

# SOLVABILITY IMPLIES INTEGRABILITY

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XXVII International Fall Workshop on Geometry and Physics  
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# Contents

- Integrability by quadratures
- Rectification
- Integrability by quadratures - examples
- Solvable Lie algebras
- Lie's Theorem
- Main result
- Abelian Lie ideals
- Rectification of Abelian algebras of vector fields
- Sketch of the proof and example

The talk is based on a joint work with J. F. Cariñena and F. Falceto:

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# Integrability by quadratures

- An autonomous system of differential equations,

$$\dot{x}^i = f^i(x^1, \dots, x^n), \quad i = 1, \dots, n, \quad (1)$$

is geometrically interpreted in terms of a vector field  $\Gamma$  in a  $n$ -dimensional manifold  $M$  with a local expression

$$\Gamma = \sum_{i=1}^n f^i(x^1, \dots, x^n) \partial_{x^i}.$$

- The integral curves of  $\Gamma$  are the solutions of (1). Integrating the system amounts to determine its general solution.
- In particular, we speak about the **integrability by quadratures** if you can determine the solutions by means of a finite number of elementary functions (in particular, algebraic operations) and integrations of known functions. Historically, this is the first concept of integrability.

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# Integrability by quadratures

- This goes back to 1885 treatise of Maximovič, motivated by the well-known explicit solution formula for the linear first-order equation

$$y' + py = q.$$

- Despite Maximovič's professed intention to lay the foundation of an entirely new theory of an importance comparable to that of the theory of general algebraic equations, his work does not seem to have found a wider audience.
- An apparent outward reason for this is its practical inaccessibility as a monograph printed at the Imperial University at Kazan', unavailable even at the larger American and Western European libraries. Moreover, Maximovič's statements are often obscure and open to interpretation. Nevertheless, his work seems to contain some original, useful and justifiable ideas which deserve to be brought to light.

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# Integrability by quadratures

- In the first part of his work Maximovič claims to show that a symbolic first-order ordinary differential equation can be integrated by quadratures if and only if it arises from the linear first-order equation

$$y' + py = q.$$

by means of a transformation of the unknown variable  $y$ .

- In the second part he proceeds to find criteria for a given equation to have this property, and concludes, among other things, that the linear second-order equation (which is intimately connected with the non-linear first-order Riccati equation) cannot be integrated by quadratures in general.

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# Rectification

- Note, however, that the concept of integrability by quadratures is computational and not geometric, as it depends on coordinates in which we work.
- The result of the **straightening out (rectification) Theorem** asserts the existence of coordinates  $(y^1, \dots, y^n)$  in a neighbourhood of a point where  $\Gamma$  is different from zero such that

$$\Gamma = \partial_{y^n}.$$

- The new coordinates  $y^1, \dots, y^{n-1}$ , are constants of motion and therefore we cannot find easily such coordinates in a general case.
- It is clear that if we use such rectifying coordinates for  $\Gamma$  the integration is immediate, the solution being

$$y^k(t) = y_0^k, \quad k = 1, \dots, n-1, \quad y^n(t) = y_0^n + t.$$

- This proves that the concept of integrability by quadratures depends on the choice of initial coordinates, because using these rectifying coordinates the system is always integrable by quadratures.

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- This proves that the concept of integrability by quadratures depends on the choice of initial coordinates, because using these rectifying coordinates the system is always integrable by quadratures.

# Integrability by quadratures - examples

- Consider first the non-autonomous inhomogeneous linear differential equation **in dimension one**,

$$\dot{x} = c_1(t)x + c_0(t),$$

which is well known to be integrable in terms of two quadratures:

$$x(t) = \exp\left(\int_0^t c_1(t') dt'\right) \left[ x_0 + \int_0^t \exp\left(-\int_0^{t'} c_1(t'') dt''\right) c_0(t') dt' \right].$$

- Another example is given by the nonautonomous system of differential equations

$$\dot{x}^i = \sum_{j=1}^n H^i_j x^j + b^i(t), \quad i = 1, \dots, n,$$

where  $H^i_j$  are real numbers. Then, the solution starting from the point  $x_0$  is given by

$$x(t) = \exp(Ht) \left[ x_0 + \int_0^t \exp(-Ht') b(t') dt' \right].$$

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# Lie's Theorem

- A classical example is the celebrated result due to Lie, who established the following theorem :

## Theorem

If  $n$  vector fields,  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ , which are linearly independent at each point of an open set  $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , span a solvable Lie algebra and satisfy  $[X_1, X_i] = \lambda_i X_1$  with  $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $X_1$  is integrable by quadratures in  $U$ .

- A different result is due to Kozlov.

## Theorem

Let vector fields,  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ , be linearly independent at each point of an open set  $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  and span a Lie algebra  $L$  such that the corresponding operators of the adjoint representation  $ad_{X_i} = [X_i, \cdot]$  have a common triangular form

$$[X_i, X_j] = \sum_{k=1}^i C_{ij}^k X_k, \quad C_{ij}^k \in \mathbb{R}.$$

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Then, all the vector fields  $X_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , are integrable by quadratures.

# Lie's Theorem

- A classical example is the celebrated result due to Lie, who established the following theorem :

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If  $n$  vector fields,  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ , which are linearly independent at each point of an open set  $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , span a solvable Lie algebra and satisfy  $[X_1, X_i] = \lambda_i X_1$  with  $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $X_1$  is integrable by quadratures in  $U$ .

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# Sketch of the Lie's proof for $n = 2$

- The differential equation can be integrated if we are able to find a first integral  $F$  for  $X_1$ , i.e.  $X_1 F = 0$ , such that  $dF \neq 0$  in  $U$ .
- As  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are two linearly independent vector fields such that  $[X_1, X_2] = \lambda_2 X_1$ , there exists a 1-form  $\alpha_0$  such that  $i(X_1)\alpha_0 = 0$ ,  $i(X_2)\alpha_0 = 1$ .
- We can see that  $\alpha$  is then closed, because  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  generate  $\mathfrak{X}(\mathbb{R}^2)$  and

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- The (locally defined) function  $F$  such that

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# Example

- The dynamics is given by the vector field  $X_1$ , defined in  $M = T^*\mathbb{R}^2 = \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}^2$  with coordinates  $(x, y, p_x, p_y)$ , by

$$X_1 = p_x \partial_x + p_y \partial_y - \frac{k_2}{y^{2/3}} \partial_{p_x} + \frac{2}{3} \frac{k_2 x + k_3}{y^{5/3}} \partial_{p_y},$$

where  $k_2$  and  $k_3$  are arbitrary constants.

- Now, with  $X_i$ ,  $i = 2, 3, 4$ , we denote the vector fields

$$\begin{aligned} X_2 &= \left( 6 p_x^2 + 3 p_y^2 + k_2 \frac{6x}{y^{2/3}} + k_3 \frac{6}{y^{2/3}} \right) \partial_x + (6 p_x p_y + 9 k_2 y^{1/3}) \partial_y \\ &- k_2 \frac{6}{y^{2/3}} p_x \partial_{p_x} + \left( 4 k_2 \frac{x}{y^{5/3}} - 3 \frac{1}{y^{2/3}} p_y \right) \partial_{p_y}, \end{aligned}$$

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- Then, we have

$$[X_1, X_i] = 0, \quad i = 2, 3, 4.$$

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$$[X_2, X_3] = 0, \quad [X_2, X_4] = 1944 k_2^3 X_1, \quad [X_3, X_4] = 432 k_2^3 X_2.$$

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# Main result

- We want to generalize the mentioned theorems of Lie and Kozlow on a finite-dimensional solvable Lie algebra  $L$  of vector fields on  $M$  by
- skipping the assumption that the dimension of  $L$  equals  $\dim(M)$ ,
- skipping the triangularizability assumption.
- Hence, our main result can be formulated as follows.

## Theorem

*If  $L$  is a finite-dimensional solvable and transitive real Lie algebra of vector fields on a manifold  $M$ , then each vector field  $\Gamma \in L$  is integrable by quadratures.*

- We will proceed by induction on  $n = \dim(M)$  using the following lemma.

## Lemma

*Any solvable finite-dimensional real Lie algebra  $L$  contains an Abelian Lie ideal  $A$  of dimension 1 or 2.*

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- skipping the assumption that the dimension of  $L$  equals  $\dim(M)$ ,
- skipping the triangularizability assumption.
- Hence, our main result can be formulated as follows.

## Theorem

*If  $L$  is a finite-dimensional solvable and transitive real Lie algebra of vector fields on a manifold  $M$ , then each vector field  $\Gamma \in L$  is integrable by quadratures.*

- We will proceed by induction on  $n = \dim(M)$  using the following lemma.

## Lemma

*Any solvable finite-dimensional real Lie algebra  $L$  contains an Abelian Lie ideal  $A$  of dimension 1 or 2.*

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# Abelian Lie ideals

## Proof.

- Another important Lie theorem ensures that every finite-dimensional representation of a solvable Lie algebra over an algebraically closed field has an eigenvector common to all the operators of the representation.
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- Therefore, we can consider the complexified Lie algebra  $L^{\mathbb{C}} = L \oplus iL$  and its adjoint representation for which we can use the standard Lie theorem. As there is a common eigenvector  $\nu = \nu_1 + i\nu_2$ , the vectors  $\nu_1, \nu_2 \in L$  span an Abelian Lie ideal  $A$  of dimension 1 or 2.
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# Rectification of Abelian algebras of vector fields

## Definition

We say that an Abelian subalgebra of vector fields  $A$  is **straightened out**, (or **rectified**) by **quadratures** in an open set  $U$  if, by quadratures, we can find local coordinates  $(Q^1, \dots, Q^n)$  in  $U$  such that the set  $\{\partial_{Q^1}, \dots, \partial_{Q^r}\} \subset A$  and it generates the same distribution as  $A$ .

## Proposition

*Any Abelian ideal  $A$  of a transitive finite-dimensional solvable Lie algebra  $L$  of vector fields, can be straightened out by quadratures.*

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Consider an Abelian ideal  $A \triangleleft L$  and the descending series  $L_A^i$  of Lie ideals

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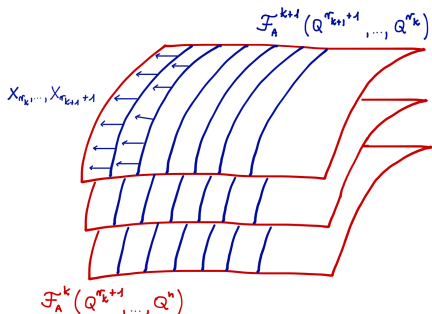
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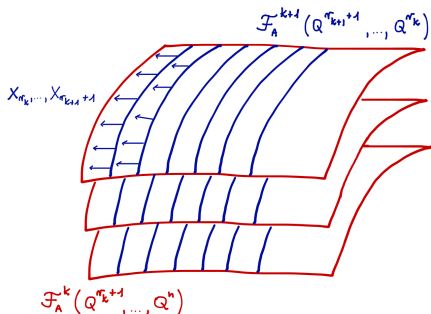


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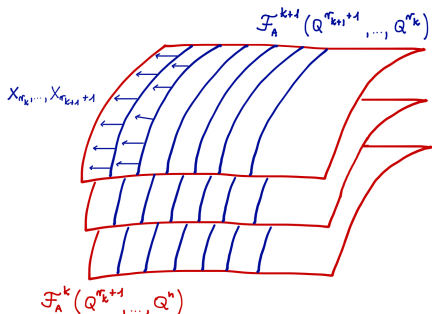
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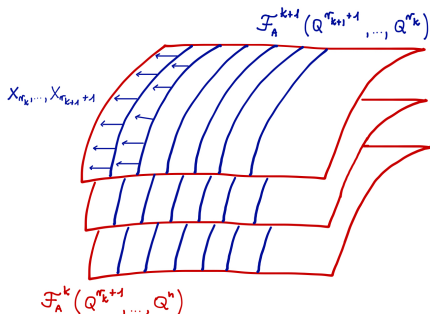


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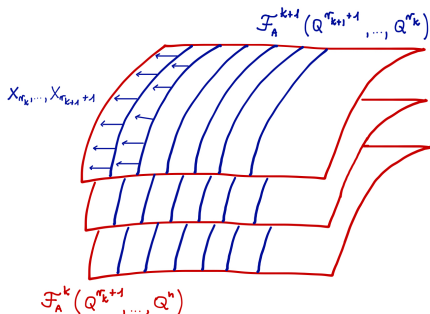


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- On any leaf  $M^k$  of the foliation  $\mathcal{F}_A^k$  in a neighbourhood of  $p$  there are uniquely defined 1-forms  $\alpha^{r_{k+1}+1}, \dots, \alpha^{r_k}$  which vanish on  $\mathcal{D}_A^{k+1}$  and satisfy

$$\alpha^i(X_j) = \delta_{ij}, \quad i, j = r_{k+1} + 1, \dots, r_k.$$

- These forms are closed,

$$d\alpha^i(X_j, X_l) = X_j(\alpha^i(X_l)) - X_l(\alpha^i(X_j)) - \alpha^i([X_j, X_l]) = 0,$$

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## Example

Let

$$L = \langle \partial_x, \partial_y, x\partial_x, y\partial_y, y^2\partial_x, y\partial_x \rangle.$$

It is a solvable and transitive Lie algebra of vector fields on  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . The associated descending series is  $L^1 = \langle \partial_x, \partial_y, y^2\partial_x, y\partial_x \rangle$ ,  $A = L^2 = \langle \partial_x, y\partial_x \rangle$ ,  $L^3 = \{0\}$ .

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$$\Gamma = \sum_{j=1}^2 \left( \sum_{i=1}^2 H_i^j Q^i + b^j(Q^3, \dots, Q^n) \right) \partial_{Q^j} + \bar{\Gamma},$$

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This leads to a system which in coordinates reads

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Solving (5) by the inductive assumption, we end up with

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$$\dot{Q}^j = \sum_{i=1}^2 H_i^j Q^i + b^j(Q^3(t), \dots, Q^n(t)), \quad j = 1, 2,$$

which can be integrated by quadratures.

# Proof of the main theorem

For  $\Gamma \in L$ , we first conclude that  $[\partial_{Q^i}, \Gamma] = \sum_{j=1}^2 H_i^j \partial_{Q^j}$  implies that

$$\Gamma = \sum_{j=1}^2 \left( \sum_{i=1}^2 H_i^j Q^i + b^j(Q^3, \dots, Q^n) \right) \partial_{Q^j} + \bar{\Gamma},$$

where  $H_i^j \in \mathbb{R}$ , and  $b^j$  as well as the vector field

$\bar{\Gamma} = \sum_{s=3}^n \gamma^s(Q^3, \dots, Q^n) \partial_{Q^s}$  depend on coordinates  $Q^3, \dots, Q^n$  only.

This leads to a system which in coordinates reads

$$\dot{Q}^j = \sum_{i=1}^2 H_i^j Q^i + b^j(Q^3, \dots, Q^n), \quad j = 1, 2, \quad (4)$$

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- Now, we should still consider the possibility that the dimension of  $A$  is two, but the dimension of the integral leaves of the foliation  $\mathcal{D}_A$  is one.
- In this case, we chose a one-dimensional subspace  $A_1 \subset A$ , whose generator  $X_1$  spans  $\mathcal{D}_A$ . As we already know,  $X_1$  can be integrated by quadratures and can be taken as  $\partial_{Q^1}$  in our system of coordinates.
- From  $[\partial_{Q^1}, \Gamma] \in \mathcal{F}_A$  we get that  $\Gamma$  must be of the form

$$\Gamma = (f(Q^2, \dots, Q^n)Q^1 + w(Q^2, \dots, Q^n)) \partial_{Q^1} + \sum_{s=2}^n \gamma_s(Q^2, \dots, Q^n) \partial_{Q^s}.$$

- We can first solve, by inductive assumption,

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and so reduce to

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# Example

- To see our method in action, consider the Lie algebra of vector fields in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  spanned by

$$X_1 = \partial_x, \quad X_2 = y\partial_x, \quad J = xy\partial_x + (1 + y^2)\partial_y.$$

The Lie algebra  $L$  is solvable and  $A = \langle \partial_x, y\partial_x \rangle$  is its only non trivial ideal.

- If we take  $\Gamma = J$  as the dynamical vector field, we immediately see that the Lie's procedure cannot be applied, as  $J$  is not an element of any commutative ideal in  $L$ .
- Also the mentioned Kozlov's result is not applicable, since the algebra is not triangular and the vector fields are not independent at every point.
- Take  $A_1 = \langle \partial_x \rangle$ . The equation for the coordinate  $x$  in the fibre is

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# Example

- The differential equation corresponding to the projection  $\bar{\Gamma}$  of the dynamical vector field in coordinate  $y$  is

$$\dot{y} = 1 + y^2.$$

- This can be immediately integrated to give  $y(t) = y_0 + \tan t$ .
- Substituting into the equation in the fibre, we get

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# Problem

- According to Malcev's theorem, any finite-dimensional Lie algebra is a semidirect product of its solvable radical and a semisimple algebra. The semisimple Lie algebras are classified, while the solvable ones do not allow for full classification.
- In view of the above considerations, the question arises how to characterize finite-dimensional transitive and solvable Lie algebras of vector fields. In particular, can such Lie algebras written in some coordinates as polynomial vector fields?
- For instance, the solvable Lie algebra generated in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  by

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**