

## The reality of the eigenvalues of certain integral equations

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With 4 figures in the text

### § 1. Introduction

In this paper we shall study the reality of the eigenvalues in some integral equations of the Fredholm type

$$\varphi(x) = \lambda \int_0^1 K(x, y) \varphi(y) dy.$$

The kernel  $K(x, y)$  is assumed to be 0 above a certain curve in the square  $0 \leq \frac{x}{y} \leq 1$  where it is defined. Below the curve we suppose that  $K(x, y) = P(x)Q(y)$ . Let the curve have the equation  $y = f(x)$  and make the following assumptions:

- ( $\alpha$ )  $f(x)$  is non-decreasing,
- ( $\beta$ )  $\lim_{t \rightarrow +0} f(x-t) > x$  except possibly for  $x=0$  and  $x=1$ ,
- ( $\gamma$ )  $P(x)Q(x)$  is integrable in  $0 \leq x \leq 1$ .

We shall study two types of kernels:

- Kernel A: The curve does not pass through  $(0, 0)$  nor through  $(1, 1)$  (fig. 1).
- Kernel B: The curve goes through  $(0, 0)$  or  $(1, 1)$  or both points (fig. 2).

In [1] I have obtained explicit expressions for the corresponding denominators of Fredholm. In equation A they are polynomials in  $\lambda$  of degree depending only on the curve  $y = f(x)$ . I shall give an account of the formulas in question.

Let  $f^2(x)$  mean  $f(f(x))$ , generally  $f^n(x)$  the  $n$ th iterated function. We also introduce the in an appropriate way defined inverse  $f^{-1}(x)$  which we give the value 0 for  $0 \leq x \leq f(0)$ . In the integral equation A, restricted to the square  $0 \leq \frac{x}{y} \leq \alpha$ , the denominator of Fredholm becomes:

$$D(\alpha, \lambda) = 1 - \lambda F_1(\alpha) + \lambda^2 F_2(\alpha) - \dots + (-\lambda)^n F_n(\alpha), \quad (1)$$

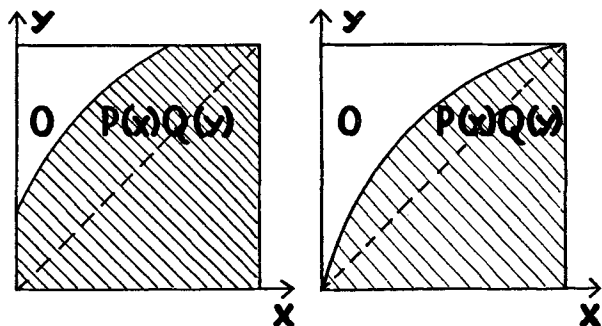


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

where  $n$  is determined by the inequality

$$f^{n-1}(0) < \alpha \leq f^n(0).$$

The coefficients  $F_1(\alpha), F_2(\alpha), \dots$  are obtained from:

$$\begin{cases} F_1(\alpha) = \int_0^a P(y) Q(y) dy; \\ F_2(\alpha) = \int_0^a F_1(f^{-1}(y)) P(y) Q(y) dy; \\ \dots \dots \dots \\ F_v(\alpha) = \int_0^a F_{v-1}(f^{-1}(y)) P(y) Q(y) dy; \\ \dots \dots \dots \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

The denominator of Fredholm in the equation B regarding the square  $0 \leq \frac{x}{y} \leq 1$  is an integral function

$$D(\lambda) = 1 + \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} (-\lambda)^r F_r(1), \quad (3)$$

with coefficients determined by (2).

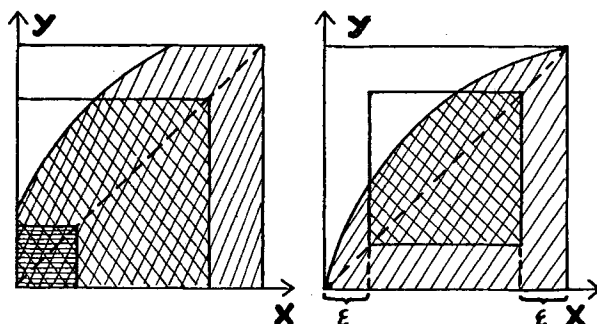


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

We shall show that the eigenvalues of  $A$  and  $B$  are real, if  $P(x)Q(x) \geq 0$  (almost everywhere). For this purpose we shall examine the succession of kernels which we get with a fixed curve  $y=f(x)$  and a variable square  $0 \leq \frac{x}{y} \leq \alpha$ ,  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$  (fig. 3). When  $\alpha \leq f(0)$  the kernel is  $P(x)Q(y)$  in the whole square. It has a single eigenvalue which is real. For increasing  $\alpha$  the number of eigenvalues is increasing.

**§ 2. Proof of the reality of the eigenvalues of equation  $A$  when  $P(x)Q(x) \geq 0$ .**

In order to obtain a relation between denominators of Fredholm corresponding to different squares we note that (2) gives:

$$F_v(\alpha) = F_v(\beta) + \int_{\beta}^{\alpha} F_{v-1}(f^{-1}(y)) P(y) Q(y) dy.$$

Introduce this into (1):

$$D(\alpha, \lambda) = D(\beta, \lambda) - \lambda \int_{\beta}^{\alpha} D(f^{-1}(y), \lambda) P(y) Q(y) dy. \tag{4}$$

In the following we shall generally denote by  $\lambda_1^{(\alpha)}, \lambda_2^{(\alpha)}, \dots, \lambda_n^{(\alpha)}, \dots$  the eigenvalues corresponding to the square  $0 \leq \frac{x}{y} \leq \alpha$  arranged so that their moduli form a non-decreasing sequence. We first suppose that  $P(x)Q(x) > 0$ .

**Theorem 1.** *When  $P(x)Q(x) > 0$ , the eigenvalues of  $A$  are real, positive and simple. Further, if  $f^{-1}(\alpha) \leq \beta < \alpha$ , we have*

$$0 < \lambda_1^{(\alpha)} < \lambda_1^{(\beta)} < \dots < \lambda_{n-1}^{(\alpha)} < \lambda_{n-1}^{(\beta)} < \lambda_n^{(\alpha)} < \lambda_n^{(\beta)}. \tag{5}$$

We have assumed that  $f^{n-1}(0) < \alpha \leq f^n(0)$ . Note that  $\lambda_n^{(\beta)}$  is missing if  $f^{-1}(\alpha) \leq \beta \leq f^{n-1}(0)$ . (5) indicates that every eigenvalue is decreasing for increasing  $\alpha$ . If we let  $\alpha$  decreasing tend to  $f^{n-1}(0)$ ,  $\lambda_n^{(\alpha)}$  tends to  $+\infty$ . Hence theorem 1 involves that the new eigenvalues, gradually appearing as  $\alpha$  increases, are entering from  $+\infty$ . The theorem is proved by induction.

**I.** *Theorem 1 is valid when  $0 < \alpha \leq f(0)$ .*

In this case  $K(x, y) = P(x)Q(y)$  in the whole square and the single eigenvalue is

$$\lambda_1^{(\alpha)} = \frac{1}{\int_0^{\alpha} P(y) Q(y) dy}.$$

Since  $P(x)Q(x) > 0$   $\lambda_1^{(\alpha)}$  is positive and decreasing for increasing  $\alpha$ , which proves theorem 1.

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It remains to show that if theorem 1 is valid when  $\alpha \leq f^{n-1}(0)$ , it is valid when  $\alpha \leq f^n(0)$ , too. We illustrate the method by first proving:

**2. Theorem 1 is valid when  $f(0) < \alpha \leq f^2(0)$ .**

We treat the cases  $\beta \leq f(0)$  and  $\beta > f(0)$  separately.

**2 a.  $f^{-1}(\alpha) \leq \beta \leq f(0)$ .**

To the square  $0 \leq \frac{x}{y} \leq \beta$  belongs a single eigenvalue  $\lambda_1^{(\beta)}$ . We shall prove that  $0 < \lambda_1^{(\alpha)} < \lambda_1^{(\beta)} < \lambda_2^{(\alpha)}$  by examining the sign of  $D(\alpha, \lambda)$ , when  $\lambda = 0$ ,  $\lambda = \lambda_1^{(\beta)}$  and  $\lambda = +\infty$ . Putting  $\lambda_1^{(\beta)}$  for  $\lambda$  into (4) we get:

$$D(\alpha, \lambda_1^{(\beta)}) = -\lambda_1^{(\beta)} \int_{\beta}^{\alpha} D(f^{-1}(y), \lambda_1^{(\beta)}) P(y) Q(y) dy. \quad (6)$$

When  $\beta \leq y \leq \alpha$  we have  $f^{-1}(\beta) \leq f^{-1}(y) \leq f^{-1}(\alpha) \leq \beta$ . By **1** the zero  $\lambda_1^{(f^{-1}(y))}$  of  $D(f^{-1}(y), \lambda)$  is  $\geq \lambda_1^{(\beta)}$ . Since  $D(\alpha, 0) > 0$  it follows that  $D(f^{-1}(y), \lambda_1^{(\beta)})$  is  $\geq 0$  in the right member of (6). To show that this expression cannot be zero identically we note that there exists an interval  $\beta \leq y \leq \beta + \Delta\beta$ , where  $f^{-1}(y)$  is  $< \beta$  on account of the conditions ( $\alpha$ ) and ( $\beta$ ) on  $f(y)$ . In this interval **1** involves that  $D(f^{-1}(y), \lambda_1^{(\beta)}) > 0$ . By  $P(x)Q(x) > 0$  we conclude from (6) that  $D(\alpha, \lambda_1^{(\beta)}) < 0$ .

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} D(\alpha, 0) &> 0, \\ D(\alpha, \lambda_1^{(\beta)}) &< 0, \\ D(\alpha, +\infty) &> 0. \end{aligned}$$

We see that the zeros of  $D(\alpha, \lambda)$  are real, positive and simple and

$$0 < \lambda_1^{(\alpha)} < \lambda_1^{(\beta)} < \lambda_2^{(\alpha)}.$$

**2 b.  $f(0) < \beta < \alpha$ .**

By **2 a** both  $D(\alpha, \lambda)$  and  $D(\beta, \lambda)$  have two positive, simple zeros. We have to prove that

$$0 < \lambda_1^{(\alpha)} < \lambda_1^{(\beta)} < \lambda_2^{(\alpha)} < \lambda_2^{(\beta)}. \quad (7)$$

Put  $\lambda = \lambda_v^{(\beta)}$ ,  $v = 1, 2$ , into (4):

$$D(\alpha, \lambda_v^{(\beta)}) = -\lambda_v^{(\beta)} \int_{\beta}^{\alpha} D(f^{-1}(y), \lambda_v^{(\beta)}) P(y) Q(y) dy. \quad (8)$$

Since when  $\beta \leq y \leq \alpha$  we have

$$f^{-1}(\beta) \leq f^{-1}(y) \leq f^{-1}(\alpha) \leq f(0) < \beta,$$

**2 a** shows that the single zero  $\lambda_1^{(f^{-1}(y))}$  of  $D(f^{-1}(y), \lambda)$  satisfies

$$\lambda_1^{(\beta)} < \lambda_1^{(f^{-1}(y))} < \lambda_2^{(\beta)}.$$

Hence

$$D(f^{-1}(y), \lambda_1^{(\beta)}) > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad D(f^{-1}(y), \lambda_2^{(\beta)}) < 0.$$

From this and from  $P(x)Q(x) > 0$  we infer by (8)

$$D(\alpha, \lambda_1^{(\beta)}) < 0, \quad D(\alpha, \lambda_2^{(\beta)}) > 0.$$

Since  $D(\alpha, 0) > 0$  this proves (7).

**3.** Assuming that theorem 1 is valid when  $0 < \alpha < f^{n-1}(0)$ , it is valid also when  $f^{n-1}(0) < \alpha \leq f^n(0)$ .

**3 a.**  $f^{-1}(\alpha) \leq \beta \leq f^{n-1}(0)$ .

By the assumption  $D(\beta, \lambda)$  has  $n-1$  positive, simple zeros  $\lambda_1^{(\beta)}, \lambda_2^{(\beta)}, \dots, \lambda_{n-1}^{(\beta)}$ . We have to prove that the  $n$  zeros of  $D(\alpha, \lambda)$  are positive and simple satisfying (5), where  $\lambda_n^{(\beta)}$  is missing.

As in **2** we use (4) to determine the sign of  $D(\alpha, \lambda_v^{(\beta)})$  where  $v = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ . The result is once more formula (8).

When  $\beta \leq y \leq \alpha$  we have further

$$f^{n-3}(0) < f^{-1}(\beta) \leq f^{-1}(y) \leq f^{-1}(\alpha) \leq \beta \leq f^{n-1}(0).$$

$D(f^{-1}(y), \lambda)$  has  $n-2$  or  $n-1$  zeros, which by the assumption are located according to

$$0 < \lambda_1^{(\beta)} \leq \lambda_1^{(f^{-1}(y))} < \dots < \lambda_{n-2}^{(\beta)} \leq \lambda_{n-2}^{(f^{-1}(y))} < \lambda_{n-1}^{(\beta)} \leq \lambda_{n-1}^{(f^{-1}(y))}. \quad (9)$$

The signs of equality are applicable to the case  $f^{-1}(y) = \beta$  only. Since  $\lambda_v^{(\beta)}$  is situated between the  $(v-1)$ st and  $v$ th zeros of  $D(f^{-1}(y), \lambda)$ , we infer that

$$(-1)^{v-1} D(f^{-1}(y), \lambda_v^{(\beta)}) \geq 0. \quad (10)$$

On account of the conditions ( $\alpha$ ) and ( $\beta$ ) on  $f(x)$  there exists an interval  $\beta \leq y \leq \beta + \Delta\beta$  where  $f^{-1}(y) < \beta$ . For  $y$  in that interval the sign of equality cannot appear in (9) and (10). Since  $P(x)Q(x) > 0$  we infer by (8)

$$(-1)^v D(\alpha, \lambda_v^{(\beta)}) > 0, \quad v = 1, 2, \dots, n-1.$$

As  $D(\alpha, 0) > 0$  this proves (5).

**3 b.**  $f^{n-1}(0) < \beta < \alpha$ .

In consequence of **3 a**  $D(\alpha, \lambda)$  and  $D(\beta, \lambda)$  both have  $n$  positive, simple zeros. It is required to prove the inequality (5). We again use (8) for examining the sign of  $D(\alpha, \lambda_v^{(\beta)})$ ,  $v = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

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For  $y$  in the interval  $\beta \leq y \leq \alpha$  we get

$$f^{n-2}(0) < f^{-1}(\beta) \leq f^{-1}(y) \leq f^{-1}(\alpha) \leq f^{n-1}(0) < \beta.$$

The  $n-1$  zeros of  $D(f^{-1}(y), \lambda)$  satisfy by **3 a**

$$0 < \lambda_1^{(\beta)} < \lambda_1^{(f^{-1}(y))} < \dots < \lambda_{n-1}^{(f^{-1}(y))} < \lambda_n^{(\beta)}.$$

We infer that  $(-1)^{v-1} D(f^{-1}(y), \lambda_v^{(\beta)}) > 0$  in the whole interval  $\beta \leq y \leq \alpha$ . By (8) we find  $(-1)^v D(\alpha, \lambda_v^{(\beta)}) > 0$  for all  $v$ , which proves (5).

The proof of theorem 1 is now completed. Our next object will be to relax the restriction  $P(x)Q(x) > 0$ .

**Theorem 2.** *When  $P(x)Q(x) \geq 0$  the eigenvalues of  $A$  are real, positive.*

Define  $[P(x)Q(x)]_\varepsilon$  as  $P(x)Q(x)$  if  $P(x)Q(x) \geq \varepsilon$ , as  $\varepsilon$  if  $P(x)Q(x) < \varepsilon$ . ( $\varepsilon > 0$ ).

To  $f(x)$  and  $[P(x)Q(x)]_\varepsilon$  there corresponds an integral equation of type  $A$ , for which theorem 1 is applicable. Its denominator of Fredholm  $D(\varepsilon, \alpha, \lambda)$  is:

$$D(\varepsilon, \alpha, \lambda) = 1 - \lambda F_1(\varepsilon, \alpha) + \lambda^2 F_2(\varepsilon, \alpha) - \dots + (-\lambda)^n F_n(\varepsilon, \alpha), \quad (11)$$

with

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} F_1(\varepsilon, \alpha) = \int_0^\alpha [P(y)Q(y)]_\varepsilon dy; \\ F_2(\varepsilon, \alpha) = \int_0^\alpha F_1(\varepsilon, f^{-1}(y)) [P(y)Q(y)]_\varepsilon dy; \\ \dots \dots \dots \\ F_v(\varepsilon, \alpha) = \int_0^\alpha F_{v-1}(\varepsilon, f^{-1}(y)) [P(y)Q(y)]_\varepsilon dy; \\ \dots \dots \dots \end{array} \right. \quad (12)$$

For every fixed  $y$  the integrands of (12) are positive functions of  $\varepsilon$ , non-increasing for decreasing  $\varepsilon$ , converging to the integrands of (2) when  $\varepsilon$  tends to 0. Hence, when  $\varepsilon$  tends to 0, every  $F_v(\varepsilon, \alpha)$  converges to  $F_v(\alpha)$  and we infer that the polynomial  $D(\varepsilon, \alpha, \lambda)$  converges to  $D(\alpha, \lambda)$ . The zeros of  $D(\alpha, \lambda)$  are the limits of the zeros of  $D(\varepsilon, \alpha, \lambda)$  when  $\varepsilon$  tends to 0. As limits of real, positive numbers they are real, positive.

**Theorem 3.** *When  $P(x)Q(x) \geq 0$  the eigenvalues of  $A$  are non-increasing for increasing  $\alpha$ .*

Take out an arbitrary eigenvalue  $\lambda_v^{(\alpha)}$  of the integral equation. It is the limit when  $\varepsilon$  tends to 0 of an eigenvalue  $\lambda_v^{(\alpha)}(\varepsilon)$  of the integral equation used in the proof of theorem 2. By theorem 1  $\lambda_v^{(\alpha)}(\varepsilon)$  is a decreasing function of  $\alpha$ . Hence  $\lambda_v^{(\alpha)} = \lim_{\varepsilon=0} \lambda_v^{(\alpha)}(\varepsilon)$  is non-increasing.

**Theorem 4.** Let the "existence-square" of the kernel of  $A$  be  $\alpha \leq \frac{x}{y} \leq 1$ . If  $P(x)Q(x) \geq 0$  its eigenvalues are non-increasing for decreasing  $\alpha$ .

By the change of variables  $\xi = 1 - y, \eta = 1 - x$  the integral equation  $A$  is transformed into another of the same type with the same eigenvalues. The square  $\alpha \leq \frac{x}{y} \leq 1$  is transformed into the square  $0 \leq \frac{\xi}{\eta} \leq 1 - \alpha$ . Thus theorem 4 is an immediate consequence of theorem 3.

To conclude this study of equation  $A$  we shall show that the assumption  $P(x)Q(x) \geq 0$  is essential in order that the eigenvalues shall be real. We shall give a simple example of an equation of the type  $A$  where  $P(x)Q(x)$  changes its sign and the eigenvalues are complex.

Define the kernel in  $0 \leq \frac{x}{y} \leq 1$  by  $f(x) = x + \frac{2}{3}$  and  $Q(x) = 1$ . The corresponding denominator of Fredholm is by (1) and (2):

$$D(\lambda) = 1 - \lambda \int_0^1 P(y) dy + \lambda^2 \int_{\frac{2}{3}}^1 P(x) dx \int_0^{x-\frac{2}{3}} P(y) dy.$$

Choose  $P(x) > 0$  in the intervals  $0 \leq x \leq \frac{1}{3}$  and  $\frac{2}{3} \leq x \leq 1$ , and  $P(x) < 0$  in the interval  $\frac{1}{3} < x < \frac{2}{3}$ , so that  $\int_0^1 P(y) dy = 0$ . We get:  $D(\lambda) = 1 + \lambda^2 C$  with  $C > 0$ , hence the eigenvalues are non-real.

### § 3. Proof of the reality of the eigenvalues of equation $B$ .

When the curve goes through one or both of the points  $(0, 0)$  and  $(1, 1)$ , the denominator of Fredholm of the kernel defined in  $0 \leq \frac{x}{y} \leq 1$  is an integral function. We shall examine the reality of its zeros when  $P(x)Q(x) \geq 0$ .

Restricting the "existence-square" of the kernel of  $B$  to  $\varepsilon \leq \frac{x}{y} \leq 1 - \varepsilon, \frac{1}{2} > \varepsilon > 0$ , we get an equation of the type  $A$  (fig. 4, p. 80). We shall show that the denominator of Fredholm  $D(\varepsilon, \lambda)$  of the new equation converges to  $D(\lambda)$  when  $\varepsilon$  tends to 0. Since by theorem 2 the zeros of  $D(\varepsilon, \lambda)$  are real, positive, we infer that the eigenvalues of  $B$  are likewise real, positive.

Let  $[P(x)Q(x)]_\varepsilon$  denote  $P(x)Q(x)$  in the interval  $\varepsilon \leq x \leq 1 - \varepsilon$  and 0 in the intervals  $0 \leq x < \varepsilon$  and  $1 - \varepsilon < x \leq 1$ .  $D(\varepsilon, \lambda)$  is simply obtained by putting  $[P(x)Q(x)]_\varepsilon$  for  $P(x)Q(x)$  into (2) and (3). We get formulas of the form (11) and (12) where  $D(\varepsilon, \lambda) = D(\varepsilon, 1 - \varepsilon, \lambda)$  and with  $n$  determined by

$$f^{n-1}(\varepsilon) < 1 - \varepsilon \leq f^n(\varepsilon), \quad n = n(\varepsilon).$$

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Because the integrands of (12) are positive functions of  $\varepsilon$ , non-decreasing for decreasing  $\varepsilon$ , and converging to the integrands of (2), every coefficient  $F_\nu(\varepsilon, 1)$  converges non-decreasing to  $F_\nu(1)$  when  $\varepsilon$  decreases to 0.

When  $|\lambda| \leq R$  the moduli of the terms of the series  $D(\varepsilon, \lambda)$  and  $D(\lambda)$  are smaller than the corresponding terms of the convergent series

$$\sum_{\nu=0}^{\infty} F_\nu(1) R^\nu = D(-R).$$

Since every term of  $D(\varepsilon, \lambda)$  converges to a term in  $D(\lambda)$ , we conclude that the convergence of  $D(\varepsilon, \lambda)$  to  $D(\lambda)$  is uniform in every circle  $|\lambda| \leq R$ .

**Theorem 5.** *The eigenvalues of  $B$  are real, positive if  $P(x)Q(x) \geq 0$ .*

Since  $D(\varepsilon, \lambda)$  tends to  $D(\lambda)$  uniformly in every circle  $|\lambda| \leq R$  we can apply a theorem of Hurwitz [2]. By it the zeros of  $D(\lambda)$  are exactly the limits of the zeros of  $D(\varepsilon, \lambda)$  when  $\varepsilon$  tends to 0. As limits of real, positive numbers the eigenvalues of  $B$  are real, positive and theorem 5 is proved.

Denote the zeros of  $D(\varepsilon, \lambda)$  by  $\lambda_1(\varepsilon), \lambda_2(\varepsilon), \dots, \lambda_{n(\varepsilon)}(\varepsilon)$  and the zeros of  $D(\lambda)$  by  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots$  arranged so that their moduli form a non-decreasing sequence. We have  $\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \lambda_\nu(\varepsilon) = \lambda_\nu$  for all  $\nu$ . Combining theorems 3 and 4 we infer that every  $\lambda_\nu(\varepsilon)$  is non-increasing for decreasing  $\varepsilon$ .

**Theorem 6.** *Putting  $\int_0^1 P(y)Q(y)dy = M$  we have*

$$\sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\lambda_\nu} = M.$$

From (11) we get:

$$\sum_{\nu=1}^{n(\varepsilon)} \frac{1}{\lambda_\nu(\varepsilon)} = F_1(\varepsilon, 1) = \int_\varepsilon^{1-\varepsilon} P(y)Q(y)dy.$$

Hence we can to every  $\eta > 0$  find a number  $\varepsilon_0(\eta) > 0$  such that

$$M - \eta < \sum_{\nu=1}^{n(\varepsilon_0)} \frac{1}{\lambda_\nu(\varepsilon_0)} \leq M.$$

$\frac{1}{\lambda_\nu(\varepsilon)}$  is non-decreasing for decreasing  $\varepsilon$ . Hence:

$$M - \eta < \sum_{\nu=1}^{n(\varepsilon_0)} \frac{1}{\lambda_\nu(\varepsilon_0)} \leq \sum_{\nu=1}^{n(\varepsilon_0)} \frac{1}{\lambda_\nu} \leq M.$$

Because  $\eta$  is arbitrary, we get  $\sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\lambda_\nu} = M$ .



**Theorem 7.**  $D(\lambda)$  is of genus 0:  $D(\lambda) = \prod_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{\lambda_{\nu}}\right)$ .

Put  $\frac{1}{\lambda_{\nu}(\varepsilon)} = 0$  if  $\nu > n(\varepsilon)$ . The convergence of the infinite product  $\prod_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{\lambda_{\nu}(\varepsilon)}\right)$  is uniform in  $\varepsilon$  since  $\frac{1}{\lambda_{\nu}(\varepsilon)}$  is non-decreasing for decreasing  $\varepsilon$  and  $\sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\lambda_{\nu}} = M$ . Hence

$$D(\lambda) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} D(\varepsilon, \lambda) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \prod_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{\lambda_{\nu}(\varepsilon)}\right) = \prod_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{\lambda_{\nu}(\varepsilon)}\right) = \prod_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{\lambda_{\nu}}\right).$$

*Example.* The function

$$D(\lambda) = 1 + \sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} (-\lambda)^{\nu} \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{1}{a}\right) \left(1 + \frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{a^2}\right) \cdots \left(1 + \frac{1}{a} + \cdots + \frac{1}{a^{\nu-1}}\right)},$$

$0 < a < 1$ , is of genus 0 and has its zeros real, positive. The fact is that it is the denominator of Fredholm of the integral equation of type B defined by

$$f(x) = x^a, \quad 0 < a < 1, \quad P(x)Q(x) = 1.$$

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