

# Solving Second Order Linear Differential Equations with Klein's Theorem

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Talk presented by THOMAS CLUZEAU  
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**This talk is dedicated to the memory of Manuel Bronstein**

# Liouvillian Solutions of Second Order Linear ODE's: The Problem

$$y'' + a_1(x)y'(x) + a_0(x)y(x) = 0, \quad a_i(x) \in k$$

$k$  is a differential field, e.g  $C(x)$ ,  $C(x, \exp(x))$

A solution  $y$  is called

- ① **Rational:** if  $y \in k$
- ② **Exponential:** if  $y'/y \in k$
- ③ **Liouvillian:** if  $y$  can be presented by any combination of: algebraic extensions, arithmetic operations,  $\exp(\ )$ , and  $\int$

The problem is to compute **Liouvillian solutions**.

# Liouvillian Solutions of Second Order Linear ODE's: Algorithms

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  - If a Liouvillian solution exists then  $\exists$  solution of the form  $y = \exp(\int \omega)$  with  $\omega$  algebraic. Minimal polynomial of  $\omega$  is computed using *semi-invariants* and a recursive formula.
- ② Ulmer & Weil, 1996
  - Compute minpoly  $\omega$  from *invariants* (easier to implement).
- ③ Fakler, 1997, computes algebraic solutions  $y$  in nicer form:
  - Gives the minpoly of  $y$  instead of minpoly of  $\omega$ .
- ④ Klein (1877) ... Berkenbosch, van Hoeij, and Weil (2002)
  - Write Liouvillian solutions as hypergeometric functions composed with a function (called the *pullback*) in  $k$ .
  - Formulas for pullback given in B.H.W. using *semi-invariants*.

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**Advantage:** A more compact representation of the solutions.

Sketch of the Approach:

- Invariants  $\implies$  The differential Galois group  $G(L)$  and  $v$ .
- $G(L)$  and Klein's table  $\implies H$ .
- $a_0, a_1, v$  and a pre-computed formula  $\implies f$ .

**Our contribution:** Formulas to compute  $v$  and  $f$  using invariants.

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# Solutions and Differential Galois Groups

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May assume  $a_1 = 0$ .

To  $L$  is associated a **diff. Galois group**  $G(L)$ .

$G(L)$  is a group of  $2 \times 2$  matrices, acts on sol. space.

- Discriminate between groups via computing semi-invariants (Kovacic, Singer-Ulmer) or **invariants** (Ulmer-Weil)
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# Invariants and the UW-Kovacic algorithm

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Assume  $L$  is **irreducible** (no exponential sols).

**Projective group**  $PG(L) := G(L) \bmod \text{center}$ .

We compute  $PG(L)$  (and later also  $v$  and  $f$ ) from invariants:

- ① If  $\exists$  invariant(s) of degree 4: group is  $D_n$  or  $D_\infty$ .  
( $n = 2$  is a special case, there we will compute  $v$  and  $f$  from the invariant of degree 6).
- ② else, if  $\exists$  invariant of degree 6: group is  $A_4$
- ③ else, if  $\exists$  invariant of degree 8: group is  $S_4$
- ④ else, if  $\exists$  invariant of degree 12: group is  $A_5$
- ⑤ else: group is  $PSL_2$  (no Liouvillian solutions).

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# Pullbacks

## Definition

Let  $L \in C(z) \left[ \frac{d}{dz} \right]$  and  $\mathcal{L} \in k \left[ \partial \right]$  be differential operators.

- ①  $\mathcal{L}$  is a *proper pullback* of  $L$  by  $f \in k$  if the change of variable  $z \mapsto f$  changes  $L$  into  $\mathcal{L}$ . Then:

Solutions  $y(z)$  of  $L \iff$  Solutions  $y(f)$  of  $\mathcal{L}$ .

- ②  $\mathcal{L}$  is a (*weak*) *pullback* of  $L$  by  $f \in k$  if  $\exists v \in k$  such that we can transform  $L$  into  $\mathcal{L}$  by doing a
- *change of variable*:  $z \mapsto f$ , followed by
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# Klein's pullback theorem

To each  $G \in \{D_n, A_4, S_4, A_5\}$ , one associates a **Standard Equation** (we scaled them in such a way that the invariant has value 1)

$$St_{D_2} = \partial^2 + \frac{4}{3} \frac{z}{(z^2 - 1)} \partial - \frac{5}{144} \frac{z^2 + 3}{(z^2 - 1)^2} \quad (1)$$

$$St_{A_4} = \partial^2 + \frac{2(3z^2 - 1)}{3z(z^2 - 1)} \partial + \frac{5}{144z^2(z^2 - 1)} \quad (2)$$

$$\dots \quad (3)$$

## Theorem (Klein)

*Let  $L$  be a second order irreducible linear differential operator over  $k$  with projective differential Galois group  $PG(L)$ . If  $PG(L)$  is finite then  $L$  is a (weak) pullback of  $St_{PG(L)}$ .*

This means: can write solutions of  $L$  as  $H_{PG(L)}(f) \exp(\int v)$  where  $H_G(z) =$  Hypergeometric sols of  $St_G$ .



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# The Algorithm: Example of the $A_4$ Group

Suppose for example the input of our algorithm is a differential operator  $L$  with group  $PG(L) = A_4$ . How would the algorithm determine  $PG(L)$ , the pullback  $f$ , and the solutions of  $L$ ?

Group..

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- 2 Divide solutions of  $L$  by  $I_6^{1/6} \implies$  new operator  $L_S$  that must be a *proper pullback* of  $St_{A_4}$  (because both operators have invariant value 1, and  $y(z) \mapsto y(f)$  sends 1 to 1).

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Solutions:  $H_{A_4}(f) \cdot I_6^{1/6}$  for any solution  $H_{A_4}$  of  $St_{A_4}$

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# How the pullback formula was found

For  $G = A_4$  the *pullback formula* on the previous page was

$$f = \pm \sqrt{1 + \frac{64}{5} \frac{a_0}{g^2}} \text{ where } g = 2a_1 + \frac{a_0'}{a_0}.$$

Our algorithm contains a pullback formula for each group  $G$ . These formulas were found as follows:

- Take a **standard equation** for  $G$  from Klein's table.
- Key idea: **Scale it so that the invariant has value 1**. Doing this to all operators reduces weak pullbacks to proper pullbacks!
- **Change of variable**  $z \mapsto F$ . One obtains a differential operator  $\partial^2 + a_1\partial + a_0$  where  $a_1, a_0 \in C(F, F', F'')$ .
- Use differential elimination to **express  $F$  in terms of  $a_1, a_0$** .
- For  $A_4$  we got  $F = \pm \sqrt{1 + \frac{64}{5} \frac{a_0}{g^2}}$  where  $g = 2a_1 + \frac{a_0'}{a_0}$ .
- For  $S_4$  we got  $F = \frac{-7}{144} \frac{g^2}{a_0}$ .
- For other groups: see paper.

# Example: group $A_4$ concretely

$$L(y) := y'' - \frac{1}{144} \frac{404(e^x)^2 x - 27x^2 + 108x^3 + 54x^4 + 9x^6 - 36x^5 + 216(e^x)^4 + \dots}{(x - e^x)^2 (x + e^x)^2 (x - 1)^2} y = 0$$

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 $\implies PG(L) = A_4$

## Normalize

- 3 Rescale operator  $L$ : Get  $L_S$  such that  $Sym^6(L_S)(1) = 0$ .  
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- 4 Apply *pullback formula* to coeffs of  $L_S$  gives pullback  $f = \frac{e^x}{x}$

- 5 Solutions are

$$\frac{(x^2 - e^{2x})^{2/3}}{\sqrt{x-1}} \left( C_1 \frac{{}_2F_1\left(\left[\frac{7}{24}, \frac{19}{24}\right], \left[\frac{3}{4}\right], \frac{e^{2x}}{x^2}\right)}{e^{\frac{x}{4}} x^{\frac{7}{12}}} + C_2 \frac{e^{\frac{x}{4}} {}_2F_1\left(\left[\frac{13}{24}, \frac{25}{24}\right], \left[\frac{5}{4}\right], \frac{e^{2x}}{x^2}\right)}{x^{\frac{13}{12}}} \right)$$

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# Example: group $A_5$

$$L(y) := 48x(x-1)(75x-139)y'' + (2520x^2 - 47712x/5 + 3336)y' + (36001/75 - 19x)y = 0.$$

- ①  $PG(L)$  equals  $A_5$  in this example.
- ② Both the standard Kovacic algorithm and our pullback method need to compute the invariant of degree 12.
- ③ However, the pullback method produces much smaller solutions:
  - ① Solutions in Maple 9.5 (standard Kovacic): 236789 bytes.
  - ② Solutions in Maple 10 (using pullback): 1360 bytes.
- ④ The old output is very large is because it contains an algebraic function represented by its minimal polynomial, and every coefficient of this polynomial is a large rational function.
- ⑤ In contrast, the output from the pullback method contains only one large rational function, namely  $f$  (which has degree 31 in this example).

# Example: group $A_5$

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- ①  $PG(L)$  equals  $A_5$  in this example.
- ② Both the standard Kovacic algorithm and our pullback method need to compute the invariant of degree 12.
- ③ However, the pullback method produces much smaller solutions:
  - ① Solutions in Maple 9.5 (standard Kovacic): [236789 bytes](#).
  - ② Solutions in Maple 10 (using pullback): [1360 bytes](#).
- ④ The old output is very large is because it contains an algebraic function represented by its minimal polynomial, and every coefficient of this polynomial is a large rational function.
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# Conclusion

- Keys to the algorithm are:
  - ① We choose standard equations with invariant value 1.
  - ② Given an equation we want to solve, we compute its invariant, and then scale it so that it too has value 1.
  - ③ This reduces a weak pullback to a proper pullback,
  - ④ which allows us to find a formula for the pullback.
- Easy to implement (one can simply add the pullback formulas to existing Kovacic implementations).
- Slightly faster than Kovacic due to smaller output size.
- $\exists$  extensions to order 3 by Berkenbosch (no algo but good)
- Other works on special functions using special forms (e.g Cheb-Terrab 2004) or essential singularities (e.g Bronstein and Lafaille 2002): get non-Liouvillian functions.

*Thank you for your attention.*