Numerical Corrections of Wu's Coefficients for Scattering of High-Frequency Waves from Spheres and Cylinders

I. G. Lisle and J.-Y. Parlange
School of Australian Environmental Studies, Griffith University, Nathan, Queensland 4111, Australia

and

R. H. Rand
Theoretical and Applied Mechanics Department, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853

and

M. B. Parlange
Agricultural Engineering Department, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 14853

and

W. L. Hogarth and R. D. Braddock
School of Australian Environmental Studies, Griffith University, Nathan, Queensland 4111, Australia

and

H. P. Gottlieb
School of Science, Griffith University, Nathan, Queensland 4111, Australia
(Received 21 May 1985)

The asymptotic expansions derived for high-frequency scattering by cylinders and spheres are reexamined in detail. It is found that earlier results require small but significant corrections. The accuracy of the new analytical results is confirmed by comparison with numerical evaluations.

PACS numbers: 03.80.+r, 02.60.+y, 47.55.Mh

The theory of scattering owes much to Wu's pioneering work on the subject. In particular his well-known formulas\(^1\textsuperscript{--}^3\) for high-frequency scattering from spheres and cylinders are of fundamental importance and are also widely used. Recently some small discrepancies between those formulas and numerical calculations (R. T. Waechter, private communication) provided us with the incentive to reexamine Wu's theory and the accuracy of his results.

Wu's results\(^1\) are expressed in terms of coefficients \(M_n\) and \(\overline{M}_n\). Following Wu's notations,\(^1\) \(M_n\), for instance, is defined as

\[
M_n = \lim_{R \to \infty} \left\{ \frac{(-1)^{n+1} R^{n+1}}{n+1} - \int_{-R}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-i2\pi/3} \text{Ai}(v)}{\text{Ai}(e^{i2\pi/3}v)} v^n dv \right\}.
\]

We take \(R = a_j\), where \(-a_j\) is the \(j\)th root of the Airy function \(\text{Ai}\), and close the contour as indicated in Fig. 1. The segment \((-R,R)\) leads to the integral in Eq. (1) as \(R \to \infty\). The circle of radius \(R\) is composed of \(\Gamma_j\) for \(0 < \arg v < \pi/3\), and \(\Gamma_3\) for \(\pi/3 < \arg v < \pi\). \(\Gamma_1\) and \(\Gamma_3\) are joined by a semicircle \(\Gamma_2\) with a vanishingly small radius. Asymptotic values for \(\text{Ai}\) show that the contribution from \(\Gamma_1\) to the integral is exponentially small as \(j \to \infty\) and that

\[
\int_{\Gamma_1} \frac{e^{-i2\pi/3} \text{Ai}(v)}{\text{Ai}(e^{i2\pi/3}v)} v^n dv = \frac{(-1)^n}{n+1} a_j^{n+1} + \frac{e^{i(n+1)\pi/3}}{n+1} a_j^{n+1} + o(a_j^{-N}),
\]

where \(o(a_j^{-N})\) is smaller in order than any negative power of \(a_j\). Thus

\[
M_n = \lim_{j \to \infty} \left\{ e^{i(n+1)\pi/3} \frac{a_j^{n+1}}{n+1} - 2\pi i \sum_{k=1}^{j} R_k \right\},
\]

where \(R_k\) is the residue at the simple pole \(v_k = a_k e^{i\pi/3}\) and the prime on the summation indicates that only half the
residue is taken for the last term in the series. Since
\[ 2\pi i R_k = e^{i(n+1)\pi/3} \alpha_{n,k}, \tag{4} \]
where
\[ \alpha_{n,k} = a_k^2/[A_i'(a_k)]^2, \tag{5} \]
we have
\[ M_n e^{i(n+1)\pi/3} = \lim_{j \to \infty} \left( \frac{a_j^{n+1}}{n+1} - \sum_{k=1}^{i} \alpha_{n,k} \right). \tag{6} \]
For \( k \) large, asymptotic results\(^4\) for \( a_k \) and \( A_i'(a_k) \) yield
\[ \alpha_{n,k} = \pi z^{(2n-1)/3} \left( 1 + \left[ \frac{5}{24} + \frac{5}{48n} \right] z^{-2} + \left[ \frac{25}{36} - \frac{85}{1152n} + \frac{25}{4608n(n-1)} \right] z^{-4} \right. \]
\[ + \left. \left[ \frac{77}{10368} + \frac{85525}{82944n} - \frac{575}{36864n(n-1)} + \frac{125}{663552n(n-1)(n-2)} \right] z^{-6} + \ldots \right), \tag{7} \]
where
\[ z = (3\pi/8)(4k - 1). \tag{8} \]
The Euler-Maclaurin formula may now be applied to Eq. (6) yielding
\[ M_n e^{i(n+1)\pi/3} = \frac{a_r^{n+1}}{n+1} - \sum_{k=1}^{r-1} \alpha_{n,k} - \frac{1}{2} \alpha_{n,r} + \frac{1}{12} \alpha_{n,r} - \frac{1}{720} \alpha_{n,r}'' + \frac{1}{30240} \alpha_{n,r}^{(5)} + \ldots, \tag{9} \]
where the derivatives of \( \alpha_{n,r} \) are calculated from Eq. (7). The value of \( r \) must be large enough for Eq. (7) to be accurate; in practice \( r = 6 \) is a suitable value, which we used in our calculations.

We gave the details of the calculation of \( M_n \), as those were not given by Wu\(^1\). An identical method was followed to obtain \( \overline{M}_n \).

Table I gives the values of \( M_n \) and \( \overline{M}_n \) obtained by Wu and those we calculated here. Our values are given up to the last accurate digit based on the approximations used in the calculations. To that accuracy we note that Wu's values differ significantly from ours. We may also note that \( \overline{M}_{-5} \) and \( \overline{M}_{-8} \) given by Wu\(^1\) have two terms with different phases; we have corrected them in our Table I.

As an example of the application of Wu's theory let us consider the infiltration from a spherical cavity into a porous medium, a problem which is formally analogous to the scattering problem. The steady flux, \( Q \), can be written as\(^5\)
\[ \frac{2Q}{R_0} = \pi \frac{\sum_{n=0}^\infty (-1)^n(2n+1) I_{n+1/2}(R_0)}{K_{n+1/2}(R_0)}, \tag{10} \]
where \( R_0 \) is proportional to the radius of the cavity and \( I_{n+1/2} \) and \( K_{n+1/2} \) are the standard modified Bessel functions.\(^4\) With use of elementary properties of the Bessel function the series of Eq. (10) is essentially that in Eq. (5.1) of Wu's paper. Thus in the important limit \( R_0 >> 1 \), the right-hand side of Eq. (10) can be rewritten as the real part of
\[ 1 + 2M_0 \left( \frac{R_0}{2} \right)^{-2/3} - \frac{16}{15} M_1 \left( \frac{R_0}{2} \right)^{-4/3} - \left( \frac{4}{175} M_2 + \frac{23}{1680} \right) \left( \frac{R_0}{2} \right)^{-2} + 2 \left( \frac{64}{70875} M_3 + \frac{2}{1575} M_0 \right) \left( \frac{R_0}{2} \right)^{-8/3} \]
\[ + 2 \left[ \frac{2944}{3274425} M_4 + \frac{334}{363825} M_1 \right] \left( \frac{R_0}{2} \right)^{-10/3} + O \left( \frac{R_0}{2} \right)^{-4}, \tag{11} \]
which is consistent with Eq. (5.10) of Wu's paper\(^1\) except for the term \( \frac{23}{1680} \), which is inadvertently replaced by \( \frac{23}{420} \) in Wu's series. With this minor correction values of \( M_n \), either ours or Wu's in Table I, can be used to calculate \( 2Q/R_0 \) for various values of \( R_0 \). These are shown in Table II. Results are given to the expected accuracy con-
TABLE I. Values of coefficients $M_n$ and $\bar{M}_n$ calculated by Wu (Ref. 1) and in the present paper. The values of $\bar{M}_{-5}$ and $\bar{M}_{-8}$ given by Wu have been corrected to indicate the proper phase.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wu's results</th>
<th>Present calculations</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$e^{-i\pi/3}M_0$</td>
<td>1.255 074 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$e^{-i2\pi/3}M_1$</td>
<td>0.532 250 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$M_2$</td>
<td>0.093 521 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$e^{-i\pi/3}M_3$</td>
<td>0.772 793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$e^{-i2\pi/3}M_4$</td>
<td>1.0992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$e^{-i\pi/3}\bar{M}_0$</td>
<td>$-1.088$ 874 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$e^{-i2\pi/3}\bar{M}_1$</td>
<td>$-0.934$ 864 91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\bar{M}_2$</td>
<td>$-0.107$ 019 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$e^{-i\pi/3}\bar{M}_3$</td>
<td>$-0.757$ 663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$e^{-i2\pi/3}\bar{M}_4$</td>
<td>$-1.157$ 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$e^{-i\pi/3}\bar{M}_{-2}$</td>
<td>$-3.704$ 093 89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$e^{-i2\pi/3}\bar{M}_{-3}$</td>
<td>$0.416$ 821 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\bar{M}_{-4}$</td>
<td>$3.175$ 796 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$e^{i\pi/3}\bar{M}_{-5}$</td>
<td>$0.562$ 815 61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$e^{i2\pi/3}\bar{M}_{-6}$</td>
<td>$2.065$ 757 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$e^{i\pi/3}\bar{M}_{-8}$</td>
<td>$-1.582$ 493 57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

consistent with that of the $M_n$'s in Table I. Of course differences between the two estimates are small but significant.

To verify the accuracy of the revised formulation we summed the series in Eq. (10) numerically. The numerical evaluation of the series was performed with the computer algebra system MACSYMA. We used MACSYMA because of its ability to (a) perform exact rational arithmetic and (b) evaluate decimal expansions to an arbitrary number of digits. The Bessel functions of half-integer order were calculated exactly in terms of elementary functions and the sum of the first 170 terms of the series was obtained. Using the MACSYMA function BFLOAT we converted each term to floating point numbers accurate to 100 digits. For a given number of decimal digits of precision, more terms of the expansion are necessary the larger the value of $R_0$. For instance it is necessary to take 25 terms for $R_0 = 10$ and 164 terms for $R_0 = 100$ if fifteen significant digits are required. Table II also indicates these numerical results, with ten decimal places. We see that our results, rather than Wu's, are correct with the expected accuracy.

We may note in conclusion the practical value of precise numerical calculations. If they had been available to Wu he would have been able to find and correct his small errors. These calculations confirm the reliability of our results.

This work was supported in part by the Australian Research Grants Scheme through Grant No. F 8416177.

4Handbook of Mathematical Functions, edited by M. Abramowitz and I. A. Stegun (Dover, New York, 1965).