

## Logic

# The theory of closed ordered differential fields with $m$ commuting derivations

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### Abstract

We generalize the work of M. Singer (1978) on the theory of closed ordered differential fields to the case of  $m$ -ODF, the theory of ordered fields equipped with  $m$  commuting derivations. We give an algebraic axiomatization of the model completion (denoted by  $m$ -CODF) of this theory and we can immediately deduce that  $m$ -CODF has quantifier elimination in the natural language of ordered  $\Delta$ -rings. *To cite this article: C. Rivière, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 343 (2006).*

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### Résumé

**La théorie des corps ordonnés différentiellement clos munis de  $m$  dérivations commutant entre elles.** Nous généralisons les travaux de M. Singer concernant la théorie des corps ordonnés différentiellement clos au cas des corps ordonnés munis de  $m$  dérivations commutant entre elles. Nous donnons une axiomatisation algébrique de la modèle-complétion de cette théorie et nous pouvons directement déduire que cette dernière admet l'élimination des quantificateurs dans le langage naturel des anneaux ordonnés différentiels. *Pour citer cet article : C. Rivière, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 343 (2006).*

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## 1. Basic differential algebra

A  $\Delta$ -ring (resp.  $\Delta$ -field) is a ring (resp. field)  $M$  equipped with a set  $\Delta = \{\delta_1, \dots, \delta_m\}$  of  $m$  commuting derivations (e.g. the field  $\mathbb{R}(X, Y)$  of rational functions over  $\mathbb{R}$  equipped with the usual partial derivations w.r.t.  $X$  and  $Y$  is a differential field).

Let  $a \in M$  where  $M$  is a  $\Delta$ -field of characteristic zero, we use the notation  $\delta_1^{(e_1)} \dots \delta_m^{(e_m)} a$  to denote the element  $\underbrace{\delta_1 \dots \delta_1}_{e_1 \text{ times}} \dots \underbrace{\delta_m \dots \delta_m}_{e_m \text{ times}} a$  of  $M$ .

An ideal  $I$  of  $M$  is a  $\Delta$ -ideal if it is closed under the action of  $\Delta$ . For any subset  $S$  of  $M$ , we write  $\langle S \rangle$  for the ideal generated by  $S$  in  $M$  and  $[\Delta S]$  for the  $\Delta$ -ideal generated by  $S$  in  $M$ .

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Let  $\Theta$  be the set of derivative operators  $\{\delta_1^{(e_1)} \dots \delta_m^{(e_m)} \mid e_1, \dots, e_m \geq 0\}$  then  $M\{y\}$  is the polynomial ring generated by the  $\theta y$ 's and is called the *ring of  $\Delta$ -polynomials* in 1 indeterminate over  $M$ . Remark that the derivations  $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_m$  extend naturally to  $M\{y\}$  by putting

$$\delta_i(\theta y) = \delta_1^{(e_1)} \dots \delta_{i-1}^{(e_{i-1})} \delta_i^{(e_i+1)} \delta_{i+1}^{(e_{i+1})} \dots \delta_m^{(e_m)} y \quad \text{if } \theta = \delta_1^{(e_1)} \dots \delta_m^{(e_m)}.$$

We define a *ranking* on  $\Theta$  by setting  $\delta_1^{(e_1)} \dots \delta_m^{(e_m)} < \delta_1^{(e'_1)} \dots \delta_m^{(e'_m)}$  iff  $(e, e_m, \dots, e_1) < (e', e'_m, \dots, e'_1)$  in the lexicographical ordering (where  $e := \sum_{i=1}^m e_i$  and  $e' := \sum_{i=1}^m e'_i$  are called the *order* of respectively  $\delta_1^{(e_1)} \dots \delta_m^{(e_m)}$  and  $\delta_1^{(e'_1)} \dots \delta_m^{(e'_m)}$ ). We will denote by  $\theta_{h-1}$  the  $h$ -th element of  $\Theta$  w.r.t. this ranking. Remark that the order type of this ranking is  $\omega$  and that if  $\theta_1 < \theta_2$  and  $\theta$  are in  $\Theta$  then  $\theta\theta_1 < \theta\theta_2$ .

Let  $f$  be in  $M\{y\}$ , the maximal  $h$  such that  $\theta_h y$  appears non trivially in  $f$  is called the *height* of  $f$  and is denoted by  $h_f$ . Furthermore, the *order* of  $f$  (denoted by  $ord(f)$ ) is equal to the order of  $\theta_{h_f}$  (remark that this definition only holds in the case of  $\Delta$ -polynomials in one single indeterminate, see [1]) and the *leader* of  $f$  (denoted by  $v_f$ ) is  $\theta_{h_f} y$ .

We associate two  $\Delta$ -polynomials to  $f$ : the *separant* of  $f$  (denoted by  $S_f(y)$ ) is the partial derivative of  $f$  with respect to  $v_f$  and the *initial* of  $f$  (denoted by  $I_f(y)$ ) is the leading coefficient of  $f$  considered as an ordinary polynomial in the variable  $v_f$ . We also define the *rank* of a  $\Delta$ -polynomial  $f$  to be the lexicographically ordered pair  $(h_f, d_f)$  where  $d_f$  is the degree of  $f$  considered as a polynomial in  $v_f$ .

**Definition 1.1.** Let  $f_1, f_2 \in M\{y\}$ , we say that  $f_1$  is *partially reduced w.r.t.*  $f_2$  if no proper derivative of  $v_{f_2}$  appears (non trivially) in  $f_1$ . If furthermore  $deg_{v_{f_2}}(f_1) < deg_{v_{f_2}}(f_2)$  (where we consider  $f_1, f_2$  as ordinary polynomials in  $v_{f_2}$ ) then we say that  $f_1$  is *reduced w.r.t.*  $f_2$ .

A subset  $F = \{f_1, \dots, f_s\}$  of  $M\{y\}$  is *autoreduced* if, for any  $i \neq j$ ,  $f_i$  is reduced w.r.t.  $f_j$ .

Remark that if  $f_i, f_j$  are reduced w.r.t. each other then  $v_{f_i} \neq v_{f_j}$  and we can always assume that in an autoreduced set  $F = \{f_1, \dots, f_s\}$  the  $\Delta$ -polynomials are ranked in order of increasing height.

Let  $F = \{f_1, \dots, f_s\}$  be an autoreduced set of  $\Delta$ -polynomials, then we define the following  $\Delta$ -polynomial  $H_F := \prod_{i=1}^s I_{f_i} S_{f_i}$ . Remark that, since  $F$  is autoreduced,  $H_F$  is partially reduced w.r.t.  $F$ .

**Definition 1.2.** An autoreduced set  $F = \{f_1, \dots, f_s\} \subseteq M\{y\}$  is *coherent* if for any  $i \neq j$ , if  $\theta_h$  is the least (in the ranking of  $\Theta$ ) derivative operator such that there exist  $\theta_i, \theta_j \in \Theta$  with  $\theta_i v_{f_i} = \theta_j v_{f_j} = \theta_h y$  then  $S_{f_j} \theta_i f_i - S_{f_i} \theta_j f_j$  belongs to  $(F)_{h-1}$  which is the ideal of  $M\{y\}$  generated by the  $\theta f_i$  with  $\theta \theta_{h_{f_i}} \leq \theta_{h-1}$  (remark that  $[F] = \bigcup_{h \in \mathbb{N}} (F)_h$ ).

## 2. Axiomatization of $m$ -CODF

We now consider an ordered  $\Delta$ -field  $M$ , i.e. an ordered field equipped with a set  $\Delta$  of  $m$  commuting derivations which do not interact with the order.

**Definition 2.1.**  $M$  is a *closed ordered  $\Delta$ -field* if it is real closed and, for any coherent autoreduced set  $F = \{f_1, \dots, f_s\} \subset M\{y\}$  such that the ideal  $(F) : H_F^\infty := \{f \in M\{y\} \mid H_F^n f \in (F) \text{ for some } n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is prime and does not contain any nonzero element reduced w.r.t.  $F$ , and any  $g_1, \dots, g_l \in M\{y\}$  reduced w.r.t.  $F$ , the system

$$\left( \bigwedge_{i=1}^s f_i(y) = 0 \wedge H_F(y) \neq 0 \wedge \bigwedge_{j=1}^l g_j(y) > 0 \right) \tag{*}$$

has a differential solution as soon as the system  $(\tilde{*})$ , obtained from  $(*)$  by considering the  $\Delta$ -polynomials as ordinary polynomials (i.e. we replace any  $\theta_i y$  appearing in  $(*)$  by a new variable  $X_i$ ) has an algebraic solution  $(x_0, \dots, x_r)$  in  $M$ .

We denote by  $m$ -CODF the theory of closed ordered  $\Delta$ -fields in the language  $L_{\leq}^\Delta = \{+, -, *, \delta_1, \dots, \delta_m, 0, 1, <\}$ .

The axioms in Definition 2.1 can be proved to be first-order (in the coefficients of  $f_1, \dots, f_s$ ) using the work in [4] and the fact that  $(F) : H_F^\infty = ((F), XH_F - 1) \cap M\{y\}$  where  $X$  is a new indeterminate. Details can be found in [3, Chapter 4].

From now on, we write  $\tilde{f}$  for the polynomial in the variables  $X_0, \dots, X_{h_f}$  obtained from  $f$  by replacing any  $\theta_l y$  by a new variable  $X_l$  ( $l \leq h_f$ ) and  $\tilde{F}$  for the set of polynomials  $\{\tilde{f}_1, \dots, \tilde{f}_s\}$ .

**Theorem 2.2.** *The theory  $m$ -CODF of closed ordered  $\Delta$ -fields is the model completion of the theory  $m$ -ODD of ordered  $\Delta$ -domains (in particular it is the model completion of  $m$ -ODF).*

Furthermore, since  $m$ -ODD is universally axiomatized in  $L_{<}^\Delta$ ,  $m$ -CODF has quantifier elimination in this language.

To prove this theorem we have to show first that each ordered  $\Delta$ -field extends to a model of  $m$ -CODF and then that we can complete any diagram as in Blum’s criterion (see [2, Theorem 17.2]).

**Proof (1).** Let  $M$  be an ordered  $\Delta$ -domain. Since the derivations and the order on  $M$  extend uniquely to the real closure of the quotient field of  $M$ , we can assume that  $M \models m$ -ODF and is a real closed field.

Let  $f_1, \dots, f_s, g_1, \dots, g_l \in M\{y\}$  be as in the axioms of  $m$ -CODF and remark first that the fact that  $(F) : H_F^\infty$  is prime and does not contains any nonzero element reduced w.r.t.  $F$  implies that the  $\Delta$ -polynomials  $f_1, \dots, f_s$  are irreducible.

Assume that  $h_i$  is the height of  $f_i$  (with  $h_1 < \dots < h_s$ ) and that  $h_r$  is maximal amongst the heights of the elements of  $F \cup \{g_1, \dots, g_l\}$ . We consider the set  $I$  of positive integers  $n$  such that  $\theta_n(y)$  appears non trivially in one of the  $\Delta$ -polynomials in  $F \cup \{g_1, \dots, g_l\}$  and denote by  $J$  the set  $\{h_1, \dots, h_s\}$  (obviously,  $J \subseteq I$ ). Furthermore for any  $i \in \{1, \dots, s\}$  we define  $D_i := \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid \exists j \geq 1 \theta_n(y) = \theta_j(v_{f_i})\}$  and  $D := \bigcup_{i=1}^s D_i$ .

Remark that, since  $F$  is autoreduced and  $\{g_1, \dots, g_l\}$  is reduced w.r.t.  $F$ ,  $D \cap I = \emptyset$ .

We now consider an infinite tuple  $\bar{a} = (a_0, a_1, \dots) \in M^\omega$  which is a solution of the system  $(\tilde{*})$ .

By [1, Lemma IV.9.2] the ideal  $P = [F] : H_F^\infty$  is a prime  $\Delta$ -ideal with characteristic set  $F$ . Moreover if  $0 \neq g \in M\{y\}$  is reduced with respect to  $F$ , then  $g(y) \notin P$  (see [1, IV.9.2] and also the remark following [1, Lemma III.2.1]). Let  $L$  be the field of fractions of  $M\{y\} \setminus P$ , and denote the image of  $y$  in  $L$  by  $c$ . Note that the derivations in  $\Delta$  extend uniquely to  $L$  and also to its algebraic closure.

We will show that we can define an ordering on  $L$  which extends the ordering on  $M$  and satisfies: for each  $i \in I$  the element  $\theta_i c - a_i$  is infinitesimal with respect to  $M$ . This will imply that  $c$  is a solution of  $(*)$ , since each  $g_j(c) - \tilde{g}_j(\bar{a})$  will then be infinitesimal with respect to  $M$ , and therefore  $g_j(c)$  will have the same sign as  $\tilde{g}_j(\bar{a})$ .

We will define recursively the ordering on each field  $L_i := M(c, \dots, \theta_i c)$  for  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Case 1.**  $i \notin D \cup J$ .

If  $f(y) \in M\{y\}$  is of height  $i$  then  $f(y)$  is reduced with respect to  $F$ . Hence such an  $f(y)$  does not belong to  $P$ . Thus  $\theta_i c$  is transcendental over  $L_{i-1}$ . We can therefore extend the ordering of  $L_{i-1}$  to  $L_i$  so that  $\theta_i c - a_i$  is infinitesimal with respect to  $L_{i-1}$ .

**Case 2.**  $i \in J$ .

Then there exists  $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$  with  $i = h_j$ . Remark that, since  $H_F(\bar{a}) \neq 0$ ,  $a_i$  is a simple root of the polynomial  $\tilde{f}_j(a_0, \dots, a_{i-1}, X_i)$  and that the coefficients of this polynomial are infinitesimally close to those of  $f_j(c, \dots, \theta_{i-1} c, X_i)$ . Hence, since polynomial functions are continuous for the order topology, these two polynomials have the same degree in  $X_i$  and  $\tilde{f}_j(c, \dots, \theta_{i-1} c, X_i)$  has a simple root  $d$  in the real closure of  $L_{i-1}$ .

**Case 3.**  $i \in D$ .

Assume first that  $\theta_i y = \delta_u \theta_{h_j}$  for some  $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$ . Using the fact that  $f_j(c) = 0$  and  $S_{f_j}(c) \neq 0$ , and that if  $h < h_j$ , then  $\delta_u \theta_h < \theta_i$ , we obtain that  $\theta_i c \in L_{i-1}$ . In the general case,  $\theta_i y = \theta \theta_h$  for some  $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$  and  $\theta \in \Theta$ , and an easy induction on the order of  $\theta$  shows that  $\theta_i c \in L_{i-1}$ .

Using a transfinite induction one can build an ordered differential field which satisfies the axioms of  $m$ -CODF.

**Proof (2).** We want to check that Blum’s criterion holds (as before we can assume that  $M$  and  $M(a)$  are models of  $m$ -ODF). For this, let  $M^*$  be an  $|M|^+$ -saturated elementary extension of  $M$  and  $a$  an element in some ordered  $\Delta$ -field extending  $M$ .

(a) Suppose first that  $a$  is  $\Delta$ -algebraic over  $M$ , i.e. there exists a  $\Delta$ -polynomial  $f \in M\{y\}$  such that  $f(a) = 0$ .

Let  $I$  be the prime  $\Delta$ -ideal  $I(a/M) = \{f \in M\{y\} \mid f(a) = 0\}$ . By [1, Proposition 3 p. 81 and Lemma 2 p. 167], there exists an autoreduced coherent subset  $F = \{f_1, \dots, f_s\}$  of  $I$  such that  $(F) : H_F^\infty$  is prime, contains no nonzero reduced element w.r.t.  $F$ , and  $I = [F] : H_F^\infty$ . Then the isomorphism type of the ordered  $\Delta$ -field  $M\langle a \rangle$  generated by  $a$  over  $M$  is completely determined by the equations  $f_1(a) = \dots = f_s(a) = 0$  and a list of inequations of the form  $g_j(a) > 0$  where  $g_j$  is a  $\Delta$ -polynomial that we can assume to be reduced w.r.t.  $F$  by [1, Proposition 1, p. 79]. Since  $I_{f_j}$  and  $S_{f_j}$  are reduced w.r.t.  $F$  for any  $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$  and  $(F) : H_F^\infty$  is prime,  $H_F$  does not belong to this ideal. It follows, by [1, Lemma 5 p. 137], that  $H_F$  does not belong to the  $\Delta$ -ideal  $[F] : H_F^\infty$ .

Hence, for any system  $\mathcal{S} \equiv (\bigwedge_{i=1}^s f_i(y) = 0 \wedge H_F(y) \neq 0 \wedge \bigwedge_{j=1}^l g_j(y) > 0)$  where  $g_1, \dots, g_l \in M\{y\}$  is a finite collection of  $\Delta$ -polynomials reduced w.r.t.  $F$  such that  $g_j(a) > 0$ , there exists an algebraic solution to the system  $\tilde{\mathcal{S}}$  in an ordered field extending  $M$  (namely, this solution is  $(a, \theta_1(a), \dots, \theta_r(a))$  where  $r$  is the maximal height of an element of  $F \cup \{g_1, \dots, g_l\}$ ).

Since  $M^*$  is a real closed field, it also contains an algebraic solution of  $\tilde{\mathcal{S}}$ . Furthermore  $M^* \models m$ -CODF and hence  $\mathcal{S}$  has a differential solution  $u$  in  $M^*$ . By the saturation of  $M^*$  there exists a solution  $c$  in  $M^*$  to all the above systems where the  $g_j$ ’s range over the  $\Delta$ -polynomials reduced w.r.t.  $F$ . In other words  $M\langle c \rangle$  is  $(L_{\geq}^\Delta)$ -isomorphic to  $M\langle a \rangle$ .

(b) The case when  $a$  is not  $\Delta$ -algebraic (i.e. is  $\Delta$ -transcendental) over  $M$  can be proved similarly: consider systems  $\mathcal{S} \equiv (\theta_{h_r+1}(y) = 0 \wedge \bigwedge_{j=1}^l g_j(y) > 0)$  where  $g_1, \dots, g_l$  have height at most  $h_r$ . Letting  $h_r$  tend to  $\infty$ , the axiomatization of  $m$ -CODF and the saturation of  $M^*$  provide an element  $c$  in  $M^*$  which is  $\Delta$ -transcendental over  $M$ . In other words  $c$  is such that  $M\langle c \rangle$  is  $(L_{\geq}^\Delta)$ -isomorphic to  $M\langle a \rangle$ .

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