

Integration of analytic differential systems with singularities and some applications to real submanifolds of C^n *

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1. Introduction.

A module D of analytic vector fields on R^n defines at each $y \in R^n$ a subspace $D(y) = \{X(y) : X \in D\}$ of the tangent space to R^n at y . A real-analytic submanifold M of R^n is an *integral manifold* of D if

$$T_y M = D(y) \quad \text{for all } y \in M, \quad (1.1)$$

where $T_y M$ is the tangent space to M at y . In [6] Nagano proved that if D is closed under the Lie bracket then through each point there passes a unique integral manifold of D . This result extends the classical Frobenius theorem, which assumes in addition that $D(y)$ has constant dimension. In dropping this hypothesis, Nagano relies on the analyticity. The classical theorem also holds in the C^∞ category and in [6] Nagano gives a simple C^∞ counterexample to his result.

This paper contains 1) a new proof of Nagano's theorem in a formulation which describes the integral manifold directly in terms of D , 2) a sharpened form of the theorem giving necessary and sufficient conditions at p for the existence of an integral manifold through p , and 3) some applications of these results to the local geometry of real-analytic submanifolds of a complex manifold. In particular, it is shown that a point p on a real-analytic CR submanifold M is not of finite weight [1] if and only if there is a complex submanifold of M of maximum dimension through p .

The proofs given here are almost entirely algebraic and make no use of differential equations. They appear to be new even in the classical case where $D(y)$ has constant dimension. Besides a simple and standard majorization argument and advanced calculus, one needs only the standard Weierstrass division theorem [3, Satz 1, p. 23]. All definitions are within the real-analytic category,

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and unless otherwise stated are to be interpreted as germs at a fixed point p of \mathbf{R}^n (recall that there is a standard interpretation of (1.1) for germs). The ring of (germs at p of) real-analytic functions is denoted \mathcal{C}^ω and the \mathcal{C}^ω -module of real-analytic vector fields is denoted $T\mathbf{R}^n$.

2. Integration Theorems.

A submanifold M defines the ideal \mathbf{I}_M of all functions in \mathcal{C}^ω which vanish on M , and $M \supset N$ if and only if $\mathbf{I}_M \subset \mathbf{I}_N$. If \mathbf{I} is an ideal in \mathcal{C}^ω then the variety $V(\mathbf{I})$ is the set of points where all functions in \mathbf{I} vanish. The ideal generated by functions f_{l+1}, \dots, f_n is denoted (f_{l+1}, \dots, f_n) . If these functions are independent at p then $M = V(f_{l+1}, \dots, f_n)$ if and only if

$$\mathbf{I}_M = (f_{l+1}, \dots, f_n). \quad (2.1)$$

Of course, in this case M has dimension l . A vector field $X \in T\mathbf{R}^n$ is *tangent to M* if $X(y) \in T_y M$ for all $y \in M$. It is elementary that this is equivalent to $Xf_j \in \mathbf{I}_M$ for $j = l+1, \dots, n$. In view of (2.1) and the Leibniz rule $X(fg) = fXg + gXf$,

$$X \text{ is tangent to } M \text{ if and only if } \mathbf{I}_M \text{ is closed under } X \quad (2.2)$$

(which, of course, means that $Xf \in \mathbf{I}_M$ for every $f \in \mathbf{I}_M$). Since \mathcal{C}^ω is Noetherian D is finitely generated. Choose now a set X_1, \dots, X_k of generators for D , and for each k -index $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k)$ of nonnegative integers let $X^\alpha = X_1^{\alpha_1} \dots X_k^{\alpha_k}$. In X^α the X_j 's always occur in serial order, and as usual X^0 is defined by $X^0 f = f$.

If M is an integral manifold of D , (1.1) and (2.2) show that \mathbf{I}_M is invariant under D . Therefore, \mathbf{I}_M is contained in

$$\mathbf{I}_D = \{g \in \mathcal{C}^\omega : X^\alpha g(0) = 0 \text{ for all } \alpha\}. \quad (2.3)$$

It follows from the Leibniz rule that \mathbf{I}_D is an ideal in \mathcal{C}^ω . If D is bracket-closed, the Leibniz rule and Lemma 2.3 below show that \mathbf{I}_D is independent of a choice of generators for D . This ideal provides an invariant means for utilizing the basic principle that an analytic function is determined by its derivatives at a fixed point. The following is equivalent to Nagano's theorem 1 in [6].

THEOREM 2.1. *If D is a bracket-closed submodule of $T\mathbf{R}^n$ then $V(\mathbf{I}_D)$ is the unique integral manifold of D through p .*

PROOF. In order that $V(\mathbf{I}_D)$ is a manifold, there must exist independent functions f_{l+1}, \dots, f_n such that

$$\mathbf{I}_D = (f_{l+1}, \dots, f_n), \quad (2.4)$$

and if $V(\mathbf{I}_D)$ is an integral manifold then $l = \dim D(p)$ must hold. It will be shown first that there exist such functions, and later that $V(\mathbf{I}_D)$ is indeed an

integral manifold.

It may be assumed that $p=0$. In terms of analytic coordinates $x=(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ each $X_i = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \partial / \partial x_j$, where the matrix (a_{ij}) has rank $l = \dim D(0)$ at 0. By a reindexing, it may be assumed that $(a_{ij})_{i,j=1}^l$ is non-singular at 0. Since elementary row operations over C^ω can be achieved by linear combination of the X_i , it may be assumed that the generators X_i of D have the form

$$X_i = \partial / \partial x_i + \sum_{j=l+1}^n a_{ij} \partial / \partial x_j, \quad i=1, \dots, l, \text{ and} \quad (2.5)$$

$$X_i = \sum_{j=l+1}^n a_{ij} \partial / \partial x_j, \quad i=l+1, \dots, k,$$

and $a_{ij}(0)=0$, $i, j > l$. This has the usual geometric interpretation that an integral manifold is spread over the x_1, \dots, x_l coordinate space. Since it must be the graph of a function of these variables it is natural to seek defining functions of the form

$$f_i = x_i - g_i(x_1, \dots, x_l), \quad i=l+1, \dots, n, \quad (2.6)$$

where each g_i is analytic.

An analytic function depending only on x_1, \dots, x_l will be written $g = \sum' a_\alpha x^\alpha$, where the prime means that summation extends only over those α such that $\alpha_{l+1} = \dots = \alpha_n = 0$. By (2.5) such a function satisfies $X_i g = \partial g / \partial x_i$, $i \leq l$, so that

$$X^\alpha g(0) = \partial^{|\alpha|} g / \partial x^\alpha(0) = a_\alpha \alpha! \quad (2.7)$$

if $\alpha_{l+1} = \dots = \alpha_n = 0$.

Therefore, in order that (2.6) defines functions in I_D it is necessary that

$$g_i = \sum' (\alpha!)^{-1} X^\alpha(x_i)(0) x^\alpha. \quad (2.8)$$

LEMMA 2.2. *The series (2.8) converges.*

This will be proved later.

In the classical Frobenius theorem $D(y)$ has constant dimension, which is equivalent to $k=l$. In this case membership of f_i in I_D is immediate from (2.6), (2.7), and (2.8). When $k > l$ this fact also depends on the property that

$$\text{for any } f, X_i f(0) = 0 \text{ if } i > l, \quad (2.9)$$

and on Lemma 2.3 below. A *polynomial* is any linear combination over C^ω of operators of the form X^α as defined above. If α and β are multiindices then $\alpha + \beta$ is their usual vector sum and $|\alpha| = \alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_n$. For $1 \leq j \leq l$, $e^j = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ (the 1 in the j -th place), and $\alpha \pm e^j$ is written $\alpha \pm j$.

LEMMA 2.3. *If D is bracket closed then for any α, β $X^\alpha X^\beta - X^{\alpha+\beta}$ is a polynomial of degree less than $|\alpha + \beta|$.*

This is also proved later. It is now used to show by induction on $|\gamma|$ that

$$X^r f_j(0)=0, \quad j=l+1, \dots, n. \quad (2.10)$$

Relations (2.7) and (2.9) imply the case $|\gamma|=1$. Now assume $m>1$ and (2.10) holds for all $|\gamma|<m$, and suppose $|\gamma|=m$. If $\gamma_{l+1}=\dots=\gamma_n=0$ then (2.10) holds as shown above. Otherwise $\gamma=\beta+i$ for some $i>l$ and Lemma 2.3 with $\alpha=e^i$ shows that $X^\gamma=X_i X^\beta+(\text{polynomial of degree}<m)$. Thus (2.10) follows for γ by the induction hypothesis and (2.9). This proves that each $f_i \in I_D$ and hence

$$(f_{l+1}, \dots, f_n) \subset I_D. \quad (2.11)$$

To show (2.4), suppose that f is any function in C^ω . By the Weierstrass Division Theorem [3] $f=a_{l+1}f_{l+1}+r_{l+1}$ where r_{l+1} is a polynomial in x_{l+1} of degree less than the order of the zero $x_{l+1} \rightarrow f_{l+1}(0, \dots, 0, x_{l+1}, 0, \dots, 0)=x_{l+1}$ has at 0. In other words, r_{l+1} is independent of x_{l+1} . So is f_{l+2} , and hence r_{l+1} may be divided by f_{l+2} in the subring of functions independent of x_{l+1} to obtain $f=a_{l+1}f_{l+1}+a_{l+2}f_{l+2}+r_{l+2}$, where r_{l+2} is independent of x_{l+1} and x_{l+2} . Continuing in this way will achieve

$$f=a_{l+1}f_{l+1}+\dots+a_nf_n+r_n \quad (2.12)$$

where r_n depends only on x_1, \dots, x_l . If also $f \in I_D$, then so does r_n by (2.11). By (2.7), $r_n=0$. This proves (2.4), and hence $M=V(I_D)=V(f_{l+1}, \dots, f_n)$ is a manifold.

Next, it is claimed that

$$I_D \text{ is closed under } D. \quad (2.13)$$

This is proved by an easy induction on Lemma 2.3, this time with $|\beta|=1$. It follows that M is an integral manifold, for (2.2) and (2.13) imply that each vector field in D is tangent to M . Hence $D(y) \subset T_y M$ for all y on M near 0. This implies (1.1) since $\dim D(y) \geq \dim D(0)=l=\dim T_y M$ for all y near 0.

It remains to prove the uniqueness. If N is any integral manifold through 0, (1.1) implies that $D \subset TN$, the module of vector fields tangent to N . Therefore $I_M=I_D \supset I_{TN} \supset I_N$, in which the containments are obvious from the definition of I_{TN} as in (2.3) (with TN replacing D and any choice of generators for TN). It follows that $M \subset N$, and since both manifolds have dimension l they are equal. This completes the proof of Theorem 2.1.

PROOF OF LEMMA 2.2. This simple majorization argument is given in detail (and greater generality) in [4], so it is only sketched here. There exist $\rho>0$ and $M>0$ such that the geometric series $G(t)=M(1-(t/\rho))^{-1}$ majorizes f and all a_{ij} at 0, and such that $X_j(x_i)$ is majorized by ΔG at 0, where Δ is the operator $\Delta=G(t) d/dt$. It follows inductively that each $X^\alpha(x_i)$ is majorized by $\Delta^{|\alpha|} G=M^{|\alpha|+1} \rho^{-|\alpha|} (1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdots (2|\alpha|-1))(1-(t/\rho))^{2|\alpha|+1}$. Therefore $|(X^\alpha(x_i))(0)| \leq M^{|\alpha|+1} \rho^{-|\alpha|} (1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdots (2|\alpha|-1))$, and the ratio test now gives convergence of (2.8).

PROOF OF LEMMA 2.3. If $|\alpha + \beta| = 2$ the lemma is either trivial ($\alpha = 0$ or $\beta = 0$), or is just a restatement of the bracket closure hypothesis, which is equivalent to

$$X_i X_j - X_j X_i = \sum_{q=1}^k a_{ij}^q X_q. \quad (2.14)$$

Assume $m \geq 2$ and the lemma holds for all α, β with $|\alpha + \beta| \leq m$. It follows that if $|\alpha| + q \leq m$ and P is a polynomial of degree $\leq q$ then $X^\alpha P$ and PX^α are polynomials of degree $\leq |\alpha| + q$. This is obvious for PX^α , and for $X^\alpha P$ a simple induction on the Leibniz rule will account for the differentiations of the coefficients of P by X^α .

Now suppose that $|\alpha + \beta| = m + 1$. It may be assumed that $\beta \neq 0$.

The case $|\beta| = 1$: Then $\beta = e^j$. Let i be the largest integer r such that $\alpha_r \neq 0$. If $i \leq j$ then $X^\alpha X^\beta = X^\alpha X_j = X^{\alpha+j} = X^{\alpha+\beta}$. Otherwise, by (2.14), $X^\alpha X^j = X^{\alpha-i} X_i X_j = X^{\alpha-i} X_j X_i + X^{\alpha-i} P$ where P is a polynomial of degree 1. Since $|\alpha - i| = m - 1$ the inductive hypothesis yields $X^{\alpha-i} X_j = X^{\alpha-i+j} + Q$, where Q is a polynomial of degree at most $m - 1$. Thus $X^\alpha X_j = X^{\alpha-i+j} X_i + Q X_i + X^{\alpha-i} P = X^{\alpha+j} + (\text{polynomial of degree } \leq m)$ because $i > j$ and the inductive assumption applies to $Q X_i + X^{\alpha-i} P$. This establishes the case $|\beta| = 1$.

The general case $|\beta| \geq 1$: Then $\beta = \gamma + e^j$, where j is the largest integer r such that $\beta_r \neq 0$, and $|\alpha + \gamma| = m$. Hence $X^\alpha X^\beta = X^\alpha X^\gamma X^j = X^{\alpha+\gamma} X_j + P X_j$, where P is a polynomial of degree at most $m - 1$. By Case 1 applied to $X^{\alpha+\gamma} X_j$ and the inductive assumption applied to $P X_j$, $X^\alpha X^\beta = X^{\alpha+\gamma+j} + Q = X^{\alpha+\beta} + Q$, where Q is a polynomial of degree at most m . This proves Lemma 2.3.

The condition (1.1) can be replaced by

$$TM = D + O(M) \quad (2.15)$$

where $O(M)$ denotes all vector fields vanishing on M and TM is the module of vector fields tangent to M . Condition (2.15) appears stronger than (1.1) (after all $\text{sp}_{\mathbf{R}}\{x(d/dx)\} = \text{sp}_{\mathbf{R}}\{x^2 d/dx\}$ for each x in \mathbf{R} but xd/dx is not in the \mathcal{C}^ω -module spanned by $x^2(d/dx)$), but in fact it is equivalent. For certainly (2.15) implies (1.1) and if (1.1) holds then clearly $D \subset TM$. If $X \in TM$ there exist by (2.5) functions c_1, \dots, c_l in \mathcal{C}^ω such that $Y = X - \sum_{i=1}^l c_i X_i$ is free from terms involving $\partial/\partial x_1, \dots, \partial/\partial x_l$. Since Y is also tangent to M , it is easy to see that $Y \in O(M)$, and (2.15) is proved.

If p is fixed in Theorem 2.1, the bracket-closure is not necessary. For example, let $X = \partial/\partial x$ and $Y = \partial/\partial y + xz\partial/\partial z$ in \mathbf{R}^3 with coordinates (x, y, z) . Then $V(z)$ is an integral manifold through O of $D = \text{sp}\{X, Y\}$, but $[X, Y] = z\partial/\partial z \notin D$. Let \tilde{D} denote the smallest bracket-closed submodule containing a given submodule D .

COROLLARY 2.4. *There exists an integral manifold of D through p if and*

only if

$$\tilde{D}(p)=D(p), \quad (2.16)$$

and an integral manifold through p is unique.

PROOF. If M is any manifold the module TM is bracket-closed. Thus if M is an integral manifold then $D \subset TM$ implies

$$D \subset \tilde{D} \subset TM = D + O(M) \quad (2.17)$$

which in turn implies (2.16). It also shows that M is an integral manifold of \tilde{D} , which implies its uniqueness by that part of Theorem 2.1.

For the converse, apply Theorem 2.1 to \tilde{D} and note that its integral manifold M through p satisfies $T_y M = \tilde{D}(y) \supset D(y)$ for all y on M near p . Because of (2.16) $T_p M = D(p)$. Hence for y on M near p , $\dim D(y) \geq \dim T_y M$, and consequently $T_y M = D(y)$. This proves the Corollary.

In the example above $[X, [X, Y]] = 0 = [Y, [X, Y]]$ so $\tilde{D} = \text{sp}\{X, Y, [X, Y]\}$ and $\tilde{D}(0) = \text{sp}_{\mathbb{R}}\{\partial/\partial x, \partial/\partial y\} = D(0)$.

3. Existence of complex submanifolds of a real-analytic submanifold.

Let $\mathcal{C}^{\omega} = \mathcal{C}^{\omega} + i\mathcal{C}^{\omega}$ be the (Noetherian) ring of complex-valued real-analytic functions and $\mathbf{CTR}^n = \mathbf{TR}^n + i\mathbf{TR}^n$ the complexified space of vector fields. If M is a real analytic submanifold then I_M now denotes the ideal of all functions in \mathcal{C}^{ω} vanishing on M , and $\mathbf{CTM} = \mathbf{TM} + i\mathbf{TM}$ the complexified space of vector fields tangent to M . It is clear that \mathbf{CTM} is a bracket-closed module over \mathcal{C}^{ω} and that it is defined by (2.2).

There is a natural conjugation $Z = X + iY \rightarrow \bar{Z} = X - iY$ on \mathbf{CTR}^n , where X and Y are in \mathbf{TR}^n , and a submodule D of \mathbf{CTR}^n is *real* if $D = \bar{D}$. Defining $\text{Re } D = D \cap \mathbf{TR}^n$ it is easy to see that D is real if and only if $D = \text{Re } D + i \text{Re } D$, and that a real D is bracket closed if and only if $\text{Re } D$ is bracket closed. Let \tilde{D} be the bracket closure of D in \mathbf{CTR}^n , and $\widetilde{\text{Re } D}$ the bracket closure of $\text{Re } D$ in \mathbf{TR}^n (as in Section 2). If D is real then it is easily seen that $\tilde{D} = \widetilde{\text{Re } D} + i \widetilde{\text{Re } D}$, so that \tilde{D} is also real and $\text{Re } \tilde{D} = \widetilde{\text{Re } D}$.

A submanifold M is an *integral manifold* of D if

$$\mathbf{CTM} = D + O(M), \quad (3.1)$$

where $O(M)$ is the \mathcal{C}^{ω} module of vector fields vanishing on M . Since \mathbf{CTM} and $O(M)$ are real, so is D if (3.1) holds. It is easy to see that (3.1) holds if and only if $\mathbf{TM} = \text{Re } D + \text{Re } O(M)$, so that M is an integral manifold of D if and only if it is for $\text{Re } D$.

Therefore the extension of Theorem 2.1 to submodules of \mathbf{CTR}^n is the following.

THEOREM 3.1. *If a real submodule D of CTR^n is bracket closed then it has a unique integral manifold through p .*

Moreover, by the above remarks, Corollary 2.4 is true verbatim for real submodules of CTR^n , where \tilde{D} is interpreted as above.

If R^{2n} is the real space underlying C^n , one writes CTC^n for CTR^{2n} . As usual, it carries another complex structure induced from C^n , whose action is denoted by J . The module of complex tangent vector fields to a submanifold M is $H = CTM \cap JCTM$, the largest J -invariant submodule of CTM . The submanifold M is complex if and only if $H = CTM$; i.e. CTM is J -invariant. Since $O(M)$ is J -invariant, it follows from (3.1) that

an integral manifold of D is complex if D is J -invariant. (3.2)

It is shown in [2] that if M is any submanifold then $N_2 = \{X \in H : [X, H] \subset H\}$ is real, J -invariant, and bracket closed (N_2 can often be viewed as the null-space of the E.E. Levi form of M). It is also shown in [2] that there exists a chain (which in general is strictly decreasing) $N_2 \supset N_3 \supset \dots \supset S_0 = \bigcap_{j=2}^{\infty} N_j$ of real, J -invariant, bracket closed submodules. The following is thus a consequence of Theorem 3.1.

THEOREM 3.2. *A real analytic submanifold M has a chain of successively finer partitions by the complex integral manifolds of the submodules N_j .*

It is possible for M to have a complex submanifold larger than the integral manifold of N_2 . In [7], Sommer showed that $M = \{|z_1|^2 + |z_2|^2 - |z_3|^2 - 1 = 0\}$ has 1-dimensional complex submanifolds but $N_2 = 0$. It is therefore of interest to seek an integral manifold of H through a fixed point p on M . In case M is CR , this would be the largest complex submanifold of M through p . The answer is immediate from Corollary 2.4 and (3.2).

THEOREM 3.3. *There exists a (unique) integral manifold of H through $p \in M$ if and only if $H(p) = \tilde{H}(p)$. This integral manifold is a complex submanifold of M .*

All statements of Theorem 3.3 but the last are proved above. If S is an integral manifold of H through p then $H \subset CTM$ implies $I_S = I_H \supset I_{CTM} = I_M$, so that $S \subset M$. It is easy to see that \tilde{H} is the module spanned over C^∞ by the set H' of all repeated commutators of elements of H . Therefore $\tilde{H}(p) = H(p)$ if and only if $H'(p) = H(p)$. This is a kind of infinitely high-order flatness condition at p . It means that p is not a point of finite type in the sense of Bloom and Graham [1] or Kohn [5], and it causes behavior in contrast with the case of finite type. Thus if M is a real analytic hypersurface satisfying Theorem 3.3 there exists a neighborhood U of p such that the integral manifold of H through z is the zero set of a holomorphic function f . Then $1/f$ is a holomorphic function on $U - M$ which cannot be continued across p . The local Levi problem [5, p. 528] is thus solvable near p in this case. However, such a point is clearly

never a local peak point [5, p. 540].

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