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1. Introduction. This paper is concerned with the difference equation

$$(1.1) \quad x(s+1) = A(s)x(s)$$

where the 2 by 2 matrix $A(s)$ has a convergent series representation

$$(1.2) \quad A(s) = s^h \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} A_k s^{-k}, \quad |s| > s_0$$

and $A_0 \neq 0$. The A_k are constant matrices, the independent variable s is complex, h is a constant, and $x(s)$ is a column vector. We seek two independent vector solutions or a fundamental solution to the corresponding matrix equation

$$X(s+1) = A(s)X(s).$$

The number of linearly independent solutions is not apparent since for both $A(s) \equiv 0$ and $A(s) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ (1.2) has only $x(s) \equiv 0$ as a solution. We will show that there will be two linearly independent solutions unless the determinant of $A(s)$ vanishes identically, in which case there will either be one or none.

We begin, in § 2, by reducing the matrix $A(s)$ to one of eight canonical forms which (after factoring out $s^{h'}$) have convergent expansions in s^{-1} or $s^{-1/2}$.

In § 3 we construct formal solutions for these difference equations by substitution and direct comparison. The formal solutions will contain in general divergent power series, but it is expected that these formal solutions are asymptotic representations of true solutions in appropriate regions of the s -plane. Section 4 is devoted to estimates on the growth of the coefficients in these formal series.

In § 5 we consider integral equations for vector functions $w(t)$ whose Laplace transforms are simply related to certain formal series occurring in our formal solutions. Using the estimates of § 4 (in all but one case) we obtain true solutions of these integral equations.

These vector functions $w(t)$ are used in §§ 6 and 7 to construct true solutions of the original difference equation. Theorems of Doetsch and Nörlund are utilized to prove that the formal solutions obtained

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earlier are asymptotic representations of these solutions. Moreover, these formal solutions may be summed and replaced by convergent factorial series in *appropriate half-planes of the s -plane*.

The relationship of this work to other results is discussed in § 8.

This paper is based in part upon the Ph. D. thesis of W. J. A. Culmer under the direction of Professor H. L. Turrittin. Both authors are deeply indebted to their former teacher, Professor H. L. Turrittin, under whose guidance they first studied difference equations.

2. Canonical forms. If the elements of the matrix $P(s)$ are meromorphic in a neighborhood of $s = \infty$ and $\det P(s) \neq 0$, the transformation

$$(2.1) \quad x(s) = P(s)y(s)$$

changes the difference equation (1.1) into

$$(2.2) \quad y(s+1) = B(s)y(s)$$

where

$$(2.3) \quad B(s) = P^{-1}(s+1)A(s)P(s) = s^{h'} \left(B_0 + \frac{1}{s} B_1 + \dots \right), \quad |s| > s_1.$$

Here $B(s)$ and $A(s)$ have qualitatively the same form. To facilitate the computation of formal solutions of the difference equation (1.1) we utilize transformations of the type (2.1) to achieve a more amenable form (2.2).

Our first goal is to diagonalize the leading term B_0 in the resulting expansion (2.3). This is not always possible with transformations $P(s)$ whose elements are meromorphic in some neighborhood of $s = \infty$. However, we give a *necessary* and *sufficient* condition for such a reduction. When it is not possible to achieve this diagonalization with a matrix $P(s)$ with meromorphic elements, we show that it is possible to diagonalize the leading term of $B(s)$ if we allow the elements of $P(s)$ to be meromorphic functions of $s^{1/2}$. In this case the elements of $s^{-h'}B(s)$ will be meromorphic function of $s^{1/2}$.¹ For these cases we are led to construct formal solutions containing formal power series in $s^{-1/2}$.

Let J be a constant matrix such that $J^{-1}A_0J$ has Jordan canonical form

$$(2.4) \quad J^{-1}A_0J = \begin{pmatrix} \rho_1 & 0 \\ \beta & \rho_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

where $\beta = 0$, if $\rho_1 \neq \rho_2$. The transformation $B(s) = J^{-1}A(s)J$ is such that $B_j = J^{-1}A_jJ$. Hence B_0 has diagonal form or the form

¹ It is one of these cases that we are unable to sum.

$$(2.5) \quad B_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \rho & 0 \\ 1 & \rho \end{pmatrix}.$$

For this case we have

THEOREM 1. *Let $B(s)$ and $C(s)$ be 2 by 2 matrices whose elements are analytic in some neighborhood of $s = \infty$,*

$$B(s) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} B_k s^{-k}, \quad C(s) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} C_k s^{-k},$$

and let $B_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \rho & 0 \\ 1 & \rho \end{pmatrix}$. *A necessary and sufficient condition that there exist a matrix $P(s)$ with elements meromorphic in some neighborhood of $s = \infty$, $\det P(s) \neq 0$, $P^{-1}(s + 1)B(s)P(s) = C(s)$, such that $C_0 = \alpha I$ is that*

$$(2.6) \quad \left\{ \frac{1}{s} \det [\lambda I + s(B(s) - \rho I)] \right\} \Big|_{s=\infty} \equiv 0.$$

Further, $\alpha = \rho$.

Proof. Let $B_1 = (b'_{ij})$. A short calculation shows that

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{s} \det [\lambda I + s(B(s) - \rho I)] \right\} \Big|_{s=\infty} = b'_{12}.$$

Assume $b'_{12} = 0$. Choosing

$$P(s) = \begin{pmatrix} s^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and writing $B(s) = (b_{ij}(s))$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} C(s) &= P^{-1}(s + 1)B(s)P(s) = \begin{pmatrix} \left(1 + \frac{1}{s}\right)b_{11}(s) & (s + 1)b_{12}(s) \\ \frac{1}{s}b_{21}(s) & b_{22}(s) \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \rho I + \frac{1}{s}C_1 + \frac{1}{s^2}C_2 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

To prove the necessity we need a generalization of the fact that a function $f(s) \neq 0$ meromorphic in some neighborhood of $s = \infty$ can be written in the form $f(s) = s^\alpha g(s)$ where $g(s)$ is analytic at $s = \infty$ and $g(\infty) \neq 0$.

LEMMA 1. *Let the elements of $P(s)$ be meromorphic in some neighborhood of $s = \infty$, $P(s) = \sum_{v=-k}^{\infty} P_v s^{-v}$, $\det P(s) \neq 0$, $P_{-k} \neq 0$, and*

k some finite integer. Then $P(s)$ can be represented in the form

$$(2.7) \quad P(s) = U(s)s^\alpha V(s)$$

where $V(s)$ is a polynomial in s^{-1} with $\det V(s) \equiv 1$, $U(s)$ is a convergent power series in s^{-1} with $\det U(\infty) \neq 0$, and $s^\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} s^{\alpha_1} & 0 \\ 0 & s^{\alpha_2} \end{pmatrix}$, $\alpha_1 \geq \alpha_2$ integers.

Proof of Lemma 1. Consider $P(s) = (p_1(s), p_2(s))$ where $p_i(s)$ are column vectors. Since $P_{-k} \neq 0$, choosing $V_0 = I$ or $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ we may write

$$P(s)V_0 = (s^{-k}\hat{p}_1(s), s^{-k}\hat{p}_2(s))$$

where $\hat{p}_i(s)$ are power series in s^{-1} and $\hat{p}_i(\infty) \neq 0$.

If $\hat{p}_1(\infty)$ and $\hat{p}_2(\infty)$ are linearly independent, choosing $U(s) = (\hat{p}_1(s), \hat{p}_2(s))$, $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = -k$, and $V(s) = V_0^{-1}$ we have the representation (2.7). Using a sequence of matrices V_j ,

$$V_j = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & c_j s^{-j+1} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

we can write $P(s)V_0V_1 \cdots V_\beta = (s^{-k}\hat{p}_1(s), s^{-k-\beta}\hat{p}_{2+\beta}(s))$ choosing the first β for which $\hat{p}_1(\infty)$ and $\hat{p}_{2+\beta}(\infty)$ are linearly independent. Indeed, since $\det P(s) \neq 0$, $\det P(s) = s^{-\gamma}(d_0 + (1/s)d_1 + \cdots)$, $d_0 \neq 0$, and $\det V_j \equiv 1$, $\beta = \gamma - 2k$.

Thus, choosing $U(s) = (\hat{p}_1(s)\hat{p}_{2+\beta}(s))$, $V(s) = (V_0V_1 \cdots V_\beta)^{-1}$, $\alpha_1 = -k$ and $\alpha_2 = -k - \beta$, we have $P(s) = U(s)s^\alpha V(s)$ and the lemma is proved.

Now assume that there exists a matrix $P(s)$ with elements meromorphic in some neighborhood of $s = \infty$, $\det P(s) \neq 0$ and $P^{-1}(s+1)B(s)P(s) = C(s)$ where $B(s) = \sum_{k=0}^\infty B_k s^{-k}$, $B_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \rho & 0 \\ 1 & \rho \end{pmatrix}$, $C(s) = \sum_{k=0}^\infty C_k s^{-k}$, $C_0 = \alpha I$. By Lemma 1, $P(s)$ has the representation (2.7) and defining

$$\hat{C}(s) = \left(\frac{s+1}{s}\right)^\alpha V(s+1)C(s)V^{-1}(s) = V_0C_0V_0^{-1} + o\left(\frac{1}{s}\right)$$

$$\hat{B}(s) = P(s)P^{-1}(s+1)B(s) = B_0 + o\left(\frac{1}{s}\right)$$

we have

$$P^{-1}(s)[\hat{B}(s) - \rho I]P(s) = s^{-\alpha}[\hat{C}(s) - \rho I]s^\alpha,$$

and

$$(2.8) \quad \det [\lambda I + \hat{B}(s) - \rho I] = \det [\lambda I + \hat{C}(s) - \rho I].$$

Thus, evaluating both sides of (2.8) for $s = \infty$ we have

$$\lambda^2 = (\lambda + \alpha - \rho)^2, \quad \text{or} \quad \alpha = \rho.$$

Similarly,

$$\frac{1}{s} \det [\lambda I + s\hat{B}(s) - \rho I] = \frac{1}{s} \det [\lambda I + s\hat{C} - \rho I].$$

Since $C_0 = \rho I$, $\det [\lambda I + s\hat{C}(s) - \rho I] = 0(1)$, and

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{s} \det [\lambda I + s\hat{B}(s) - \rho I] \right\} \Big|_{s=\infty} = 0.$$

This determinant depends only on the first two coefficients in the expansion of $\hat{B}(s)$. However, $P(s)P^{-1}(s+1) = I + 0(s^{-2})$, and hence

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{s} \det [\lambda I + s(B(s) - \rho I)] \right\} \Big|_{s=\infty} \equiv 0,$$

and the theorem is proved.

REMARK. We have also proved that if the elements of $B(s)$ and $C(s)$ are analytic in some neighborhood of $s = \infty$ and are related by a matrix $P(s)$ with elements meromorphic in some neighborhood of $s = \infty$, $P^{-1}(s+1)B(s)P(s) = C(s)$, $B_0 \neq 0$,

$$\det (\lambda I + B_0) = \det (\lambda I + C_0).$$

Returning now to our canonical form (2.5), we see that if $\rho \neq 0$, and $b'_{12} = 0$ we have diagonalized the leading coefficient. If $\rho = 0$, and $b'_{12} = 0$, the problem is reduced to a similar problem with h decreased by one. We may repeat this process until we achieve a problem for which the leading coefficient is a diagonal nonzero matrix or
 (1) the process does not terminate; or
 (2) reach a stage for which Theorem 1 shows it is impossible to diagonalize the leading coefficient with meromorphic $P(s)$.

(1). If the process does not terminate, we have $C(s) = P^{-1}(s+1)B(s)P(s)$ and in some neighborhood of $s = \infty$, $\det B(s) = \det C(s) \det P(s+1)[\det P(s)]^{-1} = 0(s^{h-k})$ for arbitrarily large k . Hence $\det B(s) \equiv 0$ in some neighborhood of $s = \infty$.

Let $B(s) = s^h(b_{ij}(s))$, $b_{21}(\infty) = 1$, $\det B(s) \equiv 0$. Then, the transformation matrix

$$P(s) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\frac{b_{22}(s)}{b_{21}(s)} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

is such that

$$C(s) = P^{-1}(s + 1)B(s)P(s) = \begin{pmatrix} c_{11}(s) & 0 \\ c_{21}(s) & 0 \end{pmatrix}, c_{21}(s) = b_{21}(s).$$

If $c_{11}(s) \neq 0$,² the transformation

$$T(s) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ \frac{c_{21}(s)}{c_{11}(s - 1)} & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

is such that $\hat{C} = T^{-1}(s + 1)C(s)T(s) = \begin{pmatrix} c_{11}(s) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and the difference equation $y(s + 1) = C(s)y(s)$ will have one nonzero solution.

If $c_{11}(s) = b_{11}(s)/b_{12}(s) + b_{22}(s + 1)/b_{12}(s + 1) \equiv 0$, the difference equation will have no nonzero solution.

(2). If we cannot diagonalize the leading coefficient with a meromorphic transformation $P(s)$ we arrive at a stage for which

$$B(s) = P^{-1}(s + 1)A(s)P(s) = s^{h'} \left\{ B_0 + \frac{1}{s} B_1 + \dots \right\}$$

where

$$B_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \rho & 0 \\ 1 & \rho \end{pmatrix}, B_1 = (b'_{ij}), b'_{12} \neq 0.$$

The transformation

$$T(s) = \begin{pmatrix} s^{-1/2} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} J$$

can be utilized to yield

$$C(s) = T^{-1}(s + 1)B(s)T(s) = s^{h'} \left(C_0 + \frac{1}{s^{1/2}} C_1 + \frac{1}{s} C_2 + \dots \right)$$

where $C_0 = \rho I$, $C_1 = J^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & b'_{12} \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} J = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{b'_{12}} & 0 \\ 0 & -\sqrt{b'_{12}} \end{pmatrix}$.

Thus, we have achieved our first goal; there exists a transformation $P(s)$ with elements meromorphic functions of s in a neighborhood of $s = \infty$ for which

(2.9) $B(s) = P^{-1}(s + 1)A(s)P(s) = s^{h'} \left(B_0 + \frac{1}{s} B_1 + \dots \right), B_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \rho_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \rho_2 \end{pmatrix};$

² If $c_{11}(s) \neq 0$, the process will terminate and we will have essentially the infinitely repetitive process treated on page 11. This can be seen directly also by a detailed analysis.

³ There are two cases, $\rho = 0$ and $\rho \neq 0$. It is $\rho \neq 0$ which we are unable to sum.

or no such transformation exists, in which case there exists a transformation $P(s)$ with elements meromorphic functions of $s^{1/2}$ in a neighborhood of $s = \infty$ for which

$$(2.10) \quad B(s) = P^{-1}(s + 1)A(s)P(s) = s^{h'}\left(B_0 + \frac{1}{s^{1/2}}B_1 + \frac{1}{s}B_2 + \dots\right),$$

$$B_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \rho_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \rho_2 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ and if } \rho_1 = \rho_2, B_1 = \begin{pmatrix} r_1 & 0 \\ 0 & r_2 \end{pmatrix}, r_1 \neq r_2.$$

We wish to refine the preliminary canonical forms (2.9) and (2.10). We note that the transformation

$$(2.11) \quad T_{n\alpha} = I + \frac{Q_n}{(s - 1)^{n/\alpha}} \quad (\alpha = 1 \text{ or } 2)$$

is such that $T_{n\alpha}^{-1}$ exists for $|s|$ large and

$$T_{n\alpha}^{-1}(s + 1)B(s)T_{n\alpha}(s) = s^{h'}\left(C_0 + \frac{1}{s^{1/\alpha}}C_1 + \frac{1}{s^{2/\alpha}}C_2 + \dots\right)$$

where $C_j = B_j$ for $j = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1$ and

$$(2.12) \quad C_n = B_n + B_0Q_n - Q_nB_0$$

and if $B_0 = \rho I$, then $C_j = B_j$ $j = 0, 1, \dots, n$ and

$$(2.13) \quad C_{n+1} = B_{n+1} + B_1Q_n - Q_nB_1.$$

If the characteristic roots of B_0 or B_1 are distinct, Q_n may be chosen so that C_n or C_{n+1} is a diagonal matrix with the same diagonal elements as B_n or B_{n+1} respectively.

Hence we are able to construct a transformation $T(s)$ with the same properties as $P(s)$ such that for (2.9) we have

$$(2.14) \quad C(s) = T^{-1}(s + 1)B(s)T(s) = s^{h'}\left(C_0 + \frac{1}{s}C_1 + \dots\right).$$

$$C_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \rho_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \rho_2 \end{pmatrix}, \rho_1 \neq \rho_2, C_1 = \begin{pmatrix} r_1 & 0 \\ 0 & r_2 \end{pmatrix},$$

and for (2.10)

$$(2.15) \quad C(s) = T^{-1}(s + 1)B(s)T(s) = s^{h'}\left(C_0 + \frac{1}{s^{1/2}}C_1 + \frac{1}{s}C_2 + \dots\right)$$

$$C_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \rho_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \rho_2 \end{pmatrix}, C_1 = \begin{pmatrix} r_1 & 0 \\ 0 & r_2 \end{pmatrix}, C_2 = \begin{pmatrix} p_1 & 0 \\ 0 & p_2 \end{pmatrix}, C_3 = \begin{pmatrix} q_1 & 0 \\ 0 & q_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

and either $\rho_1 = -\rho_2 \neq 0$, or $\rho_1 = \rho_2 \neq 0$ and $r_1 = -r_2 \neq 0$.

If for (2.10) $\rho_1 = \rho_2 = \rho \neq 0$, then we may assume $B_1 = \begin{pmatrix} r_1 & 0 \\ \beta & r_2 \end{pmatrix}$, $\beta = 0$ if $r_1 \neq r_2$. If the characteristic roots r_1, r_2 differ by an integer, $Re \{r_1\} > Re \{r_2\}$, then the transformation

$$T_e = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & s^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

is such that $C(s) = T_e^{-1}(s + 1)B(s)T_e(s) = s^{h'}(C_0 + (1/s)C_1 + \dots)$ where $C_0 = \rho I$ and C_1 has characteristic roots r_1 and $r_2 + 1$. Hence we may assume without loss of generality that in (2.10), if $\rho_1 = \rho_2 = \rho \neq 0$, $B_1 = \begin{pmatrix} r_1 & 0 \\ \beta & r_2 \end{pmatrix}$ and $r_1 - r_2 \neq \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots, \beta = 0$ if $r_1 \neq r_2$.

In every case except $\rho_1 = 0, \rho_2 \neq 0$ we have achieved the desired canonical form. We may utilize transformations of the form T_{n_1} as given by (2.11) so that either

$$(1) \quad C(s) = T^{-1}(s + 1)B(s)T(s) = s^{h'}\left(C_0 + \frac{1}{s}C_1 + \dots\right)$$

where

$$C_j = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{22}^j \end{pmatrix} (j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, m - 1) \quad c_{22}^0 \neq 0$$

and

$$C_m = \begin{pmatrix} c_{11}^m & 0 \\ 0 & c_{22}^m \end{pmatrix}, c_{11}^m \neq 0; \text{ or}$$

(2) the process does not terminate.

If the process does not terminate, it is clear that $\det B(s) = O(s^{h'-k})$ for arbitrarily large k in a neighborhood of $s = \infty$ and hence $\det B(s) \equiv 0$.

Writing $B(s) = s^h(b_{ij}(s)), b_{22}(\infty) = 1$, we see that the transformation

$$P(s) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{b_{12}(s-1)}{c_{22}(s-1)} \\ \frac{-b_{21}(s)}{b_{22}(s)} & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

is such that $P^{-1}(s + 1)B(s)P(s) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{22}(s) \end{pmatrix}$, $c_{22}(s) = s^{h'}(1 + (1/s)c_{22}^{22} + \dots)$ for $|s|$ large. This problem reduces to the two scalar equations $w_1(s + 1) = 0, w_2(s + 1) = c_{22}(s)w_2(s)$.

We summarize our results in

THEOREM 2. *Let the elements of the square matrix of order two $A(s)$ have convergent representations in a neighborhood of $s = \infty$,*

$$A(s) = s^h \left(A_0 + \frac{1}{s} A_1 + \dots \right) \quad |s| > s_0,$$

$A_0 = 0$, h a constant. *There exists a matrix $P(s)$, $\det P(s) \neq 0$, such that either*

(1) *the elements of $P(s)$ are meromorphic functions of s in a neighborhood of $s = \infty$ and*

$$B(s) = P(s + 1)^{-1} A(s) P(s) = s^{h'} \left(B_0 + \frac{1}{s} B_1 + \dots \right),$$

where

(i) $B_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \rho_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \rho_2 \end{pmatrix}$, $B_1 = \begin{pmatrix} r_1 & 0 \\ 0 & r_2 \end{pmatrix}$, $0 \neq \rho_1 \neq \rho_2 \neq 0$,

(ii) $B_0 = \rho_1 I$, $B_1 = \begin{pmatrix} r_1 & 0 \\ 0 & r_2 \end{pmatrix}$, $\rho_1 \neq 0$, $r_1 - r_2 \neq \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$

(iii) $B_0 = \rho_1 I$, $B_1 = \begin{pmatrix} r_1 & 0 \\ \delta & r_1 \end{pmatrix}$, $\rho_1 \neq 0$, $\delta \neq 0$,

(iv) $B_j = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & b_{22}^j \end{pmatrix}$, $j = 0, 1, \dots, m - 1$, $b_{22}^0 = \rho_2 \neq 0$

$$B_m = \begin{pmatrix} b_{11}^m & 0 \\ 0 & b_{22}^m \end{pmatrix}, b_{11}^m = \rho_1 \neq 0,$$

(v) $B(s) = \begin{pmatrix} p(s) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$, $p(s) = s^{h'} \left(p_0 + \frac{1}{s} p_1 + \dots \right)$, $p_0 \neq 0$,

(vi) $B(s) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ q(s) & 0 \end{pmatrix}$, $q(s) = s^{h'} \left(q_0 + \frac{1}{s} q_1 + \dots \right)$, $q_0 \neq 0$;

or

(2) *the elements of $P(s)$ are meromorphic functions of $s^{1/2}$ in a neighborhood of $s = \infty$ and*

$$B(s) = P^{-1}(s + 1) A(s) P(s) = s^{h'} \left(B_0 + \frac{1}{s^{1/2}} B_1 + \frac{1}{s} B_2 + \dots \right),$$

where

(vii) $B_0 = \begin{pmatrix} -\rho_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \rho_1 \end{pmatrix}$, $\rho_1 \neq 0$, B_1 , B_2 and B_3 diagonal matrices,

(viii) $B_0 = \rho_1 I$, $B_1 = \begin{pmatrix} r_1 & 0 \\ 0 & -r_1 \end{pmatrix}$, $\rho_1 \neq 0$, $r_1 \neq 0$, B_2 and B_3 diagonal matrices.

REMARK. The only solution of the difference equation $y(s + 1) = B(s)y(s)$ with canonical form (vi) is $y(s) \equiv 0$. For canonical form (v) the solution of $y(s + 1) = B(s)y(s)$ has only a nonzero first component which is the same as both components of the equation $y(s + 1) = \begin{pmatrix} p(s) & 0 \\ 0 & p(s) \end{pmatrix} y(s)$ which is a subcase of canonical form (ii). Hence we omit canonical forms (v) and (vi) in the remainder of this paper.

3. Formal solutions. We now determine formal solutions for the difference equation

$$(3.1) \quad y(s + 1) = B(s)y(s)$$

where $B(s)$ has one of the canonical forms given in Theorem 2.

Let $B(s)$ have canonical form (i). We seek a solution of (3.1) in the form

$$(3.2) \quad y(s) = s^{h's} \rho^s s^r v(s)$$

where ρ and r are constants and $v(s)$ is a formal power series in s^{-1} . Substituting (3.2) into (3.1), $v(s)$ must satisfy the difference equation

$$(3.3) \quad v(s + 1) = C(s)v(s),$$

where

$$C(s) = \left(1 + \frac{1}{s}\right)^{-h'(s+1)} \frac{1}{\rho} \left(1 + \frac{1}{s}\right)^{-r} s^{-h'} B(s).$$

Using the relationships

$$\begin{aligned} \left(1 + \frac{1}{s}\right)^{-h'(s+1)} &= e^{-h'(s+1) \ln(1+(1/s))} = e^{-h' \left(1 - \frac{h'}{2s} + \dots\right)}, \\ \left(1 + \frac{1}{s}\right)^{-r} &= \left(1 - \frac{r}{s} + \frac{r(r+1)}{s^2} + \dots\right), \end{aligned}$$

we have $C(s) = C_0 + (1/s)C_1 + \dots$, where

$$C_0 = \frac{e^{-h'}}{\rho} B_0, \quad C_1 = \frac{e^{-h'}}{\rho} \left[B_1 - \left(\frac{h'}{2} + r\right) B_0 \right].$$

Choosing $\rho = e^{-h'} \rho_1$, $\rho_1 \neq 0$ and $r = (r_1/\rho_1) - (h'/2)$, we may write $C_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \bar{\rho} \end{pmatrix}$, $C_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \bar{r} \end{pmatrix}$, $\bar{\rho} \neq 1$.

Substituting a power series in s^{-1} for $v(s)$ into (3.3) and using

$$v(s) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} v_k s^{-k}, \quad v(s + 1) = v_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^k (-1)^{k-j} \binom{k-1}{j-1} v_j,^4$$

⁴ $\binom{p}{q}$ is the binomial coefficient $\binom{p}{q} = \frac{\Gamma(p+1)}{\Gamma(q+1)\Gamma(p+q+1)}$, $p \geq q \geq -1$.

we have

$$(3.4) \quad (I - C_0)v_0 = 0, (I - C_0)v_1 = C_1v_0$$

$$(3.5) \quad \begin{aligned} &(I - C_0)v_n - ((n - 1)I - C_1)v_{n-1} \\ &= \sum_{m=1}^{n-2} (-1)^{n-m} \binom{n-1}{m-1} v_m + \sum_{m=2}^n C_m v_{n-m} \end{aligned}$$

The choice made for ρ and r allow us to solve the first equation (3.4) by any vectors of the form $v_0 = \begin{pmatrix} v_1^0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$, $v_1 = \begin{pmatrix} v_1^1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$. v_1^0 is arbitrary, say $v_1^0 = 1$ and v_1^1 and v_2^2 will be determined from (3.5) with $n = 2$. In general v_1^{k-1} and v_2^k will be determined from (3.5) with $k = n$.

If $\rho_2 \neq 0$, then choosing $\rho = e^{-h'}\rho_2$ and $r = (r_2/\rho_2) - (h'/2)$ will give rise to a second solution. In this case $v_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and hence it is clear that the two formal solutions so determined will be (formally) linearly independent.

For the canonical form (ii), $B_0 = \rho_1 I$, $B_1 = \begin{pmatrix} r_1 & 0 \\ 0 & r_2 \end{pmatrix}$, $\rho_1 \neq 0$, $r_1 - r_2 \neq \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$ we choose $\rho = \rho_1$ and $r = (r_1/\rho_1) - (h'/2)$ to obtain $C_0 = I$, $C_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \bar{r} \end{pmatrix}$, $\bar{r} = (r_2 - r_1)/\rho_1$. The equations for determining $v(s)$ are as before (3.4) and (3.5). If $\bar{r} \neq 0$ $v_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ will satisfy (3.4) and the v_n , $n \geq 1$ are determined by (3.5) since $(I - C_0) = 0$ and $(n - 1)I - C_1$ is nonsingular for $n = 2, 3, \dots$. When $\bar{r} \neq 0$, a second solution is obtained by choosing $r = (r_2/\rho_1) - (h'/2)$ and $v_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$. If $\bar{r} = 0$, i.e. $r_1 = r_2$, v_0 is arbitrary and choosing $v_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ will give two linearly independent formal solutions.

If we have canonical form (iii), then choosing $\rho = e^{-h'}\rho_1$, $r = (r/\rho_1) - (h'/2)$, we have $C_0 = I$, $C_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = E$.⁵ We note that E is a nilpotent and $E^2 = 0$.

A simple calculation shows that if we can find two linearly independent vectors v and u such that

$$\begin{aligned} v(s + 1) &= C(s)v(s) \\ u(s + 1) &= C(s)u(s) - v(s + 1)ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{s}\right), \end{aligned}$$

then $v(s)$ and $u(s) + v(s)lns$ will be two linearly independent solutions for $v(s + 1) = C(s)v(s)$ when $B(s)$ has canonical form (iii).

⁵ Since δ was any nonzero constant, we assume $\delta = \frac{e^{-h'}}{\rho_1}$ so that C_1 has the form shown.

Substitution of a power series for $v(s)$ and an identification of terms yields

$$(3.6) \quad Ev_0 = 0, (I + E)v_1 = -C_2v_0$$

$$(3.7) \quad (nI + E)v_n = \sum_{j=2}^n [(-1)^j \binom{n}{j} I - C_j] v_{n-j+1} - C_{n+1}v_0.$$

Hence choosing $v_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$, $v_1 = (E - I)C_2v_0$, and v_n determined by (3.7) for $n = 2, 3, \dots$, $((nI + E)^{-1} = (1/n)I - (1/n^2)E)$, $v(s)$ will be determined.

Substituting a power series for $u(s)$ into the corresponding difference equation and expanding $\ln(1 + (1/s))$ as a power series in s^{-1} we have

$$(3.8) \quad Eu_0 = v_0, \text{ or } u_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ u_2^0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(3.9) \quad u_n = \frac{1}{n} \left(\frac{E}{n} - I \right) \left\{ \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n+1} v_0 + C_{n+1}u_0 + \sum_{j=2}^n [C_j - (-1)^j \binom{n}{j} I] u_{n-j+1} + \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{j=0}^{n-k} \frac{(-1)^{k+j}}{k} \binom{n-k}{j} v_{n+1-k-j} \right\}.$$

Clearly these two vectors $v(s)$ and $u(s) + v(s)\ln s$ are (formally) linearly independent since

$$\det(v, u + v\ln s) = \det(v, u) = 1 + 0 \left(\frac{1}{s} \right).$$

If $B(s)$ has canonical form (iv), the technique used for canonical form (i) will yield one formal solution in the form

$$y(s) = s^{h's} \rho^s s^r v(s).$$

We seek a second solution in the form

$$(3.10) \quad y(s) = s^{(h'-m)s} \rho^s s^r v(s).$$

Hence corresponding to (3.3), $v(s)$ must satisfy

$$(3.11) \quad v(s + 1) = C(s)v(s),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} C(s) &= \left(1 + \frac{1}{s} \right)^{-(h'-m)(s+1)} \frac{1}{\rho} \left(1 + \frac{1}{s} \right)^{-r} s^{m-h'} B(s) \\ &= s^m \left(C_0 + \frac{1}{s} C_1 + \dots \right). \end{aligned}$$

$$B_j = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & b_{22}^j \end{pmatrix}, j = 0, 1, \dots, m - 1, b_{22}^0 \neq 0,$$

$$B_m = \begin{pmatrix} b_{11}^m & 0 \\ 0 & b_{22}^m \end{pmatrix}, b_{11}^m \neq 0, B_{m+1} = \begin{pmatrix} b_{11}^{m+1} & 0 \\ 0 & b_{22}^{m+1} \end{pmatrix}$$

imply

$$C_j = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{22}^j \end{pmatrix}, j = 0, 1, \dots, m - 1, c_{22}^0 = \frac{e^{-(h'-m)}}{\rho} b_{22}^0$$

$$C_m = \begin{pmatrix} c_{11}^m & 0 \\ 0 & c_{22}^m \end{pmatrix}, c_{11}^m = \frac{1}{\rho} e^{-(h'-m)} b_{11}^m,$$

$$C_{m+1} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{11}^{m+1} & 0 \\ 0 & c_{22}^{m+1} \end{pmatrix}, c_{11}^{m+1} = \frac{e^{-(h'-m)}}{\rho} \left[b_{11}^{m+1} - \left(\frac{h' - m}{2} + r \right) b_{11}^m \right].$$

Hence choosing $\rho = e^{-(h'-m)} b_{11}^m$ and $r = [b_{11}^{m+1} - ((h' - m)/2)b_{11}^m]/b_{11}^m$, we have

$$C_m = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{22}^m \end{pmatrix}, C_{m+1} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{22}^{m+1} \end{pmatrix}, C_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{22}^0 \end{pmatrix}, c_{22}^0 \neq 0.$$

Substituting a power series for $v(s)$ into (3.11) yields

$$(3.12) \quad \sum_{j=0}^{\nu} C_{\nu-j} v_j = 0, \nu = 0, 1, \dots, m - 1, \sum_{j=0}^m C_{m-j} v_j = v_0$$

$$(3.13) \quad \sum_{j=0}^{m+n} C_{m+n-j} v_j = \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^{n+k} \binom{n-1}{k-1} v_k, n = 1, 2, \dots,$$

Choosing $v_j = \begin{pmatrix} v_1^j \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ for $j = 0, \dots, m$, (3.12) is satisfied and (3.13) can be written

$$(3.14) \quad C_0 v_{n+m} + (n-1)v_{n-1} = (I - C_m)v_n + \sum_{k=1}^{n-2} (-1)^{n-k} \binom{n-1}{k-1} v_k$$

$$- \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} C_{m+n-j} v_j - \sum_{j=1}^{m-1} C_{m-j} v_{n+j}.$$

For canonical forms (vii) and (viii) we seek a solution of the form

$$(3.15) \quad y(s) = s^{h's} \rho^s e^{\mu s^{1/2}} s^r e^{\nu s^{-1/2}} v(s).$$

Thus $v(s)$ must satisfy $v(s+1) = C(s)v(s)$ where

$$(3.16) \quad C(s) = \left(1 + \frac{1}{s} \right)^{-h'(s+1)} \frac{1}{\rho} e^{-\mu[(s+1)^{1/2} - s^{1/2}]} \left(1 + \frac{1}{s} \right)^{-r} e^{-\nu[(s+1)^{-1/2} - s^{-1/2}]} s^{-h'} B(s).$$

As before $C(s)$ is a power series in $s^{-1/2}$; ρ is chosen so that C_0 will have the form

$$C_0 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{(case (vii)) or } C_0 = I \text{ (case (viii))}.$$

The factor $e^{-\mu[(s+1)^{1/2}-s^{1/2}]} = 1 - (\mu/2)s^{-1/2} + \dots$ allows us to choose one of the diagonal elements of C_1 to be zero. As before $(1 + (1/s))^{-r}$ allows us to choose one of the diagonal elements of C_2 to be zero and $e^{-\nu[(s+1)^{-1/2}-s^{-1/2}]}$ allows us to choose one of the diagonal elements of C_3 to be zero. Thus choosing $\rho, \mu, r,$ and ν in succession we may write for canonical form (vii)

$$(3.17) \quad C(s) = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{s^{1/2}} \begin{pmatrix} \bar{r} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{s} \begin{pmatrix} p & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{s^{3/2}} \begin{pmatrix} q & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{C_4}{s^2} + \dots$$

and for canonical form (viii)

$$(3.18) \quad C(s) = I + \frac{1}{s^{1/2}} \begin{pmatrix} \bar{r} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{s} \begin{pmatrix} p & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{s^{3/2}} \begin{pmatrix} q & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{C_4}{s^{3/2}} + \dots,$$

$\bar{r} \neq 0$ in (3.18).

For canonical form (vii) we get two solutions: one by choosing $\rho = \rho_1$ and choosing the second diagonal element to be zero in $C_1, C_2,$ and C_3 as shown in (3.17); and another by choosing $\rho = -\rho_1$ and choosing the first diagonal element in $C_1, C_2,$ and C_3 to be zero.

For canonical form (viii) we get two solutions corresponding to the two choices for μ in (3.15), namely to make either the first or second diagonal element of C_1 equal to zero.

Substituting power series for $v(s)$ in the difference equation $v(s + 1) = C(s)v(s)$ where $C(s)$ has the form (3.17) or (3.18) yields: for canonical form (vii), (3.17)

$$(3.19) \quad (C_0 - I)v_0 = 0, (C_0 - I)v_1 + C_1v_0 = 0$$

$$(3.20) \quad (C_0 - I)v_{2n} + C_1v_{2n-1} + [C_2 + (n - 1)I]v_{2n-2} = \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n-1}{n-j} v_{2j} - \sum_{j=0}^{2n-3} C_{2n-j} v_j$$

$$(3.21) \quad (C_0 - I)v_{2n+1} + C_1v_{2n} + \left[C_2 + \left(n - \frac{1}{2} \right) I \right] v_{2n-1} = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n-1/2}{n-j+1} v_{2j-1} - \sum_{j=0}^{2n-2} C_{2n-j+1} v_j ;$$

and the canonical form (viii), (3.18)

$$(3.22) \quad C_1v_0 = 0$$

$$(3.23) \quad C_1v_{2n-1} + [C_2 + (n - 1)I]v_{2n-2} = -\sum_{j=0}^{2n-3} C_{2n-j} v_j + \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n-1}{j-1} v_{2j}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.24) \quad C_1 v_{2n} + \left[C_2 + \left(n - \frac{1}{2} \right) I \right] v_{2n-1} \\
 = - \sum_{j=0}^{2n-2} C_{2n-j+1} v_j + \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n - \frac{1}{2}}{n - j} v_{2j+1}.
 \end{aligned}$$

In each case the coefficients v_0, v_1, v_2 may be determined in succession to give two linearly independent formal solutions.

We have thus found the appropriate number of linearly independent formal solutions for all canonical forms given in Theorem 2.

4. Growth estimates. We seek now to estimate the rate of growth of the coefficients of $v(s)$ in order to discuss the asymptotic nature of these solutions and the possibility of summing $v(s)$ and replacing the formal power series with a convergent factorial series.

We note that $v(s)$ is a formal solution of an equation of the form $v(s + 1) = C(s)v(s)$ for which $C(s)$ has a convergent power series representation in s^{-1} or $s^{-1/2}$ for $|s| > a$. Hence we have the estimate

$$|c_{ij}^n| \leq Ma^n \quad M > 0, \quad a > 0.$$

Consider the canonical form (i). Here the coefficients v_n are determined by (3.4), (3.5) which can be written in component form, $v_n = \begin{pmatrix} v_1^n \\ v_2^n \end{pmatrix}$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 (4.1) \quad (n-1)v_1^{n-1} &= \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n-1}{j-1} v_1^j - \sum_{j=2}^n \sum_{i=1}^2 c_{1i}^j v_i^{n-j} \\
 (1-\bar{\rho})v_2^n &= (n-1+\bar{r})v_2^{n-1} - \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n-1}{j-1} v_2^j + \sum_{j=2}^n \sum_{i=1}^2 c_{2i}^j v_i^{n-j}
 \end{aligned}$$

$n \geq 3$

with $v_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$, $v_2^1 = 0$, $v_1^1 = -c_{11}^2$, $v_2^2 = c_{21}^2/(1-\bar{\rho})$ as initial conditions. Let $\lambda = |1-\bar{\rho}| \neq 0$ and $r = |\bar{r}|$.

The coefficients w_n determined by

$$\begin{aligned}
 (4.2) \quad (n-1)w_1^n &= \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} \binom{n-1}{j-1} w_1^j + M \sum_{j=2}^n a^j (w_1^{n-j} + w_2^{n-j}) \\
 \lambda w_2^n &= (n-1+r)w_2^{n-1} + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \binom{n-1}{j-1} w_2^j + M \sum_{j=2}^n a^j (w_1^{n-j} + w_2^{n-j})
 \end{aligned}$$

$n \geq 3$

with $w_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$, $w_1^1 = Ma^2$, $w_2^1 = 0$, $w_2^2 = (Ma^2/\lambda)$, are such that $|v_i^n| \leq w_i^n$, $i = 1, 2$, $n = 0, 1, \dots$, i.e. (4.2) is a dominant system for (4.1).

Multiplying (4.2) by a and subtracting the resulting equations from (4.2) with n increased to $n + 1$ and dropping terms with negative coefficients gives rise to a new dominant system:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (4.3) \quad n z_1^n &= a(n - 1)z_1^{n-1} + \binom{n}{2} z_1^{n-1} + \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} \binom{n}{j-1} z_1^j + Ma^2(z_1^{n-1} + z_2^{n-1}) \\
 \lambda z_2^{n+1} &= (\lambda a + n + r)z_2^n + (n - 1 + r)z_2^{n-1} + \binom{n}{2} z_2^{n-1} + \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} \binom{n}{j-1} z_1^j \\
 &\quad + Ma^2(z_1^{n-1} + z_2^{n-1})
 \end{aligned}$$

with the same initial conditions as (4.2). We have

$$w_i^n \leq z_i^n, \quad i = 1, 2, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots .$$

Consider $z_i^n/(n - 1)!$ as dependent variables in (4.3), subtract the corresponding equations from themselves with n increased to $n + 1$, and drop all terms with negative coefficients to obtain a new dominant system:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (4.4) \quad x_1^{n+1} &= \left(\frac{a}{n+1} + \frac{3}{2}\right)x_1^n + \frac{Ma^2}{n(n+1)}(x_1^n + x_2^n) \\
 \lambda x_2^{n+2} &= \left(1 + \lambda + \frac{\lambda a + r}{n+1}\right)x_2^{n+1} + \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{a(n+r)}{n(n+1)}\right)x_2^n \\
 &\quad + \frac{Ma^2}{n(n+1)}(x_1^n + x_2^n)
 \end{aligned}$$

with the same initial conditions as (4.3). We have

$$z_i^n \leq (n - 1)!x_i^n, \quad i = 1, 2, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots .$$

Since the coefficients in (4.4) are bounded as $n \rightarrow \infty$ we have the estimate

$$x_i^n \leq pe^{nq}$$

for suitable constants p and q . Hence

$$(4.5) \quad |v_i^n| \leq w_i^n \leq z_i^n \leq (n - 1)!x_i^n \leq (n - 1)!pe^{nq} .$$

The same sequence of steps yields similar estimates for the second solution for canonical form (i) and the solutions for canonical forms (ii) and (iv).

We estimate both solutions of canonical form (iii) simultaneously due to their interdependence.

The two solutions u and v obtained for canonical form (iii) satisfy the equations

$$v(s + 1) = C(s)v(s)$$

$$u(s + 1) = C(s)u(s) - C(s)\ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{s}\right)v(s) .$$

Let $z(s)$ be the vector with four components,

$$z = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} .$$

Then z satisfies the difference equation

$$(4.6) \quad z(s + 1) = \hat{C}(s)z(s) ,$$

where

$$\hat{C}(s) = \begin{pmatrix} C(s) & -C(s)\ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{s}\right) \\ 0 & C(s) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= I + \frac{1}{s} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{s^2} \hat{C}_2 + \dots .$$

The same sequence of steps (with $a > 1$) will yield the estimates

$$|v_i^n| \leq (n - 1)!pe^{nq}$$

$$|u_i^n| \leq (n - 1)!pe^{nq} .$$

To estimate the growth of the coefficients for canonical forms (vii) and (viii) we employ a similar device. We have

$$v(s) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} v_k s^{-k/2} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} v_{2j} s^{-j} + \frac{1}{s^{1/2}} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} v_{2j+1} s^{-j}$$

$$= u(s) + \frac{1}{s^{1/2}} w(s) ,$$

and

$$C(s) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} C_{2j} s^{-j} + \frac{1}{s^{1/2}} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} C_{2j+1} s^{-j} = D(s) + \frac{1}{s^{1/2}} F(s) .$$

Writing

$$z(s) = \begin{pmatrix} u(s) \\ v(s) \end{pmatrix}, \hat{C}(s) = \begin{pmatrix} D(s) & s^{-1}F(s) \\ \left(1 + \frac{1}{s}\right)^{1/2} F(s) & \left(1 + \frac{1}{s}\right)^{1/2} D(s) \end{pmatrix}$$

we have

$$z(s + 1) = \hat{C}(s)z(s) ,$$

where, for canonical form (vii),

$$\hat{C}(s) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \bar{r} & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{s} \begin{pmatrix} p & 0 & \bar{r} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ q + \frac{\bar{r}}{2} & 0 & p + \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{s^2} \hat{C}_2 + \dots,$$

and for canonical form (viii)

$$\hat{C}(s) = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \bar{r} & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{s} \begin{pmatrix} p & 0 & \bar{r} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ q + \frac{\bar{r}}{2} & 0 & p - \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{s^2} \hat{C}_2 + \dots.$$

The equations for the components of $z(s)$ will be equivalent to the corresponding equations (3.19)–(3.21) and (3.22)–(3.24) and are given by:

$$\begin{aligned} 2z_1^n &= (p + n - 1)z_1^{n-1} + \bar{r}z_3^{n-1} - \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n-1}{j-1} z_1^j \\ &\quad + \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \sum_{i=1}^4 C_{1i}^{n-j} z_i^j \\ (4.7) \quad (n-1)z_2^{n-1} &= \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n-1}{j-1} z_2^j - \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \sum_{i=1}^4 C_{2i}^{n-j} z_i^j \\ 2z_3^n &= \frac{\bar{r}}{2} z_1^n + \left(q + \frac{\bar{r}}{2} \right) z_1^{n-1} - \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n-1}{j-1} z_3^j \\ &\quad + \left(p - \frac{3}{2} + n \right) z_3^{n-1} + \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \sum_{i=1}^4 C_{3i}^{n-j} z_i^j \\ \left(n - \frac{1}{2} \right) z_4^{n-1} &= \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n-1}{j-1} z_4^j - \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \sum_{i=1}^4 C_{4i}^{n-j} z_i^j \end{aligned}$$

for canonical form (vii); and

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{r}z_1^n &= -\left(q + \frac{\bar{r}}{2} \right) z_1^{n-1} - \left(p + n - \frac{1}{2} \right) z_3^{n-1} \\ &\quad + \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n-1}{j-1} z_3^j + \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} \sum_{i=1}^4 C_{3i}^{n-j} z_i^j \\ (4.8) \quad (n-1)z_2^{n-1} &= \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n-1}{j-1} z_2^j - \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \sum_{i=1}^4 C_{2i}^{n-j} z_i^j \\ \bar{r}z_3^n &= -(p + n)z_1^n - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n}{j-1} z_1^j - \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^4 C_{1i}^{n-j+1} z_i^j \\ \left(n - \frac{1}{2} \right) z_4^{n-1} &= \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n-1}{j-1} z_4^j - \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \sum_{i=1}^4 C_{4i}^{n-j} z_i^j \end{aligned}$$

for canonical form (viii)

In both sets of equations (4.7) and (4.8) the third equation gives z_3^n in terms of z_1^n and lower order terms. We could eliminate z_1^n by use of the first equation. The resulting equation would involve a term essentially nz_1^{n-1} for (4.7) and lower terms while the resulting equation would involve a term essentially $n^2z_3^{n-1}$ for (4.8). The procedure for determining dominate systems of equations breaks down for (4.8) and not for (4.7) due to this fact, i.e. the substitution $z^n = (n - 1)!u^n$ will give a term corresponding to nz_1^{n-1} as a bounded coefficient times u_1^{n-1} whereas the term corresponding to $n^2z_3^{n-1}$ will have a coefficient $0(n)$ times u_3^{n-1} .

Hence we have, for (4.7) the estimate

$$|z_i^n| \leq (n - 1)!pe^{nq} .$$

For (4.8) we do have the estimate

$$|z_i^n| < ((n - 1)!)^2pe^{nq}$$

but this estimate is too large for subsequent steps in our treatment of the problem under consideration.

REMARK. We note that we have not shown the impossibility of an estimate $|z_i^n| \leq p(n - 1)!e^{nq}$ for canonical form (viii). We are unable to prove such an estimate or construct an example for which $|z_i^n| = ((n - 1)!)^2pe^{nq}$. If such an example can be constructed, it is possible to show the impossibility of summation by the use of factorial series for this example.

5. **Related integral equations.** We next consider an integral equation for a vector $w(t)$ whose Laplace transform is simply related to our formal solution $v(s)$. We will use this integral equation to show that the formal solution $v(s)$ has a Laplace transform representation $\hat{v}(s)$; $v(s)$ is an asymptotic representation of $\hat{v}(s)$; and that $v(s)$ may be summed, i.e. $\hat{v}(s)$ has a convergent factorial series representation.

Consider canonical form (i). We have from (3.3), $v(s + 1) = C(s)v(s)$, where

$$C(s) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \bar{\rho} \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{s} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \bar{r} \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{s^2} C_2 + \dots$$

and the formal solution $v(s) = v_0 + (1/s)v_1 + \dots$. Formally we may define

$$(5.1) \quad w(t) = L^{-1}\{v(s) - v_0\} = L^{-1}\{u(s)\} .$$

Thus, formally, from $v(s + 1) = C(s)v(s)$, we have

$$(5.2) \quad (e^{-t}I - C_0)w(t) = \int_0^t \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(t - \tau)^{n-1}}{(n - 1)!} C_n w(\tau) d\tau + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{t^{n-1}}{(n - 1)!} C_n v_0.$$

Since $C(s) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n s^{-n}$ converges for $|s| > s_0 > 0$, the series in (5.2) converge for all finite values of t and τ .

We have from (5.1) that formally

$$(5.3) \quad w(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{v_n t^{n-1}}{(n - 1)!}$$

is a solution of the integral equation (5.2). However, the growth estimate, $|v_i^n| \leq (n - 1)!pe^{nq}$ implies

$$|w_i(t)| \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{|v_i^n|}{(n - 1)!} |t|^{n-1} \leq pe^q \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (e^q |t|)^n = \frac{pe^q}{1 - e^q |t|}$$

if $|t| < e^{-q}$. Hence $w(t)$ as given by (5.3) is a true solution since the uniform and absolute convergence of (5.3) for $|t| \leq \alpha < e^{-q}$ allows the interchange of integration and summation in (5.2).

We now use the integral equation (5.2) to show that $w(t)$ as continued analytically outside the circle $|t| = e^{-q}$ is of exponential order, i.e.

$$|w_i(t)| \leq ce^{g|t|}$$

for positive constants c and g and t in some sector S with vertex at the origin $t = 0$.

The singular points for (5.2) are determined by $e^{-t} = 1$ and $e^{-t} = \bar{\rho} = |\bar{\rho}|e^{-i\alpha}$, $-\pi < \alpha < \pi$. Thus the possible singular points are

$$t = 2n\pi i, t = -\ln |\bar{\rho}| + i(\alpha + 2n\pi), \quad n = 0, \pm 1, \dots,$$

and $w(t)$ can be analytically continued in any sector S which does not contain within or on its boundaries any possible singular point except $t = 0$.

LEMMA 2. *Let $w(t)$ be defined by*

$$(5.4) \quad w(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{v_n t^{n-1}}{(n - 1)!}$$

and satisfy the integral equation (5.2), where $|v_i^n| \leq (n - 1)!pe^{nq}$. Then $w(t)$, with analytic continuation, satisfies the inequality

$$(5.5) \quad w_i(t) \leq ce^{g|t|},$$

c, g positive constants in any sector S which does not contain the

points

$$t = 2n\pi i, n = \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots, t = -\ln|\bar{\rho}| + i(\alpha + 2n\pi), n = 0, \pm 1, \dots$$

within or on its boundaries.

Proof. Let t_0 be such that $0 < t_0 < e^{-a}$ where e^{-a} is less than or equal to the radius of convergence of the series (5.4). Then there exists a constant $c > 0$ such that $|w_i(t)| < c$ if $|t| < t_0$ and hence $|w_i(t)| < ce^{\sigma|t|}$ for $|t| < t_0$ and $g \geq 0$.

Assume the lemma false. Then there exists a constant $t_1 = t_1(g) > t_0$ such that $|w_i(t)| < ce^{\sigma|t|}$ for $|t| < t_0$, while for some point t' in S $|t'| = t_1$, $|w_i(t')| = ce^{\sigma t_1}$ for $i = 1$ or 2 .

Choose as path of integration in (5.2) the ray from the origin thru the point t' . Evaluating (5.2) for $t = t'$ and taking absolute values of the component equations, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |e^{-t'} - 1| |w_1(t')| &\leq \int_0^{t_1} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(t_1 - \tau)^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} (|c_{11}^n| |w_1(\tau)| + |c_{12}^n| |w_2(\tau)|) d\tau \\ &\quad + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{|c_{11}^n|}{(n-1)!} t_1^{n-1} \\ |e^{-t'} - \bar{\rho}| |w_2(t')| &\leq |\bar{r}| \int_0^{t_1} |w_2(\tau)| d\tau \\ &\quad + \int_0^{t_1} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(t_1 - \tau)^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} (|c_{21}^n| |w_1| + |c_{22}^n| |w_2|) d\tau \\ &\quad + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{|c_{21}^n|}{(n-1)!} t_1^{n-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Using $|c_{ij}^n| \leq Ma^n$, $M > 0$, $a > 0$, $|e^{-t} - \bar{\rho}| > k > 0$ for t in S and $|e^{-t} - 1| > k > 0$ for t in S , $|t| \geq t_0$, it follows

$$\begin{aligned} (5.6) \quad 1 &\leq \frac{|\bar{r}|}{gk} (1 - e^{-\sigma t_1}) + \frac{2Ma}{k} \left(\frac{1 - e^{(a-\sigma)t_1}}{g-a} - \frac{1 - e^{-\sigma t_1}}{g} \right) \\ &\quad + \frac{Ma}{kc} e^{(a-\sigma)t_1} - e^{-\sigma t_1}. \end{aligned}$$

Choose a sequence of g 's, $g = g_1, g_2, \dots$ such that $g_n \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. We have $t_1(g_n) \geq t_1(g_1)$ and $t_1(g_n)g_n \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. The inequality (5.6) holds for $g = g_n$, but the limit of the right member of (5.6) as $n \rightarrow \infty$ is zero, a contradiction, and the lemma is proved.

The treatment of canonical form (ii) is similar and the details are omitted.

For the canonical form (iii) we use the four component vector $z(s)$ as given in (4.6). The corresponding integral equation is

$$(e^{-t} - 1)w(t) = \int_0^t \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(t - \tau)^{n-1}}{(n - 1)!} \hat{C}_n w(\tau) d\tau + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{t^{n-1}}{(n - 1)!} \hat{C}_n v_0$$

where $w(t)$ is a vector with four components. The possible singular points are $t = 2n\pi i$, $n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$, and corresponding to Lemma 2 we have

$$|w_i(t)| \leq (n - 1)!ce^{\sigma|t|}$$

in any sector S with vertex at the origin which does not contain the rays $\arg t = \pm(\pi/2)$ within or as boundaries.

For canonical form (iv), the first solution was obtained by the same method used to obtain the solutions for canonical form (i). Thus our treatment for canonical form (i) applies with the restriction $\cos(\arg t) < 0$. In order to treat the second solution for canonical form (iv) a modification is necessary.

The second solution for canonical form (iv) satisfies (3.11)

$$v(s + 1) = C(s)v(s)$$

where

$$C(s) = s^m \left(C_0 + \frac{1}{s} C_1 + \dots \right).$$

Setting $u(s) = v(s) - v_0$ and using the relations $C_0 v_0 = 0$, $\sum_{n=1}^{m-1} (C_n/s^n) v_0 = 0$, we obtain

$$s^{-m}u(s + 1) = C_0 u(s) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{C_n}{s^n} u(s) + \sum_{n=m}^{\infty} \frac{C_n}{s^n} v_0 - \frac{v_0}{s^m}.$$

Formally defining $w(t) = L^{-1}\{u(s)\}$ we obtain

$$(5.7) \quad \int_0^t \frac{(t - \tau)^{m-1}}{(m - 1)!} e^{-\tau} w(\tau) d\tau = C_0 w(t) + \int_0^t \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(t - \tau)^{n-1}}{(n - 1)!} C_n w(\tau) d\tau + \sum_{n=m}^{\infty} \frac{t^{n-1}}{(n - 1)!} C_n v_0 - \frac{t^{m-1}}{(m - 1)!} v_0.$$

Defining $w(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} v_{n+1}(t^n/n!)$, we have that $w(t)$ is a rigorous analytic solution of (5.7) for $|t| < e^{-\sigma}$.

To show that $w(t)$ with analytic continuation satisfies in appropriate sectors S the growth condition $|w_i(t)| \leq ce^{\sigma|t|}$ we rewrite the integral equation (5.7) in component form and differentiate the equation for the first component m times to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 (e^{-t} - 1)w_1(t) &= \int_0^t \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(t - \tau)^{n-1}}{(n - 1)!} [c_{11}^{n+m}w_1 + c_{12}^{n+m}w_2]d\tau + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^n}{n!} c_{11}^{n+m+1} \\
 (5.8) \quad c_{22}^0 w_2(t) &= \int_0^t \frac{(t - \tau)^{m-1}}{(m - 1)!} e^{-\tau} w_2(\tau) d\tau \\
 &\quad - \int_0^t \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(t - \tau)^{n-1}}{(n - 1)!} [c_{21}^n w_1 + c_{22}^n w_2] d\tau \\
 &\quad - \sum_{n=m}^{\infty} \frac{t^{n-1}}{(n - 1)!} c_{21}^n + \frac{t^{m-1}}{(m - 1)!}
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence $w(t)$ can be continued analytically into either the right or left t -plane.

We proceed as in the proof of Lemma 2 and assume that for a sequence of values g_n , $g_n \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, either $w_1(t)$ or $w_2(t)$ violates the growth condition

$$|w_i(t)| \leq ce^{g_n |t|}.$$

For $w_1(t)$, we use the first equation in (5.8) and the details are similar to those given in the proof of Lemma 2. Hence, assume $w_2(t)$ violates the appropriate growth condition. Thus for $g = g_n$, using the second equation in (5.8), and $t = t'$, $|t'| = t_1 = t_1(g)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (5.9) \quad c |c_{22}^0| e^{g t_1} &\leq c \int_0^{t_1} \frac{(t_1 - \tau)^{m-1}}{(m - 1)!} e^{-\tau} d\tau + 2Ma c \int_0^{t_1} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(t_1 - \tau)^n}{n!} a^n e^{g\tau} d\tau \\
 &\quad + Ma \sum_{n=m-1}^{\infty} \frac{t_1^n a^n}{n!} + \frac{t_1^{m-1}}{(m - 1)!}
 \end{aligned}$$

where $|c_{ij}^n| \leq Ma^n$, $M > 0$, $a > 0$.

Integrating the first term of the right member of (5.9) yields

$$(5.10) \quad 1 \leq \frac{1}{|c_{22}^0|} \left\{ \frac{e^{-t_1}}{(g - 1)^m} + 2Ma \frac{1 - e^{(a-g)t_1}}{g - a} + \frac{Ma}{c} e^{(a-g)t_1} + \frac{t_1^{m-1} e^{-g t_1}}{c(m - 1)!} \right\}.$$

The inequality (5.10) holds for $g = g_n$, and since $g_n \rightarrow \infty$ and $g_n t_1(g_n) \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ the right member has limit zero as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Hence we have the desired growth condition

$$|w_i(t)| \leq ce^{g |t|}$$

in any sector S which does not contain the rays $\arg t = \pm(\pi/2)$ within or on its boundaries.

For canonical form (vii) we utilize the four component vector $z(s)$ used in § 4 to establish the growth estimate $|z_i^n| \leq (n - 1)! p e^{nq}$. The details, being essentially the same as for canonical form (i), are omitted.

6. Laplace integrals and asymptotic series. For canonical forms (i)–(iv) and (vii) we have shown the corresponding vector $w(t)$ to be of exponential order along rays from the origin in sectors S which contain no singular points. Hence the formal Laplace operator used in § 5 can be put on a rigorous basis.

Select some ray in the sector S , say $\arg t = \varphi$. If the complex variable $s = |s|e^{i\theta}$ is restricted to the half plane

$$H(\varphi) : \operatorname{Re}\{se^{i\varphi}\} = |s| \cos(\varphi + \theta) > g + \varepsilon,$$

$\varepsilon > 0$ and arbitrary, and the path of integration is along the ray $\arg t = \varphi$, the integral

$$(6.1) \quad \hat{u}(s) = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} w(t) dt$$

converges absolutely in $H(\varphi)$ and defines an analytic vector function. In any sector S (6.1) defines the same analytic vector function, however (6.1) may define different branches of the analytic vector function $\hat{u}(s)$ in different sectors.

Thus, $\hat{v}(s) = \hat{u}(s) + v_0$ satisfies the difference equation $v(s+1) = C(s)v(s)$, and is a rigorous analytic solution in the union of half-plane $H(\varphi)$ corresponding to rays in the sector S .

We may now apply the following theorem of Doetsch [3, p. 231] to show that our formal solutions are asymptotic representations of the solutions \hat{v} in appropriate regions.

THEOREM (Doetsch). *Let $\int_0^\infty e^{-st} F(t) dt = f(s)$ have a half-plane of conditional convergence and let $F(t)$ have at $t = 0$ an asymptotic series expansion*

$$F(t) \sim \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{c_{n+1} t^n}{n!}.$$

Then $f(s)$ possesses in the sector $S: |\arg s| \leq \beta < (\pi/2)$ for $s \rightarrow \infty$ the asymptotic series expansion

$$f(s) \sim \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{c_{n+1}}{s^{n+1}}.$$

7. Representation of solutions by factorial series. To show that $\hat{u}(s)$ as given by (6.1), and therefore also $\hat{v}(s)$, is representable by a factorial series we use the following theorem of Nörlund [6, p. 188].

THEOREM (Nörlund). *Every integral of the form*

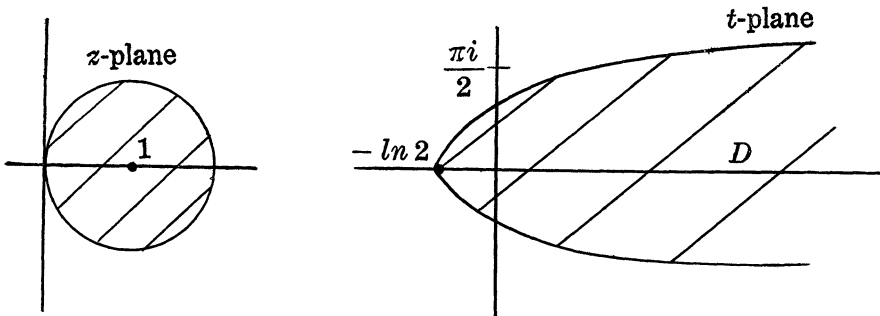
$$u(s) = \int_0^1 z^{s-1} \varphi(z) dz$$

where the integration path is the real axis, $\varphi(z)$ is an analytic function in the interior of the circle $|z - 1| = 1$ and of finite order ω^6 on this circle, is representable by a factorial series convergent in the half-plane $\text{Re}\{s\} > \omega - 1$.

Assume momentarily that the path of integration for $\int_0^\infty e^{-st}w(t)dt$ is the positive real axis. Then

$$\hat{u}_i(s) = \int_0^\infty e^{-st}w_i(t)dt = \int_0^1 z^{s-1}\varphi_i(z)dz$$

under the transformation $t = \ln(1/z)$, $w_i(t) = \varphi_i(z)$. The circle $|z - 1| = 1$ is mapped onto the t -plane as the curve $\sec v = 2e^v$ where $t = u + iv$,



which is asymptotic to the lines $v = \pm(\pi/2)$. The interior, $|z - 1| < 1$ is mapped into the region D . Assume also that $w_i(t)$ is analytic for t in D , and hence $\varphi_i(z)$ is analytic for $|z - 1| < 1$. To show that $\varphi_i(z)$ is of finite order on $|z - 1| = 1$ we use the following lemma of Nörlund [6, p. 51].

LEMMA (Nörlund). *If $(1 - |\xi|)^\omega |f(\xi)| < C$, $\omega \geq 0$, as ξ tends to any point on the circle $|\xi| = 1$ from the interior, then the function $f(\xi)$ is of order $\omega + 1$ at most on $|\xi| = 1$.*

Let $z = \xi + 1$, $f_i(\xi) = \varphi_i(z) = w_i(t) = w_i(\ln(1/1 + \xi))$. Thus $|f_i(\xi)| \leq C e^{\theta|t|} \rightarrow C e^{\theta|\ln(1+\xi')|}$ as $\xi \rightarrow \xi'$ for $\xi' \neq -1$, $|\xi'| = 1$. Hence $\omega \geq 0$ is sufficient for any point except $\xi' = -1$.

Introducing polar coordinates in the z -plane we have, $z = r e^{i\theta}$, $r > 0$, $|\theta| < (\pi/2)$ and for $r < (1/2)$

$$1 - |\xi| = r \left(\cos \theta - \frac{r}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon_\theta(r)}{r} \right)$$

⁶ Let $f(z)$ be a function defined by a Taylor series $f(z) = a_0 + a_1z + \dots$ convergent for $|z| < 1$. The order ω of $f(z)$ on $|z| = 1$ is $\omega = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln |na_n|}{\ln n}$

where $\varepsilon_\theta(r)/r$ is bounded as $r \rightarrow 0$. Also, given $\varepsilon > 0$, for sufficiently small r , $|f_i(\xi)| < Ce^{g|zns|} < Cr^{-(1+\varepsilon)g}$. Thus

$$(1 - |\xi|)^\omega |f_i(\xi)| < Cr^{\omega - (1+\varepsilon)g} \left(\cos \theta - \frac{r}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon_\theta(r)}{r} \right)^\omega < K$$

as $r \rightarrow 0$ if $\omega \geq (1 + \varepsilon)g$, and the order of $f_i(\xi)$ on the circle $|\xi| = 1$ can be of order $g + 1$ at most.

In this case we have the factorial expansion

$$\hat{u}(s) = \frac{u_1}{s} + \frac{u_2}{s(s+1)} + \dots$$

convergent in the half-plane $Re\{s\} > g + \varepsilon$.⁷

In general, let the integration path for $\hat{u}(s) = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} w(t) dt$ be the ray $\arg t = \varphi$. The analytic solution

$$\hat{v}(s) = \hat{u}(s) + v_0$$

can be represented in the half-plane

$$H(\varphi) : Re\{se^{i\varphi}\} > g + \varepsilon, \varepsilon > 0$$

by the convergent factorial series

$$\hat{v}(s) = v_0 + \sum_{k=0}^\infty \frac{v_{k+1}(\varphi, \gamma)}{s(s + \gamma e^{-i\varphi}) \dots (s + k\gamma e^{-i\varphi})}$$

where the positive constant γ is sufficiently large. Any $\gamma > 1$ is suitable provided it is large enough so that when the ξ -plane is mapped into the t -plane by the transformation

$$t = e^{-i\varphi} \ln \frac{\xi}{\gamma}$$

the map of the disk $|1 - \xi| < 1$ is completely contained within a region which is the union of the sector S under consideration and the disk $|t| < e^{-\eta}$.

We summarize our results in

THEOREM 3. *Let the difference equation*

$$y(s + 1) = B(s)y(s)$$

be such that $B(s)$ has one of the canonical forms (i)–(iv) or (vii). There exists a fundamental set of formal solutions of the form

$$y(s) = s^{hs} \rho^s s^r v(s), \quad v(s) = \sum_{j=0}^\infty v_j s^{-j} \quad \text{(i)–(iv)}$$

⁷ In some cases the region of convergence may be larger than indicated here.

or

$$y(s) = s^{hs} \rho^s \exp(\mu s^{1/2}) s^r \exp(\nu s^{-1/2}) v(s),$$

$$v(s) = v_1(s) + \frac{1}{s^{1/2}} v_2(s), \quad v_i(s) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} v_{ij} s^{-j} \quad (\text{vii}),$$

which may be computed by substitution and identification of terms.

These formal solutions are asymptotic representations of true solutions in appropriate regions of the s -plane. Further $v(s)$, $v_1(s)$, and $v_2(s)$ may be summed and replaced by convergent factorial series in appropriate half-planes of the s -plane.

8. Remarks. (1) Results similar to those of this paper have been obtained by G. D. Birkhoff [1] and W. J. Trjitzinsky [7].⁸ Both authors consider single linear difference equations of n th order

$$\sum_{k=0}^n d_{n-k}(s) y(s+k) = 0$$

where the coefficients are given as convergent power series of the form

$$d_{n-k}(s) = \sum_{j=-m} d_{n-k,ij} s^{-j/p}$$

where p is an integer. Birkhoff established the existence and form of a full set of formal series solutions; however, his proof was essentially existential and no straight-forward direct method was given to compute successive coefficients in the formal solutions. The summation of these formal series was considered by Trjitzinsky and shown to be feasible in certain cases. Our results are the corresponding results with extensions for linear systems of difference equations with $n = 2$, $p = 1$.

Formal solutions of linear systems of difference equations for arbitrary n and p have been considered by H. L. Turrittin [8].

(2) The linear system of difference equations

$$x(s+1) = A(s)x(s)$$

where the n by n matrix A has a convergent series representation

$$A(s) = I + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} A_k s^{-k} \quad |s| > s_0$$

is a special case of a class of linear systems of difference equations solvable by factorial series treated by W. A. Harris, Jr. [4].

(3) General results similar to Lemma 1 are contained in a paper by W. A. Harris, Jr. [5].

⁸ For other pertinent references see the bibliographies of these two papers.

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Pacific Journal of Mathematics

Vol. 13, No. 4

June, 1963

Dallas O. Banks, <i>Bounds for eigenvalues and generalized convexity</i>	1031
Jerrold William Bebernes, <i>A subfunction approach to a boundary value problem for ordinary differential equations</i>	1053
Woodrow Wilson Bledsoe and A. P. Morse, <i>A topological measure construction</i>	1067
George Clements, <i>Entropies of several sets of real valued functions</i>	1085
Sandra Barkdull Cleveland, <i>Homomorphisms of non-commutative *-algebras</i>	1097
William John Andrew Culmer and William Ashton Harris, <i>Convergent solutions of ordinary linear homogeneous difference equations</i>	1111
Ralph DeMarr, <i>Common fixed points for commuting contraction mappings</i>	1139
James Robert Dorroh, <i>Integral equations in normed abelian groups</i>	1143
Adriano Mario Garsia, <i>Entropy and singularity of infinite convolutions</i>	1159
J. J. Gergen, Francis G. Dressel and Wilbur Hallan Purcell, Jr., <i>Convergence of extended Bernstein polynomials in the complex plane</i>	1171
Irving Leonard Glicksberg, <i>A remark on analyticity of function algebras</i>	1181
Charles John August Halberg, Jr., <i>Semigroups of matrices defining linked operators with different spectra</i>	1187
Philip Hartman and Nelson Onuchic, <i>On the asymptotic integration of ordinary differential equations</i>	1193
Isidore Heller, <i>On a class of equivalent systems of linear inequalities</i>	1209
Joseph Hersch, <i>The method of interior parallels applied to polygonal or multiply connected membranes</i>	1229
Hans F. Weinberger, <i>An effectless cutting of a vibrating membrane</i>	1239
Melvin F. Janowitz, <i>Quantifiers and orthomodular lattices</i>	1241
Samuel Karlin and Albert Boris J. Novikoff, <i>Generalized convex inequalities</i>	1251
Tilla Weinstein, <i>Another conformal structure on immersed surfaces of negative curvature</i>	1281
Gregers Louis Krabbe, <i>Spectral permanence of scalar operators</i>	1289
Shige Toshi Kuroda, <i>Finite-dimensional perturbation and a representation of scattering operator</i>	1305
Marvin David Marcus and Afton Herbert Cayford, <i>Equality in certain inequalities</i>	1319
Joseph Martin, <i>A note on uncountably many disks</i>	1331
Eugene Kay McLachlan, <i>Extremal elements of the convex cone of semi-norms</i>	1335
John W. Moon, <i>An extension of Landau's theorem on tournaments</i>	1343
Louis Joel Mordell, <i>On the integer solutions of $y(y + 1) = x(x + 1)(x + 2)$</i>	1347
Kenneth Roy Mount, <i>Some remarks on Fitting's invariants</i>	1353
Miroslav Novotný, <i>Über Abbildungen von Mengen</i>	1359
Robert Dean Ryan, <i>Conjugate functions in Orlicz spaces</i>	1371
John Vincent Ryff, <i>On the representation of doubly stochastic operators</i>	1379
Donald Ray Sherbert, <i>Banach algebras of Lipschitz functions</i>	1387
James McLean Sloss, <i>Reflection of biharmonic functions across analytic boundary conditions with examples</i>	1401
L. Bruce Treybig, <i>Concerning homogeneity in totally ordered, connected topological space</i>	1417
John Wermer, <i>The space of real parts of a function algebra</i>	1423
James Juei-Chin Yeh, <i>Orthogonal developments of functionals and related theorems in the Wiener space of functions of two variables</i>	1427
William P. Ziemer, <i>On the compactness of integral classes</i>	1437