THE DIRECT SCATTERING PROBLEM: UNIQUENESS AND EXISTENCE FOR ANISOTROPIC MEDIA

BY

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Abstract. In this paper, we investigate the problem of the transmission of plane acoustic waves through a penetrable inhomogeneous body with an impenetrable core. Firstly, we discretize the inhomogeneous body via means of a multi-layer, multi-subdivision approach. Then, we prove the uniqueness and existence of solutions to this problem. Finally, we conclude with a discussion of potential applications and what remains to be done.

1. Introduction. Scattering theory has long established itself as one of the most prominent and interesting areas of applied mathematics. It has applications in areas as diverse as military aerial and ground vehicle design, medical imaging and brain tumor detection, oil extraction and space exploration, etc. It is interesting, though, that there are many applications of scattering theory yet to be fulfilled. For instance, oil detection has been a pretty challenging problem for many decades, if not centuries. With the introduction of scattering theory, we were better able to pinpoint the approximate locations of potential oil cavities, and we were thus closer to meeting the world’s oil and energy needs. Despite these profound advances, we are still not able to precisely detect oil cavities around the world. This is partially due to the fact that, up to this point, scientists in the field had generally restricted themselves to the treatment of either impenetrable or penetrable homogeneous bodies and thus applications involving inhomogeneous media (e.g., the surface of the earth) had remained at an infant stage. While there has been a treatment of anisotropic media in [3] as well as in [1], it is not sufficiently generalized to enjoy widespread applications. It is, thus, natural, to say, that a simpler, more elegant approach would be needed to treat the problem of the scattering by inhomogeneous bodies.

In the literature, there has been an extensive study of the multi-layered or stratified scatterer. Specifically, the problem of the scattering of acoustic and electromagnetic waves by an infinitely stratified scatterer has been investigated by C. Athanasiadis in [4].
and C. Athanasiadis and I. G. Stratis in [5], while the problem of the acoustic scattering by a multi-layered ellipsoid is studied in [4]. Some general transmission problems have been studied by R. Kress and G. F. Roach in [8]. Results for an infinitely stratified scatterer in low-frequency electromagnetic scattering theory are given in [6]. Finally, an excellent monograph in scattering theory and general transmission problems is the one in [2].

It is the purpose of this work to introduce some uniqueness and existence results for the aforementioned scattering problem. This paper extends the multi-layer approach to a further dimension, by subdividing the multi-layered scatterer along the polar angle. This results in the formation of a number of four-sided regions in $\mathbb{R}^2$ which, for a sufficiently large number of layers and subdivisions, give a good approximation of an inhomogeneous medium. It was this property that motivated our study of this problem.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 states the problem in two dimensions and gives a thorough description of the scatterer. It firmly sets the foundations for this work. Next, in Section 3, we prove the existence of a unique solution to the 2-dimensional problem. To show that this problem has at most one solution we use a heavily modified version of the method employed in [5], which in turn is based on an approach by R. Kress and G. F. Roach in [8]. Then, we show that this problem has a unique solution via means of a novel integral equation based approach. Finally, in the conclusion, we discuss some potential applications of our method as well as what remains to be done.

Acknowledgements. I am sincerely grateful to Prof. David Colton whose exceptional guidance, knowledge and expertise led to the present form of the paper. I am also extending special thanks to Prof. Constantine Dafermos for his invaluable support and guidance throughout the course of this project.

2. Statement of the problem. Let $\tilde{\Omega}$ be a bounded surface in $\mathbb{R}^2$ with boundary $S_0$. We assume that a core $\Omega_c$, containing the origin of the coordinates, with boundary $S_c$, lies in the interior of $\tilde{\Omega}$. The set $\Omega = \tilde{\Omega} - \Omega_c$ is divided into annuli-like regions $\Omega_i$ by smooth surfaces $S_i$, $i = 1, 2, \ldots, N + 1$, where $S_i$ surrounds $S_{i+1}$. We also suppose that $S_{N+1} = S_c$. We further assume that $\Omega$ is evenly subdivided along the polar angle, by lines $l_j$, $j = 0, 1, \ldots, M$, containing the origin of the coordinates, into subregions $D_{ij}$, $i = 1, 2, \ldots, N$, $j = 0, 1, \ldots, M : \bigcup_{j=0}^{M} D_{ij} = \Omega \forall i = 1, 2, \ldots, N$. The set $\tilde{\Omega}$, as described above, is called a multi-layered, polarly subdivided or web-like scatterer, which we will denote by $W$. Furthermore, let the boundary of $D_{ij}$, $\partial D_{ij}$, be decomposed into four $C^2$-surfaces, namely, $\Gamma_{ij}^{\text{front}}, \Gamma_{ij}^{\text{right}}, \Gamma_{ij}^{\text{back}}, \Gamma_{ij}^{\text{left}}$. In addition, let the unit normal to each layer surface point to the exterior of the corresponding region and the unit normal to $l_j$ be directed clockwise. For convenience, we will denote both unit normals by $\nu$. The exterior $\Omega_0$ of $\tilde{\Omega}$ as well as each $D_{ij}$, $i = 1, 2, \ldots, N$, $j = 0, 1, \ldots, M$, are assumed to be homogeneous isotropic media with densities $\rho_0$ and $\rho_{ij}$, $i = 1, 2, \ldots, N$, $j = 0, 1, \ldots, M$. Furthermore, let the wavenumbers $k_{ij}$, $k_0$, corresponding to $D_{ij}$ and $\Omega_0$ respectively, satisfy $\text{Im}(k_{ij}) \geq 0$ and $\text{Im}(k_0) \geq 0$.

Moreover, let the core of the scatterer, $S_c$, be sound soft. The total acoustic field in $D_{ij}$ is defined as $u_{ij}$, $i = 1, 2, \ldots, N$, $j = 0, 1, \ldots, M$, while the field in $\Omega_0 := D_{0j}$ is

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defined as $u_{0j}^{\text{total}} = u_{0j}^{\text{total}} = u_{0j}^{\text{inc}} + u_{0j}$, where $u_{0j}$ denotes the scattered acoustic field.

Then we have the following problem:

\begin{align}
\triangle u_{ij} + k_{ij}^2 u_{ij} &= 0 \quad \text{in} \quad D_{ij}, \quad i = 0, 1, \ldots, N, \\
\Delta u_{ij} - u_{(i+1)j} &= f_{ij} \\
\rho_{(i+1)j} \frac{\partial u_{ij}}{\partial v} - \rho_{ij} \frac{\partial u_{(i+1)j}}{\partial v} &= g_{ij} \quad \text{on} \quad \Gamma_{(i+1)j}^{\text{front}}, \quad i = 0, 1, \ldots, N - 1, \\
u_{Nj} &= f_{Nj} \quad \text{on} \quad \Gamma_{(N+1)j}^{\text{front}}, \\
\rho_{(j+1)j} \frac{\partial u_{ij}}{\partial v} - \rho_{ij} \frac{\partial u_{(j+1)j}}{\partial v} &= g_{ij} \quad \text{on} \quad \Gamma_{ij}^{\text{right}}, \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, N, \\
\frac{\partial u_{0j}}{\partial v} - ik_{0j}u_{0j} &= o \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} \right), \quad r \to \infty
\end{align}

for $j = 0, 1, \ldots, M$.

We will denote this transmission problem by $(A)$.

3. Solvability of the Problem. In this section we prove the existence and uniqueness of solutions for this acoustic transmission problem. In what follows, we shall make the following assumptions on the wavenumbers $k_0, k_{ij}$, and the corresponding densities $\rho_0, \rho_{ij}$:

Let $k \in \mathbb{C} - \{0\}$ with $0 \leq \arg(k) \leq \pi$, $i = 1, 2, \ldots, N$, $j = 0, 1, \ldots, M$, be such that $\frac{k_{ij}^2}{k_0^2} \in \mathbb{R}$, with $\sup(\frac{k_{ij}^2}{k_0^2}) < +\infty$. Moreover, let $\sup(\frac{\rho_0}{\rho_{ij}}) < +\infty$. 

Let us denote by (H) the homogeneous form of problem (A) with \( f_{ij} = g_{ij} = f'_{ij} = g'_{ij} = 0 \). Then we have the following important theorem:

**Theorem 3.1.** (H) has only the trivial solution.

**Proof.** Let \( \Omega_{0,R} = \{ r \in \Omega_0 : r < R \} \), \( R > 0 \). By Green’s first theorem on \( \Omega_{0,R} \) we obtain

\[
\int_{r=R} u_{ij} \frac{\partial u_{ij}}{\partial \eta} \, ds = \int_{\Omega_{0,R}} u_{ij} \Delta u_{ij} \, dv + \int_{S_0} u_{ij} \frac{\partial u_{ij}}{\partial \eta} \, ds + \int_{\Omega_{0,R}} |\nabla u_{ij}|^2 \, dv
\]

which again by the transmission conditions (2.2) and Green’s first theorem becomes

\[
\int_{r=R} u_{ij} \frac{\partial u_{ij}}{\partial \eta} \, ds = \int_{\Omega_{0,R}} u_{ij} \Delta u_{ij} \, dv + \int_{\Omega_{0,R}} |\nabla u_{ij}|^2 \, dv + \sum_{j=0}^{M} \frac{\rho_0}{\rho_{1j}} \int_{\Gamma_{1j}} u_{ij} \frac{\partial u_{ij}}{\partial \eta} \, ds
\]

\[
- \sum_{j=0}^{M} \frac{\rho_0}{\rho_{1j}} \int_{\Gamma_{1j}} u_{ij} \frac{\partial u_{ij}}{\partial \eta} \, ds + \sum_{j=0}^{M} \frac{\rho_0}{\rho_{1j}} \int_{D_{1j}} u_{ij} \Delta u_{ij} \, dv
\]

By using the transmission conditions (2.4) and applying Green’s first theorem over \( D_{1j} \) we obtain

\[
\int_{r=R} u_{ij} \frac{\partial u_{ij}}{\partial \eta} \, ds = \int_{\Omega_{0,R}} u_{ij} \Delta u_{ij} \, dv + \int_{\Omega_{0,R}} |\nabla u_{ij}|^2 \, dv + \sum_{j=0}^{M} \frac{\rho_0}{\rho_{1j}} \int_{\Gamma_{1j}} u_{ij} \frac{\partial u_{ij}}{\partial \eta} \, ds
\]

\[
+ \sum_{j=0}^{M} \frac{\rho_0}{\rho_{1j}} \int_{\Gamma_{1j}} u_{ij} \frac{\partial u_{ij}}{\partial \eta} \, ds - \sum_{j=0}^{M} \frac{\rho_0}{\rho_{1j}} \int_{\Gamma_{1j}} u_{ij} \frac{\partial u_{ij}}{\partial \eta} \, ds
\]

\[
- \sum_{j=0}^{M} \frac{\rho_0}{\rho_{1j}} \int_{\Gamma_{1j}} u_{ij} \Delta u_{ij} \, dv + \sum_{j=0}^{M} \frac{\rho_0}{\rho_{1j}} \int_{D_{1j}} u_{ij} \Delta u_{ij} \, dv
\]

By repeated application of Green’s first theorem and the transmission conditions (2.4) we get from (3.2) that

\[
\int_{r=R} u_{ij} \frac{\partial u_{ij}}{\partial \eta} \, ds = \int_{\Omega_{0,R}} u_{ij} \Delta u_{ij} \, dv + \int_{\Omega_{0,R}} |\nabla u_{ij}|^2 \, dv + \sum_{j=0}^{M} \sum_{k=0}^{M} \frac{\rho_0}{\rho_{1j+k}} \int_{\Gamma_{1j+k}^{(2j+k)}} u_{ij} \frac{\partial u_{ij}}{\partial \eta} \, ds
\]
Taking imaginary parts in (3.5) and taking into account the assumptions on the boundary behavior (2.3) on $\Gamma$

By repeated use of Green's first theorem, the transmission conditions (2.2) and (2.4) and

\begin{equation}
\sum_{k=0}^{M} \rho_0 \int_{D_1(k+j)} u_{1(i+k)} \frac{\partial u_{1(j+k)}}{\partial \eta} ds + \sum_{j=0}^{M} \rho_0 \int_{D_1(j+k)} u_{1(i+j)} \frac{\partial u_{1(j+k)}}{\partial \eta} ds
\end{equation}

which by virtue of (3.1) and the general fact that $\sum_{i=0}^{M} a_i = \sum_{i=0}^{M} a_i G_{a_1+a_2+\ldots+a_n} = (M+1)^{n-1} \sum_{i=0}^{M} G_i$, for every $G_i$ satisfying $G_{i+M+1} = G_i$, gives

\begin{equation}
\int_{r=R} u_{0j} \frac{\partial u_{0j}}{\partial \eta} ds = \int_{\Omega_0,R} u_{0j} \Delta w_{0j} dv + \int_{\Omega_0,R} |\nabla u_{0j}|^2 dv + \sum_{j=0}^{M} \rho_0 \int_{D_1(j)} u_{1i} \frac{\partial u_{1j}}{\partial \eta} ds
\end{equation}

By repeated use of Green's first theorem, the transmission conditions (2.2) and (2.4) and the boundary behavior (2.3) on $\Gamma_{(N+1)}$, we get from (3.1),

\begin{equation}
\int_{r=R} u_{0j} \frac{\partial u_{0j}}{\partial \eta} ds = \int_{\Omega_0,R} u_{0j} \Delta w_{0j} dv + \int_{\Omega_0,R} |\nabla u_{0j}|^2 dv + \sum_{j=0}^{M} \rho_0 \int_{D_1(j)} u_{1i} \frac{\partial u_{1j}}{\partial \eta} ds
\end{equation}

or

\begin{equation}
\frac{1}{k_0^2} \int_{r=R} u_{0j} \frac{\partial u_{0j}}{\partial \eta} ds = - \int_{\Omega_0,R} |u_{0j}|^2 dv + \frac{1}{k_0^2} \int_{\Omega_0,R} |\nabla u_{0j}|^2 dv - \sum_{j=0}^{M} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \rho_0 \frac{k_{ij}^2}{k_0^2} \int_{D_1(j)} |u_{1j}|^2 dv
\end{equation}

Taking imaginary parts in (3.5) and taking into account the assumptions on $k_0$, $k_{ij}$ and $\rho_0$, $\rho_{ij}$, we obtain

\begin{equation}
\text{Im} \left( \frac{1}{k_0^2} \int_{r=R} u_{0j} \frac{\partial u_{0j}}{\partial \eta} ds \right)
\end{equation}

\begin{equation}
= \text{Im} \left( \frac{1}{k_0^2} \int_{\Omega_0,R} |\nabla u_{0j}|^2 dv \right) + \text{Im} \left( \frac{1}{k_0^2} \int_{\Omega_0,R} |\nabla u_{0j}|^2 dv \right)
\end{equation}

As $R \to \infty$, $\Omega_{0,R}$ tends to $\Omega_0$. Furthermore, since $u_{0j}$ satisfies the radiation condition (2.5), it follows, [8], that the left-hand side of (3.6) tends to zero as $R \to \infty$. Since

\begin{equation}
\text{Im} \left( \frac{1}{k_0^2} \right) \int_{\Omega_0,R} |\nabla u_{0j}|^2 dv = \text{Im} (k_0^2) \int_{\Omega_0,R} |\nabla u_{0j}|^2 dv
\end{equation}

and

\begin{equation}
\text{Im} \left( k_0^2 \right) = 2\text{Re}(k_0)\text{Im}(k_0),
\end{equation}

we obtain from (3.6) that

\begin{equation}
\text{Im}(k_0) \int_{\Omega_0,R} |\nabla u_{0j}|^2 dv = -\text{Im}(k_0) \sum_{j=0}^{N} \sum_{i=0}^{M} \rho_0 \int_{D_1(j)} |\nabla u_{1j}|^2 dv.
\end{equation}

If $\text{Im}(k_0) > 0$, then it follows that, since both integrals are positive, they must vanish, and thus both $u_{0j}$ and $u_{1j}$ must remain constant throughout $\Omega_0$ and $D_{1j}$, $i = 1, 2, \ldots, N$,
j = 0, 1, ..., M, respectively. But by the radiation condition (2.5), \( u_{0j} \) turns out to be zero in \( \Omega_0 \) and then, by conditions (2.2) and (2.4), every other \( u_{ij} \), \( i = 1, 2, ..., N \), \( j = 0, 1, ..., M \) must also be equal to zero in \( D_{ij} \). Hence, in this case, (H) has only the trivial solution.

On the other hand, if \( \text{Im}(k_0) = 0 \), then we have from (3.6) that

\[
\text{Im} \left( \int_{r=R} u_{0j} \frac{\partial u_{0j}}{\partial \eta} \, ds \right) = 0.
\]

From (2.5) we have that

\[
k_0^2 \int_{r=R} | u_{0j} |^2 \, ds + \text{Im} \left( \int_{r=R} u_{0j} \frac{\partial u_{0j}}{\partial \eta} \, ds \right) = o(1), \quad R \to \infty
\]

and hence by (3.8),

\[
\int_{r=R} | u_{0j} |^2 \, ds = o(1), \quad R \to \infty,
\]

which, in turn, by Rellich’s theorem [9], gives \( u_{0j} = 0 \) in \( \Omega_0 \). If we prove that \( u_{10} = 0 \) in \( D_{10} \), then by the same argument, \( u_{20} \) will turn out to be zero in \( D_{20} \), etc.

By Holmgren’s uniqueness theorem [10], we have that the solution of the Cauchy problem

\[
\triangle u_{10} + k_{10}^2 \psi_{10} = 0 \quad \text{in} \quad D_{10},
\]
\[
u_{10} = \frac{\partial u_{10}}{\partial \eta} = 0 \quad \text{on} \quad \Gamma_{10}^\text{front}
\]

is equal to zero, in \( D_{10} \cap G \), where \( G \) is a neighborhood of any point of \( \Gamma_{10}^\text{front} \). Since \( u_{10} \) is analytic [9], it follows by the unique continuation principle that \( u_{10} = 0 \) in \( D_{10} \). Similarly by posing the conditions (3.12) on the surface \( \Gamma_{10}^\text{right} \) we also derive that \( u_{11} = 0 \) in \( D_{11} \) and generally, \( u_{ij} = 0 \) in \( D_{ij} \), \( i = 1, 2, ..., N \), \( j = 0, 1, ..., M \). The proof is, therefore, complete.

To prove the existence of a unique solution to problem (A), we will employ a combined single-layer and double-layer approach, which makes use of two independent densities \( \psi_{ij}, \phi_{ij} \) for each boundary arc \( \Gamma_{i+1}^\text{front} \), and two for each boundary arc \( \Gamma_{ij}^\text{right} \). Therefore, we define

\[
u_{ij}(x) = \int_{\partial D_{ij}} \left\{ \frac{\partial \Phi_{ij}(x, y)}{\partial v(y)} \psi_{ij}(y) + \rho_{ij} \Phi_{ij}(x, y) \phi_{ij}(y) \right\} \, ds(y), \quad x \in D_{ij}
\]

for \( i = 0, 1, ..., N \), \( j = 0, 1, ..., M \), where \( \Phi_{ij}(x, y) \) denotes the fundamental solution to the Helmholtz equation, with the wave number \( k \) replaced by \( k_{ij} \), and \( \psi_{ij}, \phi_{ij} \) are defined on \( \partial D_{ij} \), \( i = 0, 1, ..., N \), \( j = 0, 1, ..., M \). Then, from the jump relations for single-layer and double-layer potentials [11], we have that \( u_{ij} \) defines a solution to problem (A) if the densities \( \psi_{ij}, \phi_{ij} \) satisfy the following system, which we will denote by (B):

\[
(\rho_{ij} + \rho_{(i+1)j}) \begin{pmatrix} \psi_{ij}^a \\ \phi_{ij}^a \end{pmatrix} - A_{ij} \begin{pmatrix} \psi_{ij}^a \\ \phi_{ij}^a \end{pmatrix} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} f_{ij} \\ -g_{ij} \end{pmatrix}
\]

(3.14)
for $i = 0, 1, \ldots, N - 1$, $j = 0, 1, \ldots, M$, 
\[
(p_{ij} + p_{(i+1)j}) \left( \psi_{ij}^b \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \right) - A_{ij}^2 \left( \psi_{ij}^b \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \right) = 2 \left( \frac{f_{ij}}{y_{ij}} \right)
\]  
(3.15)

for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, N$, $j = 0, 1, \ldots, M$, and 
\[
\psi_{Nj}^a - A_{ij}^3 \psi_{Nj}^a = 2f_{Nj}
\]
(3.16)

for $j = 0, 1, \ldots, M$, where 
\[
A_{ij}^1 := \begin{pmatrix} -\rho_{ij}K_{ij}^a - \rho_{(i+1)j}K_{(i+1)j}^a & -\rho_{ij}S_{ij}^a - \rho_{(i+1)j}S_{(i+1)j}^a \\ T_{ij}^a - T_{(i+1)j}^a & \rho_{ij}K_{ij}^a - \rho_{(i+1)j}K_{(i+1)j}^a \end{pmatrix},
\]
\[
A_{ij}^2 := \begin{pmatrix} -\rho_{ij}K_{ij}^b - \rho_{(i+1)j}K_{(i+1)j}^b & -\rho_{ij}S_{ij}^b - \rho_{(i+1)j}S_{(i+1)j}^b \\ T_{ij}^b - T_{(i+1)j}^b & \rho_{ij}K_{ij}^b - \rho_{(i+1)j}K_{(i+1)j}^b \end{pmatrix},
\]
\[
A_{ij}^3 := -K_{ij}^a + i\eta_{ij}^a S_{ij}^a
\]
(3.17)

and where $\psi_{ij}^a, \phi_{ij}^a$ and $\psi_{ij}^b, \phi_{ij}^b$, denote the restriction of the corresponding densities $\psi_{ij}, \phi_{ij}$, to the boundary arcs $\Gamma_{(i+1)j}^{\text{front}}$ and $\Gamma_{ij}^{\text{right}}$, respectively, where we have set $\phi_{Nj}^a := -i\frac{\rho_{ij}}{\rho_{ij}} \psi_{Nj}^a$, and where the operators $K_{ij}^a, K_{ij}^b, S_{ij}^a, T_{ij}^a$ and $K_{ij}^b, K_{ij}^b, S_{ij}^b, T_{ij}^b$ denote the restriction of the corresponding operators, $K_{ij}, K_{ij}^b, S_{ij}$ and $T_{ij}$, defined by 
\[
(K_{ij}\psi)(x) := 2 \int_{\partial D_{ij}} \frac{\partial\Phi_{ij}(x,y)}{\partial y} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \psi(y) ds(y)
\]
\[
(K_{ij}^\prime\psi)(x) := 2 \int_{\partial D_{ij}} \frac{\partial\Phi_{ij}(x,y)}{\partial x} \psi(y) ds(y)
\]
\[
(S_{ij}\psi)(x) := 2 \int_{\partial D_{ij}} \Phi_{ij}(x,y) \psi(y) ds(y)
\]
\[
(T_{ij}\psi)(x) := 2 \int_{\partial D_{ij}} \frac{\partial\Phi_{ij}(x,y)}{\partial y} \psi(y) ds(y)
\]
(3.20)

for $i = 0, 1, \ldots, N$, $j = 0, 1, \ldots, M$, to the boundary parts $\Gamma_{(i+1)j}^{\text{front}}$ and $\Gamma_{ij}^{\text{right}}$, respectively.

We then define the operator 
\[
A := \begin{pmatrix} A^1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & A^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A^3 \end{pmatrix},
\]
(3.21)

where 
\[
A^1 := \begin{pmatrix} A^1_0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & A_{N-1}^1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad A^1_1 := \begin{pmatrix} A^1_0 \\ \vdots \\ A^1_M \end{pmatrix},
\]
(3.22)

\[
A^2 := \begin{pmatrix} A^2_0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & A_N^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad A^2_1 := \begin{pmatrix} A^2_0 \\ \vdots \\ A^2_M \end{pmatrix},
\]
(3.23)
\[
A^3 := \begin{pmatrix} A^3_{N0} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & A^3_{NM} \end{pmatrix},
\] (3.24)

Let us further define
\[
\chi := \begin{pmatrix} \chi^1 \\ \chi^2_i \\ \chi^3 \end{pmatrix},
\] (3.25)

with
\[
\chi^1 := \begin{pmatrix} \chi^1_0 \\ \vdots \\ \chi^1_{(N-1)} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \chi^1_i := \begin{pmatrix} \chi^1_{i0} \\ \vdots \\ \chi^1_{iM} \end{pmatrix},
\] (3.26)
\[
\chi^2 := \begin{pmatrix} \chi^2_1 \\ \vdots \\ \chi^2_N \end{pmatrix}, \quad \chi^2_i := \begin{pmatrix} \chi^2_{i0} \\ \vdots \\ \chi^2_{iM} \end{pmatrix},
\] (3.27)
\[
\chi^3 := \begin{pmatrix} \chi^3_{N0} \\ \vdots \\ \chi^3_{NM} \end{pmatrix},
\] (3.28)

where
\[
\chi^1_{ij} := \begin{pmatrix} \psi^a_{ij} \\ \phi^a_{ij} \end{pmatrix},
\] (3.29)
\[
\chi^2_{ij} := \begin{pmatrix} \psi^b_{ij} \\ \phi^b_{ij} \end{pmatrix},
\] (3.30)

and
\[
\chi^3_{ij} := \psi^a_{ij}.
\] (3.31)

In addition, we define the matrix \( M \) by \(3.21\) with \( A \leftrightarrow M \), and the matrices \( M^k \) and \( M^k_i \) by \(3.22\)–\(3.24\) with \( A \leftrightarrow M \), \( k = 1, 2, 3 \), where we have set
\[
M^1_{ij} := \rho_{ij} + \rho_{(i+1)j},
\] (3.32)
\[
M^2_{ij} := \rho_{ij} + \rho_{ij+1},
\] (3.33)
\[
M^3_{Nj} := 1.
\] (3.34)

Finally, we define
\[
H := \begin{pmatrix} H^1 \\ H^2 \\ H^3 \end{pmatrix},
\] (3.35)

with
\[
H^1 := \begin{pmatrix} H^1_{0} \\ \vdots \\ H^1_{(N-1)} \end{pmatrix}, \quad H^1_i := \begin{pmatrix} H^1_{i0} \\ \vdots \\ H^1_{iM} \end{pmatrix},
\] (3.36)
\[
H^2 := \begin{pmatrix}
H_1^2 \\
\vdots \\
H_N^2
\end{pmatrix}, 
H_i^2 := \begin{pmatrix}
H_{i0}^2 \\
\vdots \\
H_{iM}^2
\end{pmatrix},
\]

(3.37)

\[
H^3 := \begin{pmatrix}
H_{N0}^3 \\
\vdots \\
H_{NM}^3
\end{pmatrix},
\]

(3.38)

where

\[
H_{ij}^1 := \begin{pmatrix}
f_{ij} \\
g_{ij}
\end{pmatrix},
\]

(3.39)

\[
H_{ij}^2 := \begin{pmatrix}
f'_{ij} \\
g'_{ij}
\end{pmatrix},
\]

(3.40)

and

\[
H_{Nj}^3 := f_{Nj}.
\]

(3.41)

We can now write (B) in the abbreviated form

\[
M\chi - A\chi = 2H.
\]

(3.42)

From the above definition, it is easily seen that \(A\) is a compact operator, since each of its components is compact \([9]\). Then, we have the following main theorem:

**Theorem 3.2.** The transmission problem (A) has a unique solution.

**Proof.** To prove the theorem, it suffices to show that (3.42) is uniquely solvable. Let \(\chi\) be a solution to the homogeneous equation \(M\chi - A\chi = 0\). Then each \(u_{ij}, i = 0, 1, \ldots, N, j = 0, 1, \ldots, M,\) solves the homogeneous form of problem (A). Hence by Theorem 3.1 we have that \(u_{ij} = 0\) in \(D_{ij}, i = 0, 1, \ldots, N, j = 0, 1, \ldots, M.\) We now compute the jumps across \(\Gamma_{(i+1)j}^{\text{front}}\) and \(\Gamma_{ij}^{\text{right}}:\)

\[
\begin{aligned}
&\begin{cases}
\frac{\partial u_{ij}^+}{\partial \nu} - \frac{\partial u_{ij}^-}{\partial \nu} = -\rho_{ij} \phi_{ij}^a
\end{cases}
\end{aligned}
\]

on \(\Gamma_{(i+1)j}^{\text{front}}\) (3.43)

and

\[
\begin{aligned}
&\begin{cases}
\frac{\partial u_{(i+1)j}^+}{\partial \nu} - \frac{\partial u_{(i+1)j}^-}{\partial \nu} = \frac{\partial u_{(i+1)j}^+}{\partial \nu} = -\rho_{(i+1)j} \phi_{ij}^a
\end{cases}
\end{aligned}
\]

on \(\Gamma_{(i+1)j}^{\text{front}}\) (3.44)

for \(i = 0, 1, \ldots, N - 1, j = 0, 1, \ldots, M,\)

\[
\begin{aligned}
&\begin{cases}
\frac{\partial u_{ij}^+}{\partial \nu} - \frac{\partial u_{ij}^-}{\partial \nu} = \frac{\partial u_{ij}^+}{\partial \nu}
\end{cases}
\end{aligned}
\]

on \(\Gamma_{ij}^{\text{right}}\) (3.45)
and
\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{\partial u^r_{i(j+1)}}{\partial \nu} - \frac{\partial u^l_{i(j+1)}}{\partial \nu} = -\frac{\partial u^l_{i(j+1)}}{\partial \nu} &= -\rho_{(i+1)j} \phi^b_{ij}, \\
\frac{\partial u^r_{i(j+1)}}{\partial \nu} - \frac{\partial u^l_{i(j+1)}}{\partial \nu} &= -\rho_{(i+1)j} \phi^b_{ij} \\
\end{align*}
\]
for \(i = 1, 2, \ldots, N, j = 0, 1, \ldots, M, \) and
\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{\partial u^+_{Nj}}{\partial \nu} - \frac{\partial u^-_{Nj}}{\partial \nu} = -u^-_{Nj} &= \psi^a_{Nj}, \\
\frac{\partial u^+_{Nj}}{\partial \nu} - \frac{\partial u^-_{Nj}}{\partial \nu} &= \rho_{(N+1)j} \psi^a_{Nj} \\
\end{align*}
\]
for \(j = 0, 1, \ldots, M. \) We note that \(u^\pm(x) := \lim_{h \to 0^+} u(x \pm h \nu(x)) \) on \(\Gamma^\text{front} \) and \(u^\text{right}(x) := \lim_{h \to 0^-} u(x \pm h \nu(x)) \) on \(\Gamma^\text{right}, \) where we have dropped the indices \(i, j\) for convenience.

By now eliminating \(\psi^a_{ij}, \phi^a_{ij}, \) and \(\psi^b_{ij}, \phi^b_{ij}\) in (3.43)–(3.47), we obtain
\[
\begin{align*}
\begin{cases}
-u^+_{ij} + u^+_{(i+1)j} = 0 \\
\rho_{(i+1)j} \frac{\partial u^+_{(i+1)j}}{\partial \nu} + \rho_{ij} \frac{\partial u^+_{ij}}{\partial \nu} = 0
\end{cases}
\end{align*}
\]
for \(i = 0, 1, \ldots, N - 1, j = 0, 1, \ldots, M, \) and
\[
\begin{align*}
\begin{cases}
u^r_{ij} + u^l_{i(j+1)} = 0 \\
\rho_{ij} \frac{\partial u^r_{ij}}{\partial \nu} + \rho_{ij} \frac{\partial u^l_{ij}}{\partial \nu} = 0
\end{cases}
\end{align*}
\]
for \(i = 1, 2, \ldots, N, j = 0, 1, \ldots, M. \)

Let \(w_{ij}\) be a solution to the Helmholtz equation \(\triangle w_{ij} + k_{ij}^2 w_{ij} = 0, \) in \(D_{ij}, \) for \(i = 0, 1, \ldots, N, j = 0, 1, \ldots, M, \) satisfying
\[
\begin{align*}
w_{0j} &= -u^+_{ij} \quad \text{on } \Gamma^\text{front}_{ij} \\
\end{align*}
\]
for \(0, 1, \ldots, M\) and
\[
\begin{align*}
w_{ij} &= \begin{cases}
u^-(i-1)j & \text{on } \Gamma^\text{front}_{ij} \\
-u^r_{ij} & \text{on } \Gamma^\text{right}_{ij} \\
-u^+_{ij} & \text{on } \Gamma^\text{front}_{(i+1)j} \\
u^r_{ij} & \text{on } \Gamma^\text{right}_{ij}
\end{cases}
\end{align*}
\]
for \(i = 1, 2, \ldots, N, j = 0, 1, \ldots, M, \) where we have set \(u^+_{(N+1)j} := 0. \) Then, by conditions (3.48), (3.49), we have that the \(w_{ij}\) also satisfy
\[
\begin{align*}
\begin{cases}
\frac{\partial w_{ij}}{\partial \nu} - \rho_{ij} \frac{\partial w_{ij}}{\partial \nu} = 0 \\
\rho_{(i+1)j} \frac{\partial w_{ij}}{\partial \nu} - \rho_{ij} \frac{\partial w_{ij}}{\partial \nu} = 0
\end{cases}
\end{align*}
\]
for \(i = 0, 1, \ldots, N - 1, j = 0, 1, \ldots, M, \)
\[
\begin{align*}
w_{Nj} &= 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma^\text{front}_{(N+1)j},
\end{align*}
\]
for \(j = 0, 1, \ldots, M, \) and
\[
\begin{align*}
\begin{cases}
\frac{\partial w_{ij}}{\partial \nu} - \rho_{ij} \frac{\partial w_{ij}}{\partial \nu} = 0 \\
\rho_{ij} \frac{\partial w_{ij}}{\partial \nu} - \rho_{ij} \frac{\partial w_{ij}}{\partial \nu} = 0
\end{cases}
\end{align*}
\]
for \(j = 0, 1, \ldots, M, \) and
\[
\begin{align*}
w_{ij} - w_{ij} &= 0 \\
\begin{cases}
\frac{\partial w_{ij}}{\partial \nu} - \rho_{ij} \frac{\partial w_{ij}}{\partial \nu} = 0 \\
\rho_{ij} \frac{\partial w_{ij}}{\partial \nu} - \rho_{ij} \frac{\partial w_{ij}}{\partial \nu} = 0
\end{cases}
\end{align*}
\]
for \(j = 0, 1, \ldots, M, \) and
for \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, N, \ j = 0, 1, \ldots, M \). Therefore, by Theorem 3.1, we have that each 
\( w_{ij} \) vanishes in \( D_{ij} \), \( i = 0, 1, \ldots, N, \ j = 0, 1, \ldots, M \), and hence, by (3.51), we also
have that 
\( u^+_{ij} = 0 \) on \( \Gamma_{ij}^{\text{front}} \) for \( i = 0, 1, \ldots, N-1, \ j = 0, 1, \ldots, M \) and 
\( u^r_{ij} = 0 \) on \( \Gamma_{ij}^{\text{right}} \), \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, N, \ j = 0, 1, \ldots, M \). We thus obtain that each 
\( \psi_{ij}^a, \phi_{ij}^a \), vanishes for \( i = 0, 1, \ldots, N-1, \ j = 0, 1, \ldots, M \), and that each 
\( \psi_{ij}^b, \phi_{ij}^b \) vanishes for \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, N, \ j = 0, 1, \ldots, M \). Therefore, it remains to show that 
\( \psi_{ij}^a = 0 \) for every \( j = 0, 1, \ldots, M \). To this end, by using conditions (3.47) and applying Green’s first
theorem, we obtain

\[
\sum_{j=0}^{M} i \eta_j \int_{\Gamma_{Nj}^{\text{front}}} | \psi_{ij}^a(y) |^2 ds(y) = \sum_{j=0}^{M} \int_{\Gamma_{Nj}^{\text{front}}} \frac{\partial u_{Nj}^+(y)}{\partial \nu(y)} \, ds(y) \\
= -k_{Nj}^2 \int_{\Omega_c} | u_{Nj} |^2 dv + \int_{\Omega_c} | \nabla u_{Nj} |^2 dv. \quad (3.55)
\]

By taking imaginary parts in (3.55) and taking into account that \( \eta_j \) is real, we obtain
that \( \psi_{ij}^a = 0 \) for \( j = 0, 1, \ldots, M \). We thus have \( \chi = 0 \), and by the Riesz-Fredholm
theory, (3.42) has a unique solution.

4. Conclusions. In the preceding sections, we proved the uniqueness and existence
theorems for the finite case of the multi-layered, polarly subdivided scatterer. It would,
thus, be the subject matter of a future work to establish the aforementioned results
for the case of infinite layers and subdivisions, which is of further mathematical and
physical interest. The extension of this method to the 3-dimensional case is relatively
straightforward; while the calculations are more complex, the main principle remains
the same. For example, in the 3-dimensional case, the multi-layered scatterer would be
subdivided along the polar and azimuthal angles, forming some six-sided regions, \( D_{ijl} \).

It is interesting to note that this scattering problem is a very general one. That
is, it can potentially reduce to a number of direct acoustic scattering problems. For
instance, with zero layers, this problem can be reduced to the case of the scattering
by an impenetrable obstacle, while, with just one very thin layer, we can approximate
an impedance problem by solving a transmission one. Finally, it is straightforward to
see that this problem can also reduce to the simple multi-layered scatterer with equal
densities on each layer.

From a physical perspective, this method and potential extensions of it have a plethora
of applications ranging from space exploration to electroencephalography and brain tu-
mor detection, to oil and metal extraction, to nuke detection to passenger screening,
etc.

Of course, this method just treats the direct acoustic problem. The extension of this
method to the electromagnetic and elastic problems as well as the corresponding inverse
problems would be of further interest in terms of real-world applications.
REFERENCES


