

ON HARMONIC DIFFERENCE FORMS ON A MANIFOLD

Dedicated to Professor Yûsaku Komatu on his 60th birthday

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Introduction.

In the present note we aim to obtain an orthogonal decomposition theorem of difference forms on a *polyangulation* of a 3-dimensional manifold which is analogous to de Rham-Kodaira's theory on a Riemannian manifold.

In the previous paper [6], we concerned ourselves with the problem of constructing a theory of discrete harmonic and analytic differences on a polyhedron and the problem of approximating harmonic and analytic differentials on a Riemann surface by harmonic and analytic differences respectively, where our definition of a polyhedron differs from the ordinary one based on a triangulation and admits also a polygon and a lune as 2-simplices (cf. §1. 1 of [6]). In order to set the definitions of a conjugate difference, we introduced concepts of a conjugate polyhedron and a complex polyhedron. In the present note, we shall also introduce similar concepts of a conjugate polyhedron and a complex polyhedron (cf. §1. 3) on a 3-dimensional manifold, and we shall show that on such a complex polyhedron a theory of harmonic difference forms analogous to de Rham-Kodaira's theory on Riemannian manifold is obtained.

§1. Foundation of topology.

1. Polyangulation. Let E^3 be the 3-dimensional euclidean space. By a *euclidean 0-simplex* we mean a point on E^3 . By a *euclidean 1-simplex* we mean a closed line segment or a closed circular arc. By a *euclidean 2-simplex* we mean a closed polygon on a hyperplane or a convex surface, surrounded by a finite number (≥ 2) of segments and circular arcs. A lune (biangle) and a triangle are also admitted as a euclidean 2-simplex. By a *euclidean 3-simplex* we mean a closed convex polyhedron surrounded by a finite number (≥ 2) of such polygons (euclidean 2-simplices). A dihedron and a trihedron (closed convex polyhedra surrounded by two polygons and three ones respectively) are also admitted as a euclidean 3-simplex.

Let F be a 3-dimensional orientable manifold. By an *n-simplex* s^n ($n=0, 1, 2, 3$) on F we mean a pair of a euclidean n -simplex e^n and a one-to-one bi-

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continuous mapping ϕ of e^n into F . We shall write $s^n = [e^n, \phi]$ ($n=0, 1, 2, 3$). The image of e^n under ϕ is called the *carrier* of s^n , and is denoted by $|s^n|$; that is, $\phi(e^n) = |s^n|$. The images of the faces, edges and vertices of a euclidean 3-simplex e^3 by ϕ are called *faces*, *edges* and *vertices* of $s^3 = [e^3, \phi]$. Each face, each edge and each vertex of s^3 is a 2-simplex, a 1-simplex and a 0-simplex respectively. We say that a point p belongs to s^n when $p \in |s^n|$ ($n=0, 1, 2, 3$).

Let us suppose that a collection K of 3-simplices is defined on F in such a way that each point p on F belongs to at least one 3-simplex in K and such that the following conditions (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) are satisfied:

(i) if p belongs to a 3-simplex s^3 of K but is not on a face of s^3 , then s^3 is the only 3-simplex containing p and $|s^3|$ is a neighborhood of p ;

(ii) if p belongs to a face s^2 of a 3-simplex s_1^3 in K but does not belong to an edge of s_1^3 , there is exactly one other 3-simplex s_2^3 in K such that $|s^2| \subset |s_1^3| \cap |s_2^3|$, s_1^3 and s_2^3 are the only 3-simplices containing p , and $|s_1^3| \cup |s_2^3|$ is a neighborhood of p ;

(iii) if p belongs to an edge s^1 of a 3-simplex s_1^3 in K but is not a vertex of s_1^3 , there are a finite number of 3-simplices s_1^3, \dots, s_κ^3 ($\kappa \geq 2$) such that each successive pair of 3-simplices s_j^3, s_{j+1}^3 ($j=1, \dots, \kappa$; $s_{\kappa+1}^3 = s_1^3$) have at least one face in common, s_1^3, \dots, s_κ^3 are the only 3-simplices containing p , and $|s_1^3| \cup \dots \cup |s_\kappa^3|$ forms a neighborhood of p , where it is permitted that some pair of 3-simplices have two or more faces in common;

(iv) if p is a vertex of s_1^3 , there are a finite number of 3-simplices s_1^3, \dots, s_ν^3 , ($\nu \geq 2$), each having p as a vertex, s_1^3, \dots, s_ν^3 are the only 3-simplices containing p , and $|s_1^3| \cup \dots \cup |s_\nu^3|$ forms a neighborhood of p .

Then, K is called a *polyangulation* of F or a *polyhedron*¹⁾, and F on which a polyangulation is defined, is called a *polyangulated manifold*.

Let Ω be a compact bordered subregion of F whose boundary consists of faces (2-simplices) of a polyangulation K . Then the collection of 3-simplices of K having their carriers in Ω is called a *compact bordered polyhedron*. If F is closed (open resp.), then K is said to be *closed* (*open* resp.).

Let K and L be two polyhedra. If every 3-simplex of L is a 3-simplex of K , then L is called a *subpolyhedron* of K and K is said to *contain* L .

2. Homology. On a polyhedron we can define a homology in the same manner as the case of a triangulated polyhedron. An *ordered* n -simplex ($n=0, 1, 2, 3$) is defined in a similar way. An ordered n -simplex ($n=0, 1, 2, 3$) is denoted by the same notation s^n as an n -simplex. The orientation of simplices induces an orientation of the manifold F .

For a fixed dimension n ($n=0, 1, 2, 3$) a free Abelian group $C_n(K)$ is defined by the following conditions (i) and (ii):

(i) all ordered n -simplices are generators of $C_n(K)$;

(ii) each element c^n of $C_n(K)$ can be represented in the form of finite sum

1) Throughout the present paper, the terminology "polyhedron" will be taken in this sense.

$$c^n = \sum_j x_j s_j^n,$$

where x_j are integers. Each element of $C_n(K)$ is called an n -dimensional chain or an n -chain.

The boundary ∂ of an n -simplex s^n ($n=1, 2, 3$) is defined by

$$\partial s^n = s_1^{n-1} + \dots + s_\kappa^{n-1} \quad (\kappa=2 \text{ if } n=1; \kappa \geq 2 \text{ if } n=2, 3),$$

where $s_1^{n-1}, \dots, s_\kappa^{n-1}$ are vertices, edges and faces of s^n in the cases of $n=1, 2, 3$, respectively, with the orientation induced by the orientation of s^n . The boundary ∂s^0 of a 0-simplex s^0 is defined as 0; $\partial s^0=0$. The boundary of an n -chain $c^n = \sum_j x_j s_j^n$ ($n=0, 1, 2, 3$) is defined by

$$\partial c^n = \sum_j x_j \partial s_j^n.$$

An n -chain whose boundary is zero, is called a cycle.

3. Complex polyhedron. If two open or closed polyangulations K and K^* of a common manifold F satisfy the following conditions (i) and (ii), then K^* (K resp.) is called the conjugate polyhedron of K (K^* resp.):

(i) To each 0-simplex s^0 of K and K^* , there is exactly one 3-simplex s^3 of K^* and K respectively such that $|s^0| \in |s^3|$. Then, s^3 and s^0 are said to be conjugate to s^0 and s^3 respectively, and the conjugate simplices of s^0 and s^3 are denoted by $*s^0$ and $*s^3$ respectively;

(ii) To each 1-simplex s^1 of K and K^* , there is exactly one 2-simplex s^2 of K^* and K respectively such that $|s^1|$ intersects $|s^2|$ at only one point. If the oriented 1-simplex s^1 runs through the oriented 2-simplex s^2 from the reverse side to the front side, then s^2 and s^1 are said to be conjugate to s^1 and s^2 respectively, and the conjugate simplices of s^1 and s^2 are denoted by $*s^1$ and $*s^2$ respectively.

By the definition, we have always $**s^n = *(s^n) = s^n$ for $n=0, 1, 2, 3$.

The pair of K and K^* is called a complex polyangulation of F or a complex polyhedron, and is denoted by $\mathbf{K} = \langle K, K^* \rangle$. A manifold F on which a complex polyangulation is defined, is called a complex polyangulated manifold. If F is open or closed, then $\mathbf{K} = \langle K, K^* \rangle$ is said to be open or closed respectively. Let L be a compact bordered subpolyhedron of K and L^* be the sum of 3-simplices of K^* having their carriers in $|L|$. Let us suppose that L^* is not vacuous and is connected. Then L^* is the maximal compact bordered subpolyhedron of K^* under the condition $|L^*| \subset |L|$. The pair $\mathbf{L} = \langle L, L^* \rangle$ is called a compact bordered complex polyhedron.

Let $\mathbf{K} = \langle K, K^* \rangle$ and $\mathbf{L} = \langle L, L^* \rangle$ be two complex polyhedra. If L and L^* are subpolyhedra of K and K^* respectively, then \mathbf{L} is called a complex subpolyhedron of \mathbf{K} .

By an n -chain X ($n=0, 1, 2, 3$) of a complex polyhedron \mathbf{K} , we mean a formal sum $X = X_1 + X_2$ of an n -chain X_1 of K and an n -chain X_2 of K^* . Here we

agree that if K is compact bordered then the conjugate 2-simplex $*s^1$ of each 1-simplex $s^1 \in \partial K$ and the conjugate 1-simplex $*s^2$ of each 2-simplex $s^2 \in \partial K$ is admitted as a generator of $C_2(K^*)$ and that of $C_1(K^*)$ respectively, and thus X_2 is precisely an n -chain of $K^* + \{ *s^1, *s^2 | s^1, s^2 \in \partial K \}$. The boundary ∂X is defined by $\partial X = \partial X_1 + \partial X_2$. X is said to be *homologous to zero*, denoted by $X \sim 0$, if and only if $X_1 \sim 0$ and $X_2 \sim 0$.

4. Complex boundary. Let $K = \langle K, K^* \rangle$ be a compact bordered complex polyhedron. Now we shall try to define a new polyhedron K^{**} such that $K^* \subset K^{**}$ and $|K^{**}| = |K|$. Let s^2 be an arbitrary 2-simplex of ∂K . Then the carrier $|*s^2|$ of the conjugate 1-simplex $*s^2$ is divided into two portions by the point $p = |s^2| \cap |*s^2|$. We divide $*s^2$ into two 1-simplices s_1^1 and s_2^1 whose carriers are the portions of $|*s^2|$ lying on the reverse side and the front side of s^2 respectively. Then s_1^1 is called the *conjugate half 1-simplex of s^2 with respect to ∂K* and is denoted by $*s^2$. The terminal vertex of s_1^1 , whose carrier lies on $|s^2|$, is called the *conjugate 0-simplex of s^2 on ∂K* and is denoted by $*s^2(\partial K)$.

Let s^1 be an arbitrary oriented 1-simplex of ∂K . Then there exist exactly two oriented 2-simplices σ_1^2 and σ_2^2 of ∂K such that s^1 is a common edge of σ_1^2 and σ_2^2 , where s^1 is assumed to have the orientation induced by the orientation of σ_2^2 and thus of $-\sigma_1^2$. Let s_1^3, \dots, s_k^3 ($k \geq 1$) be the collection of 3-simplices of K having s^1 as their common edge such that σ_1^2 and σ_2^2 are the faces of s_1^3 and s_k^3 respectively, and such that each successive pair s_j^3, s_{j+1}^3 of 3-simplices has a common face s_j^2 with the edge s^1 , where s_j^2 is assumed to be oriented so that the orientation of s_j^2 induces that of s^1 . Here if $k=1$, then σ_1^2 and σ_2^2 are the faces of the common 3-simplex $s_1^3 = s_k^3$, and $\{s_j^2\}_{j=1}^k = \emptyset$. Let σ_1^0 and σ_2^0 be the terminal vertices of $*\sigma_1^2$ and $*\sigma_2^2$ lying on σ_1^2 and σ_2^2 respectively. We define a new 1-simplex σ^1 with $\partial\sigma^1 = \sigma_2^0 - \sigma_1^0$ whose carrier $|\sigma^1|$ is a line segment lying on $|\sigma_2^2| \cup |\sigma_1^2|$ and intersects $|s^1|$ at only one point. The 1-simplex σ^1 is said to be *conjugate to s^1 on ∂K* and is denoted by $*s^1(\partial K)$. Furthermore we define a new 2-simplex σ^2 such that

$$(1.1) \quad \partial\sigma^2 = -*s^1(\partial K) - *\sigma_1^2 + \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} *s_j^2 + *\sigma_2^2.$$

The 2-simplex σ^2 is called the *conjugate half 2-simplex of s^1 with respect to ∂K* and is denoted by $*s^1$.

Let s^0 be an arbitrary 0-simplex of ∂K . Let s_1^1, \dots, s_ν^1 ($\nu \geq 2$) be the collection of 1-simplices of K whose common initial vertex is s^0 , and let s_1^1, \dots, s_μ^1 ($\mu \leq \nu$) be the collection of those lying on ∂K . Then we define a new 2-simplex σ^2 with $|\sigma^2| \subset |\partial K|$ such that

$$\partial\sigma^2 = \sum_{j=1}^{\mu} *s_j^1(\partial K).$$

The 2-simplex σ^2 is said to be *conjugate to s^0 on ∂K* and is denoted by $*s^0(\partial K)$. Furthermore we define a new 3-simplex σ^3 such that

$$(1.2) \quad \partial\sigma^3 = *s^0(\partial K) + \sum_{j=1}^{\mu} *\sigma_j^2 + \sum_{j=\mu+1}^{\nu} *s_j^1,$$

where if $\mu=\nu$, then the last term of (1.2) is vacuous. The 3-simplex σ^3 is called the *conjugate half 3-simplex of s^0 with respect to ∂K* and is denoted by $*s^0$.

The (*simple*) *boundary $\partial K = \langle \partial K, \partial K^* \rangle$* of K is defined by the sum of the 1-chains ∂K and ∂K^* . Next, by K^{**} we denote the new polyhedron defined as the sum of all 3-simplices of K^* and the conjugate half 3-simplices of all 0-simplices $s^0 \in \partial K$ with respect to ∂K . Then $|K^{**}| = |K|$. The sum of ∂K and ∂K^{**} is called the *complex boundary* of K and denoted by $\partial K = \langle \partial K, \partial K^{**} \rangle$, where ∂K^{**} is the 2-chain defined as the sum of $*s^0(\partial K)$ for all $s^0 \in \partial K$. Throughout the present paper we shall preserve these notations.

§ 2. Differences on a polyhedron.

1. Difference calculus. Let $K = \langle K, K^* \rangle$ be an arbitrary complex polyhedron.

By an *n-th order difference* or *n-difference φ^n on K* ($n=0, 1, 2, 3$), we mean the complex valued function φ^n on the set of oriented *n*-simplices of K such that φ^n has a value $\varphi^n(s^n)$ for each oriented *n*-simplex s^n and $\varphi^n(-s^n) = -\varphi^n(s^n)$. A zero order difference φ^0 on K is also called a *function on K* .

We assume that differences of arbitrary order satisfy the linearity property:

$$(c_1\varphi^n + c_2\psi^n)(s^n) = c_1 \cdot \varphi^n(s^n) + c_2 \cdot \psi^n(s^n) \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3),$$

where φ^n and ψ^n are *n*-differences on K , and c_1 and c_2 are complex constants.

The multiplication of a 2-difference ψ^2 with a 0-difference φ^0 is defined as a 2-difference satisfying the condition

$$\varphi^0\psi^2(s^2) = \psi^2\varphi^0(s^2) = \frac{1}{2} \{ \varphi^0(s_1^0) + \varphi^0(s_2^0) \} \psi^2(s^2)$$

for each 2-simplex $s^2 \in K$, where s_1^0 and s_2^0 are the 0-simplices such that $\partial*s^2 = s_2^0 - s_1^0$. The multiplication of a 3-difference ψ^3 with a 0-difference φ^0 is defined as a 3-difference satisfying the condition

$$\varphi^0\psi^3(s^3) = \varphi^0(*s^3)\psi^3(s^3) \quad \text{for each 3-simplex } s^3 \in K.$$

The *exterior product* of a 1-difference φ^1 and a 2-difference ψ^2 is defined as a 3-difference satisfying the condition

$$\varphi^1\psi^2(s^3) = \psi^2\varphi^1(s^3) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^k \varphi^1(*s_j^2)\psi^2(s_j^2)$$

for each 3-simplex $s^3 \in K$, where s_1^2, \dots, s_k^2 are the 2-simplices such that $\partial s^3 = s_1^2 + \dots + s_k^2$.

The *complex conjugate $\bar{\varphi}^n$* of an *n*-difference φ^n ($n=0, 1, 2, 3$) is defined by $\bar{\varphi}^n(s^n) = \overline{\varphi^n(s^n)}$.

The *difference of an n-difference φ^n* ($n=0, 1, 2$) is defined as an $(n+1)$ -difference $\Delta\varphi^n$ satisfying the condition

$$\Delta\varphi^n(s^{n+1}) = \sum_{j=1}^k \varphi^n(s_j^n) \quad \text{for each } (n+1)\text{-simplex } s^{n+1} \in K,$$

where s_1^n, \dots, s_k^n are the n -simplices such that $\partial s^{n+1} = s_1^n + \dots + s_k^n$. The difference of a 3-difference φ^3 is defined as 0; $\Delta\varphi^3 = 0$. If $\Delta\varphi^n = 0$ ($n=0, 1, 2, 3$), then φ^n is said to be *closed*. If for an n -difference φ^n ($n=1, 2, 3$) there exists an $(n-1)$ -difference ψ^{n-1} such that $\varphi^n = \Delta\psi^{n-1}$, then φ^n is said to be *exact*. Obviously, if φ^n is exact, then φ^n is closed. We can easily verify that the partial difference formula

$$(2.1) \quad \Delta(\varphi^0\psi^2) = (\Delta\varphi^0)\psi^2 + \varphi^0\Delta\psi^2$$

holds for a 0-difference φ^0 and a 2-difference ψ^2 .

2. Summation of differences. We can define the *sum* of an n -difference ($n=0, 1, 2, 3$) over an n -chain. Let $c^n = \sum_j x_j s_j^n$ be an n -chain ($n=0, 1, 2, 3$) of a complex polyhedron \mathbf{K} . The *sum of an n -difference φ^n over c^n* is defined by

$$\int_{c^n} \varphi^n = \sum_j x_j \varphi^n(s_j^n) \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3).$$

The basic duality between a chain and a difference

$$(2.2) \quad \int_{c^n} \Delta\varphi^{n-1} = \int_{\partial c^n} \varphi^{n-1} \quad (n=1, 2, 3)$$

is obvious, where c^n is an n -chain and φ^n is an n -difference. The formula for partial summation

$$(2.3) \quad \int_{c^3} (\Delta\varphi^0)\psi^2 = \int_{\partial c^3} \varphi^0\psi^2 - \int_{c^3} \varphi^0\Delta\psi^2$$

follows from (2.1) and (2.2).

The following two criteria are also obvious:

An n -difference φ^n ($n=0, 1, 2$) is closed if and only if $\int_{c^n} \varphi^n = 0$ for every cycle c^n that is homologous to 0;

An n -difference φ^n ($n=1, 2, 3$) is exact if and only if $\int_{c^n} \varphi^n = 0$ for every cycle c^n .

If an n -difference φ^n ($n=0, 1, 2$) is closed, then the *period of φ^n along an n -cycle c^n* is defined by $\int_{c^n} \varphi^n$, which depends only on the homology class of c^n .

Now we shall define the *sum* of 3-difference over a complex polyhedron $\mathbf{K} = \langle K, K^* \rangle$. If \mathbf{K} is compact bordered or closed, then the sum of a 3-difference φ^3 over \mathbf{K}

$$\int_{\mathbf{K}} \varphi^3$$

is defined as the sum of φ^3 over the 3-chain \mathbf{K} because \mathbf{K} is itself a 3-chain. If \mathbf{K} is open, then we can set

$$(2.4) \quad \int_{\mathbf{K}} \varphi^3 = \lim_{c^3 \rightarrow \mathbf{K}} \int_{c^3} \varphi^3$$

provided that the limit exists, where c^3 is a 3-chain of \mathbf{K} such that $c^3 \subset \mathbf{K}$.

3. Conjugate differences. Let φ^n ($n=0, 1, 2, 3$) be an n -difference on a complex polyhedron \mathbf{K} . Then the *conjugate difference* $*\varphi^n$ of φ^n is defined as a $(3-n)$ -difference satisfying the condition

$$*\varphi^n(*s^n)=\varphi^n(s^n) \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3)$$

for each n -simplex $s^n \in \mathbf{K}$. Then we can easily see that

$$(2.5) \quad **\varphi^n=\varphi^n \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3),$$

$$(2.6) \quad *\varphi^n*\phi^{3-n}=\varphi^n\phi^{3-n} \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3).$$

An n -difference φ^n ($n=1, 2$) is said to be *harmonic* if φ^n and $*\varphi^n$ are both closed. By (2.5) and the definition, φ^n and $*\varphi^n$ are simultaneously harmonic. Let u be a function (0-difference) on \mathbf{K} . u is called a *harmonic function on \mathbf{K}* if the difference Δu is harmonic. A function u is harmonic on \mathbf{K} if and only if

$$u(s^0)=\frac{1}{\kappa}\sum_{j=1}^{\kappa}u(s_j^0)$$

for every 0-simplex s^0 of \mathbf{K} whose carrier $|s^0|$ is in the interior of $|K|$, where $\partial s_j^0=s_j^0-s^0$ ($j=1, \dots, \kappa$) and $s_1^0, \dots, s_{\kappa}^0$ are all 1-simplices having s^0 as a vertex.

§ 3. The Hilbert space of differences.

1. The inner product. Let φ^n and ϕ^n ($n=0, 1, 2, 3$) be two n -differences on a complex polyhedron $\mathbf{K}=\langle K, K^* \rangle$. We shall define the *inner product* $(\varphi^n, \phi^n) = (\varphi^n, \phi^n)_{\mathbf{K}}$ of φ^n and ϕ^n . If \mathbf{K} is closed, then it is defined by

$$(\varphi^n, \phi^n)_{\mathbf{K}} = \sum_{s^n \in \mathbf{K}} \varphi^n(s^n) \overline{\phi^n(s^n)} \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3).$$

If \mathbf{K} is compact bordered, then it is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} (\varphi^0, \phi^0)_{\mathbf{K}} &= \sum_{s^3 \in \mathbf{K}} \varphi^0(*s^3) \overline{\phi^0(*s^3)}, \\ (\varphi^n, \phi^n)_{\mathbf{K}} &= \sum_{s^n \in \mathbf{K} - \partial \mathbf{K}} \varphi^n(s^n) \overline{\phi^n(s^n)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^n \in \partial \mathbf{K}} \varphi^n(s^n) \overline{\phi^n(s^n)} \\ &\quad + \sum_{s^{3-n} \in \mathbf{K} - \partial \mathbf{K}} \varphi^n(*s^{3-n}) \overline{\phi^n(*s^{3-n})} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^{3-n} \in \partial \mathbf{K}} \varphi^n(*s^{3-n}) \overline{\phi^n(*s^{3-n})} \quad (n=1, 2), \\ (\varphi^3, \phi^3)_{\mathbf{K}} &= \sum_{s^3 \in \mathbf{K}} \varphi^3(s^3) \overline{\phi^3(s^3)}. \end{aligned}$$

If \mathbf{K} is open, then it is defined by the limit process

$$(\varphi^n, \phi^n)_{\mathbf{K}} = \lim_{L \rightarrow \mathbf{K}} (\varphi^n, \phi^n)_L \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3),$$

provided that the limit exists, where $L = \langle L, L^* \rangle$ is a compact bordered complex polyhedron such that $L \subset K$.

If K is closed or open, then we can easily see that

$$(\varphi^n, \psi^n)_K = \int_K \varphi^n * \bar{\psi}^n \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3).$$

If K is compact bordered, then we can easily verify that

$$\begin{aligned} (\varphi^n, \psi^n)_K &= \int_K \varphi^n * \bar{\psi}^n \quad (n=0, 3), \\ (\varphi^1, \psi^1)_K &= \int_K \varphi^1 * \bar{\psi}^1 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^1 \in \partial K} \varphi^1(s^1) \overline{\psi^1(s^1)} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^2 \in \partial K^*} \varphi^1(*s^2) \overline{\psi^1(*s^2)}, \\ (\varphi^2, \psi^2)_K &= \int_K \varphi^2 * \bar{\psi}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^1 \in \partial K} \varphi^2(*s^1) \overline{\psi^2(*s^1)} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^2 \in \partial K^*} \varphi^2(s^2) \overline{\psi^2(s^2)}. \end{aligned}$$

By the definition of the inner product, for every case of K and for $n=0, 1, 2, 3$, we have

$$(3.1) \quad (*\varphi^n, *\psi^n) = (\varphi^n, \psi^n),$$

$$(3.2) \quad (\varphi^n, \psi^n) = (\bar{\varphi}^n, \bar{\psi}^n).$$

Let φ^n be an n -difference ($n=0, 1, 2, 3$) on a complex polyhedron K . Then the norm $\|\varphi^n\| = \|\varphi^n\|_K$ of φ^n is defined by

$$(3.3) \quad \|\varphi^n\|_K = (\varphi^n, \varphi^n)_K^{1/2} \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3).$$

Let us denote the Hilbert space of all n -differences φ^n on K with $\|\varphi^n\| < \infty$ by Γ , for a fixed $n=1$ or $n=2$. Furthermore, we define the closed subspaces of Γ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_c &= \{\varphi^n \mid \varphi^n \text{ is closed, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma\}, \\ \Gamma_e &= \{\varphi^n \mid \varphi^n \text{ is exact, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma\}, \\ \Gamma_h &= \{\varphi^n \mid \varphi^n \text{ is harmonic, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma\}, \\ \Gamma_c^* &= \{\varphi^n \mid *\varphi^n \text{ is closed, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma\}, \\ \Gamma_e^* &= \{\varphi^n \mid *\varphi^n \text{ is exact, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma\}, \\ \Gamma_h^* &= \{\varphi^n \mid *\varphi^n \text{ is harmonic, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then it is obvious that $\Gamma_h^* = \Gamma_h$, $\Gamma_e \subset \Gamma_c$, $\Gamma_h = \Gamma_c \cap \Gamma_c^*$.

2. The definition of φ^n on ∂K^{} .** Let $\partial K = \langle \partial K, \partial K^{**} \rangle$ be a complex boundary of a compact bordered complex polyhedron $K = \langle K, K^* \rangle$. We shall define an n -difference ($n=0, 1, 2$) on ∂K^{**} .

Let φ^0 be a 0-difference on K . Then φ^0 is defined on ∂K^{**} by

$$(3.4) \quad \varphi^0(\sigma^0) = -\frac{1}{2} \{ \varphi^0(s_1^0) + \varphi^0(s_2^0) \} \quad \text{for each 0-simplex } \sigma^0 \text{ of } \partial K^{**},$$

where $\partial *s^2 = s_2^0 - s_1^0$, s^2 is the 2-simplex of ∂K with $\sigma^0 = *s^2(\partial K)$ and φ^0 is assumed to be defined at s_j^0 .

Let φ^1 be a 1-difference on K . Then φ^1 is defined on ∂K^{**} by

$$\varphi^1(\sigma^1) = -\frac{1}{2} \varphi^1(*\sigma_1^1) + \sum_{j=1}^{\kappa-1} \varphi^1(*s_j^1) + \frac{1}{2} \varphi^1(*\sigma_2^1)$$

for each 1-simplex σ^1 of ∂K^{**} , where

$$\partial \sigma^2 = -\sigma^1 - *\sigma_1^2 + \sum_{j=1}^{\kappa-1} *s_j^2 + *\sigma_2^2,$$

σ^2 is the conjugate half 2-simplex of s^1 with respect to ∂K , s^1 is the 1-simplex of ∂K with $\sigma^1 = *s^1(\partial K)$, and σ_1^2, σ_2^2 and s_j^2 ($j=1, \dots, \kappa-1$) is the notations defined in (1.1).

Let φ^2 be a 2-difference on K . Then φ^2 is defined on ∂K^{**} by

$$\varphi^2(\sigma^2) = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{\mu} \varphi^2(*s_j^2) - \sum_{j=\mu+1}^{\nu} \varphi^2(*s_j^2)$$

for each 2-simplex σ^2 of ∂K^{**} , where

$$\partial \sigma^3 = \sigma^2 + \sum_{j=1}^{\mu} *s_j^3 + \sum_{j=\mu+1}^{\nu} *s_j^3,$$

σ^3 is the conjugate half 3-simplex of s^0 with respect to ∂K , s^0 is the 0-simplex of ∂K with $\sigma^2 = *s^0(\partial K)$ and s_j^1 ($j=1, \dots, \nu$) is the notations defined in (1.2).

The multiplication of a 2-difference ψ^2 with a 0-difference φ^0 on $\partial K = \langle \partial K, \partial K^{**} \rangle$ is defined as a 2-difference on ∂K satisfying the condition

$$\varphi^0 \psi^2(s^2) = \psi^2 \varphi^0(s^2) = \varphi^0(s^0) \psi^2(s^2) \quad \text{for each 2-simplex } s^2 \in \partial K,$$

where if $s^2 \in \partial K$ then $s^0 = *s^2(\partial K)$ and if $s^2 \in \partial K^{**}$ then $s^2 = *s^0(\partial K)$.

The exterior product of two 1-differences φ^1 and ψ^1 on $\partial K = \langle \partial K, \partial K^* \rangle$ is defined as a 2-difference $\varphi^1 \psi^1$ satisfying the condition

$$\varphi^1 \psi^1(s^2) = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{\kappa} \varphi^1(\sigma_j^1) \psi^1(s_j^1) \quad \text{for each 2-simplex } s^2 \in \partial K,$$

where $\partial s^2 = s_1^1 + \dots + s_k^1$, and if $s^2 \in \partial K$ then $\sigma_j^1 = *s_j^1(\partial K)$ and if $s^2 \in \partial K^{**}$ then $s_j^1 = -*\sigma_j^1(\partial K)$.

For an arbitrary 1-difference φ^1 , we shall agree to define

$$(3.5) \quad \Delta \varphi^1(*s^1) = 0 \quad \text{for each 1-simplex } s^1 \in \partial K.$$

3. Fundamental theorem.

THEOREM 3.1. *If a complex polyhedron \mathbf{K} is compact bordered or closed, then we have*

$$(3.6) \quad (\Delta\varphi^{n-1}, \psi^n)_{\mathbf{K}} = \sum_{\partial\mathbf{K}} \varphi^{n-1} * \bar{\psi}^n + (\varphi^{n-1}, \delta\psi^n)_{\mathbf{K}} \quad (n=1, 2, 3),$$

where δ is the operator $(-1)^n * \Delta *$ for an n -difference, and if \mathbf{K} is closed then the first term of the right-hand side vanishes.

Proof. The case of $n=1$: By the definition of the inner product and (2.3), we see that

$$\begin{aligned} (\Delta\varphi^0, \psi^1)_{\mathbf{K}} &= \sum_{\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi * \bar{\psi} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^1 \in \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(s^1) \overline{\psi(s^1)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^2 \in \partial\mathbf{K}^*} \Delta\varphi(*s^2) \overline{\psi(*s^2)} \\ &= \left(\sum_{\partial\mathbf{K}} \varphi * \bar{\psi} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^1 \in \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(s^1) \overline{\psi(s^1)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^2 \in \partial\mathbf{K}^*} \Delta\varphi(*s^2) \overline{\psi(*s^2)} \right) \\ &\quad - \sum_{\mathbf{K}} \varphi \Delta * \bar{\psi} \\ &= \left(\sum_{\partial\mathbf{K}} \varphi * \bar{\psi} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^2 \in \partial\mathbf{K}^*} \{ \varphi(s_1^0) + \varphi(s_2^0) \} * \overline{\psi(s^2)} \right) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^1 \in \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(s^1) * \overline{\psi(*s^1)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^2 \in \partial\mathbf{K}^*} \Delta\varphi(*s^2) * \overline{\psi(s^2)} \\ &\quad + (\varphi, \delta\psi)_{\mathbf{K}}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\varphi = \varphi^0$ and $\psi = \psi^1$, and $\partial * s^2 = s_2^0 - s_1^0$. Here if we note that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\partial\mathbf{K}^*} \varphi * \bar{\psi} &= \sum_{s^0 \in \partial\mathbf{K}} \varphi(s^0) * \overline{\psi(*s^0(\partial\mathbf{K}))} \\ &= \sum_{s^2 \in \partial\mathbf{K}^*} \varphi(s_2^0) * \overline{\psi(s^2)} + \sum_{s^1 \in \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(s^1) * \frac{1}{2} * \overline{\psi(*s^1)}, \end{aligned}$$

then we obtain (3.6).

The case of $n=3$ can be easily reduced to the case of $n=1$.

The case of $n=2$: By the definition of the inner product, we see that

$$(3.7) \quad \begin{aligned} (\Delta\varphi^1, \psi^2)_{\mathbf{K}} &= \sum_{s^2 \in \mathbf{K} - \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(s^2) * \overline{\psi(*s^2)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^2 \in \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(s^2) * \overline{\psi(*s^2)} \\ &\quad + \sum_{s^1 \in \mathbf{K} - \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(*s^1) * \overline{\psi(s^1)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^1 \in \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(*s^1) * \overline{\psi(s^1)}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\varphi = \varphi^1$ and $\psi = \psi^2$. By the definition (3.5) the last term of the right-hand side of (3.7) is equal to zero, and further we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{s^2 \in \mathbf{K} - \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(s^2) * \overline{\psi(*s^2)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^2 \in \partial\mathbf{K}} \Delta\varphi(s^2) * \overline{\psi(*s^2)} \\ = \sum_{s^1 \in \mathbf{K} - \partial\mathbf{K}} \varphi(s^1) \Delta * \overline{\psi(*s^1)} + \sum_{s^1 \in \partial\mathbf{K}} \varphi(s^1) * \overline{\psi(*s^1(\partial\mathbf{K}))}. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\varphi^1, \delta\varphi^2)_{\mathbf{K}} &= \sum_{s^2 \in \bar{K} - \partial K} \varphi(*s^2) \overline{\Delta*\varphi(s^2)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^2 \in \partial K} \varphi(*s^2) \overline{\Delta*\varphi(s^2)} \\ &\quad + \sum_{s^1 \in \bar{K} - \partial K} \varphi(s^1) \overline{\Delta*\varphi(*s^1)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s^1 \in \partial K} \varphi(s^1) \overline{\Delta*\varphi(*s^1)} \\ &= \sum_{s^1 \in \bar{K} - \partial K} \overline{* \varphi(s^1)} \Delta\varphi(*s^1) + \sum_{s^1 \in \partial K} \overline{* \varphi(s^1)} \varphi(*s^1(\partial K)) \\ &\quad + \sum_{s^1 \in \bar{K} - \partial K} \varphi(s^1) \overline{\Delta*\varphi(*s^1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence we find that

$$\begin{aligned} (\Delta\varphi^1, \varphi^2)_{\mathbf{K}} - (\varphi^1, \delta\varphi^2)_{\mathbf{K}} &= \sum_{s^1 \in \partial K} \varphi(s^1) \overline{* \varphi(*s^1(\partial K))} - \sum_{s^1 \in \partial K} \overline{* \varphi(s^1)} \varphi(*s^1(\partial K)) \\ &= \int_{\partial K} \varphi^1 \overline{\varphi^2}. \end{aligned}$$

4. Orthogonal projection on a compact polyhedron. In 4~5, we shall briefly state the method of orthogonal projection of the Hilbert space of differences which is analogous to de Rham-Kodaira's orthogonal decomposition theorem for differential forms on a Riemannian manifold.

THEOREM 3.2. *Let \mathbf{K} be a closed complex polyhedron. Then the orthogonal decomposition*

$$\Gamma = \Gamma_c \dot{+} \Gamma_e^* = \Gamma_c^* \dot{+} \Gamma_e$$

holds for the Hilbert space Γ of n -differences ($n=1, 2$).

Proof. By Theorem 3.1 we see that

$$(\varphi^n, *\Delta\varphi^{2-n}) = (-1)^{3-n} (\Delta\varphi^n, *\varphi^{2-n}) \quad (n=1, 2).$$

Hence $\Delta\varphi^n=0$ implies that $(\varphi^n, *\Delta\varphi^{2-n})=0$, and thus φ^n is orthogonal to every element of Γ_e^* .

Conversely, if

$$(\Delta\varphi^n, *\varphi^{2-n})=0$$

holds for all $(2-n)$ -differences φ^{2-n} on \mathbf{K} , then we can easily verify that $\Delta\varphi^n=0$ on \mathbf{K} . Hence on a closed complex polyhedron \mathbf{K} , Γ_c is the orthogonal complement of Γ_e^* . Then by the general theory, we have the orthogonal decomposition $\Gamma = \Gamma_c \dot{+} \Gamma_e^*$. The orthogonal decomposition $\Gamma = \Gamma_c^* \dot{+} \Gamma_e$ for n -differences immediately follows from the decomposition $\Gamma = \Gamma_c \dot{+} \Gamma_e^*$ for $(3-n)$ -differences.

COROLLARY. (de Rham-Kodaira's decomposition theorem.)

$$\Gamma = \Gamma_n \dot{+} \Gamma_e \dot{+} \Gamma_e^* \quad (n=1, 2).$$

Let \mathbf{K} be a compact bordered complex polyhedron. An n -difference φ^n

($n=0, 1, 2$) on \mathbf{K} is said to *vanish on the complex boundary* $\partial\mathbf{K}$ if $\varphi^n(s^n)=0$ for every n -simplex s^n of $\partial\mathbf{K}=\langle\partial K, \partial K^{*+}\rangle$. A closed n -difference φ^n ($n=1, 2$) is said to belong to the subspace Γ_{e_0} if φ^n vanishes on $\partial\mathbf{K}$. Similarly, an exact n -difference $\varphi^n=\Delta\phi^{n-1}$ ($n=1, 2$) is said to belong to the subspace Γ_{e_0} if $\phi^{n-1}=0$ on the complex boundary $\partial\mathbf{K}$.

By Theorem 3.1 we have the formula

$$(3.8) \quad (\phi^n, *\Delta\phi^{2-n})=\int_{\partial\mathbf{K}} \overline{\phi^{2-n}}\phi^n+(-1)^{3-n}(\Delta\phi^n, *\phi^{2-n}) \quad (n=1, 2).$$

By making use of (3.8) and the similar argument to the theorem 3.2, for the Hilbert space Γ of n -differences ($n=1, 2$) on a compact bordered complex polyhedron \mathbf{K} we have the orthogonal decompositions

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma &= \Gamma_{c_0} \dot{+} \Gamma_e^* = \Gamma_{e_0}^* \dot{+} \Gamma_e, \\ \Gamma &= \Gamma_c \dot{+} \Gamma_{e_0}^* = \Gamma_c^* \dot{+} \Gamma_{e_0} \end{aligned}$$

and hence we have immediately the orthogonal decomposition

$$\Gamma = \Gamma_h \dot{+} \Gamma_{e_0} \dot{+} \Gamma_{e_0}^*.$$

5. Orthogonal projection on a generic polyhedron. Let us suppose that \mathbf{K} is an open or closed complex polyhedron. An n -difference φ^n ($n=0, 1, 2, 3$) on \mathbf{K} is said to have *compact support* if $\varphi^n(s^n)=0$ for all n -simplex $s^n \in \mathbf{K}$ except for a finite number of n -simplices of \mathbf{K} .

Let Γ'_{e_0} be the subclass of Γ_e consisting of the n -differences φ^n such that $\varphi^n=\Delta\phi^{n-1}$ for an $(n-1)$ -difference ϕ^{n-1} with compact support. We define the subspace Γ_{e_0} of Γ as the closure in Γ of Γ'_{e_0} . From the definition it follows that $\Gamma_{e_0}=\Gamma_e$ for a closed complex polyhedron \mathbf{K} .

On an arbitrary complex polyhedron \mathbf{K} we can prove that the following orthogonal decompositions for the Hilbert spaces of n -differences ($n=1, 2$) hold:

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma &= \Gamma_{e_0} \dot{+} \Gamma_c^* = \Gamma_{e_0}^* \dot{+} \Gamma_c, \\ \Gamma &= \Gamma_h \dot{+} \Gamma_{e_0} \dot{+} \Gamma_{e_0}^*, \\ \Gamma_c &= \Gamma_h \dot{+} \Gamma_{e_0}, \\ \Gamma_e &= \Gamma_{he} \dot{+} \Gamma_{e_0}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\Gamma_{he}=\Gamma_h \cap \Gamma_e$.

§ 4. Network flow problem.

1. ρ^n -harmonic differences. Let $\mathbf{K}=\langle K, K^*\rangle$ be an arbitrary complex polyhedron.

By an n -th order density or n -density ρ^n on \mathbf{K} ($n=0, 1, 2, 3$) we mean the positive valued function defined on the set of n -simplices of \mathbf{K} such that ρ^n has

a positive value $\rho^n(s^n)$ for each n -simplex s^n of \mathbf{K} .

A product of an n -difference φ^n with an n -density ρ^n is defined as an n -difference $\rho^n\varphi^n$ satisfying the condition

$$\rho^n\varphi^n(s^n) = \rho^n(s^n)\varphi^n(s^n) \quad \text{for each } n\text{-simplex } s^n \in \mathbf{K}.$$

If $\rho^n\varphi^n$ is closed, i. e. $\Delta(\rho^n\varphi^n) = 0$, then the n -difference φ^n is said to be *closed with respect to the density ρ^n* or ρ^n -closed. If $\rho^n\varphi^n$ is exact, then the n -difference φ^n is said to be *exact with respect to the density ρ^n* or ρ^n -exact.

The *conjugate density* $*\rho^n$ of an n -density ρ^n is defined as a $(3-n)$ -density satisfying the condition

$$*\rho^n(*s^n) = \rho^n(s^n) \quad \text{for each } n\text{-simplex } s^n \in \mathbf{K}.$$

An n -difference φ^n is said to be *harmonic with respect to a density ρ^n* or ρ^n -harmonic if φ^n is closed and $*\varphi^n$ is $*\rho^n$ -closed. By the definition, an n -difference φ^n is ρ^n -harmonic if and only if the $(3-n)$ -difference $*(\rho^n\varphi^n)$ is $*(1/\rho^n)$ -harmonic.

2. The inner product with a density and orthogonal projection. Let ρ^n ($n=0, 1, 2, 3$) be a fixed n -density on \mathbf{K} , and let φ^n and ψ^n be arbitrary n -differences on \mathbf{K} . Then the *inner product* $(\varphi^n, \psi^n)_\rho = (\varphi^n, \psi^n)_{\rho, \mathbf{K}}$ of φ^n and ψ^n with the density ρ^n is defined by

$$(4.1) \quad (\varphi^n, \psi^n)_\rho = (\sqrt{\rho^n}\varphi^n, \sqrt{\rho^n}\psi^n)_\mathbf{K} = (\rho^n\varphi^n, \psi^n)_\mathbf{K} \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3),$$

where $(\sqrt{\rho^n}\varphi^n, \sqrt{\rho^n}\psi^n)$ is the inner product of $\sqrt{\rho^n}\varphi^n$ and $\sqrt{\rho^n}\psi^n$ defined in in § 3. 1.

By the definitions (4.1), (3.2) and (3.1), we have

$$(4.2) \quad (\psi^n, \varphi^n)_\rho = (\bar{\psi}^n, \bar{\varphi}^n)_\rho,$$

$$(4.3) \quad (*\varphi^n, *\psi^n)_{*,\rho} = (\varphi^n, \psi^n)_\rho.$$

The *norm* $\|\varphi^n\|_\rho = \|\varphi^n\|_{\rho, \mathbf{K}}$ of φ^n with the density ρ^n is defined by

$$(4.4) \quad \|\varphi^n\|_\rho = \sqrt{(\varphi^n, \varphi^n)_\rho} = \sqrt{(\rho^n\varphi^n, \varphi^n)} \quad (n=0, 1, 2, 3).$$

Let us denote the Hilbert space of all n -differences φ^n on \mathbf{K} with $\|\varphi^n\|_\rho < \infty$ by Γ^ρ , for a fixed $n=1$ or 2 . Furthermore we define the closed subspaces of Γ^ρ as follows :

$$\Gamma_c^\rho = \{\varphi^n \mid \varphi^n \text{ is closed, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma^\rho\},$$

$$\Gamma_e^\rho = \{\varphi^n \mid \varphi^n \text{ is exact, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma^\rho\},$$

$$\Gamma_c^{\rho*} = \{\varphi^n \mid *\varphi^n \text{ is closed, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma^\rho\},$$

$$\Gamma_e^{\rho*} = \{\varphi^n \mid *\varphi^n \text{ is exact, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma^\rho\},$$

$$\Gamma_{\rho c} = \{\varphi^n \mid \varphi^n \text{ is } \rho^n\text{-closed, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma^\rho\},$$

$$\Gamma_{\rho e} = \{ \Gamma^n | \varphi^n \text{ is } \rho^n\text{-exact, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma^\rho \},$$

$$\Gamma_{\rho e}^* = \{ \varphi^n | * \varphi^n \text{ is } *\rho^n\text{-closed, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma^\rho \},$$

$$\Gamma_{\rho e}^* = \{ \varphi^n | * \varphi^n \text{ is } *\rho^n\text{-exact, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma^\rho \},$$

$$\Gamma_{\rho h} = \{ \varphi^n | \varphi^n \text{ is } \rho^n\text{-harmonic, } \varphi^n \in \Gamma^\rho \}.$$

Then it is obvious that $\Gamma_e^\rho \subset \Gamma_c^\rho$, $\Gamma_{\rho e} \subset \Gamma_{\rho c}$ and $\Gamma_{\rho h} = \Gamma_c^\rho \cap \Gamma_{\rho e}^*$.

Let \mathbf{K} be a closed complex polyhedron. Then, by an argument similar to Theorem 3.2 we can prove the orthogonal decompositions

$$\Gamma^\rho = \Gamma_{\rho c} \dot{+} \Gamma_e^{\rho*} = \Gamma_{\rho c}^* \dot{+} \Gamma_e^\rho,$$

$$\Gamma^\rho = \Gamma_c^\rho \dot{+} \Gamma_{\rho e}^* = \Gamma_c^{\rho*} \dot{+} \Gamma_{\rho e}$$

for the Hilbert space Γ^ρ of n -differences ($n=1, 2$). Hence we obtain the orthogonal decompositions

$$\Gamma^\rho = \Gamma_{\rho h} \dot{+} \Gamma_e^\rho \dot{+} \Gamma_{\rho e}^*,$$

$$\Gamma_c^\rho = \Gamma_{\rho h} \dot{+} \Gamma_e^\rho.$$

Similarly, on a compact bordered or an open complex polyhedron \mathbf{K} , we can also show the orthogonal decompositions for the Hilbert space Γ^ρ which are analogous to those in § 3. 4 and § 3. 5.

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