

# ON A MAXIMUM PRINCIPLE FOR HYPERBOLIC EQUATIONS AND ITS APPLICATION TO EQUATIONS OF MIXED TYPE

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**Abstract**

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**MATHEMATICS**

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## ON A MAXIMUM PRINCIPLE FOR HYPERBOLIC EQUATIONS AND ITS APPLICATION TO EQUATIONS OF MIXED TYPE

*(Presented by Academician I. N. Vekua on 22 IV 1967)*

§ 1. Consider the equation

$$\mathcal{L}[u] \equiv u_{\xi\eta} + a(\xi; \eta)u_{\xi} + b(\xi; \eta)u_{\eta} + c(\xi; \eta)u = 0 \quad (\mathcal{L})$$

in the characteristic triangle  $O_0A_0C_0$  (the domain  $\Delta$ ,  $O_0(0; 0)$ ,  $A_0(\xi_0; -\xi_0)$ ,  $C_0(0; -\xi_0)$ ,  $\xi_0 > 0$ ),  $a, a_{\xi}, b, c \in C^{(0)}(\Delta \setminus \overline{O_0A_0})$ . Let

$$h = a_{\xi} + ab - c = h_1 + h_2, \quad h_1 \leq 0 \text{ in } \Delta; \quad \beta = \exp \left\{ \int_0^{\xi} b d\xi \right\}; \quad \alpha = \beta a;$$

$$\gamma = -\beta h_1 - \beta h_2 = \gamma_1 + \gamma_2; \quad c = c_1 + c_2, \quad c_1 \leq 0 \text{ in } \Delta.$$

We shall say that the coefficients of  $(\mathcal{L})$  satisfy in  $\Delta$  conditions (C) if: 1)  $a < 0$  on  $\overline{O_0C_0} \setminus O_0$ ; 2)

$$-a(P) > \int_{PQ} [2|\gamma_2| + \beta|c_2|] d\xi$$

in  $\Delta \cup C_0A_0$ , and conditions (D), if in  $\Delta \cup C_0A_0$ : 1)  $a < 0$ , 2)

$$-\beta(Q)a(Q) > \int_{PQ} |\gamma| d\xi,$$

where  $P \in \overline{O_0C_0} \setminus O_0$ ,  $PQ$  is a segment of the characteristic  $\eta = \text{const}$ . We shall call a function  $u(\xi; \eta)$  a solution of equation  $(\mathcal{L})$  of class  $[R]$  if  $\mathcal{L}[u] \equiv 0$  in  $\Delta$ ,  $u \in C^{(2)}(\Delta)$ ,  $u \in C^{(0)}(\overline{\Delta})$ ,  $u \in C^{(1)}(\overline{\Delta} \setminus \overline{O_0A_0})$ ,  $u|_{\overline{O_0C_0}} = 0$ ,

$$\max_{\bar{\Delta}} u > 0, \quad \max_{\bar{\Delta}} u \geq -\min_{\bar{\Delta}} u.$$

**Theorem 1 (maximum principle).** *Let the coefficients of  $(\mathcal{L})$  satisfy in  $\Delta$  conditions (C) or (D), and let  $u(\xi; \eta)$  be an arbitrary solution of  $(\mathcal{L})$  of class  $[R]$ .*

*Then  $\max_{\bar{\Delta}} u$  is attained only on  $\overline{O_0 A_0}$ .*

Suppose the contrary. Let

$$\max_{\bar{\Delta}} u = u(Q), \quad Q \in \bar{\Delta} \setminus \overline{O_0 A_0}.$$

Represent  $(\mathcal{L})$  in the form <sup>(1)</sup>

$$(\beta u_\eta)_\xi + (\alpha u)_\xi + \gamma u = 0$$

and integrate this equation along the segment  $PQ$ :

$$\beta(Q)u_\eta(Q) = \left\{ -a(P)u(Q) + \int_{PQ} [u(Q) - u]\gamma_2 d\xi - u(Q) \int_{PQ} \beta c_2 d\xi \right\} + \int_{PQ} [u(Q) - u]\gamma_1 d\xi - u(Q) \int_{PQ} \beta c_1 d\xi; \quad (1)$$

$$\beta(Q)u_\eta(Q) = -\beta(Q)a(Q)u(Q) - \int_{PQ} \gamma u d\xi. \quad (2)$$

By virtue of conditions (C) and (D), respectively, from (1) and (2) we obtain  $u_\eta(Q) > 0$ , which is impossible and proves the theorem.

**Example 1.** Denote by  $(\mathcal{L}_m^{\lambda\mu})$  the equation  $(\mathcal{L})$  in which

$$a = \frac{\sigma_1}{2(\xi + \eta)} + \frac{f(\xi; \eta)}{(-\xi - \eta)^{2\sigma_1 + \lambda}}, \quad b = \frac{\sigma_1}{2(\xi + \eta)} + \frac{g(\xi; \eta)}{(-\xi - \eta)^{2\sigma_1 + \lambda}},$$

$$c = \frac{r(\xi; \eta)}{(-\xi - \eta)^{2\sigma_1 + \mu}};$$

$$0 < m < 2, \quad \lambda < \frac{2 - m}{2 + m}, \quad \mu < \frac{4 - m}{2(2 + m)}, \quad \sigma_1 = \frac{m}{2 + m},$$

$$f, (\xi + \eta)f_\xi, g, r \in C^{(0)}(\bar{\Delta}).$$

**Lemma 1.** *If the length of the segment  $O_0A_0$  is sufficiently small, then the maximum principle is valid for the equation  $(\mathcal{L}_m^{\lambda\mu})$ .*

Indeed, for a sufficiently small length of  $O_0A_0$  the coefficients of  $(\mathcal{L}_m^{\lambda\mu})$  satisfy conditions (C)

$$a(P) = \frac{\sigma_1}{2\eta} \left[ 1 - (-\eta)^\sigma \frac{2}{\sigma_1} f(0; \eta) \right], \quad \sigma = \frac{2-m}{2+m} - \lambda > 0,$$

$$h = -\frac{m(4+m)}{4(2+m)} \frac{1}{(\xi + \eta)^2} [1 - (-\xi - \eta)^\sigma \mathfrak{W}(\xi; \eta)],$$

$$-a(P) - \int_{PQ} \beta|c| d\xi = -\frac{\sigma_1}{2\eta} [1 - (-\eta)^\sigma \Omega(\xi; \eta)],$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{W}(\xi; \eta) = & \frac{4(2+m)^2}{m(4+m)} \left[ \left( \lambda + \frac{3}{2}\sigma_1 \right) f(\xi; \eta) - \frac{\sigma_1}{2} g(\xi; \eta) - (\xi + \eta) f_\xi(\xi; \eta) + \right. \\ & \left. + (-\xi - \eta)^\sigma f(\xi; \eta) g(\xi; \eta) - (-\xi - \eta)^{1+\lambda-\mu} r(\xi; \eta) \right], \end{aligned}$$

$$\Omega(\xi; \eta) = \frac{2}{\sigma_1} [f(0; \eta) + (-\eta)^{3/2\sigma_1+\lambda} \omega(\xi; \eta)],$$

$$\omega(\xi; \eta) = \int_0^\xi \frac{|r(t; \eta)|}{(-t - \eta)^{3/2\sigma_1+\mu}} \exp \left\{ \int_0^t \frac{g(\tau; \eta)}{(-\tau - \eta)^{2\sigma_1+\lambda}} d\tau \right\} dt.$$

**Example 2.**

$$\mathfrak{M}_{\lambda\mu}[u] \equiv u_{\xi\eta} + \left( \frac{\lambda}{\xi + \eta} - \frac{\mu}{\xi - \eta} \right) u_\xi + \left( \frac{\lambda}{\xi + \eta} + \frac{\mu}{\xi - \eta} \right) u_\eta = 0. \quad (\mathfrak{M}_{\lambda\mu})$$

**Lemma 2.** *For the equation  $(\mathfrak{M}_{\lambda\mu})$ , for any  $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$ ,  $0 \leq \mu \leq 1$ ,  $\lambda + \mu \neq 0$ , the maximum principle is valid.*

Indeed, in  $\Delta$  conditions (C) are satisfied

$$a(P) = \frac{\lambda + \mu}{\eta} < 0; \quad h_1 = -\frac{\lambda - \lambda^2}{(\xi + \eta)^2} \leq 0; \quad h_2 = \frac{\mu - \mu^2}{(\xi - \eta)^2} \geq 0,$$

$$-a(P) - 2 \int_0^\xi |\gamma_2| d\xi > -\frac{\lambda + \mu}{\eta} + \frac{2\mu}{\eta} (1 - 2^{\mu-1}) > 0.$$

It can be shown that for the equation  $(\mathfrak{M}_{\lambda\mu})$  with  $\lambda = 0$ ,  $0 < \mu < 1$  (the Euler-Poisson-Darboux equation) the well-known maximum principle for hyperbolic equations does not hold (<sup>(1)</sup>, theorem 1).

§ 2. Consider the general generalized F. Tricomi equation

$$T_m[u] \equiv \operatorname{sgn} y \cdot |y|^m u_{xx} + u_{yy} + \frac{M(x; y)}{|y|^\beta} u_x + \frac{N(x; y)}{|y|^\alpha} u_y + \frac{F(x; y)}{|y|^\gamma} u = 0 \quad (T_m)$$

in the domain  $D$ , bounded by: 1) a simple Jordan arc  $\Gamma$ , situated in the upper half-plane and resting on the axis  $y = 0$  at the points  $O(0; 0)$  and  $A(a; 0)$ ,  $a > 0$ ; 2) the characteristics  $OC$  and  $AC$ . Let  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  be, respectively, the subdomains of ellipticity and hyperbolicity of the equation  $(T_m)$ ;  $OA$  is the line of transition;  $M, N, F \in C^{(0)}(\overline{D_1})$ ;  $M, N, F \in C^{(0)}(\overline{D_2})$ ;  $F \leq 0$  in  $D_1$ ;  $M, N \in C^{(1)}(\overline{D_2})$ ;  $N \geq 0$  in  $D_1$  only when  $\alpha > 0$ ;  $m \geq 0$ ,  $\beta < 1 - m/2$ ,  $\alpha < 1$ ,  $\gamma < 1 - m/4$ . We shall call the function  $u(x; y)$  a **regular solution** of the equation  $T_m[u] \equiv G(x; y)$  ( $G(x; y) \in C^{(0)}(\overline{D})$ ), if  $T_m[u] \equiv G(x; y)$  in  $D_1 \cup D_2$ ;  $u \in C^{(2)}(D_1 \cup D_2)$ ;  $u \in C^{(0)}(\overline{D})$ ;  $u \in C^{(1)}[D_1 \cup (D_2 \setminus \overline{OA})]$ ;  $u_y(x; 0+0) = u_y(x; 0-0)$  for  $0 < x < a$ , and these limits are finite—the gluing condition. A regular solution of the equation  $(T_m)$  will be regarded as belonging to the class  $[P_0]$  if

$$u|_{\overline{OC}} \equiv 0, \quad \max_{\overline{D}} u > 0, \quad \max_{\overline{D}} u \geq -\min_{\overline{D}} u.$$

**Problem T (F. Tricomi).** Find a regular solution  $u(x, y)$  of the equation  $T_m[u] = G(x; y)$  from the data: 1)  $u|_{\Gamma} = \varphi$ , 2)  $u|_{\overline{OC}} = \psi$ , where  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  are continuous functions;  $\varphi(0) = \psi(0)$ .

We shall say that for equation  $(T_m)$  the principle of the (strict) maximum for problem T is valid if an arbitrary solution of class  $[P_0]$  attains its maximum in  $\overline{D}$  (only) in the closure of the “elliptic” arc  $\Gamma$ .

**Theorem 2.** *If in equation  $(T_m)$ ,  $0 < m < 2$ ,  $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 0$ , and the length of the transition line is sufficiently small, then the principle of the strict maximum for problem T is valid for it.*

Suppose the contrary. Let  $u(x; y) \in [P_0]$ ,  $\max_{\overline{D}} u = u(Q)$ , but  $Q \in \overline{D} \setminus \overline{\Gamma}$ . By the known property of elliptic equations and Lemma 1 the point  $Q \in OA$ . Consequently, by the modified lemma of E. Hopf (<sup>(1)</sup>, Lemma 2,  $u_y(x_Q; 0+0) < 0$ . But  $u_y(x_Q; 0-0) \geq 0$ , which contradicts the gluing condition and proves what is required.

**Theorem 3.** *If in equation  $(T_m)$ ,  $0 < m < 2$ , and the length of the transition line is sufficiently small, then the maximum principle for problem T is valid for it.*

Suppose the contrary. Let  $u(x; y) \in [P_0]$ ,  $\max_{D_1} u = u(Q)$ , but  $Q \in \bar{\Gamma}$ . Consequently,  $Q \in OA$ . But then, by virtue of the lemma of K. I. Babenko <sup>(2)</sup> (one can show that its assertion is also valid in the case  $\alpha > 0$ , but with  $N \geq 0$  in  $D_1$ ),  $u_y(x_Q; 0+0) < 0$ , which is impossible by the gluing condition.

**Theorem 4.** *Let the coefficients of an equation of the form  $(\mathcal{L})$ , corresponding to the equation  $(T_m)$ , satisfy in the domain  $\Delta$  the conditions (C) or (D). Then for equation  $(T_m)$  the following are valid: 1) the principle of the strict maximum for problem T, if  $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 0$ ; 2) the maximum principle for problem T.*

The proof is analogous to the proofs of Theorems 2 and 3.

**Theorem 5.** *For the equation  $T_m[u] = G(x; y)$ , the solution of problem T is unique if  $0 < m < 2$  and the length of the transition line is sufficiently small.*

The proof follows easily from Theorems 2 and 3.

**Theorem 6.** *If the coefficients of equation  $(T_m)$  satisfy the conditions of Theorem 4, then for the equation  $T_m[u] = G(x; y)$  the solution of problem T is unique.*

§ 3. Consider an equation of mixed type with two mutually perpendicular parabolicity lines of the first kind

$$T_{mn}[u] \equiv \operatorname{sgn} y \cdot |y|^m U_{xx} + \operatorname{sgn} x \cdot |x|^n u_{yy} = 0, \quad (T_{mn})$$

$$m \geq 0, \quad n \geq 0, \quad m + n \neq 0$$

in a domain  $D$ , consisting of three subdomains  $D_1, D_2, D_3$ . The domain  $D_1(x > 0; y > 0)$  is bounded by the coordinate axes and by a simple Jordan arc  $\Gamma$  resting on them at the points  $A(a; 0)$  and  $B(0; b)$ . The domains  $D_2(x > 0; y < 0)$  and  $D_3(x < 0; y > 0)$  are bounded respectively by two pairs of characteristics  $OC$  and  $AC$ ,  $OE$  and  $BE$ . We shall call a function  $u(x; y)$  a regular solution of equation  $(T_{mn})$  if  $T_{mn}[u] \equiv 0$  in  $D_1 \cup D_2 \cup D_3$ ,  $u \in C^{(2)}(D_1 \cup D_2 \cup D_3)$ ,  $u \in C^{(0)}(\bar{D})$ ,  $u \in C^{(1)}[D_1 \cup (\bar{D}_2 \setminus \overline{OA}) \cup (\bar{D}_3 \setminus \overline{OB})]$ ,

$$u_y(x; 0+0) = u_y(x; 0-0) \quad \text{for } 0 < x < a, \quad u_x(0+0; y) = u_x(0-0; y)$$

for  $0 < y < b$ , and these limits are finite—the gluing conditions. We shall regard a regular solution  $u(x; y)$  of equation  $(T_{mn})$  as belonging to the class  $[P_{00}]$ , if

$$u|_{\overline{OC} \cup \overline{OE}} \equiv 0, \quad \max_{\bar{D}} u > 0, \quad \max_{\bar{D}} u \geq -\min_{\bar{D}} u.$$

**Problem T.** Find a regular solution  $u(x; y)$  of equation  $(T_{mn})$  from the data: 1)  $u|_{\Gamma} = \varphi$ , 2)  $u|_{\overline{OC}} = \psi_1$ , 3)  $u|_{\overline{OE}} = \psi_2$ , where  $\varphi, \psi_1, \psi_2$  are continuous functions;  $\psi_1(0) = \psi_2(0)$ .

**Theorem 7** (the strong maximum principle for problem T). An arbitrary solution of the equation ( $T_{mn}$ ) of class  $[P_{00}]$  attains its maximum in  $\bar{D}$  only in the closure of the “elliptic” arc  $\Gamma$ .

The proof is analogous to Theorem 2 and follows from the modified E. Hopf lemma <sup>1</sup> and Lemma 2.

**Theorem 8.** For the equation ( $T_{mn}$ ), the solution of problem T is unique.

The proof follows from Theorem 7.

In conclusion we note that a somewhat different extremum principle for problem T in the case of the Lavrent’ev-Bitsadze and Tricomi equations belongs to A. V. Bitsadze <sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> A. V. Bitsadze, Equations of mixed type, *Itogi Nauki*, Publishing House of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, 1959, p. 84.

*Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.*

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