

# Symmetry Reduction And The Method of Darboux

Reduction  
and Darboux

Ian Anderson

## Exterior Differential Systems and the Method of Equivalence – MSRI

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Moutard

Summary

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May 11, 2008

## Overview

### Theory

- A Generalization of the Notion of Hyperbolic EDS
- A General Definition of Darboux Integrability
- Symmetry Reduction of Differential Systems
- Vessiot's Method for Creating Darboux Integrable Equations
- Examples
- Theorem



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### Applications

- A Classical Example -Revisited.
- A Group Theoretical Approach To Internal Equivalences
- The Cauchy Problem By Quadratures
- Moutard's Theorem Revisited



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## Decomposable EDS

Generalize the idea of a hyperbolic Pfaffian system to include:

$$\text{systems } \begin{cases} u_{xy} &= A(x, u, v, u_x, u_y, v_x, v_y) \\ v_{xy} &= B(x, u, v, u_x, u_y, v_x, v_y) \end{cases}$$



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Generalize the idea of a hyperbolic Pfaffian system to include:

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$$3 \text{ indep var} \begin{cases} u_{xy} = A(x, u, z, u, u_x, u_y, u_z) \\ u_{xz} = B(x, u, z, u, u_x, u_y, u_z) \\ u_{yz} = C(x, u, z, u, u_x, u_y, u_z) \end{cases}$$



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$$\text{systems} \begin{cases} u_{xy} &= A(x, u, v, u_x, u_y, v_x, v_y) \\ v_{xy} &= B(x, u, v, u_x, u_y, v_x, v_y) \end{cases}$$

$$3 \text{ indep var} \begin{cases} u_{xy} &= A(x, u, z, u, u_x, u_y, u_z) \\ u_{xz} &= B(x, u, z, u, u_x, u_y, u_z) \\ u_{yz} &= C(x, u, z, u, u_x, u_y, u_z) \end{cases}$$

$$3\text{rd order} \begin{cases} u_{xz} &= A(x, u, z, u, u_x, u_{yz}, u_{zz}) \\ u_{xzz} &= B(x, u, z, u, u_x, u_y, u_z, u_{yz}, u_{zz}, u_{yyz}, u_{zzz}) \end{cases}$$



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# Decomposable EDS

## Definition

$I = \{\theta\}$  is **decomposable** if there is a (multi-colored) coframe

$$\underbrace{\theta, \theta, \theta}_{\theta}, \pi, \pi$$



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# Decomposable EDS

## Definition

$I = \{\theta\}$  is **decomposable** if there is a (multi-colored) coframe

$$\underbrace{\theta, \theta, \theta, \pi, \pi}_{\theta}$$

with block diagonal structure equations

$$\begin{bmatrix} d\theta \\ d\theta \\ d\theta \end{bmatrix} \equiv \begin{bmatrix} *\pi \wedge \pi & 0 \\ 0 & *\pi \wedge \pi \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \pmod{\{\theta\}}$$



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$$\begin{bmatrix} d\theta \\ d\theta \\ d\theta \end{bmatrix} \equiv \begin{bmatrix} *\pi \wedge \pi & 0 \\ 0 & *\pi \wedge \pi \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ mod } \{\theta\}$$

Put

$$V = \{\theta, \pi\} \quad V = \{\theta, \pi\}.$$



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# Darboux Integrability

$$\underbrace{\theta, \theta, \theta}_{I=\{\theta\}}, \pi, \pi \quad V = \{\theta, \pi\} \quad V = \{\theta, \pi\}$$



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# Darboux Integrability

$$\underbrace{\theta, \theta, \theta, \pi, \pi}_{I=\{\theta\}} \quad V = \{\theta, \pi\} \quad V = \{\theta, \pi\}$$

An decomposable Pfaffian system is **Darboux integrable** if  $V$  and  $V$  have lots of first integrals.



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# Darboux Integrability

$$\underbrace{\theta, \theta, \theta, \pi, \pi}_{I=\{\theta\}} \quad V = \{\theta, \pi\} \quad V = \{\theta, \pi\}$$

An decomposable Pfaffian system is **Darboux integrable** if  $V$  and  $V$  have lots of first integrals. How many?



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# Darboux Integrability

$$\underbrace{\theta, \theta, \theta}_{I=\{\theta\}}, \pi, \pi \quad V = \{\theta, \pi\} \quad V = \{\theta, \pi\}$$

An decomposable Pfaffian system is **Darboux integrable** if  $V$  and  $V$  have lots of first integrals. How many?

$$V^\infty + V = V + V^\infty = T^*M.$$



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## Darboux Integrability

$$\underbrace{\theta, \theta, \theta, \pi, \pi}_{I=\{\theta\}} \quad V = \{\theta, \pi\} \quad V = \{\theta, \pi\}$$

An decomposable Pfaffian system is **Darboux integrable** if  $V$  and  $V$  have lots of first integrals. How many?

$$V^\infty + V = V + V^\infty = T^*M.$$

This definition goes well beyond the classical *integration by ODE definition*.



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# Vessiot's Method for Creating DI EDS

Let  $J$  and  $J$  be Pfaffian systems on  $M$  and  $M$



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## Vessiot's Method for Creating DI EDS

Let  $J$  and  $J$  be Pfaffian systems on  $M$  and  $M$  and  $G$  a common symmetry group for  $J$  and  $J$ .



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## Vessiot's Method for Creating DI EDS

Let  $J$  and  $J$  be Pfaffian systems on  $M$  and  $M$  and  $G$  a common symmetry group for  $J$  and  $J$ .

- Form the sum  $J + J$  on  $M \times M$ .



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Let  $J$  and  $J$  be Pfaffian systems on  $M$  and  $M$  and  $G$  a common symmetry group for  $J$  and  $J$ .

- Form the sum  $J + J$  on  $M \times M$ .
- Let  $G$  act on  $M \times M$  diagonally.



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- Form the sum  $J + J$  on  $M \times M$ .
- Let  $G$  act on  $M \times M$  diagonally.
- Calculate the quotient EDS  $I$  on  $M = (M \times M)/G$ ,



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 $I = \{\omega \mid \pi_G^*(\omega) \in J + J\}$ .



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- Granted ... ,  $I$  will be Darboux integrable.



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$$y'' = xy' \longrightarrow v' = xv$$



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- Let  $G$  act on  $M \times M$  diagonally.
- Calculate the quotient EDS  $I$  on  $M = (M \times M)/G$ ,  
 $I = \{\omega \mid \pi_G^*(\omega) \in J + J\}$ .
- Granted ... ,  $I$  will be Darboux integrable.

$$y'' = xy' \longrightarrow v' = xv$$

quotient differential system

=  
reduction of DE using differential invariants



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## Examples

The reduction approach to constructing DI systems leads immediately to the following question:



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## Examples

The reduction approach to constructing DI systems leads immediately to the following question:

Categorize group actions according to the kinds of differential equations they produce under reduction.

Here are some examples:



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## Example I

**Action:** Abelian Intransitive Actions on  $R^2$ ,  $J^k(R, R) \times J^l(R, R)$ .

**Equation Type:** Linear



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## Example 1

**Action:** Abelian Intransitive Actions on  $R^2$ ,  $J^k(R, R) \times J^l(R, R)$ .

**Equation Type:** Linear

Action	k	l	Equation
$\partial_\phi, \alpha\partial_\phi, \alpha^2\partial_\phi$	3	3	$u_{xy} + \frac{2u}{(x-y)^2} = 0$
$\partial_\phi, \alpha\partial_\phi, \dots, \alpha^4\partial_\phi$	5	5	$u_{xy} + \frac{6u}{(x-y)^2} = 0$
$\partial_\phi, \alpha\partial_\phi, \dots, \alpha^4\partial_\phi$	4	6	$u_{xy} + \frac{-2u_y}{(x-y)} + \frac{4u}{(x-y)^2} = 0$
$\partial_\phi, \alpha\partial_\phi, \dots, \alpha^4\partial_\phi$	3	7	$u_{xy} + \frac{-2u_y}{(x-y)} = 0$
$\partial_\phi, \cos(\alpha)\partial_\phi, \sin(\alpha)\partial_\phi$	3	3	$u_{xy} + \frac{u}{1 - \cos(x-y)} = 0$

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## Example II

**Action:** Solvable Intransitive Actions on  $R^2$ ,  $J^k(R, R) \times J^l(R, R)$ .

**Equation Type:** Moutard (linearizable)

$$u_{xy} + \partial_x(Ae^u) + \partial_y(Be^{-u}) + C = 0$$



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## Example II

**Action:** Solvable Intransitive Actions on  $R^2$ ,  $J^k(R, R) \times J^l(R, R)$ .

**Equation Type:** Moutard (linearizable)

$$u_{xy} + \partial_x(Ae^u) + \partial_y(Be^{-u}) + C = 0$$

Action	k	l	Equation
$\partial_\phi, \alpha\partial_\phi, \phi\partial_\phi$	3	3	$A = -B = \frac{1}{x-y}, C = 0$
$\partial_\phi, \alpha\partial_\phi, \alpha^2\partial_\phi, \phi\partial_\phi$	4	5	$A = -2B = \frac{2}{x-y}, C = \frac{-1}{(x-y)^2}$
$\partial_\phi, \frac{2}{\alpha}\partial_\phi, \phi\partial_\phi$	3	3	$A = \frac{2x}{(x-y)}, B = \frac{-1}{x(x-y)}$ $C = \frac{-1}{(x-y)^2}$

## Example III

**Action:**  $\mathfrak{sl}(2)$  Intransitive Actions on  $R^2$ ,  $J^k(R, R) \times J^l(R, R)$ .

**Equation Type:** Moutard (non-linearizable)



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### Example III

**Action:**  $\mathfrak{s}/2$  Intransitive Actions on  $R^2$ ,  $J^k(R, R) \times J^l(R, R)$ .

**Equation Type:** Moutard (non-linearizable)

Action	$k$	$l$	Equation
$\partial_\phi, \phi\partial_\phi, \phi^2\partial_\phi$	3	3	$u_{xy} = e^u$
$\partial_\phi, \phi\partial_\phi, \phi^2\partial_\phi$	2	4	$u_{xy} + u_x u = 0$

## Example IV

**Action:** Abelian subgroups of  $g_2$  on the Hilbert-Cartan equation

$$\psi' = (\phi'')^2$$

**Equation Type:** Fully non-linear



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## Example IV

**Action:** Abelian subgroups of  $\mathfrak{g}_2$  on the Hilbert-Cartan equation

$$\psi' = (\phi'')^2$$

**Equation Type:** Fully non-linear

Francesco Strazzullo:

$$\mathfrak{g}_2 = \{Y_6, Y_5, Y_4, Y_3, Y_2, Y_1, H_1, H_2, X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6\}$$

Action	Equation
$Y_1, X_4, X_5$	$rt - s^2 = st^{1/3}$
$X_4, X_5, X_6$	$rt - s^2 = 3t^4$
$X_2, X_5, X_6$	$rt - s^2 = \frac{-4t^2s^2}{s^3+4t^2}$
$Y_1, Y_2, Y_3$	$3(t^2 + 2s^2) = 3 \cdot 3$

## Example V

**Action:** Imprimitive actions on  $R^2 \times J^l(R^2, R) \times J^k(R^2, R)$

**Equation Type:** Triangular wave map systems



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## Example V

**Action:** Imprimitive actions on  $R^2 \times J^l(R^2, R) \times J^k(R^2, R)$

**Equation Type:** Triangular wave map systems

Action	Equation
GLKO[14]	$u_{xy} = e^u, v_{xy} - n(n+1)e^{2u}v = 0$
GLKO[25]	$u_{xy} = u_y e^u, v_{xy} + ((n-\alpha)e^u + \alpha u_x)v_x = 0$
GLKO[26]	$u_{xy} = u_y e^u,$ $v_{xy} - e^u v_y + (n+1)u_y v_x + (n+1)!e^u u_y = 0$
GLKO[27]	$u_{xy} = u_x e^u,$ $v_{xy} + (e^v)_x - (n u_x e^{u-v})_y + (n-2)e^u u_x = 0$

## Example VI

**Action:** Primitive actions on  $R^2 \times J^l(R^2, R) \times J^k(R^2, R)$

**Equation Type:** Coupled wave map systems, harmonic maps, Toda systems



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## Example VI

**Action:** Primitive actions on  $R^2 \ J^1(R^2, R) \times J^k(R^2, R)$

**Equation Type:** Coupled wave map systems, harmonic maps, Toda systems

Diego Calalano

$$\begin{cases} u_{xy} = \frac{uu_x u_y + vu_y v_x - uv_x v_y + uu_y + vu_x v_y + vv_y}{u^2 + v^2} \\ v_{xy} = \frac{vv_x v_y + uu_x v_y + uu_y v_x + uv_y - vu_x v_y - vu_y}{u^2 + v^2} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} u_{xy} = \frac{uv + v_y}{v} u_x \\ v_{xy} = \frac{uv_y + u_x v^2 + v_x v_y - u_y v}{v} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} u_{xy} = \frac{v_x v_y - u_x u_y}{2e^u + 2} \\ v_{xy} = -\frac{u_x v_y + u_y v_x}{2e^u + 2} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} u_{xy} = 2e^u - 2e^v \\ v_{xy} = -e^u + 2e^v \end{cases}$$

# A Group Theoretical Classification of DI EDS

Theorem [IA, Mark Fels, Peter Vassiliou]

Let  $I$  be a Darboux integrable Pfaffian system.

- Let  $J$  be the pullback of  $I$  to an integral manifold of  $V$ .
- Let  $J$  be the pullback of  $I$  to an integral manifold of  $V$ .

Then there is a (algorithmically computed) group action  $G$  on  $M$  such that

$$I = (J + J)/G.$$



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## A famous example of Goursat

$$u_{xy} = 2n \frac{\sqrt{u_x u_y}}{x + y}$$

Here are the invariants for small values of  $n$  (where  $p = \text{sqrt}(u_x)$ ) :

$$I_2 = \frac{2p}{(x+y)^2} + \frac{4p_x}{(x+y)} + p_{xx}$$

$$I_3 = \frac{6p}{(x+y)^3} + \frac{18p_x}{(x+y)^2} + \frac{9p_{xx}}{(x+y)} + p_{xxx}$$

$$I_4 = \frac{24p}{(x+y)^4} + \frac{96p_x}{(x+y)^3} + \frac{72p_{xx}}{(x+y)^2} + \frac{16p_{xxx}}{(x+y)} + p_{xxxx}$$

$$I_5 = \frac{120p}{(x+y)^5} + \frac{600p_x}{(x+y)^4} + \frac{600p_{xx}}{(x+y)^3} + \frac{200p_{xxx}}{(x+y)^2} + \frac{25p_{xxxx}}{x+y} + p_{xxxxx}$$

## Some invariants for $J$

The equation  $u_{xy} = 2n \frac{\sqrt{u_x u_y}}{x + y}$  is Darboux integrable on at the  $n + 1$ -jet level so that we set this equation up as a rank  $2n+1$  Pfaffian  $I$  system on a manifold  $M$  of dimension  $2n + 5$ .

In accordance with the general theory, consider the restriction  $J$  of  $I$  to the level set  $W$  of the invariants,  $W$  is of dimension  $2n + 3$ .



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## Some invariants for $J$

The equation  $u_{xy} = 2n \frac{\sqrt{u_x u_y}}{x + y}$  is Darboux integrable on at the  $n + 1$ -jet level so that we set this equation up as a rank  $2n+1$  Pfaffian  $I$  system on a manifold  $M$  of dimension  $2n + 5$ .

In accordance with the general theory, consider the restriction  $J$  of  $I$  to the level set  $W$  of the invariants,  $W$  is of dimension  $2n + 3$ .

Explicit formulas for this Pfaffian system are rather complicated so that it is not apparent what the canonical form for this Pfaffian system is ....



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## Invariants

so we first compute some invariants.

n	$J_n$	$W_n$	$J_n^-$	$W_n^-$	Derived Flag	Sym	Levi
	rk	dm	rk	dm	Growth	dim	ss · rad
2	5	7	3	5	[2,1,2]	14	$\mathfrak{g}_2$
3	7	9	4	6	[2,1,2 1]	11	$\mathfrak{sl}_2 \cdot [8, 7, 1, 0]$
4	9	11	5	7	[2,1,2 1, 1]	13	$\mathfrak{sl}_2 \cdot [10, 9, 1, 0]$
5	10	12	6	8	[2,1,2 1, 1, 1]	15	$\mathfrak{sl}_2 \cdot [12, 11, 1, 0]$

## Invariants

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A result of Dubrov and Zelenko and state that only the Pfaffian systems  $J$  with these symbol algebras are precisely

$$u' = (v'')^n.$$

This then allows us to explicitly integration the Goursat equation.

$n=3$

$$u = \frac{1}{2}(X + Y) + \frac{1}{\gamma^6}.$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} U_0 \\ U_1 \\ U_2 \\ V_0 \\ V_1 \\ V_2 \end{bmatrix}^t \begin{bmatrix} -720 & 360 & -60 & -720 & 360 & -60 \\ 360 & -192 & 36 & 360 & -168 & 24 \\ -60 & 36 & -9 & -60 & 24 & -3 \\ -720 & 360 & -60 & -720 & 360 & -60 \\ 360 & -168 & 24 & 360 & -192 & 36 \\ -60 & 24 & -3 & -60 & 36 & -9 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} U_0 \\ U_1 \\ U_2 \\ V_0 \\ V_1 \\ V_2 \end{bmatrix},$$

where  $\gamma = x + y$ ,  $U_k = \gamma^{(n-k)} \dot{U}^{(k)}$ ,  $V_k = \gamma^{(n-k)} \dot{V}^{(k)}$  and

$$\frac{dX}{dx} = \frac{d^n U}{dx^n} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{dY}{dy} = \frac{d^n V}{dy^n}.$$

## The Cauchy Problem for $F(x, y, u, p, q, r, s, t) = 0$

Here are solutions to the Cauchy problem for some classical examples.

**Example 1.** Complicated general solution but simple solution to simple initial data.



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$$3u_{xx}u_{yy}^3 + 1 = 0 \quad x = 0, \quad y = \epsilon, \quad u(0, \epsilon) = \epsilon^2 \quad u_x(0, \epsilon) = 0.$$

$$x = 2\delta - 2\epsilon \quad y = \frac{\epsilon + \delta}{2}, \quad u = \frac{\delta^2 + \epsilon^2 + 4\epsilon\delta}{6}$$



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**Example 2.** Very simple general solution but horrendous solution to simple initial data.

$$u_{xy} - uu_x = 0 \quad x = \epsilon, \quad y = \epsilon, \quad u(\epsilon, \epsilon) = \epsilon, \quad u_x(\epsilon, \epsilon) = 1.$$



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$$u = \text{Maple wallpaper involving } \int \frac{\text{BesselK}(3/4, \epsilon^2/2)}{\text{BesselK}(1/4, \epsilon^2/2)}$$



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**Theorem** Suppose  $F(x, y, u, p, q, r, s, t) = 0$  is DI. Then the Cauchy problem is always solvable by quadratures if



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**Theorem** Suppose  $F(x, y, u, p, q, r, s, t) = 0$  is DI. Then the Cauchy problem is always solvable by quadratures if its Vessiot group is solvable.



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The Vessiot group is Abelian.

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The Vessiot group is  $SL_2$

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$$u_{xy} - uu_x = 0, \quad x = \epsilon, \quad y = \epsilon, \quad u(\epsilon, \epsilon) = \epsilon, \quad u_x(\epsilon, \epsilon) = 1.$$

The Vessiot group is  $SL_2$  so one expects to see a Ricatti equation somewhere and indeed

$$R = \frac{\text{BesselK}(3/4, \epsilon^2/2)}{\text{BesselK}(1/4, \epsilon^2/2)} \quad \text{solves} \quad R' = -\frac{\epsilon}{2} + \frac{R}{\epsilon} + \frac{R^2}{2}$$

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## Transformation Theory

Our main theorem has important applications for the transformation theory of DI systems. Suppose we have two DI Pfaffian systems  $I$  and  $K$  on 7-manifolds with the and Vessiot group  $G$  and such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} J^3 \times J^3 & \longrightarrow & J^2 \times J^4 \\ G_3 \downarrow & & G_3 \downarrow \\ M_7, I & \longrightarrow & Q_7, K \end{array}$$



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Partially prolong:



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Partially prolong:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} J^3 \times J^4 & \xrightarrow{=} & J^3 \times J^4 \\ G_3 \downarrow & & G_3 \downarrow \\ M_8, I^{(0,1)} & \xrightarrow{\Phi} & Q_8, K^{(1,0)} \end{array}$$



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The map  $\Phi$  is a diffeomorphism which gives an integral equivalence between the partial prolonged differential systems  $I^{(0,1)}$  and  $K^{(1,0)}$ .



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## Examples

I.

$$u_{xy} + \frac{2u}{(x-y)^2} = 0 \quad U_{XY} - \frac{4U_Y}{(X-Y)} = 0$$

$$U = \left(\frac{1}{2}(x-y)^2\right) u_y \quad \text{with inverse} \quad u = U_X - \frac{2}{x-y} U$$

Note: This formulas should be prolonged by differentiation.



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$$u_{xy} = e^u, \quad U_{XY} = U_X U$$

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$$u_{xy} + u^2 u_{yy} + 2uu_y^2 = 0$$

## Examples

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III.

$$u_{xy} + u^2 u_{yy} + 2u u_y^2 = 0 \quad U_{XY} = 2\sqrt{U_X U_Y} / (X + Y)$$

$$x = X, \quad y = U + (X + Y)U_Y, \quad u = \sqrt{U_X} + \sqrt{U_Y}$$

## Generalization of Moutard

On November 8, 1908 Forysth gave the Presidential Address to the Cambridge Mathematical Society. This address contains an nice summary of classical geometric integration methods and concludes with a number of open problems. One of these is to classify all 2nd order scalar PDE in the plane whose general integral is

$$x = V_1(\alpha, \beta, \phi(\alpha), \psi(\beta)\phi', \psi', \dots),$$

$$y = V_2(\alpha, \beta, \phi(\alpha), \psi(\beta)\phi', \psi', \dots),$$

$$z = V_3(\alpha, \beta, \phi(\alpha), \psi(\beta)\phi', \psi', \dots).$$

**Conjecture** : These are precisely the equations obtained by quotients of jet spaces and therefore this open PDE classical problem reduces to classification of contact transforms on  $J^1(R, R)$ , a problem first solved by Lie.



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- Darboux integrable differential equations are always given by reduction of a sum of Pfaffian systems by a common group.
- This gives the fundamental invariants for any DI system.
- Questions about DI integrability translate into problems about Lie groups and group actions.



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Thank You.



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