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UNIQUENESS OF THE SOLUTION OF THE INVERSE SCATTERING PROBLEM FOR DISCONTINUOUS STURM-LIOUVILLE OPERATOR

Abstract

In the paper we obtain the basic equation of the inverse problem for discontinuous Sturm-Liouville operator and prove uniqueness of the determination of the potential by the scattering data.

Let's consider a boundary value problem generated by the differential equation

$$-y'' + q(x)y = \lambda^2 y, \quad 0 < x < +\infty, \quad (1)$$

boundary condition

$$y(0) = 0, \quad (2)$$

and discontinuity conditions at some point $a \in (0, +\infty)$

$$\begin{aligned} y(a-0) &= \alpha y(a+0), \\ y'(a-0) &= \alpha^{-1} y'(a+0), \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where $\alpha > 0$, $\alpha \neq 1$, $q(x)$ is a real-valued function satisfying the condition

$$\int_0^{+\infty} x |q(x)| dx < +\infty. \quad (4)$$

In the paper [4] it is shown that under condition (4), the boundary value problem (1)-(3) has a restricted solution for $\lambda \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ and $\lambda = i\chi_k$ ($k = 1, 2, \dots, n$), moreover, as $x \rightarrow \infty$ these solutions satisfy the asymptotic formulae:

$$u(x, \lambda) = e^{-i\lambda x} + S(\lambda) e^{i\lambda x} + o(1) \quad (\lambda \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}), \quad (5)$$

$$u_k(x, i\chi_k) = m_k e^{-\chi_k x} (1 + o(1)) \quad (k = 1, 2, \dots, n). \quad (6)$$

A totality of quantities $\{S(\lambda), \chi_k, m_k\}$ is said to be scattering data of problem (1)-(3).

Thus, the scattering data completely determines the behavior of the normed eigen functions of problem (1)-(3).

The inverse scattering problem for boundary value problem (1)-(3) consists of reconstruction of the function $q(x)$ by the scattering data.

In the present paper we obtain the basic equation of the inverse problem and investigating this equation we prove the uniqueness of the restoration of the function $q(x)$ by the scattering data.

The case $\alpha = 1$ was considered in the paper [1] (see also [2]).

1. Derivation of the basic equation

In the paper [3] it is proved that equation (1) provided (3),(4) has a lost type solution $e(x, \lambda)$, regular with respect to λ in the upper half-plane $\text{Im } \lambda > 0$, continuous for $\text{Im } \lambda \geq 0$ and representable in the form

$$e(x, \lambda) = e_0(x, \lambda) + \int_x^{+\infty} K(x, t) e^{i\lambda t} dt, \quad (7)$$

where

$$e_0(x, \lambda) = \begin{cases} e^{i\lambda x}, & x > a, \\ \alpha^+ e^{i\lambda x} + \alpha^- e^{i\lambda(2a-x)}, & 0 < x \leq a, \end{cases} \quad \alpha^\pm = \frac{1}{2} \left(\alpha \pm \frac{1}{\alpha} \right),$$

and the functions $K(x, t)$, $K'_x(x, t)$, $K'_t(x, t)$ are continuous for $t \neq 2a - x$, $K(x, \cdot) \in L_1(x, +\infty)$ and

$$\begin{aligned} K(x, x) &= \frac{\alpha^+}{2} \int_x^{+\infty} q(t) dt, \quad x \in (0, a), \\ K(x, x) &= \frac{1}{2} \int_x^{+\infty} q(t) dt, \quad x \in (a, +\infty), \\ K(x, 2a - x + 0) - K(x, 2a - x - 0) &= \\ &= \frac{\alpha^-}{2} \int_a^{+\infty} q(t) dt - \frac{\alpha^-}{2} \int_x^a q(t) dt, \quad x \in (0, a). \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

According to the paper [4], equation (1) has the solution $S(x, \lambda)$ satisfying the conditions (3) and $S(0, \lambda) = 0$, $S'(0, \lambda) = 1$, and this solution is connected with the lost solutions $e(x, \lambda)$ by the formulae

$$\frac{-2i\lambda S(x, \lambda)}{e(0, \lambda)} = e(x, -\lambda) - S(\lambda) e(x, \lambda), \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}.$$

From here, taking into account representation (7) for the solution $e(x, \lambda)$, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} -2i\lambda S(x, \lambda) \left\{ \frac{1}{e(0, \lambda)} - \frac{1}{e_0(0, \lambda)} \right\} - \frac{2i\lambda}{e_0(0, \lambda)} \{S(x, \lambda) - S_0(x, \lambda)\} = \\ = \int_x^{+\infty} K(x, t) e^{-i\lambda t} dt + \{S_0(\lambda) - S(\lambda)\} \times \\ \times \left\{ e_0(x, \lambda) + \int_x^{+\infty} K(x, t) e^{i\lambda t} dt \right\} - S_0(\lambda) \int_x^{+\infty} K(x, t) e^{i\lambda t} dt, \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where

$$S_0(\lambda) = \frac{e_0(0, -\lambda)}{e_0(0, \lambda)} = \frac{\alpha^+ + \alpha^- e^{-2ia\lambda}}{\alpha^+ + \alpha^- e^{2ia\lambda}},$$

$$S_0(\lambda) = \begin{cases} \frac{\sin \lambda x}{\lambda}, & 0 < x \leq a, \\ \alpha + \frac{\sin \lambda x}{\lambda} + \alpha \frac{\sin \lambda(x-2a)}{\lambda}, & x > a, \end{cases}$$

is the solution of the equation $-y'' = \lambda^2 y$ satisfying conditions (3) and $S_0(0, \lambda) = 0$, $S_0'(0, \lambda) = 1$.

As it was shown in the paper [4] (see lemma 2), $S_0(\lambda) - S(\lambda)$ is a Fourier transform of the function

$$F_s(y) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} [S_0(\lambda) - S(\lambda)] e^{i\lambda y} d\lambda. \quad (10)$$

Further, since

$$\begin{aligned} S_0(\lambda) &= \frac{\alpha^+ + \alpha^- e^{-2i\lambda a}}{\alpha^+} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+} e^{2i\lambda a}} = \\ &= \left(1 + \frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+} e^{-2i\lambda a}\right) \left(1 - \frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+} e^{2i\lambda a} + \left(\frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+}\right)^2 e^{4i\lambda a} - \dots\right) = \\ &1 + \frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+} e^{-2i\lambda a} - \left(\frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+}\right)^2 - \frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+} e^{2i\lambda a} + \left(\frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+}\right)^3 e^{2i\lambda a} + \left(\frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+}\right)^2 e^{4i\lambda a} - \dots, \end{aligned}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S_0(\lambda) e^{i\lambda t} dt &= \delta(t) + \frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+} \delta(t-2a) - \left(\frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+}\right)^2 \delta(t) - \\ &- \left[\frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+} - \left(\frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+}\right)^3\right] \delta(t+2a) + \dots. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Now, multiplying the both hand sides of equality (9) by $\frac{1}{2\pi} e^{i\lambda y}$ and integrating with respect to $\lambda \in (-\infty, +\infty)$ and taking into account (10) and (11) in the right hand side, we get

$$\begin{aligned} K(x, y) + F_{1s}(x, y) + \int_x^{+\infty} K(x, t) F_s(t+y) dt - \left[1 - \left(\frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+}\right)^2\right] K(x, -y) - \\ - \frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+} K(x, 2a-y) + \left[\frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+} + \left(\frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+}\right)^3\right] K(x, -y-2a) - \dots, \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

where

$$F_{1s}(x, y) = \begin{cases} F_s(x+y), & x > a, \\ \alpha^+ F_s(x+y) + \alpha^- F_s(2a-x+y), & 0 < x \leq a. \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

If we put $y > x$, the expression (12) takes the form

$$K(x, y) + F_{1s}(x, y) + \int_x^{+\infty} K(x, t) F_s(t + y) dt - \frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+} K(x, 2a - y). \quad (14)$$

If remains to calculate the integral

$$I = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left\{ -2i\lambda S(x, \lambda) \left[\frac{1}{e(0, \lambda)} - \frac{1}{e_0(0, \lambda)} \right] - \frac{2i\lambda}{e_0(0, \lambda)} [S(x, \lambda) - S_0(x, \lambda)] \right\} e^{i\lambda y} d\lambda,$$

when $y > x$. Show that this integral may be calculated by means of the contour integration. Really, the first term in this integral is regular everywhere at the upper half-plane except the finite number of points $i\chi_k$, that are the simple zeros of the function $e(0, \lambda)$ (see [4]). The second term in this integral is regular at the upper half-plane and the function $\lambda [S(x, \lambda) - S_0(x, \lambda)] e^{i\lambda y}$ is restricted for $\text{Im } \lambda \geq 0, y > x$. Consequently, using the Jordan lemma, for $y > x$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{2i\chi_k S(\chi, i\chi_k) e^{\chi_k y}}{e(0, i\chi_k)} = - \sum_{k=1}^n m_k^2 e(x, i\chi_k) e^{-\chi_k y} = \\ &= - \sum_{k=1}^n m_k^2 e_0(x, i\chi_k) e^{-\chi_k y} - \int_x^{+\infty} K(x, t) - \sum_{k=1}^n m_k^2 e^{-\chi_k(t+y)} dt. \end{aligned}$$

Equating I and the expressions from (14) we get the basic equations of the inverse problem for $K(x, y)$

$$K(x, y) - \frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+} K(x, 2a - y) + F_1(x, y) + \int_x^{\infty} K(x, t) F(t + y) dt = 0, \quad y > x, \quad (15)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} F(y) &= F_s(y) + \sum_{k=1}^n m_k^2 e^{-\chi_k y}, \\ F_1(x, y) &= \begin{cases} F(x + y), & x > a, \\ \alpha^+ F(x + y) + \alpha^- F(2a - x + y), & 0 \leq x \leq a. \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Thus, we proved the following

Theorem. For each $x \geq 0$ the kernel $K(x, y)$ from representation (5) satisfies the functional-integral equation (15),(16).

Equation (15) plays an important part in solving the inverse problem of the scattering theory. Really, if equation (15), constructed only by the scattering data (see. (10),(16)), has a unique solution $K(x, y)$, equation (1), i.e. the function $q(x)$ may be found from formula (8).

2. Solvability of the basic equation

From the property of the function $F_s(x)$ and from the form of $F(x)$ it follows that for each fixed $x \geq 0$ the operator

$$(F_x f) y = \int_x^{+\infty} F(t+y) f(t) dt,$$

acting in the space $L_1(x, +\infty)$ (also in $L_2(x, +\infty)$) is completely continuous.

In the basic equation we'll consider the kernel $K(x, t)$ as unknown and consider it as Fredholm type equation in the space $L_2(x, +\infty)$ (or $L_1(x, +\infty)$) for each fixed x .

It holds

Theorem. For each fixed $x \geq 0$ the basic equation (15) has a unique solution $K(x, \cdot)$ from the space $L_2(x, +\infty)$.

Proof. At first we show that for each fixed $x \geq 0$ the operator

$$(M_x f)(y) = \begin{cases} f(y), & x > a, \\ f(y) - \frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+} f(2a-y), & 0 \leq x \leq a, \end{cases}$$

acting in the space $L_2(x, +\infty)$ is invertible.

It suffices to consider the case $0 \leq x \leq a$. Let's consider the equation

$$f(y) - \frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+} f(2a-y) = g(y). \tag{17}$$

Making substitution $y \rightarrow 2a-y$, hence we have

$$f(2a-y) - \frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+} f(y) = g(2a-y). \tag{18}$$

From the system of equations (17)-(18) we get

$$f(y) = \frac{(\alpha^+)^2}{(\alpha^+)^2 + (\alpha^-)^2} [g(y) + g(2a-y)],$$

i.e. the operator M_x has the inverse. From the last formula we have

$$\int_x^{+\infty} |f(y)|^2 dy \leq C \int_x^{+\infty} |g(y)|^2 dy,$$

where C are some constants. Thus, we proved that for each fixed $x \geq 0$, the operator M_x is invertible in the space.

Now, let's denote that the basic equation is equivalent to the equation

$$K(x, y) + M_x^{-1} F_1(x, y) + M_x^{-1} (F K(x, \cdot))(y) = 0, \quad y > x$$

i.e. to the equation with completely continuous operator, since $M_x^{-1} F$ is a completely continuous operator.

Thus, in order to prove the theorem, it suffices to show that the homogeneous equation

$$f_x(y) + M_x^{-1}(Ff_x)(y) = 0,$$

i.e. the equation

$$f_x(y) - \frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+} f_x(2a - y) + \int_x^{+\infty} f_x(t) F(t + y) dt = 0, \quad y > x, \quad (19)$$

has only a zero solution $f_x(\cdot) \in L_2(x, +\infty)$.

We multiply the equation (19) by $\overline{f_x(y)}$ and integrate with respect to y in the interval $(x, +\infty)$. As the result, according to (10) and (16) we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_x^{+\infty} |f_x(y)|^2 dy - \frac{\alpha^-}{\alpha^+} \int_x^{+\infty} f_x(2a - y) \overline{f_x(y)} dy + \\ & + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} [S_0(\lambda) - S(\lambda)] \tilde{f}(-\lambda) \overline{\tilde{f}(\lambda)} d\lambda + \\ & + \sum_{k=1}^n m_k^2 \left| \tilde{f}(-i\chi_k) \right|^2 = 0, \quad \text{where } \tilde{f}(\lambda) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f_x(y) e^{-i\lambda y} dy. \end{aligned}$$

Here, taking into account the equality (see(11))

$$\frac{\alpha^+}{\alpha^-} \int_x^{+\infty} f_x(2a - y) \overline{f_x(y)} dy = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} S_0(\lambda) \tilde{f}(-\lambda) \overline{\tilde{f}(\lambda)} d\lambda,$$

and also Parseval equality

$$\int_x^{+\infty} |f_x(y)|^2 dy = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \tilde{f}(\lambda) \overline{\tilde{f}(\lambda)} d\lambda,$$

we finally have

$$\sum_{k=1}^n m_k^2 \left| \tilde{f}(-i\chi_k) \right|^2 + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left\{ \tilde{f}(\lambda) - S(\lambda) \tilde{f}(-\lambda) \right\} \overline{\tilde{f}(\lambda)} d\lambda = 0. \quad (20)$$

Since $|S(\lambda)| = 1$, then by the Cauchy-Bunyakovskii inequality

$$\left| \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} S(\lambda) \tilde{f}(-\lambda) \overline{\tilde{f}(\lambda)} d\lambda \right| \leq \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |\tilde{f}(\lambda)|^2 d\lambda.$$

Consequently, the second term at the left hand side of (20) is non-negative. Therefore, from equality (20) we have

$$\tilde{f}(-i\chi_k) = 0, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \{ \tilde{f}(\lambda) - S(\lambda) \tilde{f}(-\lambda) \} \overline{\tilde{f}(\lambda)} d\lambda = 0.$$

Assuming $z(\lambda) = \tilde{f}(\lambda) - S(\lambda) \tilde{f}(-\lambda)$, we see that this function is orthogonal to the function $\tilde{f}(\lambda)$. But then

$$\| \tilde{f}(\lambda) \|^2 = \| S(\lambda) \tilde{f}(-\lambda) \|^2 = \| \tilde{f}(\lambda) - z(\lambda) \|^2 = \| \tilde{f}(\lambda) \|^2 + \| z(\lambda) \|^2,$$

that is possible only for $z(\lambda) = 0$. So, we have

$$\tilde{f}(-i\chi_k) = 0, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, n, \tag{21}$$

$$\tilde{f}(\lambda) = S(\lambda) \tilde{f}(-\lambda). \tag{22}$$

By definition (see [2])

$$S(\lambda) = \frac{e(0, -\lambda)}{e(0, \lambda)}.$$

Substituting at in (22), we have

$$\frac{\tilde{f}(\lambda)}{e(0, -\lambda)} = \frac{\tilde{f}(-\lambda)}{e(0, \lambda)}, \quad -\infty < \lambda < +\infty.$$

Hence, it follows that $\frac{\tilde{f}(-\lambda)}{e(0, \lambda)}$ is a meromorphic function on the whole of complex plane and has poles of first order in the zeros of the function $e(0, \lambda)$.

Consequently,

$$\frac{\tilde{f}(-\lambda)}{e(0, \lambda)} = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{\lambda - i\chi_k} \cdot \frac{\tilde{f}(-i\chi_k)}{e(i\chi_k)} + \psi(\lambda),$$

where $\psi(\lambda)$ is an entire function. It follows from (21) that

$$\frac{\tilde{f}(-\lambda)}{e(0, \lambda)} = \psi(\lambda).$$

Obviously, as $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ the left hand side tends to zero. Consequently, $\psi(\lambda) \equiv 0$. Then we have $\tilde{f}(-\lambda) = 0$, i.e. $f_x(y) = 0$.

The theorem is proved.

Corollary. *The potential $q(x)$ is uniquely determined by the scattering data.*

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