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SOME TRIPLE INTEGRAL EQUATIONS

JOHN S. LOWNDES

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In this paper we solve the triple integral equations

$$(1) \quad \mathfrak{M}^{-1}\!\!\left\{\!\frac{\varGamma(\xi+s/\delta)}{\varGamma(\xi+\beta+s/\delta)}\,\varPhi(s);\;x\!\right\} = 0,\; 0 \leqq x < a,\; b < x < \infty \enspace,$$

$$(\ 2\) \quad \ \mathfrak{M}^{-1}\bigg\{\frac{\varGamma(1+\eta-s/\sigma)}{\varGamma(1+\eta+\alpha-s/\sigma)}\,\varPhi(s); \ x\bigg\} = f_2(x), \ \alpha < x < b \ ,$$

where α , β , ξ , η , $\delta > 0$, $\sigma > 0$, are real parameters, $f_2(x)$ is a known function, $\Phi(s)$ is to be determined and

(3)
$$\mathfrak{M}{h(x); s} = H(s), \mathfrak{M}^{-1}{H(s); x} = h(x),$$

denote the Mellin transform of h(x) and its inversion formula respectively.

The above equations are an extension of the dual integral equations solved in a recent paper by Erdélyi [2] by means of a systematic application of the Erdélyi-Kober operators of fractional integration [4].

Using the properties of some slightly extended forms of the Erdélyi-Kober operators we show, in a purely formal manner, that the solution of the triple integral equations can be expressed in terms of the solution of a Fredholm integral equation of the second kind. Srivastav and Parihar [5] have solved a very special case of the equations by a completely different method from that used in this paper. The method of solution employed here will be seen to follow closely that used by Cooke [1] to obtain the solution to some triple integral equations involving Bessel functions; indeed Cooke's equations may be regarded as a special case of equations (1) and (2) and it is shown that a solution of his equations can be readily obtained from that presented in this paper.

2. The integral operators. We shall use the integral operators defined by

$$I_{\eta,\alpha}(a, \, x; \, \sigma) f(x) \, = \, \frac{\sigma x^{-\sigma(\alpha+\eta)}}{\varGamma(\alpha)} \int_a^x (x^\sigma \, - \, t^\sigma)^{\alpha-1} t^{\sigma(\eta+1)-1} f(t) dt \, \, , \ \, \alpha > 0 \, \, ,$$

$$= \frac{x^{1-\sigma(\alpha+\eta+1)}}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \frac{d}{dx} \int_a^x (x^{\sigma}-t^{\sigma})^{\alpha} t^{\sigma(\eta+1)-1} f(t) dt ,$$

$$-1 < \alpha < 0 ,$$

$$(6) K_{\eta,\alpha}(x,b;\sigma)f(x) = \frac{\sigma x^{\sigma\eta}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_x^b (t^{\sigma} - x^{\sigma})^{\alpha-1} t^{\sigma(1-\alpha-\eta)-1} f(t) dt , \quad \alpha > 0 ,$$

(7)
$$= -\frac{x^{\sigma(\gamma-1)+1}}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \frac{d}{dx} \int_{x}^{b} (t^{\sigma} - x^{\sigma})^{\alpha} t^{\sigma(1-\alpha-\gamma)-1} f(t) dt ,$$

$$-1 < \alpha < 0 ,$$

where a < x < b, $\sigma > 0$.

When $a=0,\,b=\infty$, these become the extended form of the Erdélyi-Kober operators used in [2] and when $\sigma=2$ they are the same as the operators defined by Cooke [1].

From the theory of Abel integral equations it follows that the inverse operators are given by

(8)
$$I_{n,\alpha}^{-1}(a, x; \sigma)f(x) = I_{n+\alpha,-\alpha}(a, x; \sigma)f(x)$$
,

$$(9) K_{\eta,\alpha}^{-1}(x,b;\sigma)f(x) = K_{\eta+\alpha,-\alpha}(x,b;\sigma)f(x).$$

We shall also find it convenient to have expressions for integral operators of the type

(10)
$$L_{\eta,\alpha}(0, x; \sigma)f(x) = I_{\eta,\alpha}^{-1}(a, x; \sigma) I_{\eta,\alpha}(0, a; \sigma)f(x), \qquad 0 < a < x,$$

(11)
$$M_{n,\sigma}(x,b;\sigma)f(x) = K_{n,\sigma}^{-1}(x,a;\sigma)K_{n,\sigma}(a,b;\sigma)f(x), \quad x < a < b$$

When $0 < \alpha < 1$, we see on using the results (4), (5) and (8) that

$$L_{\gamma,lpha}(0,\,x\colon\sigma)f(x) = rac{\sigma x^{1-\sigma(\gamma+1)}}{\Gamma(lpha)\Gamma(1-lpha)}\,rac{d}{dx}\int_a^x (x^\sigma-t^\sigma)^{-lpha}t^{\sigma-1}dt \ \int_a^a (t^\sigma-u^\sigma)^{lpha-1}u^{\sigma(\gamma+1)-1}f(u)du \;.$$

Inverting the order of integration and using the result

$$rac{d}{dx}\int_a^xrac{t^{\sigma-1}dt}{(x^\sigma-t^\sigma)^lpha(t^\sigma-u^\sigma)^{1-lpha}}=rac{x^{\sigma-1}(a^\sigma-u^\sigma)^lpha}{(x^\sigma-u^\sigma)(x^\sigma-a^\sigma)^lpha}\;, \ u< a< x,\, 0$$

we find

(12)
$$L_{\eta,\alpha}(0, x; \sigma)f(x) = \frac{\sigma \sin(\alpha \pi)}{\pi} \frac{x^{-\sigma \eta}}{(x^{\sigma} - a^{\sigma})^{\alpha}} \int_{0}^{a} \frac{u^{\sigma(\eta+1)-1}(a^{\sigma} - u^{\sigma})^{\alpha}}{x^{\sigma} - u^{\sigma}} f(u) du.$$

Similarly we can show that

(13)
$$M_{\eta,\alpha}(x, b; \sigma)f(x) = \frac{\sigma \sin(\alpha \pi)}{\pi} \frac{x^{\sigma(\alpha+\eta)}}{(a^{\sigma} - x^{\sigma})^{\alpha}} \int_{a}^{b} \frac{u^{\sigma(1-\alpha-\eta)-1}(u^{\sigma} - a^{\sigma})^{\alpha}}{u^{\sigma} - x^{\sigma}} f(u) du ,$$

where $0 < \alpha < 1$.

When $-1 < \alpha < 0$, the formulae for $L_{\eta,\alpha}$ and $M_{\eta,\alpha}$ are exactly the same as those given by the above equations.

We also have the expressions

(14)
$$I_{\eta+\alpha,-\alpha}(0, a; \sigma) I_{\eta,\alpha}(0, x; \sigma) f(x) \\ = \left[I_{\eta,\alpha}^{-1}(0, x; \sigma) - I_{\eta,\alpha}^{-1}(a, x; \sigma) \right] I_{\eta,\alpha}(0, x; \sigma) f(x) \\ = f(x) - I_{\eta,\alpha}^{-1}(a, x; \sigma) \left[I_{\eta,\alpha}(0, a; \sigma) + I_{\eta,\alpha}(a, x; \sigma) \right] f(x) \\ = -I_{\eta,\alpha}^{-1}(a, x; \sigma) I_{\eta,\alpha}(0, a; \sigma) f(x) = -L_{\eta,\alpha}(0, x; \sigma) f(x) ,$$

(15)
$$K_{\eta+\alpha,-\alpha}(a, b: \sigma) K_{\eta,\alpha}(x, b: \sigma) f(x) = -M_{\eta,\alpha}(x, b: \sigma) f(x) .$$

Two well known results [2] which play an important part in our solution are

(16)
$$\mathfrak{M}(I_{\eta,\alpha}(0, x; \sigma)f(x); s) = \frac{\Gamma(1+\eta-s/\sigma)}{\Gamma(1+\eta+\alpha-s/\sigma)} \mathfrak{M}\{f(x); s\},$$

(17)
$$\mathfrak{M}\{K_{\eta,\alpha}(x,\,\infty\colon\sigma)f(x);\,s\}=\frac{\varGamma(\eta\,+\,s/\sigma)}{\varGamma(\eta\,+\,\alpha\,+\,s/\sigma)}\,\mathfrak{M}\{f(x);\,s\}\;.$$

In what follows we are concerned with three ranges of the variable x, namely

(18)
$$I_1 = \{x: 0 \le x < a\}, I_2 = \{x: a < x < b\}, I_3 = \{x: b < x < \infty\}$$

and we shall write any function f(x), $x \ge 0$, in the form

(19)
$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{3} f_i(x) ,$$

where

(20)
$$f_i(x) = \begin{cases} f(x), & x \in I_i, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise}. \end{cases} i = 1, 2, 3.$$

With these definitions it is easily seen that if we evaluate the equations

(21)
$$g(x) = I_{\eta,\alpha}(0, x: \sigma)f(x), h(x) = K_{\eta,\alpha}(x, \infty: \sigma)f(x),$$

on the intervals I_1 , I_2 and I_3 respectively, we get

(22)
$$g_1(x) = I_{\eta,\alpha}(0, x: \sigma) f_1(x) , h_1(x) = K_{\eta,\alpha}(x, \alpha: \sigma) f_1(x) + K_{\eta,\alpha}(\alpha, b: \sigma) f_2(x) + K_{\eta,\alpha}(b, \infty: \sigma) f_3(x) ,$$

(23)
$$g_2(x) = I_{\gamma,\alpha}(0, \alpha; \sigma) f_1(x) + I_{\gamma,\alpha}(\alpha, x; \sigma) f_2(x) , h_2(x) = K_{\gamma,\alpha}(x, b; \sigma) f_2(x) + K_{\gamma,\alpha}(b, \infty; \sigma) f_3(x) ,$$

(24)
$$g_3(x) = I_{\eta \alpha}(0, a; \sigma) f_1(x) + I_{\eta \alpha}(a, b; \sigma) f_2(x) + I_{\eta \alpha}(b, x; \sigma) f_3(x) , h_3(x) = K_{\eta,\alpha}(x, \infty; \sigma) f_3(x) .$$

3. Solution of the integral equations. Using the notation of equations (19) and (20) we can write the triple integral equations (1) and (2) as

(25)
$$\mathfrak{M}^{-1}\left\{\frac{\Gamma(\xi+s/\delta)}{\Gamma(\xi+\beta+s/\delta)}\Phi(s); x\right\} = g(x) ,$$

(26)
$$\mathfrak{M}^{-1}\left\{\frac{\Gamma(1+\eta-s/\sigma)}{\Gamma(1+\eta+\alpha-s/\sigma)}\Phi(s); x\right\} = f(x),$$

where $g_1 = g_3 = 0$, f_2 is given and g_2 , f_1 and f_3 are unknown functions. If we write

(27)
$$\Phi(s) = \mathfrak{M}\{\phi(x); s\},\,$$

and use the formulae (16) and (17) we find that equations (25) and (26) assume the operational form

(28)
$$I_{\eta,\alpha}(0, x; \sigma) \phi(x) = f(x)$$
,

(29)
$$K_{\xi,\beta}(x,\infty:\delta)\phi(x) = g(x).$$

Using the formulae (8) and (9) and solving the above equations for $\phi(x)$ we obtain

(30)
$$\phi(x) = I_{\eta+\alpha,-\alpha}(0, x: \sigma)f(x)$$

$$= K_{\varepsilon+\beta,-\beta}(x, \infty : \delta) g(x) .$$

Now remembering that $g_1 = g_3 = 0$, and using the relations (22), (23) and (24) to evaluate equation (28) on the interval I_1 , equation (30) on I_2 , equation (31) on I_3 , equation (29) on I_2 and equation (31) on I_1 , we arrive at the following results

(32)
$$f_1(x) = I_{r,\alpha}(0, x; \sigma) \phi_1(x) ,$$

(33)
$$\phi_2(x) = I_{\eta + \alpha, -\alpha}(0, \alpha; \sigma) f_1(x) + I_{\eta, \alpha}^{-1}(\alpha, x; \sigma) f_2(x) ,$$

(34)
$$\phi_3(x) = K_{\xi,\beta}^{-1}(x, \infty; \delta) g_3(x) = 0,$$

$$(35) g_2(x) = K_{\xi,\beta}(x,b:\delta) \phi_2(x) ,$$

(36)
$$\phi_1(x) = K_{\varepsilon+\beta,-\beta}(a,b;\delta) g_2(x) .$$

After eliminating $f_1(x)$ between equations (32) and (33), and eliminating $g_2(x)$ between equations (35) and (36), we find that the functions $\phi_1(x)$ and $\phi_2(x)$ satisfy the pair of simultaneous integral equations

(37)
$$\phi_2(x) = -L_{\eta,\alpha}(0, x; \sigma) \phi_1(x) + I_{\eta,\alpha}^{-1}(\alpha, x; \sigma) f_2(x),$$

(38)
$$\phi_1(x) = -M_{\xi,\beta}(x, b:\delta) \phi_2(x) ,$$

where we have used the formulae (14) and (15).

From these results it is easily seen that $\phi_2(x)$ can be determined from the Fredholm integral equation of the second kind

(39)
$$\phi_2(x) = L_{\eta,\alpha}(0, x; \sigma) M_{\xi,\beta}(x, b; \delta) \phi_2(x) + I_{\eta,\alpha}^{-1}(\alpha, x; \sigma) f_2(x)$$
.

The solution to the triple integral equations can then be obtained from equations (27), (34), (38) and (39).

As an example we consider the case when $0 < \alpha < 1$, and $-1 < \beta < 0$, or $0 < \beta < 1$; in this instance equation (39) when written out in detail is

(40)
$$\begin{aligned} \phi_2(x) &- \int_a^b \phi_2(u) S(x, u) du \\ &= \frac{x^{1-\sigma(\gamma+1)}}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \frac{d}{dx} \int_a^x \frac{t^{\sigma(\alpha+\gamma+1)-1}}{(x^{\sigma}-t^{\sigma})^{\alpha}} f_2(t) dt \ , \end{aligned}$$

where

$$S(x, u) = \frac{\sigma \delta}{\pi^2} \sin(\alpha \pi) \sin(\beta \pi) \frac{x^{-\sigma \eta} u^{\delta(1-\beta-\xi)-1}}{(x^{\sigma} - a^{\sigma})^{\alpha} (u^{\delta} - a^{\delta})^{-\beta}}$$

$$\int_0^a \frac{t^{\sigma(\eta+1)+\delta(\beta+\xi)-1} (a^{\sigma} - t^{\sigma})^{\alpha}}{(x^{\sigma} - t^{\sigma}) (u^{\delta} - t^{\delta}) (a^{\delta} - t^{\delta})^{\beta}} dt.$$

4. An application. Certain mixed boundary value problems [4] may be reduced to the solution of triple integral equations of the type

(43)
$$\int_{0}^{\infty} u^{-2n} \psi(u) J_{2q}(ux) du = F(x) , \qquad a < x < b .$$

where $J_{2p}(ux)$ is the Bessel function of the first kind of order 2p, F(x) is a prescribed function and $\psi(u)$ is to be determined. When p=q these are the equations investigated by Cooke [1]. We now show, in a fairly straightforward manner, that the above equations can be transformed into equations of the type (1) and (2).

Denoting the Mellin transform of $\psi(u)$ by

$$\mathfrak{M}\{\psi(u);s\}=\Psi(s),$$

and using the result [3]

(45)
$$\mathfrak{M}\{\xi^{-2n}J_{2q}(\xi);s\} = 2^{s-1-2n}\frac{\Gamma(q-n+s/2)}{\Gamma(1+n+q-s/2)},$$

we have, on applying the Faltung theorem for Mellin transforms [3],

that the integral equations (42) and (43) can be written in the form

(46)
$$\mathfrak{M}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{\Gamma(p+s/2)}{\Gamma(q-n+s/2)} \Phi(s); x \right\} = 0, \quad 0 \leq x < a, \quad b < x < \infty,$$

$$\mathfrak{M}^{\scriptscriptstyle -1}\!\!\left\{ \frac{\varGamma(1+\,p-\,s/2)}{\varGamma(1+\,n+\,q-\,s/2)}\,\varPhi(s);\,x\right\} = 2^{\scriptscriptstyle 1+2n} x^{\scriptscriptstyle -2n} F(x)\;,\quad a < x < b\;,$$

where

(48)
$$\Phi(s) = 2^{s} \frac{\Gamma(q-n+s/2)}{\Gamma(1+p-s/2)} \Psi(1-s) .$$

These are the same as equations (1) and (2) with

(49)
$$\sigma = \delta = 2, \ \xi = \eta = p, \ \alpha = q - p + n, \ \beta = q - p - n, \ f_2(x) = 2^{1+2n}x^{-2n}F(x)$$
 .

Using the results of the previous section we have therefore that the solution of equations (46) and (47) can be found in terms of a function $\phi(x)$ by

$$\Phi(s) = \mathfrak{M}\{\phi(x); s\},\,$$

where $\phi_3(x) = 0$ and the functions $\phi_1(x)$ and $\phi_2(x)$ are obtained from equations (38) and (39) with the parameters ξ , η , etc. given by equations (49).

Finally, in order to find the solution of the integral equations (42) and (43) in terms of $\phi(x)$, we proceed in the following way.

From equation (44) we have that the solution is

$$egin{align} \psi(u) &= \mathfrak{M}^{-1}\{arPsi'(s);\,u\} \ &= \mathfrak{M}^{-1}\Big\{2^{s-1}rac{\Gamma(1/2+\,p\,+\,s/2)}{\Gamma(1/2+\,q\,-\,n\,-\,s/2)}\,\mathfrak{M}\{\phi(x);\,1\,-\,s\};\,u\Big\}\;, \end{split}$$

on using equations (48) and (50). Inverting the order of integration in the last equation we get

(52)
$$\psi(u) = \int_{0}^{\infty} \phi(x) \mathfrak{M}^{-1} \left\{ 2^{s-1} \frac{\Gamma(1/2 + p + s/2)}{\Gamma(1/2 + q - n - s/2)} ; ux \right\} dx$$
$$= \int_{0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{ux}{2} \right)^{1+n+p-q} \phi(x) J_{p+q-n}(ux) dx ,$$

after applying the result (45). When p = q this solution is exactly the same as that found by Cooke [1, pp. 61-62].

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