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ON UNIQUENESS OF NEUMANN-TRICOMI  
PROBLEM IN  $\mathbb{R}^2$

MASTER

by

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ON UNIQUENESS OF NEUMANN-TRICOMI PROBLEM IN  $\mathbb{R}^2$

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## 1. Introduction

Consider the equation

$$(1.1) \quad L[u] = K(y)u_{xx} + u_{yy} + r(x,y)u = f(x,y) ,$$

in a bounded simply connected region  $G$ , where  $K(y) > 0$  whenever  $y > 0$  and the region  $G$  is bounded by the curves: A piecewise smooth curve  $\Gamma_0$  lying in the half-plane  $y > 0$  which intersects the line  $y = 0$  at the points  $A(-1,0)$  and  $B(0,0)$ . For  $y < 0$  by a piecewise smooth curve  $\Gamma_1$  through  $A$  which meets the characteristic of (1.1) issued from  $B$  at the point  $P$  and the curve  $\Gamma_2$  which consists of the portion  $PB$  of the characteristic through  $B$ .

In this paper [using a variation of the energy-integral method (a,b,c-method) similar to the one used in [1], we obtain sufficient conditions for the uniqueness of the solution of the boundary value problem

$$(1.2) \quad L[u] = f \quad \text{in } G$$

$$(1.3) \quad d_n u : = K(y)u_x dy - u_y dx \Big|_{\Gamma_0} = \psi(s)ds$$

$$(1.4) \quad u \Big|_{\Gamma_1} = \phi(s) .$$

The question of uniqueness and existence of solutions of this Neumann-Tricomi boundary value problem has been dealt with for instance by L. S. Cubenko [4] in the case  $K(y) = \text{sign } y |y|^m$ ,  $m > 0$  when  $\Gamma_1$  coincides with the characteristic through  $A$  and instead of (1.3) the values  $d_n u + \alpha(s)u ds$  on  $\Gamma_0$  are known. For  $r(x,y) \leq 0$ ,  $\alpha(s) \geq 0$  the uniqueness is proved with the

maximum-minimum principle and the existence of a solution in a special function class under further conditions on  $\Gamma_0$  by the integral-equation method. V. F. Egorov proved in [5] the uniqueness of the described boundary value problem in the case  $K(y) = y$ ,  $r(x,y) \equiv 0$  if  $\Gamma_1$  has the special form  $x = -1 + C(-y)^{3/2}$ ,  $C \geq \frac{2}{3}$  and  $\Gamma_0$  satisfies the boundary condition  $3xdy - 2ydx|_{\Gamma_0} \geq 0$ .

In the papers [6] and [7] he generalized this uniqueness theorem to the case  $K(y) = \text{sign } y|y|^m$ ,  $m \geq 0$ ,  $r(x,y) \equiv 0$ ,

$$\Gamma_1 : x = -1 + C(-y)^{\frac{m}{2} + 1}, \quad C \geq \frac{2}{m+2} \quad \text{and} \quad |C - \frac{2}{m+2}| \quad \text{is "sufficient small".}$$

D. V. Koračev and K. I. Mihaǐlov [8] treated the Neumann-Tricomi problem in case  $K(y) = y^m$  for  $y > 0$ ,  $K(y) = -(-y)^n$  for  $y < 0$ ,  $K(0) = 0$ ,  $r(x,y) \equiv 0$ , when  $\Gamma_1$  is a characteristic through A. By use of the maximum-minimum principle the uniqueness and, with the integral-equation method, the existence of a solution are shown. For a representation of the integral-equation method for the Neumann-Tricomi problem when  $\Gamma_1$  is a characteristic we refer to [11] and for the existence of weak solution to [3].

To our knowledge in all the papers connected with uniqueness results for the problem (1.2), (1.3), (1.4) when  $\Gamma_1$  is not a characteristic, the assumptions  $K(y) = \text{sign } y|y|^m$ ,  $m > 0$ ,  $r(x,y) = 0$  and that  $\Gamma_1$  is of special form play an essential role.

In the present paper we give an uniqueness theorem for a "general" function  $K(y)$ , when  $r(x,y)$  is not necessarily zero and  $\Gamma_1$  is of a more general form.

## 2. Preliminary Lemmas

We consider the differential operator

$$(2.1) \quad L[u] = K(y)u_{xx} + u_{yy} + r(x,y)u = f(x,y),$$

where

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{aligned} K(y) &> 0 \quad \text{for } y > 0, \quad K(y) \in C^0(\bar{G}) \cap C^3(\bar{G}_+) \cap C^3(\bar{G}_-) , \\ r(x, y) &\in C^1(\bar{G}_+) \cap C^1(\bar{G}_-), \quad f(x, y) \in C^0(\bar{G}) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$G_+ = G \cap \{y > 0\}, \quad G_- = G \cap \{y < 0\}$$

Remark 1

The assumptions (2.2) can be weakened; see theorem 3.1. We introduce the Pfaffian form of first degree

$$(2.3) \quad \begin{aligned} \Omega &= 2(\alpha^0 u + \alpha^1 u_x + \alpha^2 u_y) d_n u + (ru^2 - K(y)u_x^2 - u_y^2)(\alpha^1 dy - \alpha^2 dx) - u^2 d_n \alpha^0 \\ &= (K(y)u_x^2 - u_y^2)(\alpha^1 dy + \alpha^2 dx) + 2u_x u_y (K\alpha^2 dy - \alpha^1 dx) \\ &\quad + 2\alpha^0 u (K(y)u_x dy - u_y dx) \\ &\quad + u^2 \left\{ (r\alpha^1 - K(y)\alpha_x^0) dy - (r\alpha^2 - \alpha_y^0) dx \right\} , \end{aligned}$$

where  $d_n u = K(y)u_x dy - u_y dx$ , and obtain

$$(2.4) \quad \begin{aligned} [d, \Omega] &= 2(\alpha^0 u + \alpha^1 u_x + \alpha^2 u_y) L[u][dx, dy] \\ &\quad + (Au_x^2 + 2Bu_x u_y + Cu_y^2 + Du^2)[dx, dy] \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.5) \quad A &= K(y) \left( \alpha_x^1 - \alpha_y^2 \right) - \alpha^2 K'(y) + 2K(y)\alpha^0 \quad , \\
 B &= K(y)\alpha_x^2 + \alpha_y^1 \quad , \\
 C &= - \left( \alpha_x^1 - \alpha_y^2 \right) + 2\alpha^0 \quad , \\
 D &= -K(y)\alpha_{xx}^0 - \alpha_{yy}^0 - 2\alpha^0 r + (\alpha^1 r)_x + (\alpha^2 r)_y \quad .
 \end{aligned}$$

By use of Green's theorem we have

$$(2.6) \quad \int_{\partial G_+ \cup \partial G_-} \Omega = \iint_{G_+ \cup G_-} [d, \Omega]$$

We shall show that under suitable assumptions on  $\Gamma_0$ ,  $\Gamma_1$  and the coefficients of (2.1), the functions  $\alpha^i$ ,  $i = 0, 1, 2$  can be determined so that

$$(2.7) \quad 0 \leq \int_{\partial G_+ \cup \partial G_-} \Omega = \iint_{G_+ \cup G_-} [d, \Omega] \leq 0 \quad ,$$

thus it will follow from (2.7) that  $u \equiv 0$ .

### Lemma 2.1

If

$$\alpha^1 = -(x+1)$$

$$\alpha^2 = +|K(y)|^{-1/2} \int_{t=y}^0 |K(t)|^{1/2} dt$$

$$\alpha^0 = \text{sign } y \frac{1}{4} K'(y) |K(y)|^{-3/2} \int_{t=y}^0 |K(t)|^{1/2} dt$$

then

$$A = B = C \equiv 0$$

Proof

The conclusion of the lemma follows at once by substitution of  $\alpha^i$ ,  $i = 0, 1, 2$  (as given in the lemma) in (2.5).

Remark 2

For the special case

$$(2.8) \quad K(y) = \text{sign } y |y|^m, \quad m > 0$$

we conclude from Lemma 2.1

$$\alpha^1 = -(x+1), \quad \alpha^2 = -\frac{2}{m+2} y, \quad \alpha^0 = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{m}{m+2}$$

Lemma 2.2

If the Pfaffian form  $\Omega$  is as in (2.3) and the function  $u$  satisfies the boundary conditions (1.3) and (1.4) then

$$(a) \quad \int_{\Gamma_0} \Omega = \int_{\Gamma_0} \{(ru^2 - K(y)u_x^2 - u_y^2)(\alpha^1 dy - \alpha^2 dx) - u^2 d_n \alpha^0\},$$

$$(b) \quad \int_{\Gamma_1} \Omega = \int_{\Gamma_1} (K(y)u_x^2 + u_y^2)(\alpha^1 dy - \alpha^2 dx)$$

$$= \int_{\Gamma_1} u_y^2 \left\{ K(y) \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2 + 1 \right\} (\alpha^1 dy - \alpha^2 dx),$$

$$(c) \quad \int_{\Gamma_2} \Omega = \int_P^B \Omega = -\alpha^0 (-K)^{1/2} u^2 \Big|_P^B$$

$$+ \int_P^B \left\{ -[(-K)^{1/2} u_x + u_y]^2 (\alpha^1 dy + \alpha^2 dx) + \right.$$

$$\left. + u^2 \left[ d[\alpha^0 (-K)^{1/2}] + (-K)^{1/2} d\alpha^0 + r(\alpha^1 dy - \alpha^2 dx) \right] \right\}$$

Proof

The statement (a) follows directly from (2.3) and (1.3).  $u|_{\Gamma_1} = 0$  implies  $u_x dx + u_y dy|_{\Gamma_1} = 0$  on the smooth parts of  $\Gamma_1$ . Thus from (2.3) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega|_{\Gamma_1} &= K(y) u_x^2 \alpha^1 dy + K(y) u_x^2 \alpha^2 dx - u_y^2 \alpha^1 dy - u_y^2 \alpha^2 dx + \\ &+ 2u_x u_y K(y) \alpha^2 dy - 2u_x u_y \alpha^1 dx . \end{aligned}$$

Observing that on  $\Gamma_1$

$$2u_x u_y K(y) \alpha^2 dy = -2u_x^2 K(y) \alpha^2 dx ,$$

$$-2u_x u_y \alpha^1 dx = 2u_y^2 \alpha^1 dy ,$$

we have

$$\Omega|_{\Gamma_1} = (K(y) u_x^2 + u_y^2) (\alpha^1 dy - \alpha^2 dx)$$

Now since  $u_x dx + u_y dy|_{\Gamma_1} = 0$ , (b) follows. Since on  $\Gamma_2 : x + \int_{t=y}^0 (-K(t))^{\frac{1}{2}} dt = 0$

we have  $dx - (K(y))^{\frac{1}{2}} dy = 0$ ,  $d_n u|_{\Gamma_2} = K(y)u_x dy - u_y dx = -(-K(y))^{\frac{1}{2}} du$ . Thus

$$(2.9) \quad \begin{aligned} \Omega|_{\Gamma_2} &= -2\alpha^0 (-K(y))^{\frac{1}{2}} u du + 2(\alpha^1 u_x^2 + \alpha^2 u_y^2)(K(y)u_x dy - u_y dx) \\ &\quad - (K(y)u_x^2 + u_y^2)(\alpha^1 dy - \alpha^2 dx) + u^2 \left[ r(\alpha^1 dy - \alpha^2 dx) + (-K)^{\frac{1}{2}} d\alpha^0 \right] \end{aligned}$$

An integration by parts yields

$$\begin{aligned} \int_P^B -2\alpha^0 (-K)^{\frac{1}{2}} u du &= - \int_P^B \alpha^0 (-K)^{\frac{1}{2}} du^2 \\ &= -\alpha^0 (-K)^{\frac{1}{2}} u^2 \Big|_P^B + \int_P^B u^2 d[\alpha^0 (-K)^{\frac{1}{2}}] \end{aligned}$$

so we obtain by a simple calculation from (2.9) the statement (c).

### Remark 3

If  $\Gamma_1$  has the characteristic direction, then  $\int_{\Gamma_1} \Omega = 0$ . This follows at once from the observations that

$$(-K(y))^{\frac{1}{2}} dy - dx|_{\Gamma_1} = 0, \quad u_x dx + u_y dy|_{\Gamma_1} = 0,$$

which implies  $K(y)u_x^2 + u_y^2|_{\Gamma_1} = 0$ . In this case see [2].

3. Neumann-Tricomi Problem

We call a function  $u(x, y) \in C^0(G)$  a quasi-regular solution of (2.1) if the following hold ([9], p. 234):

- i)  $u(x, y)$  satisfies (2.1);
- ii) The integral  $\int_{G \cap \{y=0\}} \Omega$  exists;

- iii) If  $G_{\pm}(\epsilon)$  are regions with boundary  $\partial G_{\pm}(\epsilon)$  lying entirely in  $G_+$  and  $G_-$ , then the line integrals along  $\partial G_{\pm}(\epsilon)$  which result from the application of Green's theorem to the integrals:

$$\iint_{G_{\pm}(\epsilon)} u L[u] dx dy, \quad \iint_{G_{\pm}(\epsilon)} u_x L[u] dx dy, \quad \iint_{G_{\pm}(\epsilon)} u_y L[u] dx dy$$

have a limit when  $\partial G_{\pm}(\epsilon)$  approaches the boundary of  $G_+$  and  $G_-$ .

First we prove the uniqueness theorem for a special case:

Theorem 3.1

The equation

$$L[u] = K(y)u_{xx} + u_{yy} + r(x, y)u = f(x, y)$$

where

$$(2.8) \quad K(y) = (\text{sign } y)|y|^m, \quad m > 0; \quad r(x, y) \in C^1(\bar{G}_+) \cap C^1(G_-), \quad f(x, y) \in C^0(G)$$

has at most one quasi-regular solution in  $G$  satisfying the boundary conditions

$$d_n u|_{\Gamma_0} = K(y)u_x dy - u_y dx = \psi(s)ds ,$$

$$u|_{\Gamma_1} = \phi(s)$$

if the following conditions are satisfied:

i)  $\alpha = (\alpha^1, \alpha^2) = (-(x+1), -\frac{2}{m+2}y)$

$-D = \frac{4}{m+2} r - \alpha \cdot \text{grad } r \geq 0 \text{ in } G, \text{ and } -D \neq 0 \text{ in } G_+ \text{ in case } r(x, y) \neq 0$   
in  $G_+$ .

ii)  $\Gamma_1$  lies inside the characteristic triangle determined by the line  $\overline{AB}$  and the two characteristics of (2.1) through A and B which intersect in C and satisfies

$$(3.2) \quad \left( K(y) \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2 + 1 \right) \left( -(m+2)(x+1)dy + 2ydx \right) |_{\Gamma_1} \geq 0$$

iii)  $r(x, y)|_{\Gamma_2} \leq 0, \quad r(x, y)|_{\Gamma_0} \leq 0$

$$(3.3) \quad (m+2)(x+1)dy - 2ydx|_{\Gamma_0} > 0$$

#### Remark 4

See the remarks at the end of the proof concerning the possible forms of the curves  $\Gamma_0$  and  $\Gamma_1$ .

#### Proof

Suppose there exist two solutions  $u_1$  and  $u_2$ . Let  $u = u_1 - u_2$ , by (2.4)

$$[d, \Omega] = (Au_x^2 + 2Bu_x u_y + Cu_y^2 + Du^2)[dx, dy]$$

and with the choice (see Lemma 2.1)

$$(3.4) \quad \alpha^1 = -(x+1), \quad \alpha^2 = -\frac{2}{m+2} y, \quad \alpha^0 = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{m}{m+2}$$

we obtain

$$Q(u_x, u_y) = Au_x^2 + 2Bu_x u_y + Cu_y^2 \equiv 0 \quad \text{in } G,$$

$$D = -\frac{4}{m+2} r + \alpha \cdot \text{grad } r$$

From Lemma 2.2 and (3.4), under the assumptions (3.2) and iii) we obtain

$$(3.5) \quad \int_{\Gamma_0} \Omega \geq 0, \quad \int_{\Gamma_1} \Omega \geq 0$$

On  $\Gamma_2$  :  $x + \frac{2}{m+2} (-y)^{\frac{m}{2} + 1} = 0$ ,  $dx - (-y)^{\frac{m}{2}} dy = 0$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} -(\alpha^1 dy + \alpha^2 dx) &= \left( (x+1) dy + \frac{2}{m+2} y dx \right) \\ &= \left\{ (x+1) - \frac{2}{m+2} (-y)^{\frac{m}{2} + 1} \right\} dy \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

because  $\Gamma_2$  consists of points above the characteristic AC given by

$x+1 - \frac{2}{m+2} (-y)^{\frac{m}{2} + 1} = 0$ . From  $\alpha^0 = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{m}{m+2}$  and  $r|_{\Gamma_2} \leq 0$  it follows that

$$d[\alpha^0(-K)^{\frac{1}{2}}] + r(\alpha^1 dy - \alpha^2 dx)|_{\Gamma_2} \geq 0$$

Thus we obtain under the hypothesis of theorem 3.1

$$0 \leq \int_{\partial G_+ \cup \partial G_-} \Omega = \iint_{G_+ \cup G_-} [d, \Omega] \leq 0$$

and  $u|_{\Gamma_2} = 0$ . By hyperbolic theory we have  $u \equiv 0$  in  $G_-$ , but this implies  $u \equiv 0$  in case  $r(x, y) \equiv 0$  in  $G_+$  by the maximum principle, otherwise we get  $u \equiv 0$  in  $G_+$  by the hypotheses i).

- As it can be seen from the proof, the condition  $r(x, y)|_{\Gamma_2} \leq 0$  can be replaced by the "weaker" condition

$$d[\alpha^0(-K)^{\frac{1}{2}}] + r(\alpha^1 dy - \alpha^2 dx)|_{\Gamma_2} \geq 0$$

Remark 5 (Boundary curve  $\Gamma_1$ )

By theorem 3.1  $\Gamma_1$  is a piecewise smooth curve inside the characteristic triangle and must satisfy

$$\left( K(y) \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2 + 1 \right) \left( -(m+2)(x+1)dy + 2ydx \right) |_{\Gamma_1} \geq 0$$

The solutions of

$$\omega_0 = -(m+2)(x+1) + 2ydx = 0$$

through  $A(-1, 0)$  lying inside the characteristic triangle are given by

$$(3.6) \quad x = -1 + C(-y)^{\frac{m}{2}+1} \quad \text{with} \quad C \geq \frac{2}{m+2}$$

(3.6) gives the possible forms of the boundary curves  $\Gamma_1$  which satisfy (3.2) and where we have  $\int_{\Gamma_1} \Omega = 0$ . For  $m = 1$  we obtain the result of V. P. Egorov

in [5].

We observe that the characteristic directions  $Q(dx, dy) = 0$  through an arbitrary point  $(x_0, y_0) \in G_-$  divide a neighborhood of  $(x_0, y_0)$  in four parts where  $Q(dx, dy) = K(y) \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 + 1 \geq 0$ . Similarly the solution of  $\omega_0 \equiv -(m+2)(x+1)dy + 2y dx = 0$  through  $(x_0, y_0)$  divides a neighborhood of  $(x_0, y_0)$  in two parts where  $\omega_0 > 0$  and  $\omega_0 < 0$  respectively. From the point  $(x_0, y_0)$  the curve  $\Gamma_1$  may proceed in a direction  $(dx, dy)$  where  $Q \cdot \omega_0 \geq 0$ .

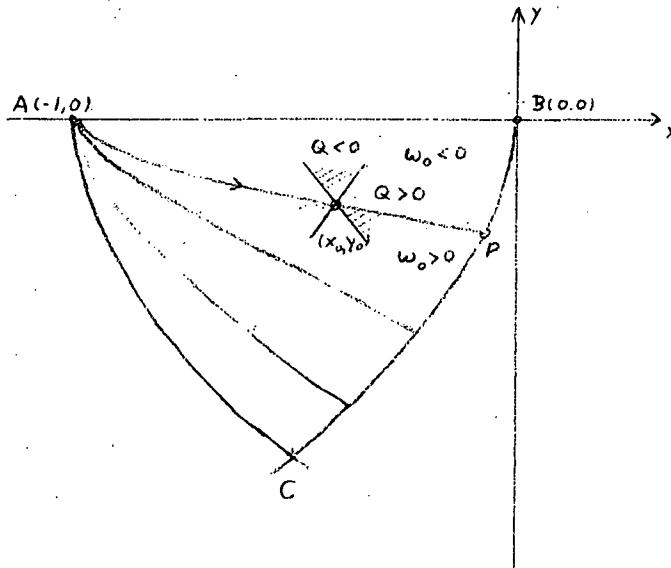


Fig. 1

The possible directions are indicated in figure 1. It is clear from theorem 3.1 (condition 3.2) that all possible boundary curves  $\Gamma_1$  have a vertical tangent in  $A(-1, 0)$ .

Remark 6 (Boundary curve  $\Gamma_0$ )

By theorem 3.1  $\Gamma_0$  is a piecewise smooth curve which must satisfy

$$(3.3) \quad \omega_1 \equiv (m+2)(x+1)dy - 2ydx \Big|_{\Gamma_0} \geq 0 .$$

We note that the boundary of the rectangle in Figure 2 below satisfies the condition (3.3). We are interested in other possible piecewise smooth curves which intersect the line  $y = 0$  in  $A(-1,0)$  and  $B(0,0)$ .

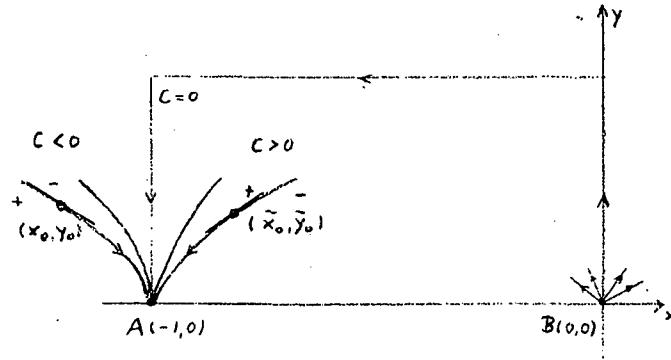


Fig. 2

$A(-1,0)$ : The condition (3.3) is satisfied for the solutions of  $\omega_1 = 0$ , which are given by

$$(3.7) \quad x = -1 + \frac{m+1}{2} y^2, \quad -\infty < C < +\infty .$$

Let  $(x_0, y_0)$  be an arbitrary point such that  $x_0 < -1, y_0 > 0$ , then there exists a solution of  $\omega_1 = 0$  through  $(x_0, y_0)$  which is given by

$$(3.8) \quad x = -1 + \frac{1+x_0}{\frac{m}{2}+1} y^{\frac{m+1}{2}} .$$

The solution (3.8) through  $(x_0, y_0)$  divides a neighborhood of  $(x_0, y_0)$  in two parts where  $\omega_1 > 0$  and  $\omega_1 < 0$  respectively. Starting from  $(x_0, y_0)$  to reach  $A(-1,0)$  the curve  $\Gamma_0$  may proceed in a direction  $(dx, dy)$  where  $\omega_1 \geq 0$ . As it is easily seen, the line which connects  $(x_0, y_0)$  is a possible

part of  $\Gamma_0$ .

Starting from a point  $(\tilde{x}_0, \tilde{y}_0)$  such that  $-1 < \tilde{x}_0, \tilde{y}_0 > 0$ , the same consideration shows that by condition (3.3) a possible curve  $\Gamma_0$  which intersects  $y = 0$  in  $A(-1,0)$  must have either a vertical tangent in  $A(-1,0)$  or a negative derivative.

B(0,0): Writing the condition (3.3)  $\omega_1 \geq 0$  in the form

$$\omega_1 = \left( (m+2)(x+1), 2y \right) \cdot n \geq 0, n = (dy, -dx)$$

we see, that for a curve starting at  $B(0,0)$  all direction are possible.

For other types of conditions on  $\Gamma_0$  for the Neumann-problem see C.S. Morawetz [10].

Before returning to the Neumann-Tricomi problem for a general function  $K(y)$ , we make some remarks concerning a problem which is similar to the problem considered by D. V. Koračev and K. I. Mihailov in [8].

#### Remark 7

Instead of the special case (2.8) we consider the problem

$$(3.9) \quad K(y) = \begin{cases} y^n & \text{for } y > 0, n > 0 \\ -(-y)^m & \text{for } y < 0, m > 0. \end{cases}$$

With the choice

$$G_+ : \alpha^1 = -(x+1), \alpha^2 = -\frac{2}{n+2} y, \alpha^0 = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{n}{n+2} ;$$

$$G_- : \alpha^1 = -(x+1), \alpha^2 = -\frac{2}{m+2} y, \alpha^0 = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{m}{m+2}.$$

the considerations in theorem 3.1 remain the same. On  $\Gamma_0$  we get instead of (3.3)

$$(3.10) \quad (n+2)(x+1)dy - 2ydx \Big|_{\Gamma_0} \geq 0$$

and theorem 3.1 is valid if the line integral (see (2.7))

$$(3.11) \quad \int_A^B (-\Omega_- + \Omega_+) = \int_A^B \left\{ (\alpha_-^2 - \alpha_+^2)u_y^2 + 2(\alpha_-^1 - \alpha_+^1)u_xu_y + 2(\alpha_-^0 - \alpha_+^0)uu_y + u^2 \left[ r(\alpha_-^2 - \alpha_+^2) - (\alpha_y^0 - \alpha_{y-}^0) \right] \right\} dx$$

$$= 2 \int_A^B (\alpha_-^0 - \alpha_+^0)uu_y dx \geq 0$$

As it can be seen from (2.3), (2.4) with  $\alpha^1 = \alpha^2 = 0$ ,  $\alpha^0 = -1$ , considered in  $G^+$

$$\int_A^B uu_y dx \leq 0 \quad \text{for } r \leq 0 \quad \text{in } G_+,$$

thus (3.11) is valid if  $\alpha_-^0 - \alpha_+^0 \leq 0$ , which means  $n \leq m$ . - The theorem 3.1 remains true in the case  $K(y)$  is given by (3.9) if the condition (3.3) is replaced by (3.10),  $r(x,y) \leq 0$  in  $G_+$  and  $0 < n \leq m$ . -

The proof of theorem 3.1 indicates the approach for proving an analogous uniqueness theorem for the Neumann-Tricomi problem in the general case when the function  $K(y) \geq 0$  for  $y \geq 0$ . The central idea is to choose the functions  $\alpha^i$ ,  $i = 0, 1, 2$  so that the form  $Q(u_x, u_y) = Au_x^2 + 2Bu_xu_y + Cu_y^2 \geq 0$  in  $G$ .

Theorem 3.2

The equation

$$L[u] = K(y)u_{xx} + u_{yy} + r(x,y)u = f(x,y)$$

where

$$K(y) \geq 0 \text{ for } y \geq 0, \quad K(y) \in C^0(\bar{G}) \cap C^3(\bar{G}_+) \cap C^3(\bar{G}_-),$$

$$r(x,y) \in C^1(\bar{G}_+) \cap C^1(\bar{G}_-), \quad f(x,y) \in C^0(\bar{G})$$

has at most one quasi-regular solution in  $G$  satisfying the boundary conditions

$$d_n u|_{\Gamma_0} = K(y)u_x dy - u_y dx|_{\Gamma_0} = \psi(s)ds, \quad u|_{\Gamma_1} = \phi(s) \quad \text{if the following conditions}$$

hold:

With

$$(3.12) \quad \begin{aligned} \alpha^1 &= -(x+1), \quad \alpha^2 = |K(y)|^{-1/2} \int_y^0 |K(t)|^{1/2} dt, \\ \alpha^0 &= \text{sign } y \frac{1}{4} K'(y) |K(y)|^{-3/2} \int_y^0 |K(t)|^{1/2} dt, \end{aligned}$$

i)  $-D = K(y)\alpha_{xx}^0 + \alpha_{yy}^0 + 2r\alpha^0 - (\alpha^1 r)_x - (\alpha^1 r)_y \geq 0$  in  $G$  with  $-D \neq 0$  in  $G_+$  in case  $r(x,y)$  is not identical zero in  $G_+$ .

ii)  $\Gamma_1$  lies inside the characteristic triangle determined by the line  $\overline{AB}$  and the characteristics of (2.1) through  $A$  and  $B$  which intersect in  $C$  and satisfies

$$(3.13) \quad \left( K(y) \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2 + 1 \right) \left( \alpha^1 dy - \alpha^2 dx \right) \Big|_{\Gamma_1} \geq 0,$$

$$\text{iii) } r(x, y)|_{\Gamma_2} \leq 0, \quad 2(-K)^{1/2} d\alpha^0 + \alpha^0 (-K)^{1/2}|_{\Gamma_2} \geq 0,$$

$$-(\alpha^1 dy - \alpha^2 dx)|_{\Gamma_0} \geq 0; \quad r(\alpha^1 dy - \alpha^2 dx) - d_n \alpha^0|_{\Gamma_0} \geq 0,$$

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow 0^\pm} \alpha^2 = 0$$

The proof of theorem 3.2 is similar to that of theorem 3.1 by the choice (3.12) of the functions  $\alpha^0, \alpha^1, \alpha^2$  instead of (3.4). As it can be seen, all conditions on the functions  $\alpha^0, \alpha^1, \alpha^2$  in theorem 3.2 can be written as conditions on the function  $K(y)$ . The corresponding remarks 4 and 5 are valid, where the curves (3.6) have to be replaced by the curves

$$x = -1 + C \int_{t=y}^0 (-K(t))^{1/2} dt, \quad C \geq 1,$$

for which we have

$$\alpha^1 dy - \alpha^2 dx = 0$$

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