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## Analytic Continuation of Pluriharmonic Functions

### ABSTRACT

In this paper we shall present a construction of the pluriharmonic envelope of analyticity and of holomorphy for a region in  $R^{2n}$ . We shall prove that this envelope is "invariant" with respect to biholomorphic transformations of the region. We shall also construct the polyharmonic envelope of analyticity and of holomorphy for a polycylindrical region.

### INTRODUCTION

Let  $U$  be an open set in  $R^n$ ; by  $A(U)$  we denote the space of all real analytic functions of  $n$  real variables on  $U$ .

Let  $\Omega$  be open in  $C^n$ ; by  $\mathcal{O}(\Omega)$  we denote the space of all holomorphic functions on  $\Omega$ .

By  $\mathcal{O}_n$  we denote the sheaf of germs of holomorphic functions on  $C^n$ , and by  $\pi_n$  the natural projection  $\mathcal{O}_n \rightarrow C^n$ .

Every region (i.e. a non-empty, open and connected set) in  $\mathcal{O}_n$  will be called an analytic function.

An analytic function  $F \subset \mathcal{O}_n$  will be called arbitrarily continuable if:

(\*)  $\forall z \in \pi_n(F)$ ,  $\forall F_z \in \pi_n^{-1}(z) \cap F$  and for every continuous mapping  $\gamma: I = [0, 1] \rightarrow \pi_n(F)$  such that  $\gamma(0) = z$ , there exists a continuous mapping  $\hat{\gamma}: I \rightarrow F$  such that  $\hat{\gamma}(0) = F_z$  and  $\pi_n \circ \hat{\gamma} = \gamma$ .

It is known that (\*) is equivalent to

(\*\*)  $\forall z \in \pi_n(F)$ ,  $\forall F_z \in \pi_n^{-1}(z) \cap F$ ,  $\forall \varphi \in F_z$ :  $\varphi$  may be holomorphically extended on every polydisc  $P(z; r) \subset \pi_n(F)$ .

Fix a region  $D$  in  $R^n$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , and a vector subspace  $S$  in  $A(D)$ . We consider the two following problems:

(A) Whether there exists a set  $\Omega$  in  $C^n$  such that:

(A1)  $\Omega$  is a connected domain of holomorphy containing  $D$ ;

(A2) for every  $f \in S$  there exists an arbitrarily continuable analytic function  $F$  over  $\Omega$

(i.e.  $\pi_n(F) = \Omega$ ) such that  $\forall x \in D$  the germ  $f_x$  belongs to  $F$ ;

(A3) there exists a function  $f_0 \in S$  such that its continuation  $F_0$  (in the sense of (A2)) has the following property:

$\forall z \in \Omega, \forall (F_0)_z \in \pi_n^{-1}(z) \cap F_0, \forall \varphi \in (F_0) : \varphi$  cannot be holomorphically extended on any polydisc  $P(z; R)$  if  $P(z; R) \setminus \Omega \neq \emptyset$ .

(H) Whether there exists a set  $\Omega$  in  $C^n$  such that:

(H1)  $\Omega$  satisfies (A1);

(H2)  $\forall f \in S \exists \tilde{f} \in \mathcal{O}(\Omega) : \tilde{f}|_D = f$ ;

(H3) there exists  $f_0 \in S$  such that its holomorphic continuation  $\tilde{f}_0$  on  $\Omega$  cannot be holomorphically continued beyond  $\Omega$ .

Remarks. The function  $F$  in (A2) is uniquely determined by  $f$ .

The solution of (A) is uniquely determined by  $D$  and  $S$ , so if  $\Omega$  satisfies (A), we write  $\Omega = D_S^A$  and we call  $D_S^A$  the  $S$  — envelope of analyticity for  $D$ .

Similarly, the solution of (H) is uniquely determined by  $D$  and  $S$ , we write  $\Omega = D_S^H$  and we call  $D_S^H$  the  $S$  — envelope of holomorphy for  $D$ .

If (H) has the solution, then (A) has the solution and  $D_S^A = D_S^H$ .

If (A) has a solution which satisfies (H2), then (H) has the solution and  $D_S^H = D_S^A$ .

If (A) has a solution which is homotopically simply connected, then  $D_S^A$  satisfies (H2).

If  $\Omega$  satisfies (A1), (A2) and (H3) then  $\Omega = D_S^A$ .

It is possible to show that for  $S = A(D)$  the problem (A) has not any solution. On the other hand, if  $S$  is too small (for example, if  $S = R[x_1, \dots, x_n]_D$ ), then (H) has the only solution  $D_S^H = C^n$ ; this case is not interesting.

We shall present some solutions of (A) and (H) for particular cases of  $S$ .

1°  $S = H(D)$  — the space of all real harmonic functions on  $D$ . P. Lelong proved that here the answer to the problem (A) is always positive and that in the case  $n = 2p \geq 4$ ,  $p \in \mathbb{N}$ , the answer to the problem (H) is also positive. More exactly we have

Lelong's theorem [4]. Given  $z = (z_1, \dots, z_n) \in C^n$ , put

$$T(z) = \{t = (t_1, \dots, t_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n : \sum_{j=1}^n (t_j - z_j)^2 = 0\}.$$

Set  $\tilde{D} = \{z \in C^n : \exists a \in D, \exists \gamma : I \rightarrow C^n \text{ such that } \gamma \text{ is continuous, } \gamma(0) = a, \gamma(1) = z \text{ and } \forall \tau \in I : T(\gamma(\tau)) \subset D\}$ .

Then  $\tilde{D} = D_{H(D)}^A$  and in the case  $n = 2p \geq 4$ :  $\tilde{D} = D_{H(D)}^H$  (see [4], theorems 2, 4 and 6).

Note that in the cases  $n = 2$  and  $n = 2p + 1$ ,  $p \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exist examples of regions  $D$  for which  $\tilde{D}$  is not any solution of (H) (see [4], p. 15, also [2] theorem 6).

2°  $S = H_L(D)$  — the space of all solutions of a linear elliptic differential operator  $L$  with constant coefficients. C. O. Kiselman in [3] proved that for every convex region  $D$  there exists a maximal convex region  $\Omega$  in  $C^n$  which satisfies (H1) and (H2).

In Section 1 of this paper we answer the problems (A) and (H) for a region  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^{2n}$  and for  $S = PH(D)$  — the space of all pluriharmonic functions on  $D$ . This will be an extension of Lelong's theorem and of theorems 2, 3, 4, 7 from [2] (see also [4], p. 17). In Section 2 we consider the problems (A) and (H) for the space  $H_x(D)$  consisting of all polyharmonic functions of the given type on a polycylindrical region  $D$ .

## 1. ANALYTIC CONTINUATION OF PLURIHARMONIC FUNCTIONS

In this section  $D$  denotes a region in  $R^{2n}$ . For  $z \in C^k$  and the positive numbers  $r_1, \dots, r_k$ , by  $P(z; r_1, \dots, r_k)$  we denote the polydisc in  $C^k$  with the center  $z$  and the radii  $r_1, \dots, r_k$ . If  $r_1 = \dots = r_k = r$  we write  $P(z; r; k)$  instead of  $P(z; r, \dots, r)$ .

For  $z = (z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{2n-1}, z_{2n}) \in C^{2n}$  set

$$(1) \quad \phi(z) \stackrel{\text{df}}{=} (z_1 + iz_2, \dots, z_{2n-1} + iz_{2n}) \in C^n.$$

Let

$$(2) \quad \hat{D} = \{z \in C^{2n}: \phi(z), \phi(\bar{z}) \in D\};$$

we identify  $R^{2n}$  with  $C^n$ .

Remarks.  $\hat{D}$  is a region in  $C^{2n}$  symmetric with respect to the mapping  $C^{2n} \ni z \rightarrow \bar{z} \in C^{2n}$ ,  $\hat{D} \cap R^{2n} = D$ ; we identify  $R^{2n} \times \{0\} \subset C^{2n}$  with  $C^n$ .

$D$  is starlike with respect to  $\xi \in D$  if and only if  $\hat{D}$  is starlike with respect to  $\xi$ .

$D$  is convex if and only if  $\hat{D}$  is convex.

$D$  is homotopically simply connected if and only if  $\hat{D}$  is homotopically simply connected.

The following theorem (analogical to Lelong's theorem) plays the fundamental role in our considerations.

Theorem 1.  $\hat{D}$  satisfies (A2) for  $S = PH(D)$ , moreover for every  $f \in PH(D)$  the analytic arbitrarily continuable continuation  $F$  of  $f$  over  $\hat{D}$  has the single-valued real part on  $\hat{D}$  and

$$(3) \quad Re F(z) = \frac{1}{2} (f(\phi(z)) + f(\phi(\bar{z}))), z \in \hat{D}.$$

Proof. Let  $f \in PH(D)$  be fixed. Locally in  $D$ ,  $f$  is the real part of a holomorphic function, so there exists an analytic arbitrarily continuable function  $G \in \mathcal{O}_n$  over  $D$  such that  $f = Re G$ .

We shall give a construction of the continuation of  $f$  over  $\hat{D}$ . Let  $z \in \hat{D}$ , take  $G_{\phi(z)} \in \pi_n^{-1}(\phi(z)) \cap G$  and  $G_{\phi(\bar{z})} \in \pi_n^{-1}(\phi(\bar{z})) \cap G$ . Let  $\varphi \in G_{\phi(z)}$ ,  $\varphi \in \mathcal{O}(P(\phi(z); \varrho; n))$ ,  $P(\phi(z); \varrho; n) \subset D$ ,  $\psi \in G_{\phi(\bar{z})}$ ,  $\psi \in \mathcal{O}(P(\phi(\bar{z}); \varrho; n))$ ,  $P(\phi(\bar{z}); \varrho; n) \subset D$ . Set

$$(4) \quad \lambda(w) = \frac{1}{2} (\varphi(\phi(w)) + \overline{\psi(\phi(\bar{w}))}), w \in P(z; \frac{1}{2}\varrho; 2n).$$

$P(z; \frac{1}{2}\varrho; 2n) \subset \hat{D}$ , so  $\lambda$  is well defined and  $\lambda \in \mathcal{O}(P(z; \frac{1}{2}\varrho; 2n))$ . We take the germ  $\lambda_w$  of  $\lambda$  at  $w \in P(z; \frac{1}{2}\varrho; 2n)$ . Now we change, if possible,  $w \in P(z; \frac{1}{2}\varrho; 2n)$ ,  $G_{\phi(z)} \in \pi_n^{-1}(\phi(z)) \cap G$ ,  $G_{\phi(\bar{z})} \in \pi_n^{-1}(\phi(\bar{z})) \cap G$  and  $z \in \hat{D}$ . The set of all germs of the type  $\lambda_w$ , obtained in this way, we denote by  $F$ . It is obvious that  $F$  is an arbitrarily continuable analytic function over  $\hat{D}$  which extends  $f$ . Since  $f = Re G$ , (4) implies (3). This completes the proof.

The mapping  $C^n \ni z \rightarrow (\phi(z), \phi(\bar{z})) \in C^n \times C^n$  is a homeomorphism and its inverse mapping  $A$  is given by the formula

$$(5) \quad C^n \times C^n \ni (\xi = (\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n), \eta = (\eta_1, \dots, \eta_n)) \rightarrow \left( \frac{\xi_1 + \bar{\eta}_1}{2}, \frac{\xi_1 - \bar{\eta}_1}{2i}, \dots, \frac{\xi_n + \bar{\eta}_n}{2}, \frac{\xi_n - \bar{\eta}_n}{2i} \right) \in C^{2n}.$$

Analogously to Theorem 2 in [2], we can prove the following

Lemma 1. A function  $h \in PH(D)$  has a holomorphic continuation  $\hat{h}$  on  $\hat{D}$  if and only if there exists  $f \in \mathcal{O}(D)$  such that  $h = \operatorname{Re} f$ , moreover:

$$(6) \quad f(\xi) = h(\xi) + i(2 \operatorname{Im} \hat{h}(A(\xi, \eta)) + \operatorname{const.}), \quad \xi \in D; \eta \in D \text{ fixed};$$

$$(7) \quad \hat{h}(z) = \frac{1}{2}(f(\phi(z)) + \overline{f(\phi(\bar{z}))}), \quad z \in \hat{D}.$$

Proposition 1. If  $D$  is homotopically simply connected then  $\hat{D}$  satisfies (H2) for  $S = PH(D)$ .

Proof. If  $D$  is homotopically simply connected then every function from  $PH(D)$  is the real part of a holomorphic function from  $\mathcal{O}(D)$ , so we can use Lemma 1.

The following theorem is analogous to Theorem 7 in [2].

Theorem 2. Let  $D, G$  be regions in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ ,  $f = (f_1, \dots, f_n): D \rightarrow G$  be biholomorphic;  $f_k = u_k + iv_k$ ,  $\hat{u}_k, \hat{v}_k$  denote the corresponding holomorphic continuations of  $u_k$  and  $v_k$  on  $\hat{D}$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, n$ ;  $\hat{f} \stackrel{\text{df}}{=} (\hat{u}_1, \hat{v}_1, \dots, \hat{u}_n, \hat{v}_n): \hat{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{2n}$ . Then  $\hat{f}(\hat{D}) = \hat{G}$  and  $\hat{f}: \hat{D} \rightarrow \hat{G}$  is biholomorphic.

Proof. The proof is analogical as in the case  $n = 1$ .

By Lemma 1:

$$\hat{u}_k(z) = \frac{1}{2}(f_k(\phi(z)) + \overline{f_k(\phi(\bar{z}))}),$$

$$\hat{v}_k(z) = \frac{1}{2i}(f_k(\phi(z)) - \overline{f_k(\phi(\bar{z}))}), \quad z \in \hat{D}, \quad k = 1, \dots, n.$$

Set, for  $z \in \mathbb{C}^{2n}$ ,

$$(8) \quad \hat{T}(z) = \{\phi(z), \phi(\bar{z})\}.$$

It is easy to show that for every  $z \in \hat{D}$   $\hat{T}(\hat{f}(z)) = f(\hat{T}(z))$ , so  $\hat{f}(\hat{D}) \subset \hat{G}$ .

Now, let  $w \in \hat{G}$  be fixed. There exist  $\xi, \eta \in D$  such that  $\phi(w) = f(\xi)$ ,  $\phi(\bar{w}) = f(\eta)$ , so  $w = \hat{f}(A(\xi, \eta))$ , (see (5)), hence  $\hat{G} \subset \hat{f}(\hat{D})$ .

For the mapping  $g = f^{-1}: G \rightarrow D$  we construct  $\hat{g}$  (in the same way as  $\hat{f}$  for  $f$ ). Then  $\hat{f}, \hat{g}$  are holomorphic,  $(\hat{f} \circ \hat{g})|_G = id_G$ ,  $(\hat{g} \circ \hat{f})|_D = id_D$ , so  $\hat{g} = (\hat{f})^{-1}$ . This completes the proof.

Corollary 1. Let  $D, G, f$  be as in Theorem 2. Then  $\hat{D}$  satisfies (H2) if and only if  $\hat{G}$  satisfies (H2).

If  $\hat{D}$  satisfies (H2),  $\hat{D}$  need not satisfy (H3). For example, if we take  $D = \Omega \setminus K$  such that:

- (a)  $\Omega$  is a region in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ ,
- (b)  $K \subset \Omega$ ,  $K$  is a non-empty compact set,
- (c)  $D$  is homotopically simply connected, then  $\hat{\Omega}$  satisfies (H2) for  $PH(D)$  but  $\hat{D} \not\subset \hat{\Omega}$ .

Now we shall discuss situations when  $\hat{D}$  is the solution of (A) or (H).

Theorem 3. If  $D$  is a domain of holomorphy in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  then  $\hat{D}$  is the solution of (A).

Proof. By Theorem 1 it suffices to show that  $\hat{D}$  satisfies (H3).

Let  $f \in \mathcal{O}(D)$  be a function which cannot be holomorphically continued beyond  $D$ . Let  $\hat{h}$  be given by the formula (7). It suffices to show that  $\hat{h}$  cannot be holomorphically continued beyond  $\hat{D}$ .

Suppose that there exist  $z \in \hat{D}$ ,  $r > 0$  and  $\varphi \in \mathcal{O}(P(z; r; 2n))$  such that  $P(z; r; 2n) \setminus \hat{D} \neq \emptyset$  and  $\varphi$  is equal to  $\hat{h}$  in a neighbourhood of  $z$ . It is easy to prove that  $\phi(P(z; r; 2n)) = P(\phi(z); 2r; n)$ ,  $\psi(P(z; r; 2n)) = P(\phi(\bar{z}); 2r; n)$ , where  $\psi(z) = \phi(\bar{z})$ ,  $z \in \mathbb{C}^{2n}$ . We have  $P(\phi(z); 2r; n) \setminus D \neq \emptyset$  or  $P(\phi(\bar{z}); 2r; n) \setminus D \neq \emptyset$ ; suppose, for example, that  $P(\phi(z); 2r; n) \setminus D \neq \emptyset$ .

Set  $g(\xi) = 2\varphi(A(\xi, \phi(\bar{z}))) - f(\phi(\bar{z}))$ ,  $\xi \in P(\phi(z); 2r; n)$ .  $g$  is well defined,  $g \in \mathcal{O}(P(\phi(z); 2r; n))$  and  $g$  is equal to  $f$  in a neighbourhood of  $\phi(z)$ . Since  $f$  cannot be continued beyond  $D$ , this gives a contradiction. This completes the proof.

Conversely, we have

**Theorem 4.** If  $\hat{D}$  satisfies (A1) then  $D$  is a domain of holomorphy.

**Proof.** We shall use the following well known theorem (see [1], Theorem 2.5.14):

Let  $\Omega$  and  $\Omega'$  be holomorphy domains in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  and in  $\mathbb{C}^m$ , respectively, and let  $u$  be a holomorphic map of  $\Omega$  into  $\mathbb{C}^m$ . Then  $\Omega_u = \{z \in \Omega: u(z) \in \Omega'\}$  is a domain of holomorphy.

In our situation we set, for fixed  $\eta \in D$ ,  $m = 2n$ ,  $\Omega = \mathbb{C}^n$ ,  $\Omega' = \hat{D}$ ,  $u(\xi) = A(\xi, \eta)$ ,  $\xi \in \mathbb{C}^n$ . Then  $\Omega_u = D$ , so  $D$  is a domain of holomorphy. The proof is completed.

Note that if we put  $\Omega = \mathbb{C}^{2n}$ ,  $\Omega' = D \times D^*$ ,  $u(z) = (\phi(z), \overline{\phi(z)})$ ,  $z \in \mathbb{C}^{2n}$ , where  $D^* = \{\xi \in \mathbb{C}^n: \bar{\xi} \in D\}$ , then from the assumption that  $D$  is a domain of holomorphy, we may deduce that  $\hat{D}$  is a domain of holomorphy. Hence the essential meaning of Theorem 3 is such that  $\hat{D}$  is a domain of holomorphy with respect to the space of all holomorphic functions in  $\hat{D}$  which are the continuations of functions from  $PH(D)$ .

Theorems 1, 3 and 4 imply

**Corollary 2.**  $\hat{D}$  is the solution of (A) if and only if  $D$  is a domain of holomorphy.

**Corollary 3.**  $\hat{D}$  is the solution of (H) if and only if  $D$  is a domain of holomorphy and

$$(R) \quad \forall h \in PH(D) \exists f \in \mathcal{O}(D): h = \operatorname{Re} f.$$

**Corollary 4.** If  $D$  is not any domain of holomorphy,  $D$  satisfies (R) and the envelope of holomorphy  $\Omega$  of  $D$  is univalent, then  $\hat{\Omega}$  is the solution of (H) for  $PH(D)$ .

Directly from the definitions of  $T$  (see Lelong's theorem) and — of  $\hat{T}$  (see (8)) we have:

$$(9) \quad \hat{T}(z) \subset T(z_1, z_2) \times \dots \times T(z_{2n-1}, z_{2n}) \subset T(z), \quad z = (z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{2n-1}, z_{2n}) \in \mathbb{C}^{2n}.$$

Whence  $\hat{D} \subset \hat{D}$  (more exactly —  $\{z \in \mathbb{C}^{2n}: T(z) \subset D\} \subset \hat{D}$ ) and for  $D = D_1 \times \dots \times D_n$ ,  $D_i$  — a region in  $\mathbb{C}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ ,  $\hat{D} = \hat{D}_1 \times \dots \times \hat{D}_n$  (in the case  $n = 1$ :  $\hat{D} = \hat{D}$ ).

Below we shall give an example of a situation when  $\hat{D} \not\subset \hat{D}$ . Let  $D = B = \{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}: |\xi| < r\}$  —

the ball in  $\mathbb{R}^{2n}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ . It is possible to show that  $\hat{B} = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^{2n}: t(z) < r\}$ , where for  $z = x + iy \in \mathbb{C}^{2n}$ :  $t(z) = (|x|^2 + |y|^2 + 2\sqrt{|x|^2|y|^2 - \langle x, y \rangle^2})^{1/2}$ , see [3], [5] also [2]. Let  $\theta \in (2, 2\sqrt{2})$ ,  $z = \frac{r}{\theta} ((1, 1, 0, \dots, 0) + i(0, 0, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0))$ . It is easy to check  $z \in \hat{B} \setminus \hat{B}$ .

## 2. ANALYTIC CONTINUATION OF POLYHARMONIC FUNCTIONS

Fix  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k) \in \mathbb{N}^k$  and let  $\Omega$  be an open set in  $\mathbb{R}^{|\alpha|} = \mathbb{R}^{\alpha_1} \times \dots \times \mathbb{R}^{\alpha_k}$ .

The function  $u: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is called  $\alpha$ -polyharmonic if for every  $a = (a_1, \dots, a_k) \in \Omega$  the function  $x_i \rightarrow u(a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}, x_i, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_k)$  is harmonic in a neighbourhood of  $a_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ .

By  $H_\alpha(\Omega)$  we denote the space of all  $\alpha$ -polyharmonic functions on  $\Omega$ .

We consider the problems (A) and (H) for  $S = H_\alpha(D)$ , where  $D = D_1 \times \dots \times D_k$ ,  $D_i$  is a region in  $\mathbb{R}^{\alpha_i}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ .

First, note that in this case we can reduce the problem to the case  $\alpha_i \geq 2$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ .

Further we always make this assumption.

The main result of this section is the following

**Theorem 5.** The set  $\tilde{D}_1 \times \dots \times \tilde{D}_k$  is the  $\alpha$ -polyharmonic envelope of analyticity for  $D$ . Moreover, if  $\alpha_i = 2p_i \geq 4$ ,  $p_i \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ , then  $\tilde{D}_1 \times \dots \times \tilde{D}_k$  is the  $\alpha$ -polyharmonic envelope of holomorphy for  $D$ .

*Proof.* Obviously  $\tilde{D}_1 \times \dots \times \tilde{D}_k$  is a domain of holomorphy, so (A1) = (H1) is satisfied.

By iteration of the classical integral representation with the Newton kernel for harmonic functions we obtain an integral representation for  $\alpha$ -polyharmonic functions; more exactly we get the following

**Lemma 2.** Let  $E_i$  denote the Newton kernel in  $\mathbb{R}^{\alpha_i}$ . Set  $E(x) = E_1(x_1) \dots E_k(x_k)$ ,  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \mathbb{R}^{|\alpha|}$ ,  $x_i \neq 0$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ . Let  $G_i$  be a region in  $\mathbb{R}^{\alpha_i}$  such that  $\bar{G}_i \subset D_i$ .  $\partial G_i$  is the union of a finite number of surfaces of class  $C^1$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ . Let  $f \in H_\alpha(D)$ . Then, for every  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_k) \in G_1 \times \dots \times G_k$ :

$$f(x) = \int_{\partial G_1} \dots \int_{\partial G_k} W_\alpha(f, x, t_1, \dots, t_k) \sigma_1(dt_1) \dots \sigma_k(dt_k),$$

where  $\sigma_i$  denotes the  $(\alpha_i - 1)$ -dimensional Lebesgue measure on  $\partial G_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ ;

$$W_\alpha(f, x_1, \dots, x_k, t_1, \dots, t_k)$$

$$= \sum_{I, J} (-1)^p \frac{\partial^r E(x_1 - t_1, \dots, x_k - t_k)}{\partial \vec{n}_{i_1} \dots \partial \vec{n}_{i_r}} \frac{\partial^p f(t_1, \dots, t_k)}{\partial \vec{n}_{j_1} \dots \partial \vec{n}_{j_p}},$$

where  $I = (i_1, \dots, i_r)$ ,  $J = (j_1, \dots, j_p)$ ,  $I \cap J = \emptyset$ ,  $p + r = k$ ,  $\{\vec{n}_{i_i}\}_{t_i \in \partial G_i}$  denotes the field of exterior normal vectors to  $\partial G_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ .

Having this representation, in the proof that every  $\alpha$ -polyharmonic function on  $D$  may be continued to arbitrarily continuable analytic (or, in the case  $\alpha_i = 2p_i \geq 4$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ , to holomorphic) function on  $\tilde{D}_1 \times \dots \times \tilde{D}_k$ , we can apply (with only formal changes) the method of [4]. Hence  $\tilde{D}_1 \times \dots \times \tilde{D}_k$  satisfies (A2) (or (H2)).

Let  $f_i \in H(D_i)$  satisfy (A3) for  $S_i = H(D_i)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ . Then the function  $f(x) = f_1(x_1), \dots, f_k(x_k)$ ,  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_k) \in D$ , is  $\alpha$ -polyharmonic on  $D$ . Let  $F_i \subset \mathcal{O}_{z_i}$  be an arbitrarily continuable continuation of  $f_i$  over  $\tilde{D}_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ ; let  $z = (z_1, \dots, z_k) \in \tilde{D}_1 \times \dots \times \tilde{D}_k$ ,  $(F_i)_{z_i} \in \pi_{\alpha_i}^{-1}(z_i) \cap F_i$ ,  $\varphi_i \in (F_i)_{z_i}$ ,  $\varphi_i \in \mathcal{O}(U_i)$ ,  $z_i \in U_i = U_i^0 \subset \tilde{D}_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ . Set  $\varphi(w) = \varphi_1(w_1) \dots \varphi_k(w_k)$ ,  $w = (w_1, \dots, w_k) \in U = U_1 \times \dots \times U_k$ ;  $\varphi \in \mathcal{O}(U)$ . We take the germ  $\varphi_w$  of  $\varphi$  at  $w$ . Now we change  $w \in U$ ,  $(F_i)_{z_i} \in \pi_{\alpha_i}^{-1}(z_i) \cap F_i$  and  $z \in \tilde{D}_1 \times \dots \times \tilde{D}_k$ .

The set of all the germs, obtained in this way, we denote by  $F$ . Obviously,  $F$  is an arbitrarily continuable continuation of  $f$  over  $\tilde{D}_1 \times \dots \times \tilde{D}_k$ , which satisfies (A3) for  $S = H_\alpha(D)$ . In the case  $\alpha_i = 2p_i \geq 4$ , the proof of (H3) is analogical. The proof is completed.

Corollary 5. If  $\alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_k = 2$ , then  $D_{H_\alpha(D)}^A = \tilde{D}_1 \times \dots \times \tilde{D}_k = \hat{D} = D_{PH(D)}^A$ ; if, moreover,  $D_i$  is simply connected,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ , then  $D_{H_\alpha(D)}^H = \tilde{D}_1 \times \dots \times \tilde{D}_k = \hat{D} = D_{PH(D)}^H$ .

Note that if  $k \geq 2$  then  $PH(D) \not\subseteq H_\alpha(D)$ .

It is easy to show that for  $z = (z_1, \dots, z_k) \in C^{|\alpha|}$ :  $T(z_1) \times \dots \times T(z_k) \subset T(z)$ , so  $\tilde{D} \subset \tilde{D}_1 \times \dots \times \tilde{D}_k$ . Below, we shall give an example of a situation when  $\tilde{D} \not\subseteq \tilde{D}_1 \times \dots \times \tilde{D}_k$ .

Let  $k = \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = 2$ , let  $D_0$  be a region in  $C$  such that  $1+i, -1+i, -1-i, 1-i \in D_0$ , but  $1 \notin D_0$ . Set  $D = D_0 \times D_0$ . Then the point  $z = (i, -i, -i, -i)$  belongs to  $\tilde{D}_0 \times \tilde{D}_0$  but  $z \notin \tilde{D}$  because the point  $t = \left( \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}, \frac{-1+\sqrt{5}}{2}, 1, 0 \right) \in T(z)$ .

Theorem 5 implies the following

Proposition 2. In the general case, if  $D$  is only a region in  $R^{|\alpha|}$  (not necessarily polycylindrical) and  $\alpha_i \geq 2$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ , then the set  $\bigcup_{D_1 \times \dots \times D_k = D} \tilde{D}_1 \times \dots \times \tilde{D}_k$ , where  $D_i$  is a convex region in  $R^{\alpha_i}$ , is the region in  $C^{|\alpha|}$  containing  $D$  and satisfying (H2) for  $H_\alpha(D)$ .

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