Journal of Inequalities and Applications
a SpringerOpen Journal

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A remark on the Dirichlet problem in a half-plane

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Abstract

In this paper, we prove that if the positive part $u^+(z)$ of a harmonic function $u(z)$ in a half-plane satisfies a slowly growing condition, then its negative part $u^-(z)$ can also be dominated by a similarly growing condition. Further, a solution of the Dirichlet problem in a half-plane for a fast growing continuous boundary function is constructed by the generalized Dirichlet integral with this boundary function.

Keywords: harmonic function; Dirichlet problem; half-plane

1 Introduction and main theorem

Let $\mathbf{R}$ be the set of all real numbers and let $\mathbf{C}$ denote the complex plane with points $z = x + iy$, where $x, y \in \mathbf{R}$. The boundary and closure of an open set Ω are denoted by $\partial\Omega$ and $\overline{\Omega}$, respectively. The upper half-plane is the set $\mathbf{C}_+ := \{z = x + iy \in \mathbf{C} : y > 0\}$, whose boundary is $\partial\mathbf{C}_+ = \mathbf{R}$.

We use the standard notations $u^+ = \max\{u, 0\}$, $u^- = -\min\{u, 0\}$, and $[d]$ is the integer part of the positive real number d. For positive functions h_1 and h_2, we say that $h_1 \lesssim h_2$ if $h_1 \le M h_2$ for some positive constant M.

Given a continuous function f in $\partial\mathbf{C}_+$, we say that h is a solution of the (classical) Dirichlet problem in $\mathbf{C}_+$ with f, if $\Delta h = 0$ in $\mathbf{C}_+$ and $\lim_{z\in\mathbf{C}_+, z\to t} h(z) = f(t)$ for every $t \in \partial\mathbf{C}_+$.

The classical Poisson kernel in $\mathbf{C}_+$ is defined by

$$P(z,t) = \frac{y}{\pi |z-t|^2},$$

where $z = x + iy \in \mathbf{C}_+$ and $t \in \mathbf{R}$.

It is well known (see [1]) that the Poisson kernel $P(z,t)$ is harmonic for $z \in \mathbf{C} - \{t\}$ and has the expansion

$$P(z,t) = \frac{1}{\pi} \operatorname{Im} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^k}{t^{k+1}},$$

which converges for $|z| < |t|$. We define a modified Cauchy kernel of $z \in \mathbf{C}_+$ by

$$C_m(z,t) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\pi}\frac{1}{t-z} & \text{when } |t| \le 1, \\ \frac{1}{\pi}\frac{1}{t-z} - \frac{1}{\pi}\sum_{k=0}^{m} \frac{z^k}{t^{k+1}} & \text{when } |t| > 1, \end{cases}$$

where m is a nonnegative integer.

To solve the Dirichlet problem in $\mathbf{C}_+$, as in [2], we use the modified Poisson kernel defined by

$$P_m(z,t) = \operatorname{Im} C_m(z,t) = \begin{cases} P(z,t) & \text{when } |t| \leq 1, \\ P(z,t) - \frac{1}{\pi} \operatorname{Im} \sum_{k=0}^{m} \frac{z^k}{t^{k+1}} & \text{when } |t| > 1. \end{cases}$$

We remark that the modified Poisson kernel $P_m(z,t)$ is harmonic in $\mathbf{C}_+$. About modified Poisson kernel in a cone, we refer readers to papers by I Miyamoto, H Yoshida, L Qiao and GT Deng (*e.g.* see [3–11]).

Put

$$U(f)(z) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P(z,t) f(t)\, dt \quad \text{and} \quad U_m(f)(z) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P_m(z,t) f(t)\, dt,$$

where $f(t)$ is a continuous function in $\partial\mathbf{C}_+$.

For any positive real number α, We denote by $\mathcal{A}_\alpha$ the space of all measurable functions $f(x+iy)$ in $\mathbf{C}_+$ satisfying

$$\iint_{\mathbf{C}_+} \frac{y|f(x+iy)|}{1+|x+iy|^{\alpha+2}}\, dx\, dy < \infty \tag{1.1}$$

and by $\mathcal{B}_\alpha$ the set of all measurable functions $g(x)$ in $\partial\mathbf{C}_+$ such that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{|g(x)|}{1+|x|^\alpha}\, dx < \infty. \tag{1.2}$$

We also denote by $\mathcal{D}_\alpha$ the set of all continuous functions $u(x+iy)$ in $\overline{\mathbf{C}}_+$, harmonic in $\mathbf{C}_+$ with $u^+(x+iy) \in A_\alpha$ and $u^+(x) \in \mathcal{B}_\alpha$.

About the solution of the Dirichlet problem with continuous data in $\mathbf{C}_+$, we refer readers to the following result (see [12, 13]).

Theorem A *Let u be a real-valued function harmonic in $\mathbf{C}_+$ and continuous in $\overline{\mathbf{C}}_+$. If $u(z) \in \mathcal{B}_2$, then there exists a constant d_1 such that $u(z) = d_1 y + U(u)(z)$ for all $z = x+iy \in \mathbf{C}_+$.*

Inspired by Theorem A, we first prove the following.

Theorem 1 *If $\alpha \geq 2$ and $u \in \mathcal{D}_\alpha$, then $u \in \mathcal{B}_\alpha$.*

Then we are concerned with the growth property of $U_m(f)(z)$ at infinity in $\mathbf{C}_+$.

Theorem 2 *If $\alpha - 2 \leq m < \alpha - 1$ and $f \in \mathcal{D}_\alpha$, then*

$$\lim_{|z|\to\infty, z\in\mathbf{C}_+} y|z|^{-\alpha} U_m(f)(z) = 0. \tag{1.3}$$

We say that u is of order λ if

$$\lambda = \limsup_{r\to\infty} \frac{\log(\sup_{H\cap B(r)} |u|)}{\log r}.$$

If $\lambda < \infty$, then u is said to be of finite order. See Hayman-Kennedy [14, Definition 4.1].

Our next aim is to give solutions of the Dirichlet problem for harmonic functions of infinite order in $\mathbf{C}_+$. For this purpose, we define a nondecreasing and continuously differentiable function $\rho(R) \geq 1$ on the interval $[0, +\infty)$. We assume further that

$$\epsilon_0 = \limsup_{R\to\infty} \frac{\rho'(R) R \log R}{\rho(R)} < 1. \tag{1.4}$$

Remark For any ϵ $(0 < \epsilon < 1 - \epsilon_0)$, there exists a sufficiently large positive number R such that $r > R$, by (1.4) we have

$$\rho(r) < \rho(e)(\ln r)^{\epsilon_0+\epsilon}.$$

Let $\mathcal{E}(\rho, \beta)$ be the set of continuous functions f in $\partial\mathbf{C}_+$ such that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{|f(t)|}{1 + |t|^{\rho(|t|)+\beta+1}}\, dt < \infty, \tag{1.5}$$

where β is a positive real number.

Theorem 3 *If $f \in \mathcal{E}(\rho, \beta)$, then the integral $U_{[\rho(|t|)+\beta]}(f)(x)$ is a solution of the Dirichlet problem in $\mathbf{C}_+$ with f.*

The following result immediately follows from Theorem 2 (the case $\alpha = m + 2$) and Theorem 3 (the case $[\rho(|t|) + \beta] = m$).

Corollary 1 *If f is a continuous function in $\mathbf{C}_+$ satisfying*

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{|f(t)|}{1 + |t|^{m+2}}\, dt < \infty,$$

then $U_m(f)(z)$ is a solution of the Dirichlet problem in $\mathbf{C}_+$ with f satisfying

$$\lim_{|z|\to\infty, z\in\mathbf{C}_+} |z|^{-m-1} U_m(f)(z) = 0.$$

For harmonic functions of finite order in $\mathbf{C}_+$, we have the following integral representations.

Corollary 2 *Let $u \in \mathcal{D}_\alpha$ $(\alpha \geq 2)$ and let m be an integer such that $m + 2 < \alpha \leq m + 3$.*

(I) *If $\alpha = 2$, then $U(u)(z)$ is a harmonic function in $\mathbf{C}_+$ and can be continuously extended to $\overline{\mathbf{C}}_+$ such that $u(z') = U(u)(z')$ for $z' \in \partial\mathbf{C}_+$. There exists a constant d_2 such that $u(z) = d_2 y + U(u)(z)$ for all $z \in \mathbf{C}_+$.*

(II) *If $\alpha > 2$, then $U_m(u)(z)$ is a harmonic function in $\mathbf{C}_+$ and can be continuously extended to $\overline{\mathbf{C}}_+$ such that $u(z') = U_m(u)(z')$ for $z' \in \partial\mathbf{C}_+$. There exists a harmonic polynomial $Q_m(u)(z)$ of degree at most $m - 1$ which vanishes in $\partial\mathbf{C}_+$ such that $u(z) = U_m(u)(z) + Q_m(u)(z)$ for all $z \in \mathbf{C}_+$.*

Finally, we prove the following.

Theorem 4 *Let u be a real-valued function harmonic in $\mathbf{C}_+$ and continuous in $\overline{\mathbf{C}}_+$. If $u \in \mathcal{E}(\rho, \beta)$, then we have*

$$u(z) = U_{[\rho(|t|)+\beta]}(u)(z) + \operatorname{Im}\Pi(z)$$

for all $z \in \overline{\mathbf{C}}_+$, where $\Pi(z)$ is an entire function in $\mathbf{C}_+$ and vanishes continuously in $\partial\mathbf{C}_+$.

2 Main lemmas

The Carleman formula refers to holomorphic functions in $\mathbf{C}_+$ (see [15, 16]).

Lemma 1 *If $R > 1$ and $u(z)$ ($z = x + iy$) is a harmonic function in $\mathbf{C}_+$ with continuous boundary in $\partial\mathbf{C}_+$, then we have*

$$\begin{aligned} &m_-(R) + \frac{1}{2\pi}\int_1^R \left(\frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{R^2}\right) g_-(x)\,dx \\ &\quad = m_+(R) + \frac{1}{2\pi}\int_1^R \left(\frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{R^2}\right) g_+(x)\,dx - d_3 - \frac{d_4}{R^2}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$m_\pm(R) = \frac{1}{\pi R}\int_0^\pi u^\pm\bigl(Re^{i\theta}\bigr)\sin\theta\,d\theta, \qquad g_\pm(x) = u^\pm(x) + u^\pm(-x),$$

$$d_3 = \frac{1}{2\pi}\int_0^\pi \left(u\bigl(Re^{i\theta}\bigr) + \frac{\partial u(Re^{i\theta})}{\partial n}\right)\sin\theta\,d\theta$$

and

$$d_4 = \frac{1}{2\pi}\int_0^\pi \left(u\bigl(Re^{i\theta}\bigr) - \frac{\partial u(Re^{i\theta})}{\partial n}\right)\sin\theta\,d\theta.$$

Lemma 2 *For any $z = x + iy \in \mathbf{C}_+$, $|z| > 1$, and $t \in \mathbf{R}$, we have*

$$\bigl|C_m(z,t)\bigr| \lesssim y^{-1}|z|^{m+1}|t|^{-m-1}, \tag{2.1}$$

where $1 < |t| \le 2|z|$,

$$\bigl|C_m(z,t)\bigr| \lesssim |z|^{m+1}|t|^{-m-2}, \tag{2.2}$$

where $|t| > \max\{1, 2|z|\}$,

$$\bigl|C_m(z,t)\bigr| \lesssim y^{-1}, \tag{2.3}$$

where $|t| \le 1$.

Proof If $t \in \mathbf{R}$ and $1 < |t| \le 2|z|$, we have $|t - z| \ge y$, which gives

$$\bigl|C_m(z,t)\bigr| = \frac{1}{\pi}\left|\frac{1}{t-z} - \frac{1 - (\frac{z}{t})^{m+1}}{t-z}\right| = \frac{1}{\pi}\frac{|\frac{z}{t}|^{m+1}}{|t-z|} \lesssim \frac{|z|^{m+1}}{y|t|^{m+1}}.$$

If $|t| > \max\{1, 2|z|\}$, we obtain

$$\left|C_m(z,t)\right| = \frac{1}{\pi}\left|\sum_{k=m+1}^{\infty}\frac{z^k}{t^{k+1}}\right| \lesssim \sum_{k=m+1}^{\infty}\frac{|z|^k}{|t|^{k+1}} \lesssim \frac{|z|^{m+1}}{|t|^{m+2}}.$$

If $t \in \mathbf{R}$ and $|t| \leq 1$, then we also have $|t - z| \geq y$, which yields

$$\left|C_m(z,t)\right| \lesssim y^{-1}.$$

Thus this lemma is proved. □

Lemma 3 (see [17, Theorem 10]) *Let $h(z)$ be a harmonic function in $\mathbf{C}_+$ such that $h(z)$ vanishes continuously in $\partial\mathbf{C}_+$. If*

$$\lim_{|z|\to\infty, z\in\mathbf{C}_+} |z|^{-m-1}h^+(z) = 0,$$

then $h(z) = Q_m(h)(z)$ in $\mathbf{C}_+$, where $Q_m(h)$ is a polynomial of $(x, y) \in \mathbf{C}_+$ of degree less than m and even with respect to the variable y.

3 Proof of Theorem 1

We distinguish the following two cases.

Case 1. $\alpha = 2$.

If $R > 2$, Lemma 1 gives

$$\begin{aligned} &m_-(R) + \frac{3}{4}\int_{1<x<R/2}\frac{g^-(x)}{x^2}\,dx \\ &\quad\lesssim m_-(R) + \int_{1<x<R} g^-(x)\left(\frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{R^2}\right)dx \\ &\quad\lesssim m_+(R) + \int_{1<x<R}\frac{g^+(x)}{x^2}\,dx + |d_3| + |d_4|. \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

Since $u \in \mathcal{C}_2$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_1^{\infty}\frac{m_+(R)}{R}\,dR &\lesssim \iint_{\{z\in\mathbf{C}_+:|z|>1\}}\frac{y|f(x+iy)|}{|x+iy|^4}\,dx\,dy \\ &\lesssim \iint_{z\in\mathbf{C}_+}\frac{y|f(x+iy)|}{1+|x+iy|^4}\,dx\,dy \\ &< \infty \end{aligned}$$

from (1.1) and hence

$$\liminf_{R\to\infty} m_+(R) = 0. \tag{3.2}$$

Then from (1.2), (3.1), and (3.2) we have

$$\liminf_{R\to\infty}\int_{1<x<R/2}\frac{g^-(x)}{x^2}\,dx < \infty,$$

which gives

$$\int_1^\infty \frac{g^-(x)}{1+x^2}\,dx < \infty.$$

Thus $u \in \mathcal{B}_2$ from $|u| = u^+ + u^-$.

Case 2. $\alpha > 2$.

Since $u \in \mathcal{C}_\alpha$, we see from (1.1) that

$$\begin{aligned}\int_1^\infty \frac{m_+(R)}{R^{\alpha-1}}\,dR &\lesssim \iint_{\{z\in\mathbf{C}_+:|z|>1\}} \frac{y|f(x+iy)|}{|x+iy|^{\alpha+2}}\,dx\,dy \\ &\lesssim \iint_{z\in\mathbf{C}_+} \frac{y|f(x+iy)|}{1+|x+iy|^{\alpha+2}}\,dx\,dy \\ &< \infty, \end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$

and we see from (1.2) that

$$\begin{aligned}&\int_1^\infty \frac{1}{R^{\alpha-1}}\int_1^R g_+(x)\left(\frac{1}{x^2}-\frac{1}{R^2}\right)dx\,dR \\ &\quad= \int_1^\infty g_+(x)\int_x^\infty \frac{1}{R^{\alpha-1}}\left(\frac{1}{x^2}-\frac{1}{R^2}\right)dR\,dx \\ &\quad\lesssim \int_1^\infty \frac{g_+(x)}{x^\alpha}\,dx \\ &\quad< \infty. \end{aligned} \tag{3.4}$$

We have from (3.3), (3.4), and Lemma 1

$$\begin{aligned}&\int_1^\infty g_-(x)\int_x^\infty \frac{1}{R^{\alpha-1}}\left(\frac{1}{x^2}-\frac{1}{R^2}\right)dR\,dx \\ &\quad\le 2\pi\int_1^\infty \frac{m_+(R)}{R^{\alpha-1}}\,dR - 2\pi\int_1^\infty \frac{1}{R^{\alpha-1}}\left(d_3+\frac{d_4}{R^2}\right)dR \\ &\qquad+ \int_1^\infty \frac{1}{R^{\alpha-1}}\int_1^R g_+(x)\left(\frac{1}{x^2}-\frac{1}{R^2}\right)dx\,dR \\ &\quad< \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Set

$$I(\alpha) = \lim_{x\to\infty} x^\alpha \int_x^\infty \frac{1}{R^{\alpha-1}}\left(\frac{1}{x^2}-\frac{1}{R^2}\right)dR.$$

We have

$$I(\alpha) = \frac{2}{\alpha(\alpha-2)}$$

from the L'Hospital's rule and hence we have

$$x^{-\alpha} \lesssim \int_x^\infty \frac{1}{R^{\alpha-1}}\left(\frac{1}{x^2}-\frac{1}{R^2}\right)dR.$$

So

$$\int_1^\infty \frac{g_-(x)}{x^\alpha}\,dx \lesssim \int_1^\infty g_-(x)\int_x^\infty \frac{1}{R^{\alpha-1}}\left(\frac{1}{x^2}-\frac{1}{R^2}\right)dR\,dx \\ < \infty.$$

Then $u \in \mathcal{B}_\alpha$ from $|u| = u^+ + u^-$. We complete the proof of Theorem 1.

4 Proof of Theorem 2

For any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $R_\epsilon > 2$ such that

$$\int_{|t|\geq R_\epsilon} \frac{|f(t)|}{1+|t|^\alpha}\,dt < \epsilon \tag{4.1}$$

from Theorem 1. For any fixed $z \in \mathbf{C}_+$ and $2|z| > R_\epsilon$, we write

$$U_m(f)(x) = \sum_{i=1}^4 V_i(x),$$

where

$$V_1(x) = \int_{0\leq|t|<1} P_m(z,t)f(t)\,dt, \qquad V_2(x) = \int_{1<|t|\leq R_\epsilon} P_m(z,t)f(t)\,dt,$$
$$V_3(x) = \int_{R_\epsilon<|t|\leq 2|z|} P_m(z,t)f(t)\,dt \quad \text{and} \quad V_4(x) = \int_{|t|>2|z|} P_m(z,t)f(t)\,dt.$$

By (2.1), (2.2), (2.3), and (4.1), we have the following estimates:

$$\begin{aligned}
\left|V_1(z)\right| &\lesssim y^{-1}\int_{0\leq|t|<1}\left|f(t)\right|dt \\
&\lesssim y^{-1}, && (4.2)\\
\left|V_2(z)\right| &\lesssim y^{-1}|z|^{m+1}\int_{1<|t|\leq R_\epsilon}|t|^{-m-1}\left|f(t)\right|dt \\
&\lesssim R_\epsilon^{\alpha-m-1}y^{-1}|z|^{m+1}\int_{1<|t|\leq R_\epsilon}|t|^{-\alpha}\left|f(y')\right|dx \\
&\lesssim R_\epsilon^{\alpha-m-1}y^{-1}|z|^{m+1}, && (4.3)\\
\left|V_3(z)\right| &\lesssim |z|^{m+1}y^{-1}\int_{R_\epsilon<|t|\leq 2|z|} t^{-m-1}\left|f(t)\right|dt \\
&\lesssim \epsilon y^{-1}|z|^\alpha, && (4.4)\\
\left|V_4(z)\right| &\lesssim |z|^{m+1}\int_{|t|>2|z|}|t|^{-m-2}\left|f(t)\right|dt \\
&\lesssim |z|^{\alpha-1}\int_{|t|>2|z|}|t|^{-\alpha}\left|f(t)\right|dt \\
&\lesssim \epsilon|z|^{\alpha-1}. && (4.5)
\end{aligned}$$

Combining (4.2)-(4.5), (1.3) holds. Thus we complete the proof of Theorem 2.

5 Proof of Theorem 3

Take a number r satisfying $r > R_1$, where R_1 is a sufficiently large positive number. For any ϵ $(0 < \epsilon < 1 - \epsilon_0)$, we have

$$\rho(r) < \rho(e)(\ln r)^{(\epsilon_0+\epsilon)}$$

from the remark, which shows that there exists a positive constant $M(r)$ dependent only on r such that

$$k^{-\beta/2} r^{\rho(k+1)+\beta+1} \leq M(r) \tag{5.1}$$

for any $k > k_r = [2r] + 1$.

For any $z \in \mathbf{C}_+$ and $|z| \leq r$, we have $|t| \geq 2|z|$ and

$$\begin{aligned}
&\sum_{k=k_r}^{\infty} \int_{k\leq|t|<k+1} \frac{|z|^{[\rho(|t|)+\beta]+1}}{|t|^{[\rho(|t|)+\beta]+2}} \bigl|f(t)\bigr|\,dt \\
&\quad\lesssim \sum_{k=k_r}^{\infty} \frac{r^{\rho(k+1)+\beta+1}}{k^{\beta/2}} \int_{k\leq|t|<k+1} \frac{2|f(t)|}{1+|t|^{\rho(|t|)+\beta/2+1}}\,dt \\
&\quad\lesssim M(r) \int_{|t|\geq k_r} \frac{|f(t)|}{1+|t|^{\rho(|t|)+\beta/2+1}}\,dt \\
&\quad< \infty
\end{aligned}$$

from (1.5), (2.2), and (5.1). Thus $U_{[\rho(|t|)+\beta]}(f)(z)$ is finite for any $z \in \mathbf{C}_+$. $P_{[\rho(|t|)+\beta]}(z,t)$ is a harmonic function of $z \in \mathbf{C}_+$ for any fixed $t \in \partial\mathbf{C}_+$. $U_{[\rho(|t|)+\beta]}(f)(z)$ is also a harmonic function of $z \in \mathbf{C}_+$.

Now we shall prove the boundary behavior of $U_{[\rho(|t|)+\beta]}(f)(z)$. For any fixed $z' \in \partial\mathbf{C}_+$, we can choose a number R_2 such that $R_2 > |z'| + 1$. We write

$$U_{[\rho(|t|)+\beta]}(f)(z) = X(z) - Y(z) + Z(z),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
X(z) &= \int_{|t|\leq R_2} P(z,t)f(t)\,dt, \\
Y(z) &= \operatorname{Im} \sum_{k=0}^{[\rho(|t|)+\beta]} \int_{1<|t|\leq R_2} \frac{z^k}{\pi t^{k+1}} f(t)\,dt, \\
Z(z) &= \int_{|t|>R_2} P_{[\rho(|t|+\beta)]}(z,t)f(t)\,dt.
\end{aligned}$$

Since $X(z)$ is the Poisson integral of $f(t)\chi_{[-R_2,R_2]}(t)$, it tends to $f(z')$ as $z \to z'$. Clearly, $Y(z)$ vanishes in $\partial\mathbf{C}_+$. Further, $Z(z) = O(y)$, which tends to zero as $z \to z'$. Thus the function $U_{[\rho(|t|)+\beta]}(f)(z)$ can be continuously extended to $\overline{\mathbf{C}}_+$ such that $U_{[\rho(|t|)+\beta]}(f)(z') = f(z')$ for any $z' \in \partial\mathbf{C}_+$. Then Theorem 3 is proved.

6 Proof of Corollary 2

We prove (II). Consider the function $u(z) - U_m(u)(z)$. Then it follows from Corollary 1 that this is harmonic in $\mathbf{C}_+$ and vanishes continuously in $\partial\mathbf{C}_+$. Since

$$0 \leq \big(u(z) - U_m(u)(z)\big)^+ \leq u^+(z) + U_m(u)^-(z) \tag{6.1}$$

for any $z \in \mathbf{C}_+$ and

$$\liminf_{|z|\to\infty} |z|^{-m-1} u^+(z) = 0 \tag{6.2}$$

from (1.1), for every $z \in \mathbf{C}_+$ we have

$$u(z) = U_m(u)(z) + Q_m(u)(z)$$

from (6.1), (6.2), Corollary 1, and Lemma 3, where $Q_m(u)$ is a polynomial in $\mathbf{C}_+$ of degree at most $m-1$ and even with respect to the variable y. From this we evidently obtain (II).

If $u \in \mathcal{C}_2$, then $u \in \mathcal{C}_\alpha$ for $\alpha > 2$. (II) shows that there exists a constant d_5 such that

$$u(z) = d_5 y + U_1(u)(z).$$

Put

$$d_2 = d_5 - \frac{1}{\pi}\int_{t\geq 1} \frac{f(t)}{|t|^2}\,dt.$$

It immediately follows that $u(z) = d_2 y + U(u)(z)$ for every $z = x + iy \in \mathbf{C}_+$, which is the conclusion of (I). Thus we complete the proof of Corollary 2.

7 Proof of Theorem 4

Consider the function $u(z) - U_{[\rho(|t|)+\beta]}(u)(z)$, which is harmonic in $\mathbf{C}_+$, can be continuously extended to $\overline{\mathbf{C}}_+$ and vanishes in $\partial\mathbf{C}_+$.

The Schwarz reflection principle [12, p.68] applied to $u(z) - U_{[\rho(|t|)+\beta]}(u)(z)$ shows that there exists a harmonic function $\Pi(z)$ in $\mathbf{C}_+$ satisfying $\Pi(\overline{z}) = \overline{\Pi(z)}$ such that $\operatorname{Im}\Pi(z) = u(z) - U_{[\rho(|t|)+\beta]}(u)(z)$ for $z \in \overline{\mathbf{C}}_+$. Thus $u(z) = U_{[\rho(|t|)+\beta]}(u)(z) + \operatorname{Im}\Pi(z)$ for all $z \in \overline{\mathbf{C}}_+$, where $\Pi(z)$ is an entire function in $\mathbf{C}_+$ and vanishes continuously in $\partial\mathbf{C}_+$. Thus we complete the proof of Theorem 4.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' contributions

All authors contributed equally to the manuscript and read and approved the final manuscript.

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Acknowledgements

The authors are very thankful to the anonymous referees for their valuable comments and constructive suggestions, which helped to improve the quality of the paper. This work is supported by the Academy of Finland Grant No. 176512.

Received: 21 September 2014 Accepted: 27 November 2014 Published: 12 Dec 2014

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10.1186/1029-242X-2014-497
Cite this article as: Zhao and Yamada Jr.: **A remark on the Dirichlet problem in a half-plane.** *Journal of Inequalities and Applications* 2014, 2014:497