secondary wave. The corollaries of Theorem II are applied to relate the spherical mean of the resultant solution to that of the incident wave and to show that their relationships are the same as those of unsteady solutions of the wave equation. These relationships for the unsteady solutions will now be assumed to be valid for the periodic solution including the case that the incident wave does not fulfill the Sommerfeld conditions and yield the necessary conditions for the solution at infinity in the second subsection.
A. The incident wave fulfills the Sommerfeld conditions

Since \( v^i \) and \( w \) both fulfill the Sommerfeld conditions, so does the resultant solution \( v \) in the domain \( D \) outside a conical body of solid angle \( \Omega \). Without the body, i.e. in the whole space \( D^* \), then there is no secondary wave and the solution \( v^* \) is equal to \( v^i \) and fulfills the same homogeneous boundary condition on \( r = \xi_2 + \infty \), i.e. eq.(6.4). Corollaries I and II are therefore applicable, and the results are:

\[
\iint_S v \, dS = \iint_{S^*} v^i \, dS
\]

and

\[
v(0,0,0) = \frac{4\pi}{4\pi - \Omega} v^i(0,0,0)
\]

where \( S^*_r \) is the spherical surface with radius \( r \) from the origin located at the vertex of the conical body and \( S_r \) is the part of the surface outside of the body. Equations (6.5) and (6.6) are identical to the relationships for eq.(5.5) and (5.6). In terms of the secondary waves \( w \), eq.(6.5) becomes

\[
\iint_S w \, dS = \iint_{S^*_r - S_r} v^i \, dS
\]

This is identical to eq.(5.8) and has the same physical meaning stated in Theorem IV, i.e., the spherical integral of the secondary wave outside the body recovers the part of the spherical integral of the incident wave cut-off by the body.

B. The incident wave does not fulfill the Sommerfeld conditions

In this case, the proper boundary condition at infinity for the solution \( v \) or the secondary wave \( w \) is unknown, therefore,
the corollaries cannot be applied. However, if the limiting principle is accepted also for the diffraction by an unbounded body then the periodic solution \( v e^{i\omega t} \) can be considered as the limiting solution \( (t \to \infty) \) of the wave equation with an incident wave which is periodic behind a wave front advancing towards the cone at finite time (say \( t=0 \)). Equation (5.8) or Theorem IV which holds for all time should be valid also for the limiting solution. By this argument, eq. (6.7) is reestablished,

\[
\int w \, dS = \int v^{(i)} \, dS \\
S_r \quad S^*_r - S_r
\]

and also

\[
\int w_r \, dS = \int v^{(i)}_r \, dS \\
S_r \quad S^*_r - S_r
\]

They become now the necessary conditions for the secondary wave \( w \) for any \( r \) including \( r = \infty \).

By looking at the Green's formula for the reduced wave equation [2] the integral over the spherical surface of large radius \( R \) is

\[
[\int v dS] \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( \frac{e^{-kr}}{4\pi r} \right) \bigg|_{\text{at } \frac{S}{R}} - \int v_r dS \frac{e^{-KR}}{4\pi R}
\]

The terms inside the first square bracket is recognized as the total strength of doublets on \( S_r \) and that inside the second one is that of sources on \( S_r \). Equations (6.8) and (6.9) can therefore be interpreted as the following necessary conditions:

The total strength of sources induced by the secondary wave on the spherical surface of large radius \( R \) outside the conical body recovers that induced by the incident wave on the part of the
spherical surface cut off by the cone. The statement holds also for doublets.

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    New Solution for Sommerfeld and Other Diffraction
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