UNIQUENESS THEOREM FOR A MULTI-MODE SURFACE WAVE DIFFRACTION PROBLEM*

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Abstract. Uniqueness is demonstrated for the solution to the reduced wave equation subject to a mixed boundary value condition that excites two surface wave modes. The configuration is taken as a right-angled wedge and the edge condition assumed has the form

\[ \sum_{i=0}^{2} \left| \frac{\partial^i u}{\partial x^i} \right| = O\left( \frac{1}{r^{1+\varepsilon}} \right), \quad 0 \leq h < \frac{\pi}{3}, \quad \text{for } r \to 0. \]

It is conjectured that the same procedure may be used to prove uniqueness for the corresponding N-mode problem under the edge condition

\[ \sum_{i=0}^{N} \left| \frac{\partial^i u}{\partial x^i} \right| = O\left( r^{-\frac{1}{3}(2N-1)+3+\varepsilon} \right), \quad 0 \leq h < \frac{\pi}{3}, \quad \text{as } r \to 0. \]

In this paper, we prove a uniqueness theorem for a mixed boundary value problem that occurs in the phenomenological theory of multi-mode surface wave diffraction (see Morgan, Karp, and Karal [1]). The method is essentially an extension of that employed to the single-mode case in Morgan and Karp [2] and the formulation is a modification of Stoker and Peter's work [3] on plane incidence for the Sommerfeld problem. We prove the following:

**Theorem I.** Let \( u(x, y) \) have continuous second order derivatives in the wedge-shaped region \( D \) defined by the inequalities \( 0 < r = (x^2 + y^2)^{1/2}, 0 \leq \theta = \text{arc tan } y/x \leq 3\pi/2 \) (see Fig. 1). Let \( u \) be a solution of the following boundary value problem:

1. \( u(x, y) \) satisfies the reduced wave equation \( \partial^2 u/\partial x^2 + \partial^2 u/\partial y^2 + K^2 u = 0, \) in \( D. \)
2. \( \partial u/\partial y = 0 \) for \( y = 0, x > 0 \) while \( (\partial/\partial x - \lambda_1)(\partial/\partial x - \lambda_2)u = 0 \) for \( y < 0, x = 0, \)
3. \( u \) and its derivatives satisfy the following conditions in \( D: \)

\[ \sum_{i=0}^{3} \sum_{j=0}^{i} \left| \frac{\partial^i u}{\partial x^j \partial y^{i-j}} \right| < M \quad \text{for } r > R_0, \]

where \( M \) is independent of \( r \) and \( \theta \) and \( R_0 \) is some positive constant.

\[ \sum_{i=0}^{2} \left| \frac{\partial^i u}{\partial x^i} \right| = O\left( \frac{1}{r^{1+\varepsilon}} \right) \quad \text{as } r \to 0 \quad \text{with } 0 \leq h < \frac{\pi}{3}. \]

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1.4 \( u \) can be written as \( u(x, y) = u_{\text{inc}} + u_{\text{refl}} + u_{\text{rad}} \), where

\[
\begin{align*}
    u_{\text{inc.}} &= \left\{ \begin{array}{ll}
        \sum_{m=1}^{2} A_m \exp \left[ +\lambda_m x + i(K^2 + \lambda_m^2)^{1/2} y \right], & x < 0, \\
        0, & y > 0,
    \end{array} \right.
\]

and \( B_1, B_2 \) are constants representing reflection coefficients.

1.5 \( u_{\text{rad.}} \equiv u - u_{\text{inc.}} - u_{\text{refl.}} \) obeys the radiation condition

\[
\lim_{r \to \infty} r^{1/2} \left( \frac{\partial u_{\text{rad.}}}{\partial r} - iK u_{\text{rad.}} \right) = 0
\]

uniformly in \( \theta \), \( 0 \leq \theta \leq \frac{3\pi}{2} \) and vanishes at infinity.

Then, \( u(x, y) \) is unique.

Proof. As mentioned before, we extend the method of [2] to this case. Hence, we allow two solutions:

\[
(1.1) \quad u^{(n)} = u_{\text{inc.}} + u_{\text{refl.}}^{(n)} + u_{\text{rad.}}^{(n)}, \quad n = 1, 2
\]

where

\[
(1.2) \quad u_{\text{refl.}}^{(n)} = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll}
        \sum_{m=1}^{2} B_m^{(n)} \exp \left[ +\lambda_m x - i(K^2 + \lambda_m^2)^{1/2} y \right], & x < 0, \\
        0, & y > 0,
    \end{array} \right.
\]

These functions are taken to have possibly different reflection coefficients and possibly different but radiating diffracted fields. Next we form the difference function

\[
(1.3) \quad \psi = u^{(1)} - u^{(2)}
\]

which is essentially a solution of the previously posed boundary value problem without an incident field. Lastly, we introduce the auxiliary function

\[
(1.4) \quad v(x, y) = (\partial/\partial x - \lambda_1)(\partial/\partial x - \lambda_2)\psi(x, y)
\]
which is then a solution of the reduced wave equation satisfying homogeneous boundary conditions and obeys pseudo-radiation conditions. Furthermore, by the postulated edge behavior of \( u(x, y) \), it is easy to see that

\[
(1.5) \quad v = O(1/r^{1+h}) \quad \text{as} \quad r \to 0 \quad \text{with} \quad 0 \leq h < \frac{3}{2}.
\]

Thus on expanding \( v \) in the form

\[
(1.6) \quad v(r, \theta) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n(r) \cos \frac{2n + 1}{3} \theta
\]

where

\[
(1.7) \quad C_n(r) = C_n \int_0^{3\pi/2} v(r, \theta) \cos \frac{2n + 1}{3} \theta \, d\theta, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \ldots,
\]

it follows that

\[
(1.8) \quad v(r, \theta) = D_0 H^{(1)}_{1/3}(Kr) \cos \theta/3 + D_1 H^{(1)}_{1}(Kr) \cos \theta.
\]

The remainder of the proof consists in inverting \( v \) to obtain \( \psi(x, y) \) in the form

\[
\psi(x, y) = \begin{cases} 
0, & y > 0, \\
\sum_{m=1}^{2} \left( B_m^{(1)} - B_m^{(2)} \right) \exp \left[ +\lambda_m x - i(K^2 + \lambda_m^2)^{1/2} y \right], & x < 0,
\end{cases}
\]

\[
+ \sum_{m=1}^{2} a_m e^{\lambda_m x} \int_{x}^{\infty} e^{-\lambda_m \xi} \left( D_0 H^{(1)}_{1/3}[K(\xi^2 + y^2)^{1/2}] \cos \frac{\theta}{3} + D_1 H^{(1)}_{1}[K(\xi^2 + y^2)^{1/2}] \cos \theta \right) \, d\xi
\]

where \( a_m = (-1)^m/\left(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1\right) \). Then on applying the continuity conditions

\[
[\mathbf{u}] = u(x, 0^+) - u(x, 0^-) = 0,
\]

\[
\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} (x, 0^+) - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} (x, 0^-) = 0, \quad x < 0,
\]

we obtain a homogeneous system of equations for the four unknowns \( D_0, D_1, B_1^{(1)} - B_1^{(2)}, \ldots \)

\[\text{This effectively means that} \]

\[
\lim_{r \to \infty} \int_0^{3\pi/2} r^{1/2}(\partial v/\partial r - i Kv) \cos [(2n + 1)/3] \theta \, d\theta = 0 
\]

\( n = 0, 1, 2, \ldots \) or equivalently this implies that (1.7) following obeys the Sommerfeld radiation condition required of \( u\text{rad} \).

The demonstration of this radiation condition is accomplished by first dividing the range of integration into three parts \([0, \pi - 1/r], [\pi - 1/r, \pi + 1/r], \) and \([\pi + 1/r, (3/2)\pi] \). Then we estimate each of the resulting integrals separately. On the first and third intervals, the conditions set forth in Morgan [4] are satisfied, thus

\[
\lim_{r \to \infty} \int_{[\alpha, \beta]} r^{1/2}(\partial v/\partial r - i Kv) \cos [(2n + 1)/3] \theta \, d\theta = 0 
\]

where \([\alpha, \beta] = [0, \pi - 1/r] \) or \([\pi + 1/r, (3/2)\pi] \). Lastly, the integral over \([\pi - 1/r, \pi + 1/r] \) is small by virtue of the smallness of the range and condition I.3a.
and \( B^{(1)}_2 - B^{(2)}_2 \). However, the only solution to this system is the trivial one. Hence \( \psi \) is identically zero and \( u(x, y) \) is unique.

**Final comment.** Uniqueness for the analogous problem having a source incident field \( u_{inc} = \pi i H_0^{(1)}[K(x - x_0)^2 + (y - y_0)^2]^{1/2} \) may be formulated and proven in the same manner as above. In fact, this was done for a plane structure under the \( N \)th order boundary condition, \( \prod_{n=1}^{N} (\partial/\partial y + \lambda_n)u = 0 \) on \( y = 0 \), see Morgan [5]. Furthermore, it is conjectured that the solution to the right-angled wedge under an \( N \)th order condition will be unique if we require

\[
\sum_{i=0}^{N} \left| \frac{\partial^i u(r, \theta)}{\partial x^i} \right| = O(r^{-(2N-1)/3+h}), \quad 0 \leq h < \frac{2}{3}, \text{ as } r \to 0.
\]

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**Bibliography**


