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**THE MONGE-AMPÈRE PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION**

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**Introduction.** Recently the study of the propagation of a plane shock wave moving into a quiet atmosphere, and leaving a nonisentropic disturbance behind it, has been reduced [6] to the solution of a Problem of Cauchy for a Monge-Ampère equation of the type

$$(1) \quad rt - s^2 + \lambda^2 = 0, \quad \lambda = X(x)Y(y).$$

The present paper is devoted to a study of the Problem of Cauchy for this partial differential equation with a view to later applications to shock propagation.

In the first section we determine those functions  $X(x)$ ,  $Y(y)$  for which (1) has intermediate integrals. A summary of the results will be found in the seven cases in Theorem 1.

The linearization (without approximation) of the seven equations found in § 1 is carried out in § 2 with results summarized in Theorem 2. The individual results (particularly on cases 3, 5) are of interest for the applications in mind.

The solution of the Problem of Cauchy is taken up in § 3 and reduced to the solution of the Problem of Cauchy for linear partial differential equations. A summary of the results will be found in Theorem 3.

**1. Intermediate integrals.** In this section we investigate the intermediate integrals of (1).

If either  $X$  or  $Y$  is zero, or both are constant, then  $\lambda = \text{const.}$ , and (1) has intermediate integrals [3, pp. 154-155]

$$q - \lambda x = \phi(p + \lambda y), \quad q + \lambda x = \psi(p - \lambda y),$$

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involving arbitrary functions. These simple cases will be excluded in our search for functions  $X, Y$  for which (1) has intermediate integrals.

According to classical theory [3, p.58], based on the differential systems

$$\begin{aligned}
 dz - pdx - qdy &= 0, & dz - pdx - qdy &= 0, \\
 (2) \quad dp + \lambda dy &= 0, & (2') \quad dp - \lambda dy &= 0, \\
 dq - \lambda dx &= 0, & dq + \lambda dx &= 0,
 \end{aligned}$$

for the two families of characteristic strips, (1) will have an intermediate integral

$$V(x, y, z, p, q) = \text{const.}$$

if, and only if,  $V$  is a simultaneous solution either of

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3) \quad V_x + pV_z + \lambda V_q &= 0, & \text{or of } (3') \quad V_x + pV_z - \lambda V_q &= 0, \\
 V_y + qV_z - \lambda V_p &= 0, & V_y + qV_z + \lambda V_p &= 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Any solution of the first equation in (3) must have the form

$$V = F(u, v, y, p), \quad u = z - px, \quad v = q - X_1 Y, \quad X_1 = \int X dx,$$

and will be a solution of the second equation if and only if

$$(4) \quad x\lambda \cdot YF_u - X \cdot YF_p + X_1 \cdot (YF_u - Y'F_v) + F_y + vF_u \equiv 0$$

is an identity in the independent variables  $x, u, v, y, p$ .

The manifolds

$$\begin{aligned}
 (5) \quad \text{M: } F_1 &= x\lambda, \quad F_2 = X, \quad F_3 = X_1, \quad F_4 = 1, \\
 \text{N: } G_1 &= YF_u, \quad G_2 = -YF_p, \quad G_3 = YF_u - Y'F_v, \quad G_4 = F_y + vF_u,
 \end{aligned}$$

are at most one and four dimensional, respectively, with the bilinear condition

$$F_1 G_1 + F_2 G_2 + F_3 G_3 + F_4 G_4 = 0$$

imposed on them, in view of (4). For this condition to hold, it is necessary and sufficient<sup>1</sup> that  $MCS_m, NCT_n$ , where  $S_m, T_n$  are linear orthogonal subspaces defined by

<sup>1</sup>This follows as a special case of a general theorem which will be proved elsewhere [7].

$$S_m: \sum_{\alpha=1}^4 b_{k\alpha} F_\alpha = 0 \quad (k = 1, \dots, n);$$

$$T_n: \sum_{\alpha=1}^4 a_{i\alpha} G_\alpha = 0 \quad (i = 1, \dots, m; m + n = 4),$$

the matrices

$$\mathbf{A} = || a_{i\alpha} ||, \quad \mathbf{B} = || b_{k\alpha} ||,$$

having ranks  $m, n$ , respectively. The linear subspaces  $S_m, T_n$  are orthogonal if, and only if, the composite matrix  $\mathbf{C}$  formed by taking the  $m$  rows of  $\mathbf{A}$  followed by the  $n$  rows of  $\mathbf{B}$  has the following property; the  $m$ -rowed minors in  $\mathbf{A}$  are all proportional to their complimentary minors in  $\mathbf{B}$ , the indices of the columns of  $\mathbf{A}$  followed by the indices of the columns of  $\mathbf{B}$  forming an even permutation of 1, 2, 3, 4.

There are five cases to consider as  $m = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ .

I.  $m = 0, n = 4$ . This case does not arise, as it requires

$$F_1 = F_2 = F_3 = F_4 = 0,$$

whereas actually  $F_4 = 1$  in (5).

II.  $m = 1, n = 3$ . Here

$$S_1: \frac{F_1}{a_{11}} = \frac{F_2}{a_{12}} = \frac{F_3}{a_{13}} = \frac{F_4}{a_{14}}; \quad T_3: \sum_{\alpha=1}^4 a_{1\alpha} G_\alpha = 0,$$

and  $T_3$  is a hyperplane with  $S_1$  the normal to  $S_3$  at the origin. From (5) the equations of  $S_1$  imply that  $X, X_1$  are both constant and therefore  $X \equiv 0, \lambda \equiv 0$ , an excluded case.

III.  $m = 2, n = 2$ . Here

$$S_2: \sum_{\alpha=1}^4 b_{k\alpha} F_\alpha = 0 \quad (k = 1, 2); \quad T_2: \sum_{\alpha=1}^4 a_{i\alpha} G_\alpha = 0 \quad (i = 1, 2)$$

are linear orthogonal two-spaces, and

$$\frac{A_{12}}{B_{34}} = \frac{A_{13}}{B_{42}} = \frac{A_{14}}{B_{23}} = \frac{A_{23}}{B_{14}} = \frac{A_{42}}{B_{13}} = \frac{A_{34}}{B_{12}},$$

where  $A_{ij}$ ,  $B_{ij}$  denote the determinants formed from the  $i$ th and  $j$ th columns of  $\mathbf{A}$ ,  $\mathbf{B}$ . From (5) the equations of  $S_2$  yield simultaneous equations

$$(b_{11}x + b_{12})X + b_{13}X_1 + b_{14} = 0, \quad (b_{21}x + b_{22})X + b_{23}X_1 + b_{24} = 0,$$

for  $X$ ,  $X_1$ , so that

$$X = \frac{B_{34}}{B_{13}x + B_{23}}, \quad X_1 = \frac{B_{41}x + B_{42}}{B_{13}x + B_{23}},$$

the case in which all  $B_{ij}$ , except  $B_{12}$ , are zero being rejected, since it implies  $X \equiv 0$ . When the second equation is differentiated, two simultaneous equations result for  $X$  which can subsist only if  $X = \text{const.}$

We accordingly place

$$X = a \neq 0, \quad X_1 = a_0 + ax \quad (a_0, a = \text{const.}),$$

in (4), which implies two simultaneous partial differential equations

$$2YF_u - Y'F_v = 0, \quad (v + a_0Y)F_u - a_0Y'F_v + F_y - aYF_p = 0,$$

for  $F$ . If  $Y \neq 0$ , the general solution of the first is

$$F = G(r, y, p), \quad r = 2v + Lu, \quad L = \frac{Y'}{Y} \neq 0.$$

and the result

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}rL - a_0Y'\right)G_r + G_y - aYG_p + u\left(L' - \frac{1}{2}L^2\right)G_r \equiv 0,$$

of substituting this in the second leads to

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}rL - a_0Y'\right)G_r + G_y - aYG_p = 0; \quad G_r = 0 \text{ or } 2L' - L^2 = 0.$$

Under the alternative  $G_r = 0$ , we arrive at an obvious intermediate integral

$$(6) \quad V = p + aY_1 = \text{const.}, \quad Y_1 = \int Y dy,$$

valid for any function  $Y(y)$ ; with the second alternative, necessarily

$$Y = b(y - y_0)^{-2} \quad (b, y_0 = \text{const.}),$$

and we have two intermediate integrals

$$p - ab(y - y_0)^{-1} = \text{const.}, \quad (y - y_0)r + 2a_0b(y - y_0)^{-1} = \text{const.},$$

the first of which repeats (6), with the second becoming

$$px + q(y - y_0) - z - \frac{abx}{y - y_0} = \text{const.}$$

in the original variables. If the first is multiplied by an arbitrary constant  $x_0$ , and subtracted from the second, a more symmetric form

$$p(x - x_0) + q(y - y_0) - z - ab \frac{x - x_0}{y - y_0} = \text{const.}$$

results for the second.

With  $ab = k$ , for  $\lambda = k(y - y_0)^{-2}$  equation (1) consequently has the intermediate integrals

$$p(x - x_0) + q(y - y_0) - z - k \frac{x - x_0}{y - y_0} = \phi \left( p - \frac{k}{y - y_0} \right),$$

$$p(x - x_0) + q(y - y_0) - z + k \frac{x - x_0}{y - y_0} = \psi \left( p + \frac{k}{y - y_0} \right),$$

involving arbitrary functions  $\phi, \psi$ , the second intermediate integral arising from (3').

IV.  $m = 3, n = 1$ . Here

$$S_3: \sum_{\alpha=1}^4 b_{1\alpha} F_\alpha = 0; \quad T_1: \frac{G_1}{b_{11}} = \frac{G_2}{b_{12}} = \frac{G_3}{b_{13}} = \frac{G_4}{b_{14}},$$

and  $T_1$  is the normal to the hyperplane  $S_3$  at the origin. From (5) the functions  $X, Y, F$  must meet the conditions

$$(b_{11}x + b_{12})X_1' + b_{13}X_1 + b_{14} = 0, \quad \frac{YF_u}{b_{11}} = \frac{-YF_p}{b_{12}} = \frac{YF_u - Y'F_v}{b_{13}} = \frac{F_y + vF_u}{b_{14}},$$

and we begin with the case

$$(i) \quad b_{11} \neq 0.$$

There is no loss in generality if we write

$$b_{11} = 1, \quad b_{12} = -x_0, \quad b_{13} = -m, \quad b_{14} = -a_0,$$

to put the above equations in the form

$$(x - x_0)X_1' - mX_1 - a_0 = 0,$$

$$x_0 F_u - F_p = 0, \quad (m + 1)F_u - LF_v = 0, \quad (v + a_0 Y)F_u + F_y = 0,$$

where we recall  $L = Y'/Y$ . We find

$$X = a_0(x - x_0)^{-1} \quad (m = 0); \quad X = a(x - x_0)^{m-1} \quad (a = \text{const.}, m \neq 0),$$

from the first of these equations. The last three are simultaneous equations for  $Y, F$ . Any solution of the first must have the form

$$F = G(r, v, y), \quad r = u + x_0 p,$$

which, substituted in the remaining two, yields simultaneous equations for  $G$ :

$$(m + 1)G_r - LG_v = 0, \quad (v + a_0 Y)G_r + G_y = 0.$$

If  $m = -1$ , either  $G_v \equiv 0$  to imply  $G = \text{const.}$ , or  $L = 0$  to imply

$$X = a(x - x_0)^{-2}, \quad Y = b, \quad \lambda = k(x - x_0)^{-2}, \quad k = ab,$$

and the existence of intermediate integrals

$$p(x - x_0) + q(y - y_0) - z + k \frac{y - y_0}{x - x_0} = \phi \left( q + \frac{k}{x - x_0} \right),$$

$$p(x - x_0) + q(y - y_0) - z - k \frac{y - y_0}{x - x_0} = \psi \left( q - \frac{k}{x - x_0} \right),$$

analogous to those found in III.

If  $m \neq -1$ , for the general solution

$$G = H(s, y), \quad s = (m + 1)v + Lr,$$

of the first equation for  $G$  to yield a solution of the second, requires that the identity

$$[s + a_0(m + 1)Y]LH_s + (m + 1)H_y + r[(m + 1)L' - L^2]H_s = 0$$

hold. For  $H \neq \text{const.}$  this implies

$$(m + 1)L' - L^2 = 0, \quad [s + a_0(m + 1)Y]LH_s + (m + 1)H_y = 0,$$

the first of which yields

$$Y = \frac{b}{(y - y_0)^{m+1}} \quad (b, y_0 = \text{const.}),$$

so that the second becomes

$$H_y - \left[ \frac{s}{y - y_0} + \frac{a_0 b (m + 1)}{(y - y_0)^{m+2}} \right] H_s = 0.$$

This yields the intermediate integrals

$$(y - y_0)s - \frac{a_0 b (m + 1)}{m (y - y_0)^m} = \text{const.} \quad (m \neq 0),$$

$$(y - y_0)s + a_0 b \log (y - y_0) = \text{const.} \quad (m = 0),$$

or, in the original variables, the intermediate integrals<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>If we write the intermediate integral for  $m \neq 0$  in the form  $p(x - x_0) + q(y - y_0) - z - kn(r^{1/n} - 1) = \text{const.}$ ,  $r = (x - x_0)/(y - y_0)$ ,  $n = 1/m$ , and let  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , this intermediate integral approaches the one for  $m = 0$ , in view of

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n(r^{1/n} - 1) = \log r,$$

for which see [4, pp. 139-140].

$$p(x - x_0) + q(y - y_0) - z - \frac{k}{m} \left( \frac{x - x_0}{y - y_0} \right)^m = \text{const.} \quad (m \neq 0),$$

$$p(x - x_0) + q(y - y_0) - z + \frac{k}{m} \left( \frac{x - x_0}{y - y_0} \right)^m = \text{const.} \quad (m \neq 0),$$

$$p(x - x_0) + q(y - y_0) - z - k \log \frac{x - x_0}{y - y_0} = \text{const.} \quad (m = 0),$$

$$p(x - x_0) + q(y - y_0) - z + k \log \frac{x - x_0}{y - y_0} = \text{const.} \quad (m = 0),$$

of (1) for

$$\lambda = k \frac{(x - x_0)^{m-1}}{(y - y_0)^{m+1}} \quad (k = ab, \quad m \neq 0),$$

$$\lambda = k \frac{(x - x_0)^{-1}}{y - y_0} \quad (k = a_0 b, \quad m = 0),$$

the second arising from (3').

The next case to consider is

$$(ii) \quad b_{11} = 0, \quad b_{12} \neq 0.$$

Here  $F = F(v, y, p)$ , and we can write

$$b_{12} = 1, \quad b_{13} = -m, \quad b_{14} = c,$$

so that  $X, Y, F$  satisfy the equations

$$X_1' - mX_1 + c = 0, \quad F_y + cYF_p = 0, \quad LF_v + mF_p = 0.$$

Since  $m = 0$  implies  $X = \text{const.}$ , treated in III, we assume  $m \neq 0$ , and obtain

$$X = ae^{mx} \quad (a = \text{const.})$$

from the first equation. From the second equation we get

$$F = G(r, v) \text{ with } r = p - cY_1,$$

and for this to satisfy the third, necessarily  $L = n = \text{const.}$ , so that we have

$$Y = be^{ny} \quad (b = \text{const.}),$$

and the intermediate integral  $nr - mv = \text{const.}$ ; or, in the original variables,

$$np - mq + ke^{mx}e^{ny} = \text{const.}, \quad np - mq - ke^{mx}e^{ny} = \text{const.},$$

are intermediate integrals of (1) for

$$\lambda = ke^{mx}e^{ny} \quad (k = ab).$$

The last possibility is

$$(iii) \quad b_{11} = b_{12} = 0, \quad b_{13} \neq 0.$$

Here  $X_1 = \text{const.}$ , so  $X \equiv 0$ , which has been excluded.

V.  $m = 4, n = 0$ . This requires  $G_1 = G_2 = G_3 = G_4 = 0$ ; if we exclude  $Y = \text{const.}$ , as previously treated, this can only arise if  $F \equiv \text{const.}$

If we observe that the form of (1) is left invariant under the transformations in the group

$$x' = x - x_0, \quad y' = y - y_0; \quad x' = y, \quad y' = x; \quad x' = kx, \quad y' = ly,$$

the results of this section can be summed up in the theorem:

**THEOREM 1.** *The Monge-Ampère equation*

$$rt - s^2 + \lambda^2 = 0, \quad \lambda = X(x)Y(y),$$

*has intermediate integrals only in the following cases:*

$\lambda$	<i>Intermediate Integrals</i>
1. 0	$q = \phi(p)$
2. 1	$q - x = \phi(p + y), \quad q + x = \psi(p - y)$
3. $Y(y) \neq 0$	$p + Y_1 = \text{const.}, \quad p - Y_1 = \text{const.}, \quad Y_1 = \int Y dy,$
4. $y^{-2}$	$px + qy - z - \frac{x}{y} = \phi\left(p - \frac{1}{y}\right), \quad px + qy - z + \frac{x}{y} = \psi\left(p + \frac{1}{y}\right),$

$$5. \frac{x^{m-1}}{y^{m+1}} \quad (m \neq 0) \quad px + qy - z - \frac{1}{m} \left( \frac{x}{y} \right)^m = \text{const.}, \quad px + qy - z + \frac{1}{m} \left( \frac{x}{y} \right)^m = \text{const.},$$

$$6. \frac{x^{-1}}{y} \quad px + qy - z - \log \frac{x}{y} = \text{const.}, \quad px + qy - z + \log \frac{x}{y} = \text{const.},$$

$$7. e^x e^y \quad p - q + e^x e^y = \text{const.}, \quad p - q - e^x e^y = \text{const.},$$

and in those which arise from these under translations, reflections in the line  $y = x$ , and dilations in the  $(x, y)$ -plane.

That each solution of the partial differential equation of first order represented by an intermediate integral is actually a solution of the appropriate Monge-Ampère equation may be verified directly by differentiating the intermediate integral partially with respect to  $x$  and  $y$ , and calculating  $rt - s^2$ .

**2. Linearization of the Monge-Ampère equation.** The integration of (1) for all cases except the first in Theorem 1 will be reduced to the integration of linear partial differential equations of at most the second order and quadratures.

The differential system (2), (2') is replaced by an apparently over-determined system

$$(7) \quad \begin{aligned} z_\beta - px_\beta - qy_\beta &= 0, & z_\alpha - px_\alpha - qy_\alpha &= 0, \\ p_\beta + \lambda y_\beta &= 0, & p_\alpha - \lambda y_\alpha &= 0, & \lambda &= \lambda(x, y, z, p, q), \\ q_\beta - \lambda x_\beta &= 0, & q_\alpha + \lambda x_\alpha &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

of six equations for five unknown functions

$$(8) \quad x = x(\alpha, \beta), \quad y = y(\alpha, \beta), \quad z = z(\alpha, \beta), \quad p = p(\alpha, \beta), \quad q = q(\alpha, \beta),$$

of the characteristic variables<sup>3</sup>  $\alpha, \beta$ . Actually, if one supposes that the quantity

$$A = z_\alpha - px_\alpha - qy_\alpha$$

vanishes along a curve  $C$  drawn on a solution surface  $S$  defined parametrically by the first three equations in (8), provided the curves  $\alpha = \text{const.}$  on  $S$  cut  $C$ ,

<sup>3</sup>The idea of introducing the characteristic variables  $\alpha, \beta$  as independent variables to replace the characteristic differential system (2) by the system of partial differential equations (7) has been ascribed to Hans Lewy in a footnote on p. 327 of [1]. According to Goursat [3, pp. 106-116], the idea goes back to Ampère. Lewy was the first to use them, however, in the proof of the existence and uniqueness of the solution to Cauchy's problem when intermediate integrals do not exist.

it is easy to show that  $A \equiv 0$  on  $S$ ; for the remaining equations in (7) imply [1, pp.329-330]  $A_\beta \equiv 0$ , and therefore, since  $A = 0$  on  $C$ , it vanishes everywhere on  $S$ .

If  $\lambda = \lambda(x, y, p, q)$ , the four equations in the last two rows of (7) form a determined system for the unknown functions  $x, y, p, q$  of  $\alpha, \beta$ . Corresponding to any solution

$$(9) \quad x = x(\alpha, \beta), \quad y = y(\alpha, \beta), \quad p = p(\alpha, \beta), \quad q = q(\alpha, \beta)$$

of this system, the first row in (7) yields

$$(10) \quad z = \int \frac{p^2}{\lambda} \left\{ - \left( \frac{q}{p} \right)_\alpha d\alpha + \left( \frac{q}{p} \right)_\beta d\beta \right\} = z(\alpha, \beta),$$

when  $x_\alpha, y_\alpha, x_\beta, y_\beta$  are eliminated with the aid of the remaining equations. Consequently

$$\left( \frac{q}{p} \right)_\alpha = - \Lambda z_\alpha, \quad \left( \frac{q}{p} \right)_\beta = \Lambda z_\beta \quad (\Lambda = \lambda/p^2),$$

so that  $z(\alpha, \beta)$  is a solution of the linear equation

$$(11) \quad z_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{\Lambda_\beta}{2\Lambda} z_\alpha + \frac{\Lambda_\alpha}{2\Lambda} z_\beta = 0,$$

the function  $\Lambda(\alpha, \beta)$  depending, in general, on the selection of the solution (9).

It is worth noting that  $z(\alpha, \beta)$  is a solution of the linear equation (11) for  $\lambda = \lambda(x, y, p, q)$ , i.e., this result is not restricted to the special form  $\lambda = X(x)Y(y)$ .

The treatment of the various cases will be based on the following lemma.

LEMMA. *The integration of the system*

$$v_\beta - \kappa u_\beta = 0, \quad v_\alpha + \kappa u_\alpha = 0, \quad \kappa = \kappa(\alpha - \beta),$$

is equivalent to the integration of either one of the pair of conjugate [5] linear equations

$$L(u) = u_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{\kappa'}{2\kappa} (u_\alpha - u_\beta) = 0, \quad M(v) = v_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{\kappa'}{2\kappa} (v_\alpha - v_\beta) = 0.$$

If  $u[v]$  is a solution of  $L(u) = 0$  [ $M(v) = 0$ ], its conjugate function  $v[u]$  may be obtained by quadratures.

We begin with:

*Case 1.* Here (1) is the equation for the developable surfaces, and its integration is well known.

*Case 2.* Instead of (7) we have

$$(12) \quad \begin{aligned} z_\beta - px_\beta - qy_\beta &= 0, & z_\alpha - px_\alpha - qy_\alpha &= 0, \\ p + y &= \alpha, & p - y &= \beta, \\ q_\beta - x_\beta &= 0, & q_\alpha + x_\alpha &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

From the intermediate integrals

$$p + y = \alpha_0, \quad p - y = \beta_0, \quad \alpha_0, \beta_0 = \text{const.},$$

we obtain solutions

$$(13) \quad z = \alpha_0 x - xy + G(y), \quad z = \beta_0 x + xy + G(y),$$

involving an arbitrary function  $G(y)$ .

The integration of the system in the third row of (12) is equivalent to the integration of either of the linear equations

$$L(x) = x_{\alpha\beta} = 0, \quad M(q) = q_{\alpha\beta} = 0,$$

and for (9) we find the formulas of Goursat [3, pp. 154-155]

$$x = \frac{1}{2} [\psi'(\beta) - \phi'(\alpha)], \quad y = \frac{1}{2} (\alpha - \beta), \quad p = \frac{1}{2} (\alpha + \beta), \quad q = \frac{1}{2} [\phi'(\alpha) + \psi'(\beta)],$$

where  $\phi(\alpha)$ ,  $\psi(\beta)$  are arbitrary functions. Carrying out the quadratures in (10) yields

$$(15) \quad z = \frac{1}{4} (\alpha + \beta) [\psi'(\beta) - \phi'(\alpha)] + \frac{1}{2} [\phi(\alpha) - \psi(\beta)],$$

a solution <sup>4</sup>, containing two arbitrary functions, of

$$z_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{z_{\alpha} + z_{\beta}}{\alpha + \beta} = 0,$$

to which (11) reduces.

The solutions (13) are not contained among the solutions (14), (15). For example, for the first solution in (13) the sum  $p + y$  is constant over the entire solution surface; but for a solution (14), (15), while the sum  $p + y = \alpha$  is constant along each characteristic  $\alpha = \text{const.}$ , it varies from one characteristic to another.

Case 3. System (7) is replaced by

$$(16) \quad \begin{aligned} z_{\beta} - px_{\beta} - qy_{\beta} &= 0, & z_{\alpha} - px_{\alpha} - qy_{\alpha} &= 0, \\ p + Y_1 &= \alpha, & p - Y_1 &= \beta, \\ q_{\beta} - Yx_{\beta} &= 0, & q_{\alpha} + Yx_{\alpha} &= 0, \end{aligned} \quad (Y_1 = \int Y dy)$$

The intermediate integrals yield solutions

$$(17) \quad z = \alpha_0 x - Y_1 x + G(y), \quad z = \beta_0 x + Y_1 x + G(y)$$

containing an arbitrary function  $G(y)$ .

To obtain other solutions we observe that

$$Y_1 = \frac{1}{2}(\alpha - \beta),$$

and consequently  $Y$  is a function  $\kappa$  of  $\alpha - \beta$ . In view of the lemma, (9) becomes

$$(18) \quad x = x(\alpha, \beta), \quad y = y(\alpha - \beta), \quad p = \frac{1}{2}(\alpha + \beta), \quad q = q(\alpha, \beta),$$

where  $x [q]$  is any solution of the linear equation  $L(x) = 0 [M(q) = 0]$ , and  $q [x]$  is determined by quadratures. From (10) the function  $z$  is obtained by carrying out the quadratures.

$$(19) \quad z = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{(\alpha + \beta)^2}{\kappa} \left\{ - \left( \frac{q}{\alpha + \beta} \right)_{\alpha} d\alpha + \left( \frac{q}{\alpha + \beta} \right)_{\beta} d\beta \right\} = z(\alpha, \beta),$$

---

<sup>4</sup>This reduces to the partial differential equation  $E(-1, -1)$  of Euler-Darboux when  $\beta$  is replaced by  $-\beta$ . See [2, pp. 54-70].

and is a solution of the linear equation

$$(20) \quad z_{\alpha\beta} - \left( \frac{\kappa'}{2\kappa} + \frac{1}{\alpha + \beta} \right) z_{\alpha} + \left( \frac{\kappa'}{2\kappa} - \frac{1}{\alpha + \beta} \right) z_{\beta} = 0.$$

*Case 4.* This is a special case of the above in which

$$L(x) = x_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{x_{\alpha} - x_{\beta}}{\alpha - \beta} = 0, \quad M(q) = q_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{q_{\alpha} - q_{\beta}}{\alpha - \beta} = 0,$$

are the Euler-Darboux equations  $E(1, 1)$ ,  $E(-1, -1)$  respectively, and it is possible to give [2, p.64] explicit formulas for (18), (19):

$$(18') \quad x = \frac{\phi' - \psi'}{\alpha - \beta}, \quad y = \frac{2}{\beta - \alpha}, \quad p = \frac{1}{2}(\alpha + \beta), \quad q = \frac{1}{4}(\beta - \alpha)(\phi' + \psi') + \frac{1}{2}(\phi - \psi),$$

$$(19') \quad z = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\alpha + \beta}{\alpha - \beta} (\phi' - \psi') - \frac{\phi - \psi}{\alpha - \beta},$$

containing arbitrary functions  $\phi(\alpha)$ ,  $\psi(\beta)$ , with (20) becoming

$$(20') \quad z_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{2\alpha}{\alpha^2 - \beta^2} z_{\alpha} + \frac{2\beta}{\alpha^2 - \beta^2} z_{\beta} = 0.$$

*Case 5.* System (7) becomes

$$(21) \quad \begin{aligned} z_{\beta} - px_{\beta} - qy_{\beta} &= 0, & z_{\alpha} - px_{\alpha} - qy_{\alpha} &= 0, \\ p_{\beta} + \frac{x^{m-1}}{y^{m+1}} y_{\beta} &= 0, & p_{\alpha} - \frac{x^{m-1}}{y^{m+1}} y_{\alpha} &= 0, \\ q_{\beta} - \frac{x^{m-1}}{y^{m+1}} x_{\beta} &= 0, & q_{\alpha} + \frac{x^{m-1}}{y^{m+1}} x_{\alpha} &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

From the intermediate integrals

$$(22) \quad px + qy - z - \frac{1}{m} \left( \frac{x}{y} \right)^m = \alpha_0, \quad px + qy - z + \frac{1}{m} \left( \frac{x}{y} \right)^m = \beta_0,$$

we obtain solutions

$$(23) \quad z = xG(r) - \frac{r^m}{m} - \alpha_0, \quad z = xG(r) + \frac{r^m}{m} - \beta_0 \quad (r = x/y),$$

containing an arbitrary function  $G(r)$ .

To obtain other solutions, we observe from Theorem 1 that

$$(24) \quad \left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^m = \frac{m}{2}(\beta - \alpha), \quad px + qy - z = \frac{1}{2}(\alpha + \beta),$$

and use the first of these equations to eliminate  $x$  from the second row,  $y$  from the third row of (21), to replace these rows by

$$(25) \quad p_\beta - \kappa_1 \eta_\beta = 0, \quad p_\alpha + \kappa_1 \eta_\alpha = 0, \quad \eta = \frac{1}{y}, \quad \kappa_1 = \left[\frac{m}{2}(\beta - \alpha)\right]^{1-1/m},$$

$$(26) \quad q_\beta + \kappa_2 \xi_\beta = 0, \quad q_\alpha - \kappa_2 \xi_\alpha = 0, \quad \xi = \frac{1}{x}, \quad \kappa_2 = \left[\frac{m}{2}(\beta - \alpha)\right]^{1+1/m}.$$

In view of the lemma, the integration of (25) is equivalent to the integration of either one of

$$(27) \quad L(\eta) = \eta_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{A}{\alpha - \beta}(\eta_\alpha - \eta_\beta) = 0, \quad M(p) = p_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{A}{\alpha - \beta}(p_\alpha - p_\beta) = 0,$$

$$(A = \frac{1}{2}(1 - 1/m)),$$

and the integration of (26) to the integration of either one of

$$(28) \quad L(\xi) = \xi_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{B}{\alpha - \beta}(\xi_\alpha - \xi_\beta) = 0, \quad M(q) = q_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{B}{\alpha - \beta}(q_\alpha - q_\beta) = 0,$$

$$(B = \frac{1}{2}(1 + 1/m)),$$

all of which are Euler-Darboux equations of the type  $E(k, k)$ . A solution (9) of the last two rows of (21) may be obtained by starting with either (25) or (26). To fix the ideas, let  $p = p(\alpha, \beta)$ ,  $y = y(\alpha, \beta)$  be any solution of (25). The first equation in (24) yields  $\xi = \xi(\alpha, \beta)$ , with  $q = q(\alpha, \beta)$  determined by quadratures from (26). Finally we obtain  $z = z(\alpha, \beta)$  from the second equation in

(24). Thus the integration of (1) is reduced to the integration of any one of the linear equations (27), (28) followed by quadratures.

For  $m = 1$  this case reduces to the preceding one; and (27), (28) simplify to

$$L(\eta) = \eta_{\alpha\beta} = 0, \quad M(p) = p_{\alpha\beta} = 0;$$

$$L(\xi) = \xi_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{\xi_\alpha - \xi_\beta}{\alpha - \beta} = 0, \quad M(q) = q_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{q_\alpha - q_\beta}{\alpha - \beta} = 0.$$

By carrying out the process outlined above we find a solution containing two arbitrary functions

$$x = \frac{\alpha - \beta}{\phi' - \psi'}, \quad y = \frac{2}{\psi' - \phi'}, \quad p = \frac{1}{2}(\phi' + \psi'), \quad q = \frac{1}{4}(\alpha - \beta)(\phi' + \psi') - \frac{1}{2}(\phi - \psi),$$

with

$$z = \frac{\phi - \psi}{\phi' - \psi'} - \frac{1}{2}(\alpha + \beta),$$

to which (18'), (19') reduce under the change of parameter

$$\bar{\alpha} = \phi'(\alpha), \quad \bar{\beta} = \psi'(\beta); \quad \alpha = \bar{\phi}'(\bar{\alpha}), \quad \beta = \bar{\psi}'(\bar{\beta}),$$

provided one observes that

$$\phi = \bar{\alpha}\bar{\phi}'(\bar{\alpha}) - \bar{\phi}(\bar{\alpha}), \quad \psi = \bar{\beta}\bar{\psi}'(\bar{\beta}) - \bar{\psi}(\bar{\beta}).$$

*Case 6.* System (7) is the same as (21) for  $m = 0$ , but the intermediate integrals (22) are replaced by

$$px + qy - z - \log \frac{x}{y} = \alpha_0, \quad px + qy - z + \log \frac{x}{y} = \beta_0,$$

with the solutions

$$(29) \quad z = xG(r) - \log r - \alpha_0, \quad z = xG(r) + \log r - \beta_0 \quad (r = x/y),$$

in place of (23), and the relations

$$\log \frac{x}{y} = \frac{1}{2}(\beta - \alpha), \quad px + qy - z = \frac{1}{2}(\alpha + \beta),$$

replacing (24). The quantities  $\kappa_1, \kappa_2$  in (25), (26) are now

$$\kappa_1 = e^{(\alpha - \beta)/2}, \quad \kappa_2 = e^{(\beta - \alpha)/2},$$

and instead of the Euler-Darboux equations (27), (28) we find linear equations with constant coefficients

$$L(\eta) = \eta_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1}{4}(\eta_\alpha - \eta_\beta) = 0, \quad M(p) = p_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{1}{4}(p_\alpha - p_\beta) = 0, \tag{30}$$

$$L(\xi) = \xi_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{1}{4}(\xi_\alpha - \xi_\beta) = 0, \quad M(q) = q_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1}{4}(q_\alpha - q_\beta) = 0.$$

Once a solution of any one of these has been obtained, the integration of (1) proceeds as in the previous case.

*Case 7.* The intermediate integrals are

$$p - q + e^x e^y = \alpha_0, \quad p - q - e^x e^y = \beta_0,$$

and have the solutions

$$(31) \quad z = G(r) - xe^r + \alpha_0 x, \quad z = G(r) + xe^r + \beta_0 x, \quad r = x + y.$$

In place of (24) we find

$$(32) \quad x + y = \log \frac{1}{2}(\alpha - \beta), \quad p - q = \frac{1}{2}(\alpha + \beta),$$

and (25), (26) are replaced by

$$(33) \quad p_\beta - \kappa_1 y_\beta = 0, \quad p_\alpha + \kappa_1 y_\alpha = 0, \quad \kappa_1 = \frac{1}{2}(\beta - \alpha),$$

$$(34) \quad q_\beta - \kappa_2 x_\beta = 0, \quad q_\alpha + \kappa_2 x_\alpha = 0, \quad \kappa_2 = \frac{1}{2}(\alpha - \beta),$$

so that instead of (27), (28) we obtain Euler-Darboux equations of the special, forms [2, pp. 69-70]  $E(\pm 1/2, \pm 1/2)$ , specifically

$$(35) \quad L(y) = y_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1/2}{\alpha - \beta} (y_\alpha - y_\beta) = 0, \quad M(p) = p_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{1/2}{\alpha - \beta} (p_\alpha - p_\beta) = 0,$$

$$L(x) = x_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1/2}{\alpha - \beta} (x_\alpha - x_\beta) = 0, \quad M(q) = q_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{1/2}{\alpha - \beta} (q_\alpha - q_\beta) = 0.$$

Starting with a solution of any one of these, say  $p = p(\alpha, \beta)$ , one determines  $q = q(\alpha, \beta)$  from (32) and calculates the functions  $x = x(\alpha, \beta)$ ,  $y = y(\alpha, \beta)$  by quadratures based on (33), (34). A final quadrature (10) then yields  $z = z(\alpha, \beta)$ .

The results obtained may be summarized in the theorem:

**THEOREM 2.** *Whenever the partial differential equation*

$$rt - s^2 + \lambda^2 = 0, \quad \lambda = X(x)Y(y),$$

*has intermediate integrals, its integration can be reduced to the integration of linear partial differential equations of the first and second order, and quadratures.*

**3. The Problem of Cauchy.** In the Problem of Cauchy one requires a solution  $z = z(x, y)$  of (1) such that along a prescribed curve (the *carrier*)

$$C: x = x(t), \quad y = y(t),$$

in the  $(x, y)$ -plane, the partial derivatives  $p = z_x$ ,  $q = z_y$  take preassigned values (the *Cauchy data*)

$$C_1: p = p(t), \quad q = q(t).$$

We begin with the simplest case.

*Case 2.* Here the Problem of Cauchy imposes the following conditions

$$\alpha + \beta = 2p(t), \quad \alpha - \beta = 2y(t), \quad \phi'(\alpha) + \psi'(\beta) = 2q(t), \quad \phi'(\alpha) - \psi'(\beta) = -2x(t),$$

on the arbitrary functions  $\phi(\alpha)$ ,  $\psi(\beta)$  entering into the formulas (14) of Goursat. These imply

$$\alpha = p(t) + y(t), \quad \beta = p(t) - y(t); \quad \phi'(\alpha) = q(t) - x(t), \quad \psi'(\beta) = q(t) + x(t),$$

of which the first pair determine a curve (the *carrier*)

$$\Gamma: \alpha = \alpha(t) = p(t) + y(t), \quad \beta = \beta(t) = p(t) - y(t),$$

in the *characteristic*  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -plane, the horizontal and vertical lines of which are termed *characteristic lines*.

Provided<sup>5</sup>  $\dot{\alpha} \neq 0, \dot{\beta} \neq 0$  we can invert the equations defining  $\Gamma$  to obtain

$$t = f(\alpha), \quad t = g(\beta),$$

and obtain the required functions  $\phi(\alpha), \psi(\beta)$  in (14), up to arbitrarily additive constants, by quadratures from

$$\phi'(\alpha) = q(f(\alpha)) - x(f(\alpha)), \quad \psi'(\beta) = q(g(\beta)) + x(g(\beta)).$$

If  $\Gamma$  is a segment of a characteristic line, say of  $\alpha = \alpha_0 = \text{const.}$ , the Cauchy data  $C_1$  cannot be taken arbitrarily, but must fulfill the conditions

$$p(t) + y(t) \equiv \alpha_0, \quad q(t) - x(t) \equiv k = \text{const.},$$

so that up to the additive constant  $k$ , the carrier  $C$  prescribes the Cauchy data  $C_1$ . The first equation for  $\Gamma$  fails to determine  $f(\alpha)$ , and  $\phi(\alpha)$  may accordingly be taken arbitrarily in Goursat's formulas, subject to the single condition  $\phi'(\alpha_0) = k$ . Due to the arbitrariness in  $\phi(\alpha)$ , the solution of the Problem of Cauchy is not unique. In addition, the general solution (13) of the intermediate integral  $p + y = \alpha_0$  offers an additional solution, for we have  $q + x = G'(y)$ , and if  $\Gamma$  is not a point,  $y = y(t) \neq \text{const.}$ , so that  $t = t(y)$ , and  $G(y)$  can be determined from

$$G'(y) = q(t(y)) + x(t(y))$$

up to an additive constant.

The carrier  $\Gamma$  will be a point if, and only if,  $C, C_1$  have the form

$$C: x = x(t), y = y_0 = \text{const.}, \quad C_1: p = p_0 = \text{const.}, q = q(t),$$

and therefore necessarily, as follows from (1) with  $\lambda = 1$ ,

$$q(t) \pm x(t) \equiv k = \text{const.}$$

The solutions (13) of the intermediate integrals

$$p + y = \alpha_0 = p_0 + y_0, \quad p - y = \beta_0 = p_0 - y_0,$$

---

<sup>5</sup>We forego consideration of the difficult case in which  $\dot{\alpha}$  or  $\dot{\beta}$  changes sign.

offer solutions for these Problems of Cauchy, containing an arbitrary function  $G(y)$ , provided  $G'(y_0) = k$ .

*Case 3.* The carrier  $\Gamma$  in the characteristic plane is defined by

$$\Gamma: \alpha = \alpha(t) = p(t) + Y_1(y(t)), \quad \beta = \beta(t) = p(t) - Y_1(y(t)).$$

By differentiating the first and fourth equations (18) with respect to  $t$  we obtain

$$x_\alpha \dot{\alpha} + x_\beta \dot{\beta} = \dot{x}, \quad -x_\alpha \dot{\alpha} + x_\beta \dot{\beta} = \kappa^{-1} \dot{q}.$$

Along an arc of  $\Gamma$  for which  $\dot{\alpha} \neq 0$ ,  $\dot{\beta} \neq 0$  these equations specify Cauchy data

$$x_\alpha = \frac{\dot{x} - \kappa^{-1} \dot{q}}{2 \dot{\alpha}}, \quad x_\beta = \frac{\dot{x} + \kappa^{-1} \dot{q}}{2 \dot{\beta}},$$

on the carrier  $\Gamma$  for a Problem of Cauchy for the linear equation  $L(x) = 0$ . The solution of this Problem of Cauchy can be effected by quadratures, once the resolvent [5], a properly chosen two-parameter family of solutions of the conjugate equation  $M(q) = 0$ , is known, and, up to an arbitrarily additive constant, is unique.

If  $\Gamma$  is a segment of a characteristic line  $\alpha = \alpha_0$ , the Cauchy data  $C, C_1$  must meet the conditions

$$p(t) + Y_1(y(t)) \equiv \alpha_0, \quad \dot{q}(t) - Y(y(t)) \dot{x}(t) \equiv 0,$$

so  $C$  implies  $C_1$  up to an additive constant. The Cauchy data on  $\Gamma$  reduce to

$$x_\beta = \frac{\dot{x}}{\dot{\beta}} = g(\beta)$$

and fail to determine a unique solution to  $L(x) = 0$ , so that the solution to the original problem of Cauchy  $C, C_1$  framed for (1) is likewise no longer unique. In addition to this multiplicity of solutions, the general solution (17) of the intermediate integral  $p + Y_1 = \alpha_0$  provides another, for if  $\Gamma$  is not a point,  $t = t(y)$ , the arbitrary function  $G(y)$  is determined by

$$G'(y) = q(t(y)) + x(t(y)) Y(y)$$

up to an additive constant.

The carrier  $\Gamma$  will be a point if, and only if,  $C, C_1$  have the form

$$C: x = x(t), y = y_0 = \text{const.}, \quad C_1: p = p_0 = \text{const.}, q = q(t),$$

and therefore necessarily, as follows from (1) with  $\lambda = Y(y)$ ,

$$q(t) \pm Y(y_0)x(t) \equiv k = \text{const.}$$

The solutions (17) of the intermediate integrals

$$p + Y_1(y) = \alpha_0 = p_0 + Y_1(y_0), \quad p - Y_1(y) = \beta_0 = p_0 - Y_1(y_0),$$

offer solutions to these Problems of Cauchy containing an arbitrary function  $G(y)$ , provided  $G'(y_0) = k$ .

*Case 4.* This case comes under Case 3, and also Case 5 for  $m = 1$ .

*Case 5.* For the carrier  $\Gamma$  we have

$$\Gamma: \alpha = px + qy - z - \frac{1}{m} \left( \frac{x}{y} \right)^m = \alpha(t), \quad \beta = px + qy - z + \frac{1}{m} \left( \frac{x}{y} \right)^m = \beta(t),$$

where

$$z = \int (p\dot{x} + q\dot{y}) dt = z(t).$$

Recalling that  $\eta = y^{-1}$  we write

$$\eta_\alpha \dot{\alpha} + \eta_\beta \dot{\beta} = \dot{\eta}, \quad -\eta_\alpha \dot{\alpha} + \eta_\beta \dot{\beta} = \kappa_1^{-1} \dot{p},$$

where  $\kappa_1$  is defined in (25).

As long as  $\dot{\alpha} \neq 0, \dot{\beta} \neq 0$  these equations specify Cauchy data

$$\eta_\alpha = \frac{\dot{\eta} - \kappa_1^{-1} \dot{p}}{2\dot{\alpha}}, \quad \eta_\beta = \frac{\dot{\eta} + \kappa_1^{-1} \dot{p}}{2\dot{\beta}},$$

on the carrier  $\Gamma$  for a Problem of Cauchy for the linear equation  $L(\eta) = 0$  in (27). The resolvent of this equation is known [5, pp. 401-406], and the solution of the Problem of Cauchy can be carried out by quadratures. The solution is unique up to an arbitrarily additive constant.

If  $\Gamma$  is a segment of a characteristic line  $\alpha = \alpha_0$ , the Cauchy data  $C, C_1$

must meet the conditions

$$\dot{p} + \frac{x^{m-1}}{y^{m+1}} \dot{y} = 0, \quad \dot{q} - \frac{x^{m-1}}{y^{m+1}} \dot{x} = 0,$$

with  $C_1$  determined by  $C$  up to translations. The Cauchy data

$$\eta_\beta = \frac{\dot{\eta}}{\dot{\beta}} = g(\beta)$$

are insufficient to determine a unique solution to  $L(\eta) = 0$ , and the solution of the original problem of Cauchy again is no longer unique. The general solution (23) of the first intermediate integral in (22) offers an additional solution, provided the arbitrary function  $G(r)$  can be properly determined. This will be possible, as long as  $r = r(t) \neq \text{const.}$  ( $C$  not a radial straight line), or, what is equivalent,  $\Gamma$  is not a point. Indeed, from (23) we determine  $G$  by integrating

$$G'(r) = \frac{r^{m-2}}{y} - \frac{q}{r^2},$$

the given functions  $y, q$  of  $t$  becoming functions of  $r$ , since  $t = t(r)$ .

For  $\Gamma$  to be a point  $(\alpha_0, \beta_0)$  it is necessary and sufficient that

$$px + qy - z = k = \frac{1}{2}(\alpha_0 + \beta_0), \quad \frac{x}{y} = r_0 = \left[ \frac{m}{2}(\beta_0 - \alpha_0) \right]^{1/m},$$

conditions which are equivalent to the requirements

$$\dot{p}x + \dot{q}y = 0, \quad \frac{x}{y} = r_0,$$

on the Cauchy data  $C, C_1$ . It is obvious from the very form of the intermediate integrals (22) that any one of general solutions (23) meets the required conditions.

The treatment of the remaining cases does not differ substantially from this case and we may sum up our results as follows:

**THEOREM 3.** *Whenever the partial differential equation*

$$rt - s^2 + \lambda^2 = C \qquad (\lambda = X(x)Y(y))$$

has intermediate integrals

$$\alpha(x, y, z, p, q) = \alpha, \qquad \beta(x, y, z, p, q) = \beta,$$

the Problem of Cauchy

$$C: x = x(t), \quad y = y(t); \qquad C_1: p = p(t), \quad q = q(t),$$

for this partial differential equation defines a carrier

$$\Gamma: \alpha = \alpha(x(t), y(t), z(t), p(t), q(t)) = \alpha(t),$$

$$\beta = \beta(x(t), \gamma(t), z(t), p(t), q(t)) = \beta(t),$$

in the characteristic plane, and reduces to a Problem of Cauchy with Cauchy data on this carrier for a linear partial differential equation of the second order.

If  $\Gamma$  is a segment of one of the characteristic lines  $\alpha = \text{const.}$ , or  $\beta = \text{const.}$ , or a point, the solution is not unique.

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Herbert Busemann, <i>Volume in terms of concurrent cross-sections</i> .....	1
L. Carlitz, <i>Some special equations in a finite field</i> .....	13
Homer V. Craig and Billie Braden Townsend, <i>On certain metric extensors</i> .....	25
Philip J. Davis and Henry Pollak, <i>Linear functionals and analytic continuation problems</i> .....	47
Jacob C. E. Dekker, <i>The constructivity of maximal dual ideals in certain Boolean algebras</i> .....	73
Harley M. Flanders, <i>The norm function of an algebraic field extension</i> .....	103
Marshall Hall, <i>Subgroups of free products</i> .....	115
Israel (Yitzchak) Nathan Herstein, <i>Finite multiplicative subgroups in division rings</i> .....	121
Joseph Lawson Hodges, Jr. and Murray Rosenblatt, <i>Recurrence-time moments in random walks</i> .....	127
Alfred Horn, <i>The normal completion of a subset of a complete lattice and lattices of continuous functions</i> .....	137
Fulton Koehler, <i>Estimates for the errors in the Rayleigh-Ritz method</i> .....	153
M. H. Martin, <i>The Monge-Ampère partial differential equation <math>rt - s^2 + \lambda^2 = 0</math></i> .....	165
John E. Maxfield, <i>Normal <math>k</math>-tuples</i> .....	189
Jack E. McLaughlin, <i>Structured theorems for relatively complemented lattices</i> .....	197
William H. Mills, <i>A system of quadratic Diophantine equations</i> .....	209
T. S. Motzkin, Ernst Gabor Straus and F. A. Valentine, <i>The number of farthest points</i> .....	221
G. Power, <i>Forces on the boundary of a dielectric</i> .....	233
Ralph Gordon Selfridge, <i>Approximations with least maximum error</i> .....	247