

Boundary values of hyperfunction solutions of
linear partial differential equations ^(*)

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Let $P(x, D)$ be a linear partial differential operator with real analytic coefficients in a domain V in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} and let $S \subset V$ be a real analytic hypersurface non-characteristic with respect to $P(x, D)$. The purpose of this paper is to show that every hyperfunction solution u of $P(x, D)u = 0$ on one side of $V \setminus S$ has boundary values on S which are hyperfunctions of n variables on S .

This fact has been proved by H. Komatsu [6] and P. Schapira [8] in the case where $P(x, D)$ is elliptic. Their method applies with minor modifications to the general operators.

In §1 we show that the Cauchy-Kowalevsky theorem for the dual equation with the initial values on S is equivalent to a theorem of division of hyperfunctions with supports in S by the differential operator $P(x, D)$.

We define the boundary values in §2 and prove the uniqueness of hyperfunction solutions of the Cauchy problems.

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1. Division of hyperfunctions with supports in S.

Let $P(x, D)$ be a linear differential operator of order m with real analytic coefficients defined on a domain V in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} and let S be an oriented real analytic hypersurface in V non-characteristic with respect to $P(x, D)$.

We denote by \mathcal{a} and \mathcal{B} ($'\mathcal{a}$ and $'\mathcal{B}$) the sheaf of real analytic functions and that of hyperfunctions on V (on S respectively). When K is a compact set in V (in S), the space $\mathcal{A}(K)$ ($'\mathcal{A}(K)$) has a natural (DFS)-topology and its dual is identified with the space $\mathcal{B}_K(V)$ ($'\mathcal{B}_K(S)$) of hyperfunctions with supports in K under the inner product

$$\langle \varphi, f \rangle = \int_V \varphi(x) f(x) dx, \quad \varphi \in \mathcal{A}(K), \quad f \in \mathcal{B}_K(V)$$

$$(\langle \varphi, f \rangle = \int_S \varphi(x') f(x') d\omega, \quad \varphi \in '\mathcal{A}(K), \quad f \in '\mathcal{B}_K(S)),$$

where dx ($d\omega$) denotes the Lebesgue measure on V (on S).

Let $P'(x, D)$ be the formal dual of $P(x, D)$. Then, $P(x, D)$ and $P'(x, D)$ induce sheaf homomorphisms $P(x, D): \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ and $P'(x, D): \mathcal{a} \rightarrow \mathcal{a}$ respectively. We denote by \mathcal{B}^P and $\mathcal{a}^{P'}$ the kernel sheaves, i.e., the sheaf of solutions of

$$(1) \quad P(x, D)f = 0, \quad f \in \mathcal{B},$$

and that of solutions of

$$(2) \quad P'(x, D)\varphi = 0, \quad \varphi \in \mathcal{a}$$

respectively.

Theorem 1. Let K be a compact set in S . Then, there is no non-trivial solution of (1) over V with support in K :

$$(3) \quad \mathcal{B}_K^P(V) = 0.$$

The quotient space $\mathcal{B}_K(V)/P\mathcal{B}_K(V)$ is identified with the dual of the (DFS)-space $\mathcal{A}^{P'}(K)$.

Proof. Consider the complexes:

$$(4) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}(K) \xrightarrow{P'(x,D)} \mathcal{A}(K) \longrightarrow 0$$

$$(5) \quad 0 \longleftarrow \mathcal{B}_K(V) \xleftarrow{P(x,D)} \mathcal{B}_K(V) \longleftarrow 0,$$

which are dual to each other in the sense that $\mathcal{A}(K)$ and $\mathcal{B}_K(V)$ with their natural (DFS)- and (FS)-topologies are the strong dual spaces of each other and that $P'(x, D)$ and $P(x, D)$ are continuous linear operators dual to each other.

The 0-th cohomology group of (4) is $\mathcal{A}^{P'}(K)$ and the 1-st cohomology group of (4) vanishes by the Cauchy-Kowalevsky theorem. In particular, $P'(x, D)$ has a closed range. Thus it follows from Serre's lemma (see e.g. [5] Theorem 19) that $P(x, D)$ has a closed range and that the cohomology groups of (4) and (5) are the strong dual spaces of each other. Therefore, $\mathcal{B}_K(V)/P\mathcal{B}_K(V)$ is the dual of $\mathcal{A}^{P'}(K)$ and $\ker P(x, D) = \mathcal{B}_K^P(V)$ vanishes.

Let $C_j(x, D)$, $j = 1, 2, \dots, m$, be linear differential operators of order $m - j$ with real analytic coefficients on a neighborhood of S for which S is non-characteristic (e.g. $C_j(x, D) = (\partial/\partial n)^{m-j}$). Then the Cauchy-Kowalevsky theorem yields the topological isomorphism

$$(6) \quad \rho : \mathcal{A}^{P'}(K) \approx \mathcal{A}(K)^m$$

defined by

$$(7) \quad \rho(\varphi) = (C_j(x, D)\varphi|_S), \quad \varphi \in \mathcal{A}^{P'}(K).$$

We have, therefore, the dual isomorphism

$$(8) \quad \rho' : {}'\mathcal{B}_K(S)^m \approx \mathcal{B}_K(V)/P\mathcal{B}_K(V).$$

Obviously ρ can be extended by (7) to a continuous linear operator $\tilde{\rho} : \mathcal{A}(K) \rightarrow {}'\mathcal{A}(K)^m$. Since the open mapping theorem holds for (DFS)-spaces, the exact sequence

$$(9) \quad 0 \rightarrow {}'\mathcal{A}(K)^m \xrightarrow{\rho^{-1}} \underbrace{\mathcal{A}(K)}_{\text{the}} \xrightarrow{P'(x, D)} \mathcal{A}(K) \rightarrow 0$$

splits topologically and we have $\underbrace{\mathcal{A}(K)}_{\text{the}}$ topological isomorphism:

$$(10) \quad \mathcal{A}(K) \approx {}'\mathcal{A}(K)^m \oplus \mathcal{A}(K)$$

defined by

$$(11) \quad \varphi \mapsto (C_j(x, D)\varphi|_S) \oplus P'(x, D)\varphi.$$

Correspondingly the dual exact sequence

$$(12) \quad 0 \leftarrow {}'\mathcal{B}_K(S)^m \xleftarrow{(\rho^{-1})'} \mathcal{B}_K(V) \xleftarrow{P(x, D)} \mathcal{B}_K(V) \leftarrow 0$$

splits topologically.

Since $\tilde{\rho}$ is the composite of the differential operators $(C_j(x, D))$ and the restriction to S , the dual $\tilde{\rho}' : {}'\mathcal{B}_K(S)^m \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_K(V)$ is the mapping $(f_j) \mapsto \sum_{j=1}^m C_j'(x, D)(f_j \otimes \delta_S)$, where $C_j'(x, D)$ is the formal dual of $C_j(x, D)$ and $f_j \otimes \delta_S$ is the hyperfunction on V defined by

$$(13) \quad \langle f_j \otimes \delta_S, \varphi \rangle = \int_S f_j(x') \varphi(x') d\omega, \quad \varphi \in \mathcal{A}(K).$$

Consequently, each $f \in \mathcal{B}_K(V)$ is uniquely decomposed as

$$(14) \quad f = \sum_{j=1}^m C_j'(x, D)(f_j \otimes \delta_S) + P(x, D)g,$$

where $f_j \in {}'\mathcal{B}_K(S)$ and $g \in \mathcal{B}_K(V)$. Under this correspondence we have a topological isomorphism

$$(15) \quad \mathcal{B}_K(V) \approx {}'\mathcal{B}_K(S)^m \oplus \mathcal{B}_K(V).$$

In particular, the inverse $(\rho')^{-1}: \mathcal{B}_K(V)/P\mathcal{B}_K(V) \approx {}'\mathcal{B}_K(S)^m$ of isomorphism (8) is the mapping which takes the class of f to (f_j) in the decomposition (14). Obviously f_j depend on the choice of $C_j(x, D)$. However, the sum $\sum C_j'(x, D)(f_j \otimes \delta_S)$ and $P(x, D)g$ do not depend on $C_j(x, D)$ because neither $\text{im } \rho'^{-1} = \mathcal{A}^{P'}(K)$ nor $\ker \tilde{\rho}$ depends on $C_j(x, D)$.

The uniqueness of the decomposition shows that the components f_j and g are independent of the compact set K which contains the support of f . Namely we have an isomorphism

$$(16) \quad \Gamma_*(\mathcal{N}_S^0(\mathcal{B})|_S, S) \approx \Gamma_*({}'\mathcal{B}, S)^m \oplus \Gamma_*(\mathcal{N}_S^0(\mathcal{B})|_S, S)$$

which preserves the support, where Γ_* denotes the space of sections with compact supports and $\mathcal{N}_S^0(\mathcal{B})|_S$ the restriction to S of the sheaf of sections of \mathcal{B} with supports in S .

Let us denote $\mathcal{N}_S^0(\mathcal{B})|_S$ by \mathcal{B}_S for short. Since \mathcal{B}_S and ${}'\mathcal{B}$ are flabby, it follows that the isomorphism is extended to a sheaf isomorphism (see e.g. [4] Lemma 2.3). Thus we have proved the following theorem.

Theorem 2. If $C_j'(x, D)$, $j = 1, \dots, m$, are linear differential operators of order $m - j$ with real analytic coefficients on a neighborhood of S for which S is non-characteristic, then we have a sheaf isomorphism

$$(17) \quad \mathcal{B}_S \approx {}'\mathcal{B}^m \oplus \mathcal{B}_S$$

defined by

$$(18) \quad f = \sum_{j=1}^m C_j'(x, D)(f_j \otimes \delta_S) + P(x, D)g,$$

where $f \in \mathcal{B}_S$, $f_j \in {}'\mathcal{B}$ and $g \in \mathcal{B}_S$. The last component g does not depend on the choice of $C_j'(x, D)$.

In particular, there is no non-trivial solution $g \in \mathcal{B}^P(V)$ with support in S :

$$(19) \quad \mathcal{B}_S^P(V) = 0.$$

This theorem means that on division by $P(x, D)$ each $f \in \mathcal{B}_S$ has a unique quotient $g \in \mathcal{B}_S$ and a remainder $\sum C_j'(x, D)(f_j \otimes \delta_S)$ with $f_j \in {}'\mathcal{B}$. We have derived this from the Cauchy-Kowalevsky theorem via the duality of $\mathcal{A}(K)$ and $\mathcal{B}_K(V)$ and that of ${}'\mathcal{A}(K)$ and ${}'\mathcal{B}_K(S)$. Conversely Theorem 2 implies the exactness of (12) and hence that of (9). Thus Theorem 2 of division is equivalent to the Cauchy-Kowalevsky theorem.

2. Boundary values of hyperfunction solutions.

Let W be an open subset of V . We have the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & & 0 & & 0 & \\
 & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
 & & & \mathcal{B}^P(W) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{B}^P(W \setminus S) & \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & 0 & \longrightarrow & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
 (20) & & & \mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{B}(W) & \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}(W \setminus S) \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & & \downarrow P(x, D) & & \downarrow P(x, D) & \downarrow P(x, D) \\
 & & & \mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{B}(W) & \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}(W \setminus S) \longrightarrow 0, \\
 & & & \downarrow & & & \\
 & & & 0 & & &
 \end{array}$$

where $\mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W)$ denotes the space of hyperfunctions on W with supports in $S \cap W$. Since \mathcal{B} is flabby, the last two rows are exact; the last two columns are exact by the definition; the 0-th cohomology group of the first row and that of the first column vanish since there is no non-trivial solution with support in $S \cap W$.

For the remaining cohomology groups we have a natural homomorphism

$$b : \mathcal{B}^P(W \setminus S) / \mathcal{B}^P(W) \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W) / P \mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W).$$

Let $u \in \mathcal{B}^P(W \setminus S)$ and let \tilde{u} be an extension in $\mathcal{B}(W)$. Since $P(x, D)\tilde{u} = 0$ on $W \setminus S$, $P\tilde{u}$ belongs to $\mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W)$. If \tilde{u}_1 is another extension of u , $\tilde{u} - \tilde{u}_1$ belongs to $\mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W)$. Therefore the class of $P\tilde{u}$ in $\mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W) / P \mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W)$ is determined uniquely by u . If u is the restriction to $W \setminus S$ of a $\tilde{u} \in \mathcal{B}^P(W)$, we have $P\tilde{u} = 0$. Thus we can define a homomorphism b which assigns for the class of $u \in \mathcal{B}^P(W \setminus S)$ the class of $P\tilde{u} \in \mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W)$.

Theorem 3. The homomorphism

$$(21) \quad b : \mathcal{B}^P(W \setminus S) / \mathcal{B}^P(W) \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W) / P \mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W).$$

is injective for any open set W in V and commutes with restrictions. b is surjective if and only if

$$(22) \quad P(x, D) \mathcal{B}(W) \supset \mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W).$$

Proof. By the definition it is clear that b commutes with restrictions. To prove the injectivity, let $P\tilde{u} = Pu_1$ for a $u_1 \in \mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W)$. Since $\tilde{u} - u_1 \in \mathcal{B}^P(W)$ and its restriction to $W \setminus S$ is equal to u , the class of u is zero.

Let b be surjective. Then, for each $g \in \mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W)$ there exist $h \in \mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W)$ and $\tilde{u} \in \mathcal{B}(W)$ such that $g + Ph = P\tilde{u}$. Thus $\mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W) \subset P \mathcal{B}(W)$.

Conversely suppose that for each $g \in \mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W)$ there is a $\tilde{u} \in \mathcal{B}(W)$ such that $g = P\tilde{u}$. Then, the restriction u of \tilde{u} belongs to $\mathcal{B}^P(W \setminus S)$. Therefore b is surjective.

It is known ^(that) (22) holds if the coefficients of $P(x, D)$ are constants or if $P(x, D)$ is elliptic.

Now, let ω be an open set of S and let $W \supset W'$ be two open sets in V with $S \cap W = S \cap W' = \omega$. The restriction $\mathcal{B}^P(W \setminus S) \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}^P(W' \setminus S)$ induces a homomorphism

$$(23) \quad r : \mathcal{B}^P(W \setminus S) / \mathcal{B}^P(W) \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}^P(W' \setminus S) / \mathcal{B}^P(W').$$

Since $\mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W) / P \mathcal{B}_{S \cap W}(W) = \mathcal{B}_{S \cap W'}(W') / P \mathcal{B}_{S \cap W'}(W')$ and since the injections b_W and $b_{W'}$ commute with r , it follows that r is injective.

r is surjective if and only if $\mathcal{B}^P(W' \setminus S) =$

$$\mathcal{B}^P(W \setminus S)|_{W' \setminus S} + \mathcal{B}^P(W')|_{W' \setminus S} \text{ and this holds if}$$

$$(24) \quad H^1(W, \mathcal{B}^P) = 0$$

by the Mayer-Vietoris theorem.

It is also known that (24) holds for any open set W if the coefficients of $P(x, D)$ are constants or if $P(x, D)$ is elliptic.

Taking the inductive limit with respect to the open neighborhoods of ω , we have the injection

$$(25) \quad b : (\mathcal{B}_+^P(\omega) \oplus \mathcal{B}_-^P(\omega)) / \mathcal{B}^P(\omega) \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}_S(\omega) / P \mathcal{B}_S(\omega),$$

where $\mathcal{B}_+^P(\omega)$ ($\mathcal{B}_-^P(\omega)$) denotes the space of germs of solutions on $W \setminus S$ which vanish on the negative (positive) side of S .

\mathcal{B}_\pm^P are sheaves over S which describe the boundary behavior of solutions outside S .

It follows from Theorem 3 that b in (25) is surjective if and only if

$$(26) \quad P(x, D) \mathcal{B}(\omega) \supset \mathcal{B}_S(\omega).$$

Furthermore, noticing that the sheaf associated with the presheaf $(\mathcal{B}_+^P(\omega) \oplus \mathcal{B}_-^P(\omega)) / \mathcal{B}^P(\omega)$ is the restriction $\mathcal{H}_S^1(\mathcal{B}^P)|_S$ to S of the first derived sheaf with support in S (see [4]), we have the injection

$$(27) \quad b : \mathcal{H}_S^1(\mathcal{B}^P)|_S \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}_S / P \mathcal{B}_S$$

which is surjective if and only if

$$(28) \quad P(x, D) \mathcal{B}|_S \supset \mathcal{B}_S.$$

Obviously (28) is satisfied if $P(x, D)$ is locally solvable on S i.e. if

$$(29) \quad P(x, D) : \mathcal{B}(x) \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}(x) \text{ is surjective for } x \in S.$$

This is known for operators with constant coefficients or of elliptic type. Moreover, T. Kawai [3] proves the existence of local elementary solutions and hence the local solvability of operators $P(x, D)$ of simple characteristics with real principal parts. Thus (27) is an isomorphism for such operators. Combining this with the isomorphism $\mathcal{B}_S/P\mathcal{B}_S \approx {}'\mathcal{B}^m$ given in Theorem 2, we have an isomorphism

$$(30) \quad \mathcal{H}_S^1(\mathcal{B}^P)|_S \approx {}'\mathcal{B}^m.$$

Definition. Let W be an open set in V , let $\omega = S \cap W$ and let W_+ be the positive part of $W \setminus S$. For each solution $u \in \mathcal{B}^P(W_+)$ we define its boundary values $(f_j) \in {}'\mathcal{B}(\omega)^m$ on S to be the image of u under the composite of mappings $\mathcal{B}^P(W_+) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_+^P(\omega) \rightarrow (\mathcal{B}_+^P(\omega) \oplus \mathcal{B}_-^P(\omega))/\mathcal{B}^P(\omega) \xrightarrow{b} \mathcal{B}_S(\omega)/P\mathcal{B}_S(\omega) \rightarrow {}'\mathcal{B}(\omega)^m$, where the last mapping is the isomorphism obtained in Theorem 2 as an extension of $(\rho')^{-1}$ in (8). In other words, $(f_j) \in {}'\mathcal{B}(\omega)^m$ is the unique m -tuple of hyperfunctions on ω which satisfy

$$(31) \quad P(x, D)\tilde{u} = \sum_{j=1}^m C_j(x, D)(f_j \otimes \delta_S)$$

for an extension $\tilde{u} \in \mathcal{B}(W)$ vanishing on the negative side of $W \setminus S$.

As we remarked earlier, the extension \tilde{u} which satisfies (31) is uniquely determined by u and does not depend on the choice of $C_j(x, D)$, so that we call \tilde{u} the canonical extension of u .

Let θ_S be the characteristic function of W_+ in W . Then, there are unique linear differential operators $B_j(x, D)$, $j = 1, \dots, m$, of order $j-1$ with real analytic coefficients in a neighborhood of S such that S is non-characteristic and that

$$\begin{aligned}
& P(x, D)(\theta_S(x)u(x)) - \theta_S(x)(P(x, D)u(x)) \\
(32) \quad &= \sum_{j=1}^m C'_j(x, D)(B_j(x, D)u(x)(1 \otimes \delta_S)) \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^m C'_j(x, D)((B_j(x, D)u(x))|_S \otimes \delta_S)
\end{aligned}$$

for any $u \in \mathcal{A}(W)$ or more generally for any $u \in \mathcal{B}(W)$ which is real analytic in the normal direction on S (see [1] for the real analyticity in parameter and the restrictions of hyperfunctions to submanifolds).

Conversely if $B_j(x, D)$, $j = 1, \dots, m$, are linear differential operators of order $j - 1$ with real analytic coefficients for which S is non-characteristic, we can find linear differential operators $C_j(x, D)$ of order $m - j$ such that S is non-characteristic and that (32) holds. This is only a local formulation of Green's formula.

Therefore, if u is the restriction to W_+ of a solution $u_1 \in \mathcal{A}^P(W)$ we have

$$(33) \quad f_j = B_j(x, D)u_1|_S, \quad j = 1, \dots, m.$$

This holds also for the restriction u of a solution $u_1 \in \mathcal{B}^P(W)$, because u_1 is real analytic in the normal direction on S by Sato's fundamental theorem of analyticity (see [1]).

Taking this into account we will write the boundary values

$$(34) \quad f_j = B_j(x, D)u|_{S_+}, \quad j = 1, \dots, m.$$

Similarly we can define the boundary values $B_j(x, D)u|_{S_-}$ of solutions u on the negative side of $W \setminus S$. The following is clear from the definition.

Theorem 4. A solution $u \in \mathcal{B}^P(W \setminus S)$ is extended to a solution $u \in \mathcal{B}^P(W)$ if and only if

$$(35) \quad B_j(x, D)u|_{S_+} = B_j(x, D)u|_{S_-}, \quad j = 1, \dots, m.$$

This may be regarded as a generalization of the classical Painlevé theorem.

If the operator $P(x, D)$ is locally solvable on S or if (28) holds, then the isomorphism (30) shows that the Plemelj problem

$$(36) \quad B_j(x, D)u|_{S_+} - B_j(x, D)u|_{S_-} = f_j, \quad j = 1, \dots, m$$

has a local solution $u \in \mathcal{B}_+^P(x) \oplus \mathcal{B}_-^P(x)$ for any $f_j \in \mathcal{B}(x)$ on S .

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Lastly the Holmgren theorem by T. Kawai and P. Schapira [8] asserts that

$$(37) \quad \mathcal{B}_+^P(\omega) \cap \mathcal{B}^P(\omega) = \{0\} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{B}_-^P(\omega) \cap \mathcal{B}^P(\omega) = \{0\}.$$

Therefore the mapping $\mathcal{B}_+^P(\omega) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}^P(\omega)^m$ is injective.

Thus we have

Theorem 5. A solution $u \in \mathcal{B}^P(W_+)$ on the positive side of $W \setminus S$ vanishes in a neighborhood of $\omega = W \cap S$ if and only if the boundary values $B_j(x, D)u|_S$ vanish for all $j = 1, \dots, m$.

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