

# A Fundamental Solution for a Biharmonic Finite-Difference Operator<sup>1</sup>

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**1. Introduction.** Several authors have described a fundamental solution for the five-point finite-difference operator which approximates the Laplacian differential operator in the plane, and its asymptotic relation to a fundamental solution of the Laplacian has been known for some time [3], [7]. Recently an explicit bound for the difference between these two functions has been given by Mangad [6]. In a paper, [5], in which he estimates the difference between the Green's functions of the Dirichlet problem over a rectangle for the Laplace differential operator, and a Laplace difference operator, Laasonen shows how such estimates may be used to derive convergence rates for finite-difference approximations to Poisson's equation under very mild restrictions on the inhomogeneous term. It is the object of this paper to establish similar estimates to those of Mangad's for fundamental solutions of the biharmonic differential and difference operators which will enable analyses similar to those of Laasonen's to be made for biharmonic boundary value problems [8]. We consider any bounded region of the plane, and a square grid of mesh size  $h$  covering the region. We construct a fundamental solution for the biharmonic operator in the region, and by an analogous procedure, we construct a discrete fundamental solution, defined at the grid points in the region, for the thirteen-point finite-difference operator which approximates the biharmonic operator with truncation error of order 2 [4]. The constructions are made so as to enable us to estimate the difference between these two functions as the mesh spacing varies.

By first extending slightly the estimate of Mangad to give a bound for the difference between the first divided differences of the continuous and discrete fundamental solutions to the corresponding Laplacian operators, we can obtain a similar estimate for the convergence of the first differences of the discrete biharmonic fundamental solution to the differences of the continuous one. The manner of extending these results to certain polyharmonic difference operators will be apparent from the constructions used here.

**2. Preliminaries.** Points of the plane, the set  $E_2$ , will be denoted by vectors  $x$ , with coordinates in a rectangular coordinate system  $(x_1, x_2)$ , and the length of  $x$  will be given by  $|x| = (x_1^2 + x_2^2)^{1/2}$ . We shall indicate the mesh points of a square grid of mesh size  $h$  covering the plane and such that the coordinate axes are grid lines by  $E_h$ , and the points of  $E_h$  will be denoted by vectors,  $P$ , written as capital letters. For a region  $D$  of the plane, we define a corresponding set of grid points by  $D_h \equiv \bar{D} \cap E_h$ .  $C_\epsilon(x)$  is to be the open disc of radius  $\epsilon$  centered on  $x$ , and  $S_a(x)$  is the square of side length  $a$ , oriented as parallel to the grid squares, and centered

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on  $x$ . For a function  $V(P_1, P_2)$ , defined on  $E_h$ , we introduce the first divided differences

$$\delta_{hP_1} V(P_1, P_2) \equiv \frac{V(P_1 + h, P_2) - V(P_1, P_2)}{h}$$

and

$$\bar{\delta}_{hP_2} V(P_1, P_2) \equiv \frac{V(P_1, P_2) - V(P_1, P_2 - h)}{h}$$

and the discrete Laplacian difference operator

$$(1) \quad \Delta_h V(P) = \sum_{i=1}^2 \bar{\delta}_{hP_i} \delta_{hP_i} V(P).$$

The set  $N_1(P) \equiv \{Q|Q \in E_h, |P - Q| \leq h\}$  is the set of arguments at which  $V(Q)$  is required to form  $\Delta_h V(P)$ . For a set of grid points  $D_h$ ,  $N_1(D_h) \equiv \{Q|Q \in E_h, Q \in N_1(P) \text{ for some } P \in D_h\}$ . The thirteen-point discrete biharmonic difference operator [4], denoted by  $\Delta_h^2$ , can be defined by adopting a property of its continuous counterpart,  $\Delta^2$ , i.e.

$$(2) \quad \Delta_h^2 V(P) \equiv \Delta_h(\Delta_h V(P));$$

evidently  $N_2(P) \equiv N_1(N_1(P))$  is the set of arguments at which  $V(Q)$  is required to form  $\Delta_h^2 V(P)$ .

While the following device for estimating certain discrete sums has been used by Bramble and Hubbard, [2], there appears to be no explicit reference for it.

LEMMA 1. *Let  $f(x)$  be a nonnegative function, integrable over a region  $R'$  in  $E_2$ , and subharmonic in a subregion  $R$ . Then*

$$h^2 \sum_{T \in D_h} f(T) \leq \frac{4}{\pi} \int_{R'} f dA$$

for any region  $D$  such that  $T \in D_h, C_{h/2}(T) \subseteq R \subseteq R'$ .

*Proof.* The proof is an application of the solid mean-value inequality for subharmonic functions, which in two dimensions is

$$f(P) \leq \frac{1}{\pi r^2} \int_{C_r(P)} f dA.$$

In particular, taking  $r = h/2$  and  $P \in D_h$

$$(3) \quad f(P) \leq \frac{4}{\pi h^2} \int_{C_{h/2}(P)} f dA \leq \frac{4}{\pi h^2} \int_{S_h(P)} f dA;$$

multiplying (3) by  $h^2$ , and summing over  $D_h$  proves the result. We will use multi-indices  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2)$  with  $|\alpha| = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2$  and the symbol  $D^\alpha f = \partial^{|\alpha|} f(x) / \partial x_1^{\alpha_1} \partial x_2^{\alpha_2}$  to describe derivatives.

LEMMA 2. *Let  $f(x)$  be harmonic in a region  $R$ , so that  $f(x) = \text{Re } F(z)$ , where  $F(z)$  is an analytic function of  $z = x_1 + ix_2$  in  $R$ . Then*

$$|D^\alpha f| \leq \left| \frac{d^{|\alpha|} F(z)}{dz^{|\alpha|}} \right| \text{ in } R.$$

*Proof.* First let us consider the case when  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, 0)$ . Then, since the partial derivatives are taken along the real axis,

$$\frac{\partial^{\alpha_1} \operatorname{Re} F(z)}{\partial x_1^{\alpha_1}} = \operatorname{Re} \frac{d^{\alpha_1} F(z)}{dz^{\alpha_1}}$$

so that

$$|D^{\alpha} f| = \left| \operatorname{Re} \frac{d^{\alpha_1} F(z)}{dz^{\alpha_1}} \right| \leq \left| \frac{d^{\alpha_1} F(z)}{dz^{\alpha_1}} \right|.$$

Now let  $g(x) = \operatorname{Im} F(z) = \operatorname{Re} (-iF(z))$  in  $R$ . Then, for  $\alpha_2$  odd,  $\alpha_2 = 2m - 1$ ,

$$\frac{\partial^{\alpha_2} f}{\partial x_2^{\alpha_2}} = (-1)^m \frac{\partial^{\alpha_2} g}{\partial x_1^{\alpha_2}}$$

and

$$\left| \frac{\partial^{|\alpha|} f}{\partial x_1^{\alpha_1} \partial x_2^{\alpha_2}} \right| = \left| \frac{\partial^{|\alpha|} g}{\partial x_1^{|\alpha|}} \right| \leq \left| \frac{d^{|\alpha|} - iF(z)}{dz^{|\alpha|}} \right| \leq \left| \frac{d^{|\alpha|} F(z)}{dz^{|\alpha|}} \right|.$$

On the other hand, for  $\alpha_2$  even,  $\alpha_2 = 2m$ ,

$$\frac{\partial^{\alpha_2} f}{\partial x_2^{\alpha_2}} = (-1)^m \frac{\partial^{\alpha_2} f}{\partial x_1^{\alpha_2}}$$

and, again,

$$\left| \frac{\partial^{|\alpha|} f}{\partial x_1^{\alpha_1} \partial x_2^{\alpha_2}} \right| = \left| \frac{\partial^{|\alpha|} f}{\partial x_1^{|\alpha|}} \right| \leq \left| \frac{d^{|\alpha|} F(z)}{dz^{|\alpha|}} \right|.$$

From this lemma, we conclude directly that for  $x \neq s$ , there is a constant  $k(\alpha)$ , depending only on  $|\alpha|$ , such that

$$|D_x^{\alpha} \log |x - s|| \leq \frac{k(\alpha)}{|x - s|^{|\alpha|}};$$

In deriving the estimate of this paper, we shall use  $k$  and  $K$  to denote generic constants which are independent of  $h$  (their appearance in successive inequalities does not represent the same value, but only the fact that there is some constant for which the inequality is valid).

Let  $A(P; Q) = A(P_1, P_2; Q_1, Q_2)$  be a function of two grid points  $P$  and  $Q$ , and let  $L_h$  stand for either  $\Delta_h$  or  $\Delta_h^2$ . Then  $A(P; Q)$  is defined to be a fundamental solution for  $L_h$  on the set of grid points  $D_h \subset E_h$  if it is defined on  $N^2(D_h) \times N_2(D_h)$ , and satisfies both

$$\begin{aligned} L_{hP} A(P; Q) &= \frac{\delta(P; Q)}{h^2}; \\ L_{hQ} A(P; Q) &= \frac{\delta(P; Q)}{h^2}, \end{aligned} \quad P \in D_h; Q \in D_h.$$

Here  $\delta(P; Q)$  denotes the Kronecker delta symbol, and the subscript on the op-

erator indicates that the operator acts on  $A(P; Q)$  as a function of that variable which depends parametrically on the other.

It is shown by McCrea and Whipple [7], that the function defined for  $m$  and  $n$  integers

$$(4) \quad g(m, n) \equiv \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \frac{1 - \exp(-|m|y) \cos ns}{\sinh y} ds$$

where  $y$  lies on the branch of the root of  $\cos s + \cosh y = 2$  which varies between 0 and  $|\cosh^{-1} 3|$  could be used to define a fundamental solution,  $\Gamma_h(P; Q)$ , for  $-\Delta_h$  in  $E_h$ ;

$$(5) \quad \Gamma_h(P; Q) \equiv g\left(\frac{P_1 - Q_1}{h}, \frac{P_2 - Q_2}{h}\right) - \frac{3}{4\pi} \log 2 - C_e$$

where  $C_e$  is Euler's constant. If we denote the radially symmetric fundamental solution of the Laplacian  $(-\Delta)$  by

$$(6) \quad \gamma(x; \xi) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \log |x - \xi|$$

then Mangad has shown [6] that

$$(7) \quad |\gamma(P; Q) - \Gamma_h(P; Q)| \leq 54(h/|P - Q|)^2.$$

Consider a bounded subset  $D$  of  $E_2$ , and a square  $\Sigma$  the sides of which are grid lines and such that  $\bar{D}$  lies in the interior of  $\Sigma$ ; and let  $G_h(P; Q)$  be defined on  $\Sigma_h \times \Sigma_h$ , for any  $Q \in \Sigma_h$ , by

$$-\Delta_h P G_h(P; Q) = \frac{\delta(P; Q)}{h^2}, \quad P \in \Sigma_h - (\partial\Sigma)_h,$$

$$G_h(P; Q) = 0, \quad P \in (\partial\Sigma)_h$$

(i.e.,  $G_h(P; Q)$  is the discrete Green's function for  $\Sigma_h$ ). From (7), it can be seen that we can choose positive constants  $k_0$  and  $k_1$ , depending on the distance  $d$  from  $\partial\Sigma$  to  $\bar{D}$ , such that for  $Q \in D_h, h < d/3, P \in (\partial\Sigma)_h$

$$H_0(P; Q) \equiv -G_h(P; Q) - k_0 + \Gamma_h(P; Q) \leq 0,$$

$$H_1(P; Q) \equiv -G_h(P; Q) + k_1 + \Gamma_h(P; Q) \geq 0.$$

Since  $\Delta_h P H_i(P; Q) = 0, i = 0, 1$ , for  $P \in \Sigma_h - (\partial\Sigma)_h$ , by the discrete maximum-minimum principle [1],

$$G_h(P; Q) - k_1 \leq \Gamma_h(P; Q) \leq G_h(P; Q) + k_0$$

i.e.,

$$|\Gamma_h(P; Q)| \leq G_h(P; Q) + k_2, \quad k_2 = \max(k_0, k_1).$$

Laasonen [5] has shown that for  $a \equiv$  side length of  $\Sigma$

$$G_h(P; Q) \leq G_h(Q; Q) \leq .354 (\log(a/h + 1))$$

which allows us to state

LEMMA 3. For a given  $h_0$  and bounded subset  $D$  of  $E_2$ , there is a constant  $k_2$  depend-

ing on  $h_0$  and  $D$  only, such that for  $h < h_0$ ,

$$\max_{P, Q \in D_h} |\Gamma_h(P; Q)| \leq .354 |\log h| + k_z.$$

The technique of Mangad, [6], in obtaining (7), can easily be modified to prove the following

**THEOREM 1.** *There exists a numerical constant  $c$  such that for  $|P - Q| > h$ ,*

$$|\delta_h \Gamma_h(P; Q) - \delta_h \gamma(P; Q)| \leq ch^2/|P - Q|^3$$

where  $\delta_h$  denotes any first difference with respect to either  $P_i$  or  $Q_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ .

We shall indicate the necessary modifications of Mangad's proof of (7), and we observe that while our outline is simplified to show only the existence of  $c$ , a more lengthy calculation could be performed in a similar manner to provide  $c$  explicitly. Since

$$(9) \quad \begin{aligned} \delta_{hQ_i} \Gamma_h(P; Q) &= -\bar{\delta}_{hP_i} \Gamma_h(P; Q), \\ \delta_{hQ_i} \gamma(P; Q) &= -\bar{\delta}_{hP_i} \gamma(P; Q), \end{aligned}$$

we may consider only differences with respect to  $P$ . Furthermore, from (5), and the symmetries of  $g(m, n)$  [7] it can be seen that it is sufficient to consider  $Q = (0, 0) \equiv 0$ , and  $P$  to be in the sector of the plane characterized by

$$(10) \quad 0 \leq P_2 \leq P_1, \quad P \neq (0, 0) \quad \text{or} \quad (h, 0).$$

However, it appears to be necessary to consider the  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  differences separately. From a standard Laplace transform, for  $P_i = m_i h$ ,

$$\delta_{hP_2} \gamma(P; 0) = \frac{1}{2\pi h} \int_0^\infty \left( \frac{\cos m_2 s - \cos (m_2 + 1)s}{s} \right) e^{-m_1 s} ds.$$

Hence, with (4), we have, for  $\cos s + \cosh y = 2$

$$(11) \quad \begin{aligned} 2\pi |\delta_{hP_2} (\Gamma_h - \gamma)(P; 0)| &= \frac{1}{h} \left| \int_0^\pi \left( \frac{\cos m_2 s - \cos (m_2 + 1)s}{\sinh y} \right) e^{-m_1 y} ds \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \int_0^\infty (\cos m_2 s - \cos (m_2 + 1)s) \frac{e^{-m_1 s}}{s} ds \right|. \end{aligned}$$

(Here, and in the proofs to follow, we use the common notation  $(f \pm g)(x)$  for the function  $f(x) \pm g(x)$ .)

We break up the right side of (11) as

$$(12) \quad 2\pi |\delta_{hP_2} (\Gamma_h - \gamma)(P; 0)| \leq |A| + |B| + |C|,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \frac{1}{h} \int_\epsilon^\infty \left( \frac{\cos m_2 s - \cos (m_2 + 1)s}{s} \right) e^{-m_1 s} ds, \\ B &= \frac{1}{h} \int_\epsilon^\pi \left( \frac{\cos m_2 s - \cos (m_2 + 1)s}{\sinh y} \right) e^{-m_1 y} ds, \\ C &= \frac{1}{h} \int_0^\epsilon (\cos m_2 s - \cos (m_2 + 1)s) \left( \frac{e^{-m_1 y}}{\sinh y} - \frac{e^{-m_1 s}}{s} \right) ds, \end{aligned}$$

for some choice of  $\epsilon$  in  $0 < \epsilon < 1$ , independent of  $h$ . The estimation of terms  $|A|$  and  $|B|$  of (12) is entirely analogous to that in [6]; we indicate how  $|C|$ , the more complicated term, is estimated. From Lemma 2 of [6], for  $0 \leq s \leq 1$ ,  $s - s^3/10 \leq y \leq s$ , and a straightforward calculation shows that  $\lim_{s \rightarrow 0^+} (\sinh y)/s = (\frac{2}{3})^{1/2}$ . Hence for some  $\epsilon > 0$

$$(13) \quad \frac{e^{-m_1 y}}{\sinh y} \geq \frac{e^{-m_1 s}}{s} \quad \text{when } 0 < s \leq \epsilon$$

and we have

$$(14) \quad \begin{aligned} |C| &\leq \frac{1}{h} \int_0^\epsilon s \left| \frac{e^{-m_1 y}}{\sinh y} - \frac{e^{-m_1 s}}{s} \right| ds \\ &\leq \frac{1}{h} \int_0^\epsilon \left( \frac{\exp m_1 \frac{s^3}{10}}{1 - \frac{s^2}{10}} - 1 \right) e^{-m_1 s} ds \\ &\leq \frac{10}{(10 - \epsilon^2)h} \int_0^\epsilon \left( \exp \left( \frac{m_1 s^3}{10} \right) - 1 + \frac{s^2}{10} \right) e^{-m_1 s} ds \\ &\leq \frac{1}{(10 - \epsilon^2)h} \left( \int_0^\epsilon m_1 s^3 \exp \left( -m_1 \left( s - \frac{s^3}{10} \right) \right) ds + \int_0^\epsilon s^2 e^{-m_1 s} ds \right). \end{aligned}$$

Now on  $(0, \epsilon)$   $s - s^3/10 \geq (1 - \epsilon^2/10)s$ , so that

$$\exp(-m_1(s - s^3/10)) \leq \exp(-(1 - \epsilon^2/10)m_1 s)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} |C| &\leq \frac{m_1}{(10 - \epsilon^2)h} \int_0^\infty s^3 \exp \left( - \left( 1 - \frac{\epsilon^2}{10} \right) m_1 s \right) ds + \frac{h^2}{(10 - \epsilon^2)m_1^3 h^3} \\ &\leq \frac{m_1}{(10 - \epsilon^2)h} \left( \frac{1}{(1 - \epsilon^2/10)m_1} \right)^4 + k(\epsilon) \frac{h^2}{|P|^3} \leq k(\epsilon) \frac{h^2}{|P|^3} \end{aligned}$$

since from (10),  $P_1 = m_1 h \geq |P|/2^{1/2}$ . We note that the more complicated procedure of [6] would avoid the uncertainty about the range of  $\epsilon$  introduced at (13) and would permit explicit estimation of  $c$ .

Similarly, we have

$$2\pi |\delta_{h, P_1}(\Gamma_h - \gamma)(P; 0)| \leq |A'| + |B'| + |C'|$$

for

$$\begin{aligned} A' &= \frac{1}{h} \int_\epsilon^\infty \frac{\cos m_2 s}{s} (e^{-m_1 s} - e^{-(m_1+1)s}) ds, \\ B' &= \frac{1}{h} \int_\epsilon^\pi \frac{(1 - e^{-y})e^{-m_1 y}}{\sinh y} \cos m_2 s ds, \\ C' &= \frac{1}{h} \int_0^\epsilon \cos m_2 s \left( \frac{1 - e^{-y}}{\sinh y} e^{-m_1 y} - \frac{1 - e^{-s}}{s} e^{-m_1 s} \right) ds \end{aligned}$$

and, again, we will only indicate the treatment of  $C'$ . If  $I$  is used to denote the

integrand of  $C'$ , we let  $S^+$  ( $S^-$ ) be the subset of  $(0, \epsilon)$  on which  $I$  is positive (negative). Since  $\sinh y \geq y \geq s - s^3/10$ ,  $s \geq y$  for  $\epsilon < 1$  [6, Lemma 2], on  $S^+$

$$\begin{aligned} |I| &\leq \left(\frac{1 - e^{-s}}{s - s^3/10}\right)e^{-m_1 y} - \left(\frac{1 - e^{-s}}{s}\right)e^{-m_1 s} \\ &\leq \frac{1 - e^{-s}}{s} \left(\frac{\exp\left(-m_1\left(s - \frac{s^3}{10}\right)\right)}{1 - s^2/10} - e^{-m_1 s}\right) \\ &\leq \frac{k}{1 - \epsilon^2/10} e^{-m_1 s} \left(\exp\left(\frac{m_1 s^3}{10}\right) - 1 - \frac{s^2}{10}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\frac{1}{h} \int_{S^+} |I| ds \leq \frac{k}{h} \int_0^\epsilon \left(\exp\left(\frac{m_1 s^3}{10}\right) - 1 + \frac{s^2}{10}\right) e^{-m_1 s} ds$$

which was estimated in (14). On  $S^-$

$$|I| \leq \frac{1 - e^{-s}}{s} e^{-m_1 s} - \frac{1 - e^{-y}}{\sinh y} e^{-m_1 s};$$

now  $\sinh y \leq \sinh s \leq s + (s^3/3!) \cosh \epsilon$  and  $1/\sinh y \geq (1 - bs^2)/s$  where  $b = [\cosh \epsilon]/3!$ . Thus on  $S^-$

$$\begin{aligned} |I| &\leq \left\{ \frac{1 - e^{-s}}{s} - \left(1 - \exp\left(-s + \frac{s^3}{10}\right)\right) \left(\frac{1 - bs^2}{s}\right) \right\} e^{-m_1 s} \\ &\leq \left( e^{-s} \left(\frac{\exp(s^3/10) - 1}{s}\right) + bs \left(1 - \exp\left(-s + \frac{s^3}{10}\right)\right) \right) e^{-m_1 s} \\ &\leq \left(\frac{s^2}{10} + bs^2\right) \exp\left(-s + \frac{s^3}{10}\right) e^{-m_1 s} \leq ks^2 e^{-m_1 s} \end{aligned}$$

for  $0 \leq s \leq \epsilon < 1$ , and

$$(15) \quad \frac{1}{h} \int_{S^-} |I| ds \leq \frac{1}{h} \int_0^\infty ks^2 e^{-m_1 s} ds.$$

However, the right-hand side of (15) was also estimated at (14). These, then, with the corresponding estimates for  $|A|$ ,  $|B|$ ,  $|A'|$ , and  $|B'|$  and the symmetries of  $\Gamma_h$ , and  $\gamma$  conclude the estimate.

**3. A Fundamental Solution for the Biharmonic Differential Operator.** To define a function on  $E_2 \times E_2$  which is a fundamental solution for  $\Delta^2$  in a bounded region  $D$ , let  $L$  be a circle centered on the origin and containing  $D$ , and let  $L_0$  be a circle with the same center but with radius  $r_0$  equal to twice the radius of  $L$ .  $L_1$  is to be a larger circle than  $L_0$ , centered on the origin, with radius  $r_1$ . Let  $f(s) \in C_0^\infty(I)$ , where  $I$  denotes the real line,  $0 \leq f(s) \leq 1$ , and  $f(s) \equiv 1$  for  $0 \leq s \leq r_0$ ,  $f(s) \equiv 0$  for  $s \geq r_1$ ; we define  $\eta(x)$  on  $E_2$  by  $\eta(x) = f(|x|)$  and we define  $B(x; \xi)$  on  $E_2 \times E_2$  as

$$B(x; \xi) \equiv \int \eta(t) \gamma(x; t) \gamma(\xi; t) dA_t.$$

For convenience in the sequel, we will assume that  $r_1 = 2r_0$ , and we summarize some of the properties of this function in the following theorem.

**THEOREM 2.** (i)  $B(x; \xi)$  is a fundamental solution for  $\Delta^2$  in  $D$ .

(ii)  $B(x; \xi) \in C^1(E_2 \times E_2)$  and a modulus of continuity for any of its first derivatives is  $\omega(\delta) = K\delta |\log \delta|$ .

(iii) For  $x \neq \xi, x, \xi \in L_0$ ,

$$\Delta_x B(x; \xi) = \Delta_\xi B(x; \xi) = \gamma(x; \xi).$$

(iv) For  $x \neq \xi, B(x; \xi)$  is an infinitely differentiable function of  $x$  and  $\xi$ , and its derivatives are continuous in the sense of a function of four variables when  $x$  and  $\xi$  vary in disjoint subsets of  $L_0$ .

(v) There is a constant  $K$ , depending on  $r_0$  and  $\alpha$ , such that for  $x \neq \xi, x, \xi \in L_0, |\alpha| \geq 2$ ,

$$|D_x^\alpha B(x; \xi)| \leq \frac{K(|\log |x - \xi|| + 1)}{|x - \xi|^{|\alpha| - 2}}.$$

*Proof.* (i) To see that

$$\int B(x; \xi) \Delta^2 \phi(\xi) dA_\xi = \phi(x)$$

for all  $\phi(x) \in C_0^\infty(D)$ , we need only justify the interchange of order of integration in  $\int_{C_\epsilon(x)} \int_{C_\epsilon(\xi)} \eta(t) \gamma(x; t) \Delta^2 \phi(\xi) dA_t dA_\xi$  and observe that (a)  $\Delta^2 \phi(\xi) = -\Delta(-\Delta \phi(\xi))$ , (b)  $\gamma(\xi; t) = \gamma(t; \xi)$  is a fundamental solution for  $-\Delta$ , (c)  $\eta(t) \equiv 1$  on the support of  $\phi$ .

(ii) Since

$$\int_{C_\epsilon(x)} \eta(t) \frac{1}{|x - t|} \frac{\partial |x - t|}{\partial x_i} |\log |\xi - t|| dA_t$$

converges to zero as  $\epsilon$  tends to zero uniformly for  $(x, \xi) \in L_0 \times L_0$ , we conclude that

$$(18) \quad \frac{\partial B(x; \xi)}{\partial x_i} = \int \eta(t) \frac{\partial \gamma(x; t)}{\partial x_i} \gamma(\xi; t) dA_t$$

exists on  $L_0 \times L_0$ . Suppose that

$$|(x, \xi) - (x', \xi')| = \left( \sum_{i=1}^2 (x_i - x'_i)^2 + (\xi_i - \xi'_i)^2 \right)^{1/2} < \delta,$$

then  $x' \in C_\delta(x), \xi' \in C_\delta(\xi)$  and

$$(19) \quad \left| \frac{\partial B(x'; \xi')}{\partial x_i} - \frac{\partial B(x; \xi)}{\partial x_i} \right| \leq |I_1| + |I_2| + |I_3|$$

where, setting  $S = E_2 - C_{2\delta}(x) - C_{2\delta}(\xi)$

$$I_1 = \int_S \eta(t) \left( \frac{\partial \gamma(t; x')}{\partial x_i} \gamma(t; \xi') - \frac{\partial \gamma(t; x)}{\partial x_i} \gamma(t; \xi) \right) dA_t$$

and  $I_2$  and  $I_3$  are integrals having the same integrand, but taken over  $C_{2\delta}(x)$  and



$C_{2\delta}(\xi)$  respectively. Using Lemma 2, for  $(y, w) \in C_\delta(x) \times C_\delta(\xi)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left| \int_S \eta(t) \frac{\partial \gamma(y; t)}{\partial t_i} \frac{\partial \gamma(w; t)}{\partial t_j} dA_t \right| \\
 (21) \quad & \leq \left( \int_S \eta(t) \left( \frac{k}{|y-t|} \right)^2 dA_t \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_S \eta(t) \left( \frac{k}{|w-t|} \right)^2 dA_t \right)^{1/2} \\
 & \leq k \int_\delta^\lambda \frac{dr}{r} \leq k(\log \lambda - \log \delta)
 \end{aligned}$$

for  $\lambda = r_0 + r_1$ . We can estimate  $I_1$  as follows

$$|I_1| \leq |A| + |B|,$$

where, setting  $g(t) = \gamma(\xi; t) + \gamma(\xi'; t)/2$ , and  $sx + (1 - s)x' = x(s) \in C_\delta(x)$  for  $0 \leq s \leq 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 (22) \quad A &= \int_S \eta(t)g(t) \frac{\partial}{\partial t_i} (\gamma(x; t) - \gamma(x'; t))dA_t \\
 &= \sum_{k=1}^2 (x_k - x'_k) \int_S \eta(t)g(t) \int_0^1 - \frac{\partial^2 \gamma(x(s); t)}{\partial t_k \partial t_i} ds dA_t \\
 &= \sum_{k=1}^2 (x_k - x'_k) \int_0^1 \left( \int_S \frac{\partial \eta(t)g(t)}{\partial t_i} \frac{\partial \gamma(x(s); t)}{\partial t_k} dA_t \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + \oint_{\partial S} n_i \eta(t)g(t) \frac{\partial \gamma(x(s); t)}{\partial t_k} d\sigma_t \right) ds,
 \end{aligned}$$

$(n_1, n_2)$  being the outer normal to  $\partial S$ . Now, using (21), we can estimate

$$\int_S \frac{\partial \eta(t)g(t)}{\partial t_i} \frac{\partial \gamma(x(s); t)}{\partial t_k} dA_t$$

uniformly for  $s \in [0, 1]$ , and

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left| \oint_{\partial S} n_i \left( \frac{\gamma(\xi; t) + \gamma(\xi'; t)}{2} \right) \frac{\partial \gamma(x(s); t)}{\partial t_k} d\sigma_t \right| \\
 & \leq \frac{k}{\delta} (\log \lambda - \log \delta) \oint_{\partial S} d\sigma_t \leq K(\log \lambda - \log \delta).
 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $|x_k - x'_k| < \delta$ , then,  $|A| \leq K\delta(\log \lambda - \log \delta)$ . The estimation of  $B$  is similar but simpler; i.e. for  $\xi(s) = s\xi + (1 - s)\xi' \in C_\delta(\xi)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 B &= \int_S \frac{\eta(t)}{2} (\gamma(\xi; t) - \gamma(\xi'; t)) \frac{\partial}{\partial t_i} (\gamma(x; t) + \gamma(x'; t))dA_t \\
 &= \sum_{k=1}^2 \left( \frac{\xi_k - \xi'_k}{2} \right) \int_0^1 \int_S \eta(t) - \frac{\partial \gamma(\xi(s); t)}{\partial t_k} \frac{\partial}{\partial t_i} (\gamma(x; t) + \gamma(x'; t))dA_t ds.
 \end{aligned}$$

The volume integral is estimated using (21) and we have  $|B| \leq K\delta(\log \lambda - \log \delta)$  so that, for  $\delta < \delta_0$ ,

$$|I_1| \leq K\delta|\log \delta|.$$

To complete our estimate for (10), we must consider  $I_2$  and  $I_3$ ; however, letting

$J$  be either  $C_{2\delta}(x)$  or  $C_{2\delta}(\xi)$ , it can be verified that, for  $x' \in C_\delta(x)$ ,  $\xi' \in C_\delta(\xi)$

$$(24) \quad \left| \int_J \frac{\partial \gamma(x'; t)}{\partial x_i} \gamma(\xi'; t) dA_t \right| \leq K\delta |\log \delta|$$

for a uniform constant  $K$ , using Hölder's inequality. Using (24) to estimate  $|I_2|$  and  $|I_3|$ , we have, from (19), that for  $\delta < \delta_0$ , there is a  $K$ , dependent on  $\delta_0$  and  $\lambda$  only, such that for  $|(x, \xi) - (x', \xi')| < \delta$

$$\left| \frac{\partial B(x'; \xi')}{\partial x_i} - \frac{\partial B(x; \xi)}{\partial x_i} \right| < K\delta |\log \delta|$$

which proves (ii).

(iii), (iv) Let  $\Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$  be two compact disjoint subsets of  $E_2$ , we wish to show that  $D_x^\alpha B(x; \xi)$  is continuous on  $\Lambda_1 \times \Lambda_2$  for every  $\alpha$ . Let  $4\epsilon = |\Lambda_1 - \Lambda_2| \equiv \inf_{x \in \Lambda_1, y \in \Lambda_2} |x - y|$  and take  $\Omega$  to be a piecewise smooth, compact curve enclosing  $\Lambda_1$  such that  $|\Omega - \Lambda_1| \geq \epsilon, i = 1, 2$ . Let  $Z$  be the interior of  $\Omega$ , and we assume for convenience that  $Z \subset L_0$ , i.e.  $\eta(t) \equiv 1, t \in Z$ . From (18), it can be seen that

$$(26) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{\partial B(x; \xi)}{\partial x_i} &= \int_{E_2 - Z} \eta(t) \frac{\partial \gamma(x; t)}{\partial x_i} \gamma(\xi; t) dA_t \\ &+ \int_Z \gamma(x; t) \frac{\partial \gamma(\xi; t)}{\partial t_i} dA_t + \oint_\Omega -n_i \gamma(x; t) \gamma(\xi; t) d\sigma_t \end{aligned}$$

where  $(n_1, n_2)$  is the outer normal to  $\Omega$ . For  $x \in \Lambda_1$  and  $\xi \in \Lambda_2$ , if the right side of (26) is differentiated under the integral signs with respect to  $x_j$ , the resulting integrals converge uniformly with respect to  $x \in \Lambda_1$ , i.e., using Gauss's theorem

$$(27) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 B(x; \xi)}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} &= \int_{E_2 - Z} \eta(t) \frac{\partial^2 \gamma(x; t)}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} \gamma(\xi; t) dA_t \\ &+ \int_Z \gamma(x; t) \frac{\partial^2 \gamma(\xi; t)}{\partial t_i \partial t_j} dA_t \\ &+ \oint_\Omega n_i \frac{\partial \gamma(x; t)}{\partial t_j} \gamma(t; \xi) - n_j \frac{\partial \gamma(\xi; t)}{\partial t_i} \gamma(x; t) d\sigma_t. \end{aligned}$$

In particular, if we choose  $x \neq \xi, \Lambda_1 = x, \Lambda_2 = \xi, \Omega = C_\epsilon(x)$ , (27) shows that

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_x B(x; \xi) &= \int_{E_2 - C_\epsilon(x)} \eta(t) \Delta_x \gamma(x; t) \gamma(\xi; t) dA_t \\ &+ \int_{C_\epsilon(x)} \gamma(x; t) \Delta_t \gamma(\xi; t) dA_t \\ &+ \oint_{|x-t|=\epsilon} \left( \frac{\partial \gamma(x; t)}{\partial n_t} \gamma(\xi; t) - \frac{\partial \gamma(\xi; t)}{\partial n_t} \gamma(x; t) \right) d\sigma_t \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi\epsilon} \oint_{|x-t|=\epsilon} \gamma(\xi; t) d\sigma_t - \frac{\log \epsilon}{2\pi} \oint_{|x-t|=\epsilon} \frac{\partial \gamma(\xi; t)}{\partial n_t} d\sigma_t = \gamma(\xi; x) \end{aligned}$$

since  $\gamma(x; t)$  is harmonic for  $x \neq t$ , enabling us to employ the mean value theorem for harmonic functions for the first line integral above and to conclude that the second vanishes, proving (iii).

Returning to the case of arbitrary but disjoint  $\Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$ , we can continue in the manner in which (27) was obtained to see that for  $x \in \Lambda_1 \subset Z, \xi \in \Lambda_2$

$$\begin{aligned}
 D_x^\alpha B(x; \xi) &= \int_{E_2-Z} \eta(t)\gamma(\xi; t)D_x^\alpha \gamma(x; t)dA_t \\
 (28) \qquad &+ (-1)^{|\alpha|} \int_Z \gamma(x; t)D_t^\alpha \gamma(\xi; t)dA_t \\
 &+ \oint_{\Omega; |\rho+\tau|=|\alpha|-1} n_1 a_{\rho\tau} D_t^\rho \gamma(x; t) D_t^\tau \gamma(\xi; t) \\
 &+ n_2 b_{\rho\tau} D_t^\rho \gamma(x; t) D_t^\tau \gamma(\xi; t) d\sigma_t
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $a_{\rho\tau}, b_{\rho\tau}$  are numerical constants depending only on the multi-indices which are their subscripts. Since the integrand of the line integral in (28) is uniformly continuous for  $(x, \xi, t) \in \Lambda_1 \times \Lambda_2 \times \Omega$ , the line integral is continuous on  $\Lambda_1 \times \Lambda_2$ . That the volume integrals define functions which are continuous on  $\Lambda_1 \times \Lambda_2$  can be seen from the approach taken in proving (ii).

(v) To obtain these estimates for the derivatives of  $B(x; \xi)$  when  $x \neq \xi, x, \xi \in L_0$ , we set in the proof of (iv)  $x \in \Lambda_1, \xi \in \Lambda_2$  and  $\Omega = C_\epsilon(x), \epsilon = |x - \xi|/2$  and estimate the various terms on the right side of (28) using Lemma 2. E.g., setting  $|\alpha| = a$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\left| \int_{E_2-C_\epsilon(x)} \eta(t)D_x^\alpha \gamma(x; t)\gamma(\xi; t)dA_t \right| \\
 &\leq k(\alpha) \left\{ \int_{E_2-C_\epsilon(x)-C_\epsilon(\xi)} \eta(t) \frac{1}{|x-t|^a} |\log |\xi-t|| dA_t \right. \\
 &\qquad \qquad \qquad \left. + \int_{C_\epsilon(\xi)} \frac{1}{|x-t|^a} |\log |\xi-t|| dA_t \right\} \\
 &\leq k(\alpha) \left\{ \left( \left| \log \frac{|x-\xi|}{4} \right| + \log \lambda \right) \int_{|x-\xi|/4}^\lambda \frac{dr}{r^{a-1}} \right. \\
 &\qquad \qquad \qquad \left. + \frac{4}{3|x-\xi|^a} \int_0^{|x-\xi|/4} r |\log r| dr \right\} \\
 &\leq K \frac{|\log |x-\xi|| + 1}{|x-\xi|^{a-2}}
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $K$  depends on  $\alpha$  and  $\lambda$ . Similarly

$$\left| \int_{C_\epsilon(x)} \gamma(x; t)D_t^\alpha \gamma(\xi; t)dA_t \right| \leq K \frac{|\log |x-\xi|| + 1}{|x-\xi|^{a-2}}$$

and the line integrals can easily be shown to satisfy the same estimate, for some  $K$  depending only on  $\alpha$  and  $\lambda$ .

**4. A Fundamental Solution for the Biharmonic Difference Operator.** The definition of  $B(x; \xi)$  is immediately suggestive of the following construction. We define  $\Gamma_h(P; t)$  to be the extension a.e. of  $\Gamma_h(P; Q)$  to  $E_h \times E_2$  as

$$\Gamma_h(P; t) = \Gamma_h(P; Q), \quad t \in S_h(Q),$$

and let  $B_h(P; Q)$  be defined on  $E_h \times E_h$  by

$$B_h(P; Q) = \int \eta(t) \Gamma_h(P; t) \Gamma_h(Q; t) dA_t .$$

**THEOREM 3.**  $B_h(P; Q)$  is a fundamental solution of  $\Delta_h^2$  in  $L_{0h}$ .

*Proof.* This result follows immediately from applying  $\Delta_{hP}^2$  to  $B_h(P; Q)$ , observing (2) and the fact that  $\Gamma_h(P; S)$  is a fundamental solution for  $-\Delta_h$ .

The apparent fact that  $B_h(P; Q)$  is an approximation to  $B(P; Q)$  is given quantitative substance by the main results of this paper, Theorems 4 and 5.

**THEOREM 4.** For any constants  $h_0$  and  $l_0$  satisfying  $2r_0 > l_0 > 6h_0$ , there exists a constant  $M$  depending on  $h_0, l_0$  and  $r_0$ , such that for  $h < h_0$ ,

$$(i) \quad \max_{P, Q \in I_h, |P-Q| > l_0} |B_h(P; Q) - B(P; Q)| \leq Mh^2(|\log h|)$$

and a constant  $M_1$  depending on  $h_0$  and  $r_0$  such that for  $h < h_0$

$$(ii) \quad \max_{P, Q \in L_{0h}} |B_h(P; Q) - B(P; Q)| \leq M_1 h^2 (\log h)^2$$

where  $L_0$  is the circle of radius  $r_0$  centered on the origin.

*Proof.* By definition, we have

$$\begin{aligned} B_h(P; Q) - B(P; Q) &= \int \eta(t) (\Gamma_h(P; t) \Gamma_h(Q; t) - \gamma(P; t) \gamma(Q; t)) dA_t \\ &= \int \eta(t) (\Gamma_h - \gamma)(P; t) \left( \frac{\Gamma_h + \gamma}{2} \right) (Q; t) dA_t \\ &\quad + \int \eta(t) (\Gamma_h - \gamma)(Q; t) \left( \frac{\Gamma_h + \gamma}{2} \right) (P; t) dA_t \\ &\equiv I_1 + I_2 \end{aligned}$$

where  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  are defined to be the two integrals on the preceding line. Since they are similar in form, it is sufficient to show how  $|I_1|$  can be estimated. We introduce a piecewise constant function

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_h(P; t) &\equiv \gamma(P; T), & t \in S_h(T), T \notin N_2(P), \\ \gamma_h(P; t) &\equiv \Gamma_h(P; T), & t \in S_h(T), T \in N_2(P). \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} (29) \quad I_1 &= \int \eta(t) (\gamma - \gamma_h)(P; t) \left( \frac{\gamma + \Gamma_h}{2} \right) (Q; t) dA_t \\ &\quad + \int \eta(t) (\gamma_h - \Gamma_h)(P; t) \left( \frac{\gamma + \Gamma_h}{2} \right) (Q; t) dA_t \\ &\equiv J_1 + J_2. \end{aligned}$$

We wish to use the following observation in estimating  $J_1$ . Let  $M_{i\phi}$  denote a uniform bound over  $S_h(T)$  for the absolute value of the  $i$ th derivatives of  $\phi(t) \in C^i[S_h(T)]$  and consider  $f(t) \in C^2[S_h(T)], g(t) \in C^1[S_h(T)]$ . Then, using Taylor's expansions, it is immediate that

$$(30) \quad \frac{1}{h^2} \left| \int_{S_h(T)} (f(t) - f(T))g(t)dA \right| \leq \frac{h^2}{3} (M_{2f}|g(T)| + M_{1f}M_{1g}).$$

If  $t \in S_h(T)$ , and  $T \notin N_2(P)$ , then

$$(31) \quad |P - t| \geq (2/5)^{1/2} |P - T|;$$

hence, with Lemma 2,

$$(32) \quad \begin{aligned} \max_{t \in S_h(T)} \left| \frac{\partial^2 \gamma(P; t)}{\partial t_i \partial t_j} \right| &\leq \frac{k}{|P - T|^2}, \\ \max_{t \in S_h(T)} \left| \frac{\partial \gamma(P; t)}{\partial t_i} \right| &\leq \frac{k}{|P - T|}. \end{aligned}$$

Noting that the restriction  $l_0 > 6h_0$  ensures that  $N_2(Q) \cap N_2(P)$  is void, we have with  $N_2 \equiv N_2(P) \cup N_2(Q)$ ,  $f(t) = \gamma(P; t)$ ,  $g(t) = \eta(t)((\gamma + \Gamma_h)/2)(Q; t)$

$$(33) \quad \begin{aligned} |J_1| &\leq h^2 \sum_{T \in E_{h-N_2}} \frac{1}{h^2} \left| \int_{S_h(T)} (f(t) - f(T))g(t)dA_t \right| \\ &\quad + h^2 \sum_{T \in N_2(P)} \frac{1}{h^2} \left( \int_{S_h(T)} |\gamma(P; t)|dA_t + \int_{S_h(T)} |\Gamma_h(P; t)|dA_t \right) \\ &\quad \times \left( \max_{t \in S_h(T)} (|\gamma(Q; t)| + |\Gamma_h(Q; t)|) \right) \\ &\quad + h^2 \sum_{T \in N_2(Q)} \max_{t \in S_h(T)} \eta(t) |\gamma(P; t) - \gamma(P; T)| \\ &\quad \times \left\{ \frac{1}{h^2} \int_{S_h(T)} |\gamma(Q; t)|dA_t + |\Gamma_h(Q; T)| \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

From  $|\Gamma_h(Q; T)| \leq |\gamma(Q; T)| + 54(h^2/|Q - T|^2)$ , for  $T \notin N_2(Q)$ ,  $|g(T)| \leq (1/2\pi) |\log |Q - T|| + 6$  and, using (30)–(32), it can be seen that the first term on the right side of (33) is bounded by  $S_1$ , where

$$(35) \quad \begin{aligned} S_1 &= kh^2 \sum_{T \in L_{1h-N_2}} h^2 \left( \frac{1}{|P - T|^2} \left( \frac{1}{2\pi} |\log |Q - T|| + 6 \right) + \frac{1}{|P - T|} \frac{1}{|Q - T|} \right) \\ &\quad + kh^2 \sum_{r_0 \leq |T| \leq r_1} h^2 \left( \frac{1}{|P - T|} |\log |Q - T|| \right) M_{1\eta}. \end{aligned}$$

However, estimating the summand within and without  $C_{l_0/2}(Q)$ , and using Lemma 1,

$$(36) \quad \begin{aligned} h^2 \sum_{T \in L_{1h-N_2}} \frac{|\log |Q - T||}{|P - T|^2} &\leq \left( \log 4r_0 - \log \left( \frac{l_0}{2} \right) \right) h^2 \sum_{T \in L_{1h-N_2}} \frac{1}{|P - T|^2} \\ &\quad + \frac{4}{l_0^2} h^2 \sum_{|T-Q| \leq l_0/2; T \in N_2(Q)} |\log |Q - T|| \\ &\leq k(\log 4r_0 - \log h) + k_1. \end{aligned}$$

From Schwarz inequality, and Lemma 1

$$(37) \quad h^2 \sum_{T \in L_{1h-N_2}} \frac{1}{|P - T|} \frac{1}{|Q - T|} \leq k \left( \int_h^{4r_0} \frac{dr}{r} \right) \leq k(\log 4r_0 - \log h)$$

and it is clear that the remaining terms of (35) can be estimated in a similar fashion, so that for any  $h_0$ , there is a constant  $K$  depending on  $h_0, l_0$  and  $r_0$  such that

$$S_1 \leq Kh^2 |\log h| \quad \text{for } h < h_0 .$$

The remaining two terms on the right of (33) are each sums, multiplied by  $h^2$ , of 13 terms, where each term is bounded by  $K|\log h|$  for  $h < h_0$ , for a suitable constant  $K$  depending on  $h_0, l_0$  and  $r_0$ . Hence, for a suitable constant  $K$ ,

$$(38) \quad |J_1| \leq Kh^2 |\log h| \quad \text{for } h < h_0 .$$

Using the estimate of  $g(T)$  preceding (35), and also (6) and (7), and Lemma 3

$$(39) \quad \begin{aligned} |J_2| &\leq \sum_{T \in E_h - N_s} \left( 54 \frac{h^2}{|P - T|^2} \right) \int_{S_h(T)} \eta(t) \left( \frac{|\log |Q - t||}{2\pi} + 6 \right) dA_t \\ &+ \sum_{T \in N_s(Q)} 54 \frac{h^2}{|P - T|^2} \int_{S_h(T)} \frac{\eta(t)}{2} \left( \frac{|\log |Q - t||}{2\pi} + k_2 - .354 \log h \right) dA_t \\ &\leq Kh^2 |\log h| \quad \text{for } h < h_0 \end{aligned}$$

for a suitable constant  $K$ . This concludes the estimation of  $I_1$  (Eq. (29)), but, as mentioned,  $I_2$  is similar in form, hence (i) is established.

The second estimate (ii) is obtained by the same process, not using, however,  $|P - Q| \geq l_0$ . If we examine the first term of (33), it is bounded by  $S_1$  of (35) which can be estimated uniformly, as in (36) using

$$\begin{aligned} h^2 \sum_{T \in L_{1h} - N_s} \frac{|\log |Q - T||}{|P - T|^2} \\ \leq (\log 4r_0 - \log h) h^2 \sum_{T \in L_{1h} - N_s} \frac{1}{|P - T|^2} \leq K(\log h)^2 , \end{aligned}$$

and the fact that (37) is already uniform in  $P$  and  $Q$ . Hence, for  $P$  and  $Q$  in  $L_{0h}$ , and  $h < h_0$ ,

$$S_1 \leq Kh^2 (\log h)^2$$

for a constant  $K$  depending on  $r_0$  and  $h_0$ . The remaining two terms in (33) are sums, multiplied by  $h^2$ , of 13 terms, each of which is bounded, for  $h < h_0$ , by  $K(\log h)^2$ , for a suitable  $K$  which depends only on  $h_0$  and  $r_0$ . Hence, we have the analogous estimate to (38) uniform in  $P, Q$

$$(41) \quad |J_1| \leq Kh^2 (\log h)^2$$

for a suitable constant  $K$ . Similar modifications of (39) will show that

$$|J_2| \leq Kh^2 (\log h)^2$$

for  $P, Q \in L_{0h}$  and  $h < h_0$ , which, with (41), establishes the second estimate.

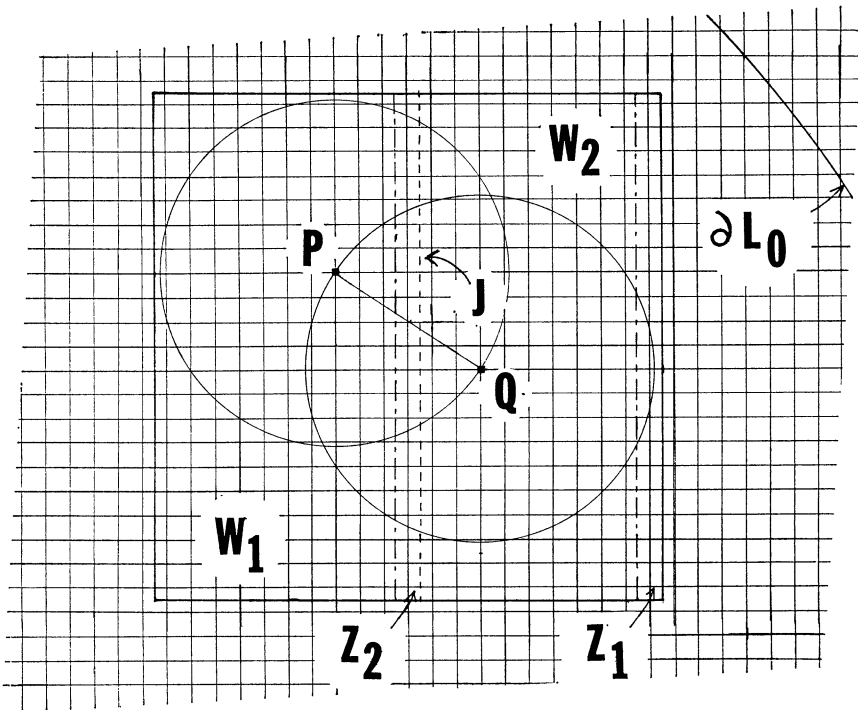
We wish now to conclude our results by using Theorem 1 to establish an estimate similar to (i) of Theorem 4, for the first differences of the fundamental solutions of the biharmonic and discrete biharmonic operators.

**THEOREM 5.** *For  $h_0 < r_0/5$ , there exists a constant  $M_2$ , depending on  $h_0$  and  $r_0$ , such that for any first-difference operator  $\delta_h$ ,*

$$\max_{P, Q \in L_{0h}, |P-Q| > 5h} |\delta_h(B(P; Q) - B_h(P; Q))| \leq \frac{M_2 h^2 |\log h|}{|P - Q|}$$

for  $h < h_0$ .

*Proof.* While the idea of the proof is essentially the same as that of Theorem 4, some alterations are necessary to provide the nonuniform estimate. For any two points  $P, Q \in L_{0h}$  such that  $|P - Q| > 5h$ , let  $W$  be a smallest square containing  $S_h(T)$ , for any  $T \in (C_{|P-Q|}(P) \cup C_{|P-Q|}(Q))_h$ , ( $C_a(b)$  being the circle of radius  $a$ , centered on  $b$  as defined above). Consider the grid lines running in a direction which make an angle of  $45^\circ$  or greater with the line segment  $PQ$ , and choose a line running in this direction which is halfway between the grid lines of the considered direction and which is one of possibly two such lines that are nearest to the midpoint of  $PQ$ . (See Fig. 1.) This line will be labelled  $J$ , and coincides with a line of edges of squares  $S_h(T)$  which comprise  $W$ . It divides  $W$  into two rectangles,  $W_1$  the rectangle con-



taining  $P$  and  $W_2$  the rectangle containing  $Q$ . Using this,

$$(44) \quad |\delta_h B(P; Q) - \delta_h B_h(P; Q)| \leq |I_1| + |I_2| + |I_3|$$

where the  $I_i$  are integrals with integrand

$$\eta(t)(\delta_h(\Gamma_h(P; t)\Gamma_h(Q; t)) - \delta_h(\gamma(P; t)\gamma(Q; t)))$$

taken over  $t \in W_1, W_2$  and  $E_2 - W$ , respectively. We proceed with the particular case  $\delta_h = \delta_{hQ}$ , the other cases being handled in exactly the same way. With

$$G = \{T | T \in L_{0h}, T \notin W\},$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 |I_3| &\leq \frac{h^2}{2} \sum_{T \in G} \left\{ |(\Gamma_h + \gamma)(P; T)(\delta_h(\Gamma_h - \gamma)(Q; T))| \right. \\
 &\quad + |(\Gamma_h - \gamma)(P; T)\delta_h(\Gamma_h + \gamma)(Q; T)| \\
 &\quad + 2 \left| \gamma(P; T)\delta_h\gamma(Q; T) \frac{1}{h^2} \int_{S_h(T)} \eta(t) dA \right. \\
 (45) \quad &\quad \left. \left. - 1/h^2 \int_{S_h(T)} \gamma(P; t)\delta_h\gamma(Q; t)\eta(t) dA \right\} \\
 &\leq kh^2 \left( h^2 \sum_{T \in G} \frac{|\log |P - T||}{|Q - T|^3} + \frac{1}{|Q - T|} \frac{1}{|P - T|^2} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{|Q - T|^2} \frac{1}{|P - T|} + M_{1\eta} \left( \frac{1}{|P - T|} \frac{1}{|Q - T|} + \frac{|\log |P - T||}{|Q - T|^2} \right) \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

where we have used Theorem 1, (7) and (30). Using Lemma 1, and the techniques of the preceding proof, we have

$$(46) \quad |I_3| \leq kh^2 |\log h|/|P - Q|.$$

Turning to the remaining terms,  $I_1$  and  $I_2$ , we can use (9) to see that

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_2 &= \int_{W_2} \{ \Gamma_h(P; t)(\Gamma_h(Q; t_1 - h, t_2) - \Gamma_h(Q; t))/h \\
 &\quad - \gamma(P; t)(\gamma(Q; t_1 - h, t_2) - \gamma(Q; t))/h \} \eta(t) dA_t \\
 (47) \quad &= \int_{W_2} \{ (-\Gamma_h(P; t)\Gamma_h(Q; t) + \gamma(P; t)\gamma(Q; t))/h \} \eta(t) dA_t \\
 &\quad + \int_{W_3} \{ (\Gamma_h(P; t_1 + h, t_2)\Gamma_h(Q; t) - \gamma(P; t_1 + h, t_2)\gamma(Q; t))/h \} \\
 &\quad \times \eta(t_1 + h, t_2) dA_t
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $W_3$  is the rectangle obtained by translating  $W_2$  through a distance  $h$  in the direction of the negative  $t_1$  axis. We let  $W_4 = W_2 \cap W_3$  and let  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  be the two rectangles  $W_2 - W_4$  and  $W_3 - W_4$ . We observe that the  $Z_i$  have width  $h$  and length not exceeding  $3|P - Q| + h$ , and contain not more than  $3|P - Q|/h + 1$  points of  $E_h$ . To simplify the following expressions, we shall assume that  $W \cup W_3 \subset L_0$ , so that  $\eta(t) \equiv 1$  on  $W \cup W_3$ . The modifications of the following estimates which are necessary if  $W \cup W_3$  is not contained in  $L_0$  can be seen from the procedures of the preceding proof or the last terms on the right sides of (45). From (47), it is apparent that

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_2 &= \int_{W_4} \{ -\bar{\delta}_{hP} \Gamma_h(P; t)\Gamma_h(Q; t) + \bar{\delta}_{hP} \gamma(P; t)\gamma(Q; t) \} dA_t \\
 (48) \quad &+ \frac{1}{h} \int_{Z_1} \{ \gamma(P; t)\gamma(Q; t) - \Gamma_h(P; t)\Gamma_h(Q; t) \} dA_t \\
 &+ \frac{1}{h} \int_{Z_2} \{ \Gamma_h(P; t_1 + h, t_2)\Gamma_h(Q; t) - \gamma(P; t_1 + h, t_2)\gamma(Q; t) \} dA_t.
 \end{aligned}$$

The integral over  $W_4$  in (48) and  $I_1$  can both be treated in the following manner:



$$\begin{aligned}
 |I_1| \leq & h^2 \sum_{T \in N_2(P)} \left\{ |\Gamma_h(P; T)\delta_h\Gamma_h(Q; T)| + \frac{1}{h^2} \left| \int_{S_h(T)} \gamma(P; t)\delta_h\gamma(Q; t)dA_t \right| \right\} \\
 & + \frac{h^2}{2} \sum_{T \in W_{1h} - N_2(P)} \left\{ |(\gamma + \Gamma_h)(P; T)\delta_h(\Gamma_h - \gamma)(Q; T)| \right. \\
 (49) \quad & + |(\gamma - \Gamma_h)(P; T)\delta_h(\Gamma_h + \gamma)(Q; T)| + 2 \left| \gamma(P; T)\delta_h\gamma(Q; T) \right. \\
 & \left. \left. - \frac{1}{h^2} \int_{S_h(T)} \gamma(P; t)\delta_h\gamma(Q; t)dA_t \right| \right\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

For  $t \in W_1$ ,  $|Q - t| \geq |P - Q|/2(2)^{1/2}$ ,  $-h/2$ , i.e.

$$\begin{aligned}
 (50) \quad \frac{1}{|Q - t|} & \leq \frac{2(2)^{1/2}}{|P - Q|} \left( 1 - \frac{(2)^{1/2}h}{|P - Q|} \right)^{-1} \\
 & \leq \frac{10(2)^{1/2}}{|P - Q|} \frac{1}{5 - (2)^{1/2}} = \frac{k}{|P - Q|}
 \end{aligned}$$

since  $|P - Q| \geq 5h$ . To estimate the sum of 13 terms which is the first sum on the right side of (49), we employ Lemma 3, Theorem 1 and (50)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & h^2 \sum_{T \in N_2(P)} \left( |\Gamma_h(P; T)\delta_h\Gamma_h(Q; T)| + \frac{1}{h^2} \left| \int_{S_h(T)} \gamma(P; t)\delta_h\gamma(Q; t)dA_t \right| \right) \\
 & \leq 13 \left\{ kh^2(|\log h| + 1) \left( \frac{1}{|P - Q|} + \frac{8ch^2}{|P - Q|^3} \right) \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + \frac{k}{|P - Q|} \int_0^{3h} r(-\log r)dr \right\} \\
 & \leq k \frac{h^2 |\log h|}{|P - Q|}
 \end{aligned}$$

for  $h < h_0$ ,  $k$  dependent on  $h_0$ . For  $T \in W_{1h} - N_2(P)$ ,  $|(\gamma + \Gamma_h)(P; T)| \leq ((1/\pi) |\log |P - T|| + 12)$  and

$$|\delta_h(\Gamma_h + \gamma)(Q; T)| \leq 2|\delta_h\gamma(Q; T)| + 8c \frac{h^2}{|P - Q|^3} \leq \frac{k}{|P - Q|};$$

hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 (51) \quad & \frac{h^2}{2} \sum_{T \in W_{1h} - N_2(P)} \{ |(\gamma + \Gamma_h)(P; T)\delta_h(\Gamma_h - \gamma)(Q; T)| \\
 & \quad + |(\gamma - \Gamma_h)(P; T)\delta_h(\Gamma_h + \gamma)(Q; T)| \} \\
 & \leq \frac{h^2}{2} \sum_{T \in W_{1h} - N_2(P)} \left\{ \left( \frac{1}{\pi} |\log |P - T|| + 12 \right) \left( \frac{8ch^2}{|Q - T|^3} \right) \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + \left( \frac{h}{|P - T|} \right)^2 \frac{k}{|P - Q|} \right\} \\
 & \leq k \frac{h^2 |\log h|}{|P - Q|}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Using (30) and Lemma 1 in the same manner as previously, it can be seen that the last term of (49) can be bounded by the last term in (51), hence

$$(52) \quad |I_1| \leq k \frac{h^2}{|P - Q|} |\log h|$$

for a suitable constant  $k$ .

As the analysis of  $I_1$  would provide the necessary estimate of the first integral in the expression (48) for  $I_2$ , we can complete the estimation of  $I_2$  by considering the integrals over the strips  $Z_i$ ; e.g. set

$$(53) \quad \begin{aligned} I_4 = & \left| \frac{1}{h} \int_{Z_i} \gamma(P; t)\gamma(Q; t) - \Gamma_h(P; t)\Gamma_h(Q; t) dA_t \right| \leq \frac{h}{2} \sum_{T \in Z_{1h}} \{ |(\gamma - \Gamma_h)(P; T) \\ & \times (\gamma + \Gamma_h)(Q; T)| + |(\gamma - \Gamma_h)(Q; T)(\gamma + \Gamma_h)(P; T)| \} \\ & + h \sum_{T \in Z_{1h}} \left| \frac{1}{h^2} \int_{S_h(T)} \gamma(P; t)\gamma(Q; t) dA_t - \gamma(P; T)\gamma(Q; T) \right|. \end{aligned}$$

Using (7), we can see that the first sum on the right-hand side of (53) is bounded by

$$(54) \quad \begin{aligned} kh^3 \sum_{T \in Z_{1h}} \left\{ \frac{1}{|P - T|^2} \left( 2|\log |Q - T|| + \frac{54}{25} \right) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{|Q - T|^2} \left( 2|\log |P - T|| + \frac{54}{25} \right) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

For  $t \in S_h(T)$ ,  $T \in Z_i$ , the triangle inequality gives  $|P - t| + h/(2)^{1/2} \geq |P - T|$ , so that for a number  $a$ , obtained by the same calculation as gave (50),  $1/|P - t| \leq a/|P - T|$  and similarly  $1/|Q - t| \leq a/|Q - T|$ . Thus, from (30), it can be seen that the second sum on the right side of (53) is less than

$$(55) \quad kh^3 \sum_{T \in Z_{1h}} \frac{|\log |P - T||}{|Q - T|^2} + \frac{2}{|P - T||Q - T|} + \frac{|\log |Q - T||}{|P - T|^2}.$$

We observe that

$$\frac{|P - Q|}{2} \left( \frac{1}{(2)^{1/2}} - \frac{1}{5} \right) \leq \frac{|P - Q|}{2(2)^{1/2}} - \frac{h}{2} \leq |P - T|$$

and similarly  $|Q - T| \geq k|P - Q|$  when  $T \in Z_i$ , and using these inequalities and noting the remarks preceding (48) we see that (54) and (55) are bounded for some constant  $k$  by  $kh^2 |\log h|/|P - Q|$ ; e.g.,

$$h^3 \sum_{T \in Z_i} \frac{|\log |P - T||}{|Q - T|^2} \leq k \frac{h^2 |\log |P - Q||}{|P - Q|^2} h \sum_{T \in Z_i} 1 \leq k_1 \frac{h^2 |\log h|}{|P - Q|}.$$

Since the integral over  $Z_2$  in (48) can be treated in the same manner, we have, for some  $k$

$$|I_2| \leq k \frac{h^2 |\log h|}{|P - Q|}$$

which with (46), (52) and (44) shows the estimate given in the theorem to be valid

when  $\delta_h = \delta_{hQ}$ . As mentioned, however, the other cases are not essentially different and so we shall consider the result proven.

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