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ON SOME INTEGRAL INEQUALITIES RELATED WITH THE MULTICOMMODITY INVENTORY MODEL

The aim of this paper is to establish a relation among sets of solutions of some integral inequalities. The result allows us to reduce a minimization problem for a multicommodity inventory model to a similar problem for a one-commodity model, which is solved by Arrow and Karlin in [1] (see also Modigliani and Hohn [4], Blikle and Łoś [2]).

1. Theorem on integral inequalities. Let T be a fixed positive real number or ∞ . All functions considered in this paper are defined on [0,T)and take on real values. For the fixed function f let N(f) denote the set of its discontinuity points.

Let K be the class of all functions satisfying the following conditions:

- (K1) f is continuous on the left over (0, T) and continuous on the right at 0.
 - (K2) f has a finite limit on the right at each point.
 - (K3) N(f) is a nowhere-dense subset of [0, T).

Condition (K1) implies that the set N(f) is at most countable.

K is an algebra of functions with usual addition and multiplication. By (K1) and (K2), a function from K is locally bounded, and so

locally integrable. Let r_1 and r_2 be fixed non-negative functions from K. We examine sets of functions $u \in K$ satisfying for all $t \in [0, T)$ the following systems (I) and (II) of the inequalities:

(I.1)
$$\int_0^t u_1(s) ds \geqslant \int_0^t r_1(s) ds,$$
(I.2)
$$\int_0^t u_2(s) ds \geqslant \int_0^t r_2(s) ds,$$

(I.2)
$$\int_{0}^{t} u_{2}(s) ds \geqslant \int_{0}^{t} r_{2}(s) ds,$$

$$(I.3) u_1(t) \geqslant 0,$$

$$(I.4) u_2(t) \geqslant 0,$$

(II.1)
$$\int_{0}^{t} u(s) ds \geqslant \int_{0}^{t} (r_{1}(s) + r_{2}(s)) ds,$$

$$(II.2) u(t) \geqslant 0.$$

THEOREM 1. (A) If u_1^* , $u_2^* \in K$ satisfy (I), then $u^* = u_1^* + u_2^*$ satisfies (II) (and belongs to K).

(B) If $u^* \in K$ satisfies (II), then there exist u_1^* , $u_2^* \in K$ satisfying (I) and such that $u^* = u_1^* + u_2^*$.

Proof. Result (A) is obvious. Result (B) is also obvious provided that for all $t \in [0, T)$

$$(a) u^*(t) - r_1(t) \geqslant 0,$$

or

(b)
$$u^*(t) - r_2(t) \ge 0$$
,

since then it is sufficient to put $u_1^* = r_1$, $u_2^* = u^* - r_1$ to (a), and $u_1^* = u^* - r_2$, $u_2^* = r_2$ to (b).

Therefore, we consider the case where neither (a) nor (b) is satisfied. Let $u^* \in K$ satisfy (II) and write

$$S = \{t \in [0, T): u^*(t) < r_1(t)\}.$$

Since (a) is assumed to be false, S is non-empty. Since $u^* - r_1$ is continuous on the left, the set S can be written as

$$S = \bigcup_{i \in I} \Delta(a_i, b_i),$$

where $\Delta(a_i, b_i)$ denotes the interval (open or one-sided closed) with ends a_i and b_i , $a_i < b_i$, the set I is at most countable, and intervals $\Delta(a_i, b_i)$ for $i \in I$ are disjoint. We assume that I is the set of positive integers or a segment of this set. By (II.1) it is clear that $a_i > 0$ for all $i \in I$. Let us write, for $t \in [0, T)$,

$$u_1^{(0)}(t) = r_1(t)$$
 and $u_2^{(0)}(t) = u^*(t) - r_1(t)$.

It is obvious that $u_1^{(0)}$, $u_2^{(0)}$ satisfy (I.1)-(I.2), but they do not satisfy (I.4) for $t \in S$. The functions u_1^* , u_2^* satisfying (B) are obtained by improving $u_1^{(0)}$, $u_2^{(0)}$ step by step on intervals $\Delta(a_i, b_i)$ for i = 1, 2, ... If the set I is finite, the good functions u_1^* , u_2^* can be obtained after consideration of all $\Delta(a_i, b_i)$ for $i \in I$. For infinite I, it is necessary to take the limit of the sequence of improved functions.

Consider the interval (a_1, b_1) . Since

$$\int_{a_1}^{b_1} (u^*(s) - r_1(s)) ds < 0$$

and

$$\int_{0}^{b_{1}} (u^{*}(s) - r_{1}(s)) ds \geqslant \int_{0}^{b_{1}} r_{2}(s) ds \geqslant 0,$$

there exists a point $c_1 \in (0, a_1)$ such that

$$\int_{c_1}^{b_1} (u^*(s) - r_1(s)) ds = 0$$

and

$$\int_{t}^{b_{1}} (u^{*}(s) - r_{1}(s)) ds < 0 \quad \text{for } c_{1} < t < b_{1}.$$

Put

$$u_1^{(1)}(t) = egin{cases} u^*(t) & ext{for } t \in (c_1, b_1], \ r_1(t) = u_1^{(0)}(t) & ext{for } t \in [0, T) \setminus (c_1, b_1], \ \ u_2^{(1)}(t) = egin{cases} 0 & ext{for } t \in (c_1, b_1], \ u_2^{(1)}(t) = u_2^{(0)}(t) & ext{for } t \in [0, T) \setminus (c_1, b_1]. \end{cases}$$

We show that $u_1^{(1)}$, $u_2^{(1)}$ satisfy (I.1)-(I.3), but it is clear that $u_2^{(1)}$ satisfies (I.4) for $t \notin (a_i, b_i)$, $i = 2, 3, \ldots$ (thus $u_2^{(1)}$ is better than $u_2^{(0)}$ in the sense that it satisfies (I.4) over a larger set than $u_2^{(0)}$ does).

Verification of (I.1) and (I.3) is straightforward.

Consider inequality (I.2).

If $t \leqslant c_1$, then (I.2) is obvious. If $c_1 < t \leqslant b_1$, then

$$\int_{0}^{t} r_{2}(s) ds \leqslant \int_{0}^{b_{1}} r_{2}(s) ds \leqslant \int_{0}^{b_{1}} (u^{*}(s) - r_{1}(s)) ds$$

$$= \int_{0}^{c_{1}} (u^{*}(s) - r_{1}(s)) ds = \int_{0}^{t} u_{2}^{(1)}(s) ds.$$

Finally, if $t > b_1$, then

$$\int_{0}^{t} u_{2}^{(1)}(s) ds = \int_{0}^{c_{1}} (u^{*}(s) - r_{1}(s)) ds + \int_{b_{1}}^{t} (u^{*}(s) - r_{1}(s)) ds$$

$$= \int_{0}^{t} (u^{*}(s) - r_{1}(s)) ds \geqslant \int_{0}^{t} r_{2}(s) ds.$$

Notice also that for $t \in (c_1, b_1)$ we have

$$\int_{c_1}^t (u^*(s) - r_1(s)) ds = \int_{c_1}^{b_1} (u^*(s) - r_1(s)) ds - \int_t^{b_1} (u^*(s) - r_1(s)) ds$$

$$= -\int_t^{b_1} (u^*(s) - r_1(s)) ds \geqslant 0.$$

Hence it follows at once that if

$$(a_i, b_i) \cap (c_1, b_1) \neq \emptyset$$
 for some $i \in I$,

then $(a_i, b_i) \subset (c_1, b_1)$. Let us suppose that we have constructed functions $u_1^{(k)}, u_2^{(k)} \in K$ satisfying

$$(i)_k u^* = u_1^{(k)} + u_2^{(k)};$$

(ii)_k $u_1^{(k)}$ satisfies (I.1) and (I.3), and $u_2^{(k)}$ satisfies (I.2);

$$(iii)_k \ u_2^{(k)}(t) \geqslant 0 \ \ ext{for} \ \ t \in [0,T) \setminus \bigcup_{i>k} (a_i,b_i);$$

 $(iv)_k$ if $u_2^{(k)}(t_0) \ge 0$ for some $t_0 \in (a_i, b_i)$, then $u_2^{(k)}(t) \ge 0$ for all $t \in (a_i, b_i)$.

Such functions have been constructed above for k=1. Suppose that k>1 and consider the interval (a_{k+1},b_{k+1}) . If $u_2^{(k)}$ is non-negative over (a_{k+1},b_{k+1}) , we put $u_1^{(k+1)}=u_1^{(k)}$ and $u_2^{(k+1)}=u_2^{(k)}$. Thus conditions $(i)_{k+1}$ - $(iv)_{k+1}$ are obviously satisfied. If $u_2^{(k)}$ is negative at a point from (a_{k+1},b_{k+1}) , then, by $(iv)_k$, it is negative over all (a_{k+1},b_{k+1}) . Thus

$$\int_{a_{k+1}}^{b_{k+1}} u_2^{(k)}(s) ds = \int_{a_{k+1}}^{b_{k+1}} (u^*(s) - u_1^{(k)}(s)) d\underline{s} < 0.$$

On the other hand, in view of (I.2), we have

$$0 \leqslant \int_{0}^{b_{k+1}} u_{2}^{(k)}(s) ds = \int_{0}^{b_{k+1}} \left(u^{*}(s) - u_{1}^{(k)}(s) \right) ds$$

and, therefore, in a similar manner as for k=0 we assert that there exists $c_{k+1} \in (0, b_{k+1})$ satisfying

(1)
$$\int_{c_{k+1}}^{b_{k+1}} \left(u^*(s) - u_1^{(k)}(s) \right) ds = 0$$

and

$$\int_{t}^{b_{k+1}} \left(u^*(s) - u_1^{(k)}(s) \right) ds < 0 \quad \text{for } c_{k+1} < t < b_{k+1}.$$

Put

$$u_1^{(k+1)}(t) = egin{cases} u^*(t) & ext{for } t \in (c_{k+1}, b_{k+1}], \ u_1^k(t) & ext{for } t \in [0, T) \setminus (c_{k+1}, b_{k+1}], \ \ u_2^{(k+1)}(t) = egin{cases} 0 & ext{for } t \in (c_{k+1}, b_{k+1}], \ u_2^k(t) & ext{for } t \in [0, T) \setminus (c_{k+1}, b_{k+1}]. \end{cases}$$

Clearly, $u_1^{(k+1)}$, $u_2^{(k+1)}$ belong to K, satisfy $(i)_{k+1}$ and $u_1^{(k+1)} \ge 0$. We want to check (I.1) and (I.2).

If $0 \leqslant t \leqslant c_{k+1}$, then (ii)_k implies (ii)_{k+1}, since

$$u_1^{(k+1)}(t) = u_1^{(k)}(t)$$
 and $u_2^{(k+1)} = u_2^{(k)}$.

For $c_{k+1} < t \leqslant b_{k+1}$ we have

$$\int_{0}^{t} u_{1}^{(k+1)}(s) ds = \int_{0}^{c_{k+1}} u_{1}^{(k)}(s) ds + \int_{c_{k+1}}^{t} u^{*}(s) ds$$

$$= \int_{0}^{t} u_{1}^{(k)}(s) ds + \int_{c_{k+1}}^{t} (u^{*}(s) - u_{1}^{(k)}(s)) ds$$

$$= \int_{0}^{t} u_{1}^{(k)}(s) ds - \int_{t}^{t} (u^{*}(s) - u_{1}^{(k)}(s)) ds$$

$$\geq \int_{0}^{t} u_{1}^{(k)}(s) ds \geq \int_{0}^{t} r_{1}(s) ds,$$

$$\int_{0}^{t} u_{2}^{(k+1)}(s) ds = \int_{0}^{c_{k+1}} (u^{*}(s) - u_{1}^{(k)}(s)) ds$$

$$= \int_{0}^{t} (u^{*}(s) - u_{1}^{(k)}(s)) ds = \int_{0}^{b_{k+1}} u_{2}^{(k)}(s) ds$$

$$\geq \int_{0}^{b_{k+1}} r_{2}(s) ds \geq \int_{0}^{t} r_{2}(s) ds.$$

If $t > b_{k+1}$, then

$$\int_{0}^{t} u_{1}^{(k+1)}(s) ds = \int_{0}^{c_{k+1}} u_{1}^{(k)}(s) ds + \int_{c_{k+1}}^{b_{k+1}} u^{*}(s) ds + \int_{b_{k+1}}^{t} u_{1}^{(k)}(s) ds$$

$$= \int_{0}^{t} u_{1}^{(k)}(s) ds + \int_{c_{k+1}}^{b_{k+1}} (u^{*}(s) - u_{1}^{(k)}(s)) ds$$

$$= \int_{0}^{t} u_{1}^{(k)}(s) ds \geqslant \int_{0}^{t} r_{1}(s) ds,$$

$$\int_{0}^{t} u_{2}^{(k+1)}(s) ds = \int_{0}^{c_{k+1}} (u^{*}(s) - u_{1}^{(k)}(s)) ds + \int_{b_{k+1}}^{t} (u^{*}(s) - u_{1}^{(k)}(s)) ds$$

$$= \int_{0}^{t} (u^{*}(s) - u_{1}^{(k)}(s)) ds$$

$$= \int_{0}^{t} u_{2}^{(k)}(s) ds \geqslant \int_{0}^{t} r_{2}(s) ds.$$

Thus we have proved $(ii)_{k+1}$. Condition $(iii)_{k+1}$ is satisfied, since $u_2^{(k+1)} = 0$ over (a_{k+1}, b_{k+1}) .

For the proof of $(iv)_{k+1}$ notice that there exists no $\varepsilon > 0$ such that

(2)
$$u_2^{(k)}(t) \leq 0$$
 for $c_{k+1} < t < c_{k+1} + \varepsilon < b_{k+1}$,

since, otherwise,

$$\int_{c_{k+1}}^{b_{k+1}} (u^*(s) - u_1^{(k)}(s)) ds = \int_{c_{k+1}}^{b_{k+1}} u_2^{(k)}(s) ds = \int_{c_{k+1}}^{c_{k+1}+s} u_2^{(k)}(s) ds + \int_{c_{k+1}+s}^{b_{k+1}} u_2^{(k)}(s) ds < 0,$$

which contradicts (1). Thus, by $(iv)_k$, for every $i \in I$ we have one of the following cases:

- $(\alpha) \ a_i < b_i < c_{k+1},$
- $(\beta) c_{k+1} < a_i < b_i \leqslant b_{k+1},$
- $(\gamma) b_{k+1} < a_i < b_i.$

In cases (α) and (γ) , $(iv)_{k+1}$ is true by $(iv)_k$ (and by the equality $u_2^{(k+1)} = u_2^{(k)}$ over (a_i, b_i)). In case (β) we have $u_2^{(k+1)} = 0$ over (a_i, b_i) , and thus $(iv)_{k+1}$ is also true.

Hence we have proved that for every $k \in I$ it is possible to construct functions $u_1^{(k)}$, $u_2^{(k)}$ satisfying $(i)_k$ - $(iv)_k$. Since we showed that there exists no $\varepsilon > 0$ satisfying (2), we conclude now that $c_k \notin (c_i, b_i)$ for i < k. Thus, for a fixed $k \in I$, we have $u_2^{(i)}(t) = 0$ for $t \in (c_k, b_k)$, $i \ge k$. We also have the inclusions

$$N(u_2^{(i+1)}) \subset N(u_2^{(i)}) \cup \{c_{i+1}\} \cup \{b_{i+1}\}$$

and

$$N(u_2^{(0)}) \subset N(u^*) \cup N(r_1).$$

Let

$$Z = \bigcup_{i \in I} (c_i, b_i)$$
 and $V = N(u^*) \cup N(r_1) \cup \operatorname{Fr}(Z)$.

Since Z is open, Fr(Z) is nowhere dense (cf. [3], Chapter 1, § 8), and so is V. Put

$$u_2^*(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } t \in Z \setminus \overline{V}, \\ u^*(t) - r_1(t) & \text{for } t \in [0, T) \setminus (Z \cup \overline{V}). \end{cases}$$

(For $t \in \overline{V}$, u_2^* will be defined later.)

The set $[0,T)\setminus \overline{V}$ is open and dense in [0,T). Therefore, it is the countable sum of open intervals. Since u_2^* is over each such interval equal to u^*-r_1 or to 0, it is continuous and has both one-sided limits at the ends. We claim that u_2^* has both one-sided limits at every point $t_0 \in \overline{V}$. To prove this we need only to show that for any monotonic sequence $\{t_n\} \subset [0,T)\setminus \overline{V}$ converging to t_0 the sequence $\{u_2^*(t_n)\}$ is convergent. But the convergence of the last sequence is not sure only if $\{t_n\}$ has two infinite subsequences $\{t_n'\}$ and $\{t_n''\}$ satisfying

$$\begin{array}{ll} 1^{\mathrm{o}} \ t_{n}^{'} \in Z \setminus \overline{V}, \\ 2^{\mathrm{o}} \ t_{n}^{''} \in [0,T) \setminus (Z \cup \overline{V}), \\ 3^{\mathrm{o}} \ u_{2}^{*}(t_{n}^{''}) > 0 \ \text{and} \ \limsup u_{2}^{*}(t_{n}) = \limsup u_{2}^{*}(t_{n}^{''}), \\ 4^{\mathrm{o}} \ |t_{0} - t_{n-1}^{''}| > |t_{0} - t_{n}^{'}| > |t_{0} - t_{n+1}^{''}|. \end{array}$$

Condition 4° means that the sequences $\{t'_n\}$ and $\{t''_n\}$ interlace one with another, and if we have sequences satisfying 1°-3°, then by induction it is easy to construct from them subsequences satisfying 4°. By 4°, there exists a sequence $\{i_n\} \subset I$ such that

$$|t_0-t_n'|<|t_0-b_{i_n}|<|t_0-t_n''|$$
.

Now we obtain

$$\begin{split} 0 \leqslant \liminf u_2^*(t_n) \leqslant \limsup u_2^*(t_n) &= \limsup u_2^*(t_n') \\ &= \lim \left(u^*(t_n'') - r_1(t_n'') \right) = \lim \left(u^*(b_{i_n}) - r_1(b_{i_n}) \right) \leqslant 0 \,. \end{split}$$

Thus the sequence $\{u_2^*(t_n)\}$ is convergent to 0, and so we have proved that at every point $t_0 \in \overline{V}$ the function u_2^* has both one-sided limits equal to 0. Hence u_2^* may be extended, in the unique manner, to the functions continuous on the left defined over the whole interval [0,T). This extended function will also be denoted by u_2^* . Since $N(u_2^*) \subset \overline{V}$, we have $u_2^* \in K$. Put $u_1^* = u^* - u_2^*$.

For the proof of assertion (B) we have to check that u_1^* and u_2^* satisfy (I). Since $S \subset Z$, we obtain $u_1^* \ge 0$ and $u_2^* \ge 0$. If the set I is finite, $I = \{1, 2, ..., k\}$, then $u_1^* = u_1^{(k)}$, $u_2^* = u_2^{(k)}$ and, by (ii)_k and (iii)_k, system (I) is satisfied. If I is infinite, then for $t \in [0, T) \setminus V$ we have

$$u_2^*(t) = \lim_k u_2^{(k)}(t)$$
 and $u_1^*(t) = \lim_k u_1^*(t)$.

Thus

$$\int_{0}^{t} u_{i}^{*}(s) ds = \int_{0}^{t} \lim u_{i}^{(k)}(s) ds = \lim_{0} \int_{0}^{t} u_{i}^{(k)}(s) ds$$

$$\geqslant \lim_{0} \int_{0}^{t} r_{i}(s) ds = \int_{0}^{t} r_{i}(s) ds \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \ t \in [0, T)$$

(the interchange of the limit and of the integral is possible, since $0 \le |u_i^{(k)}(s)| \le u^*(s) + r_1(s) \le \text{const for } s \in [0, t]$). The proof is complete.

2. Applications. We now apply Theorem 1 to a minimization problem connected with a multicommodity inventory model.

Let $c: [0, T) \to R$ be a given non-negative, increasing and strictly convex function. Next, let a_1, \ldots, a_n and h_1, \ldots, h_n be positive, and y_1, \ldots, y_n non-negative real numbers. Finally, let $\bar{r}_1, \ldots, \bar{r}_n$ be non-negative functions belonging to $C^1 \subset K$.

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Consider the following problem:

(P1) Minimize

$$I[u_1, \ldots, u_n] = \int_0^T \left\{ c\left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i u_i(t)\right) + \sum_{i=1}^n h_i \left[y_i + \int_0^t \left(u_i(s) - \bar{r}_i(s)\right) ds\right] \right\} dt$$

under the constraints

$$u_i \in K$$
 for $i=1,\ldots,n,$ $y_i + \int\limits_0^t \left(u_i(s) - \bar{r}_i(s)\right) ds \geqslant 0$ for all $t \in [0,T), \ i=1,\ldots,n,$ $u_i(t) \geqslant 0$ for all $t \in [0,T), \ i=1,\ldots,n.$

The function u_i may be considered as the production intensity of the *i*-th commodity for which the demand intensity is \bar{r}_i , and the marginal cost of holding a unit of the commodity for a unit of time is h_i . Then $I[u_1, \ldots, u_n]$ is the global (production and inventory) cost incurred during the time period [0, T) under the condition that the demand is met at any time. Problem (P1) for n = 1 has been solved by Arrow and Karlin in [1].

In this paper we show that, by Theorem 1, the problem for n > 1 may be reduced to the case of n = 1 provided that

$$\frac{h_1}{a_1}=\ldots=\frac{h_n}{a_n}=h\geqslant 0.$$

Notice first that, without loss of generality of (P1), we may always assume $a_1 = \dots = a_n = 1$. Then assumption (3) takes the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} h_1 = \ldots = h_n = h. \end{array}$$
 Let

$$t_i = \sup \left\{ t \in [0, T) \colon \int_0^t \bar{r}_i(s) ds < y_i \right\}$$

(here we assume that $\sup \emptyset = 0$) and

$$r_i(t) = egin{cases} 0 & ext{for } t \in [0, t_i], \ ar{r}_i(t) & ext{for } t \in (t_i, T). \end{cases}$$

It is easy to check that, since (4) holds, problem (P1) may be rewritten as follows:

(P2) Minimize

$$I[u_1, \ldots, u_n] = \bar{I}[u] = \int_0^T \left[c(u(t)) + h \int_0^t \left(u(s) - \sum_{i=1}^n r_i(s) \right) ds \right] dt,$$

where $u = u_1 + \ldots + u_n$, under the constraints

$$u_i\in K \quad ext{ for } i=1,\ldots,n,$$
 $\int\limits_0^t u_i(s)ds\geqslant \int\limits_0^t r_i(s)ds \quad ext{ for all } t\in [0,T), \ i=1,\ldots,n,$ $u_i(t)\geqslant 0 \quad ext{ for all } t\in [0,T), \ i=1,\ldots,n.$

Consider the following auxiliary problem:

(P3) Minimize $\bar{I}[u]$ under the constraints $u \in K$ and

$$\int\limits_0^t u(s)ds\geqslant \int\limits_0^t ig(r_1(s)+\ldots\,+r_n(s)ig)ds \quad ext{ for all } t\in [0\,,\,T)\,, \ u(t)\geqslant 0 \quad ext{ for all } t\in [0\,,\,T)\,.$$

Let $u^* \in K$ be the solution of (P3) (see [1]). Using Theorem 1 n-1 times we can present u^* in the form

$$u^* = \sum_{i=1}^n u_i^*,$$

where $u_i^* \in K$ for i = 1, ..., n, and

$$\int\limits_0^t u_i^*(s)\,ds\geqslant \int\limits_0^t r_i(s)\,ds \quad ext{ for all } t\in [0\,,\,T), \ i=1,\,\ldots,\,n,$$
 $u_i^*(t)\geqslant 0 \quad ext{ for all } t\in [0\,,\,T), \ i=1,\,\ldots,\,n.$

It is evident that the vector function $[u_1^*, ..., u_n^*]$ is the solution of problem (P2).

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O PEWNYCH NIERÓWNOŚCIACH CAŁKOWYCH ZWIĄZANYCH Z WIELOTOWAROWYM MODELEM ZAPASÓW

STRESZCZENIE

W pracy zbadano zależności między rozwiązaniami dwu układów nierówności całkowych (twierdzenie 1). Następnie zależności te zastosowano do rozwiązania problemu minimalizacji kosztów produkcji i magazynowania w n-towarowym ciągłym modelu zapasów. Problem ten, w jednotowarowym przypadku, jest dokładnie opisany i rozwiązany w [1].