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An Integral Equation for a Stefan Problem with Many Phases and a Singular Source

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Employing (3), (4) and $[A(D)' + \frac{1}{2} \eta E(D)]' = \frac{1}{2} E(D)$ we obtain by subtraction

$$\left\{ (A \circ \theta)' + \frac{1}{2} \eta [E(\theta(\eta)) - E(D)] \right\}' = \frac{1}{2} [E(\theta(\eta)) - E(D)] - B(\eta)$$

integrating in (η_1, η_2) gives

$$0 \geq (A \circ \theta)'(\eta_2^-) - (A \circ \theta)'(\eta_1^+) \geq \frac{1}{2} \int_{\eta_1}^{\eta_2} [E(\theta(\eta)) - E(D)] d\eta > 0,$$

a contradiction.

Case (ii). Again by contradiction, if $\theta(\eta)$ were not monotone there would be a $D > 0$, $D \leq C$, and $0 \leq \eta_1 < \eta_2$, $\theta(\eta_1) = \theta(\eta_2) = D$, $\theta(\eta) < D$ in (η_1, η_2) and thus, with an argument similar to Case (i) we would have

$$0 \leq (A \circ \theta)'(\eta_2^-) - (A \circ \theta)'(\eta_1^+) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\eta_1}^{\eta_2} [E(\theta(\eta)) - E(D)] d\eta - \int_{\eta_1}^{\eta_2} B(\eta) d\eta < 0, \text{ a contradiction.}$$

(N.B. A situation like $\theta(\eta) > C$ in $(0, \eta_2)$ is excluded.)

In both cases we conclude that $\theta(\eta)$ is a decreasing function of η due to the fact that $\lim_{\eta \rightarrow \infty} \theta(\eta) = 0$. ■

When the thesis of the Lemma 1 is verified we can consider the inverse function $\eta = \eta(\theta)$ for $0 < \theta < C$, which satisfies the following property

THEOREM 2. Assume that $\int_1^{+\infty} \frac{|B(s)|}{s} ds < +\infty$. For the inverse function $\eta = \eta(\theta)$ we have the integral equation equivalent to (1)-(4):

$$(6) \quad \eta(\theta) = T(\eta)(\theta), \quad \theta \in (0, C),$$

where the operator is defined by

$$(7) \quad (T(\eta(\theta)))^2 = 2 \int_{\theta}^C \left\{ \frac{1}{2} E(\psi) - \int_{\eta(\psi)}^{+\infty} \frac{B(s)}{s} ds + \int_0^{\psi} \frac{dA(r)}{\eta^2(r)} \right\}^{-1} dA(\psi)$$

Proof. We have

$$h'(\eta) = \frac{1}{2}E(\theta) - B(\eta) = \frac{h(\eta)}{\eta} - \frac{(A \circ \theta)'(\eta)}{\eta} - B(\eta),$$

hence

$$\eta \left(\frac{h(\eta)}{\eta} \right)' = - \frac{(A \circ \theta)'(\eta)}{\eta} - B(\eta),$$

$$\left(\frac{h(\eta)}{\eta} \right)' = - \frac{(A \circ \theta)'(\eta)}{\eta^2} - \frac{B(\eta)}{\eta}.$$

Assuming for the moment that $\frac{h(\eta)}{\eta} \rightarrow 0, \eta \rightarrow \infty$:

$$-\frac{h(\eta)}{\eta} = - \int_{\eta}^{\infty} \frac{(A \circ \theta)'(s)ds}{s^2} - \int_{\eta}^{\infty} \frac{B(s)}{s} ds,$$

and hence

$$\frac{(A \circ \theta)'(\eta)}{\eta} + \frac{1}{2}E(\theta) = \int_{\eta}^{\infty} \frac{(A \circ \theta)'(s)ds}{s^2} + \int_{\eta}^{\infty} \frac{B(s)}{s} ds$$

$$\frac{d(A \circ \theta)}{\eta} = \frac{(A \circ \theta)'(\eta)d\eta}{\eta} = - \left\{ \frac{1}{2}E(\theta) - \int_{\eta(\theta)}^{+\infty} \frac{B(s)}{s} ds + \int_0^{\theta} \frac{dA(\psi)}{\eta^2(\psi)} \right\} d\eta$$

whence

$$\eta^2(\theta) = 2 \int_{\theta}^C \left(\frac{1}{2}E(\psi) - \int_{\eta(\psi)}^{+\infty} \frac{B(s)}{s} ds + \int_0^{\psi} \frac{dA(r)}{\eta^2(r)} \right)^{-1} dA(\psi),$$

i.e. (6), (7).

We now prove that $h(\eta)/\eta \rightarrow 0, \eta \rightarrow \infty$ (under the hypothesis $\int_0^{+\infty} B(s)ds < +\infty$ for $B \geq 0$). From (4) it follows

$$h(\eta) = h(0^+) + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\eta} E(\theta(s))ds - \int_0^{\eta} Bds,$$

$$\text{i.e. } (A \circ \theta)'(\eta) + \frac{1}{2} \eta E(\theta(\eta)) = (A \circ \theta)'(0^+) + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\eta E(\theta(s)) ds - \int_0^\eta B(s) ds.$$

Hence

$$0 = (A \circ \theta)'(\eta) = (A \circ \theta)'(0^+) + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\eta [E(\theta(s)) - E(\theta(\eta))] ds - \int_0^\eta B ds$$

Therefore, if $B \leq 0$ or if $B \geq 0$ and $\int_0^\infty B(s) ds < \infty$, we will have $0 \geq (A \circ \theta)'(\eta) \geq \text{constant}$. The claim now follows due to $\lim_{\eta \rightarrow \infty} E(\theta(\eta)) = 0$. More

precisely if $\lim_{\eta \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\eta} \int_0^\eta B(s) ds = 0$,

$$\frac{h(\eta)}{\eta} = \frac{h(0^+)}{\eta} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\eta} \int_0^\eta E(\theta(s)) ds - \frac{1}{\eta} \int_0^\eta B(s) ds$$

and therefore $\lim_{\eta \rightarrow \infty} \frac{h(\eta)}{\eta} = 0$, due again to the fact that $E(\theta(+\infty)) = 0$.

Theorem 3. (i) If $B(\eta) \leq 0$, $\forall \eta \geq 0$ then

$$(9) \quad T(\eta(\theta)) \leq 2 \sqrt{\frac{A(c)}{\lambda}},$$

and T is a monotone operator in the following sense

$$(10) \quad \eta_1(\theta) \leq \eta_2(\theta) \implies T(\eta_1(\theta)) \leq T(\eta_2(\theta)).$$

(ii) If $B(\eta) \leq 0$, $\forall \eta \geq 0$, and

$$(11) \quad - \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{B(s)}{s} ds = K < +\infty,$$

then, there exists a function $\eta_0 = \eta_0(\theta)$ which verifies the condition

$$(12) \quad \eta_0 \leq T(\eta_0).$$

Moreover, η_0 is given by

$$\eta_0(\theta) = \mu[A(C) - A(\theta)] > 0 \quad \text{in } (0, C),$$

where $\mu > 0$ is a parameter to be chosen so that

$$(14) \quad 0 < \mu^2 \leq \frac{1}{A(C)[K + \frac{1}{2}E(C)]}.$$

(iii) Under the previous hypotheses there exists at least a solution $\eta = \eta(\theta)$ of the integral equation (6)-(7).

Proof. (i) It is clear that

$$(T\eta(\theta))^2 \leq 2 \int_{\theta}^C \frac{dA(\psi)}{\frac{1}{2}E(\psi)} \leq 4 \int_{\theta}^C \frac{dA(\psi)}{E(\psi)} \leq 4 \frac{A(C)}{E(0+)}.$$

The monotonicity is obvious.

(ii) By (11) and (13)

$$(T\eta_0(\theta))^2 \geq 2 \int_{\theta}^C \left(\frac{1}{2}E(\psi) + K + \frac{1}{\mu^2} \left(\frac{1}{A(C) - A(\psi)} - \frac{1}{A(C)} \right) \right)^{-1} dA(\psi).$$

Select μ so that $\frac{1}{2}E(\psi) + K \leq \frac{1}{\mu^2 A(C)}$, (i.e. (14)). We find

$$(T\eta_0(\theta))^2 \geq 2\mu^2 \int_{\theta}^C (A(C) - A(\psi)) dA(\psi) = (\eta_0(\theta))^2.$$

Therefore $\eta_0 \leq T\eta_0 \leq T^2\eta_0 \leq \dots \leq 2 \left(\int_{\theta}^C \frac{dA(\psi)}{E(\psi)} \right)^{1/2} \leq 2 \left(\frac{A(C)}{E(0+)} \right)^{1/2}$. It follows that there exists the pointwise limit $\eta(\theta) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (T^n \eta_0)(\theta)$. Repeated application of the monotone convergence theorem to the integrals in the definition of T gives $\eta(\theta) = T\eta(\theta)$, $0 < \theta \leq C$.

THEOREM 4. There is at most one solution to (1)-(4) that is monotone decreasing in $(0, \infty)$.

Proof. Assume $\theta_1(\eta)$, $\theta_2(\eta)$ are two such solutions. Two cases are possible:

(i) There are $0 \leq \eta_1 \leq \eta_2$ such that $\theta_1(\eta_1^+) = \theta_2(\eta_1^+)$

$$\theta_1(\eta_2^-) = \theta_2(\eta_2^-), \quad \theta_1(\eta) < \theta_2(\eta) \text{ in } (\eta_1, \eta_2);$$

(ii) for $0 \leq \eta_1 < \eta$, $\theta_1(\eta_1^+) = \theta_2(\eta_1^+)$ and $\theta_1(\eta) < \theta_2(\eta)$.

Case (i). By (4),

$$h_i(\eta_2^-) - h_i(\eta_1^+) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\eta_1}^{\eta_2} E(\theta_i(\eta)) d\eta - \int_{\eta_1}^{\eta_2} B(\eta) d\eta,$$

$i = 1, 2$. Subtracting we get

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\geq (A \circ \theta_2)'(\eta_2^-) - (A \circ \theta_1)'(\eta_2^-) - ((A \circ \theta_2)'(\eta_1^+) - (A \circ \theta_1)'(\eta_1^+)) + \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \eta_2 (E(\theta_2(\eta_2^-)) - E(\theta_1(\eta_2^-))) + \frac{1}{2} \eta_1 (E(\theta_2(\eta_1^+)) - E(\theta_1(\eta_1^+))) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\eta_1}^{\eta_2} [E(\theta_2(\eta)) - E(\theta_1(\eta))] d\eta > 0 \end{aligned}$$

(the second line above being zero by the strict monotonicity of θ_1, θ_2).

Case (ii). With analogous considerations ($\eta_2 = +\infty$)

$$\begin{aligned} &(A \circ \theta_2)'(\eta_1^+) - (A \circ \theta_1)'(\eta_1^+) + \frac{1}{2} \eta_1 (E(\theta_2(\eta_1^+)) - E(\theta_1(\eta_1^+))) = \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\eta_1}^{\infty} [E(\theta_2(\eta)) - E(\theta_1(\eta))] d\eta > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the assumptions $\theta_1 \neq \theta_2$ leads to contradiction.

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