ON A METHOD TO TRANSFORM ALGEBRAIC DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS INTO UNIVERSAL EQUATIONS

Carsten Elsner

Abh.Math.Sem.Univ.Hamburg 74 (2004), 33-48.

Definition 1 Let C be a class of real-valued functions defined on $D \subseteq \mathbb{R}$. An ADE is called universal with respect to C(D), if every continuous function on D can be approximated uniformly by C-solutions of this ADE on D.

The transformation algorithm requires the definition of certain rational numbers given by the following identity. Let $h: C^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}) \to \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ be a real function, and let $k \ge 0$ and $n \ge 1$ be some integers. Then the k-th derivative of the function $g(x) := (h(x))^{\frac{1}{n}}$ takes the form

$$g^{(k)}(x) = \sum_{0 \le a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k \le k} p(n; a_1, \dots, a_k) \cdot (h(x))^{\frac{1}{n} - (a_1 + \dots + a_k)} \cdot (h'(x))^{a_1} \cdot \dots \cdot (h^{(k)}(x))^{a_k}$$

with specific rationals $p(n; a_1, \ldots, a_k)$, which are uniquely determined by the above identity. Particularly one computes the rationals $p \neq 0$ for k = 1, 2, 3, 4 and $n \geq 1$: $\mathbf{k=1}$:

$$p(n;1) = \frac{1}{n} ;$$

k=2:

$$p(n; 0, 1) = \frac{1}{n}$$
, $p(n; 2, 0) = \frac{1 - n}{n^2}$;

$$k=3$$
:

$$p(n;0,0,1) = \frac{1}{n}$$
, $p(n;1,1,0) = \frac{3-3n}{n^2}$, $p(n;3,0,0) = \frac{2n^2 - 3n + 1}{n^3}$;

k=4:

$$p(n;0,0,0,1) = \frac{1}{n} , \quad p(n;0,2,0,0) = \frac{3-3n}{n^2} , \quad p(n;1,0,1,0) = \frac{4-4n}{n^2} ,$$
$$p(n;2,1,0,0) = \frac{12n^2 - 18n + 6}{n^3} , \quad p(n;4,0,0,0) = \frac{1-6n + 11n^2 - 6n^3}{n^4} .$$

We now state the main results.

Theorem 1 Let $n > m \ge 1$ and $k \ge 0$ be integers. Moreover, let $P(y, y', y'', \dots, y^{(m)}) = 0$ be an autonomous homogeneous ADE of weight w such that there is an interval $[\alpha; \beta]$ and a solution $u = y \in C^n((\alpha; \beta))$ of the ADE satisfying

- (i) u(x) > 0 $(\alpha < x < \beta)$;
- (ii) $u(x) = O(|x \alpha|^{r_1})$ (for $x \to \alpha$), $u(x) = O(|x \beta|^{r_2})$ (for $x \to \beta$) with certain integers $r_1, r_2 \ge 1$.
- (iii) One substitutes 1 for y and

$$\sum_{1 \le \kappa \le k} \sum_{0 \le a_1, \dots, a_k \le k} p(n; a_1, \dots, a_k) \cdot (f(x))^{k-\kappa} \cdot (f'(x))^{a_1} \cdot \dots \cdot (f^{(k)}(x))^{a_k}$$

for $y^{(k)}$ $(1 \le k \le m)$ into $P(y, y', y'', \dots, y^{(m)}) = 0$.

(iv) After that put $f(x) = z', f'(x) = z'', \dots, f^{(m)}(x) = z^{(m+1)}$. The resulting ADE in $z', z'', \dots, z^{(m+1)}$ is a universal ADE with respect to $C^n(\mathbb{R})$. It is of weight 2w and homogeneous of degree w.

Examples:

(1.) The simple homogeneous ADE y''' = 0 of weight 3 is solvable by $u = 1 - x^2$. The transformation algorithm from Theorem 1 yields

$$\frac{1}{n}f^2f''' + \frac{3-3n}{n^2}ff'f'' + \frac{2n^2-3n+1}{n^3}f'^3 = 0.$$

Multiplying by n^3 and substituting z' for f, one gets the ADE

$$n^{2} z'^{2} z'''' - 3n(n-1)z' z'' z''' + (2n^{2} - 3n + 1)z''^{3} = 0.$$

This is a universal ADE already known to DUFFIN (*Proc.Nat.Acad.Sci. U.S.A.* **78** (1981), no.8, part 1, 4661-4662.)

(2.) The application of the transformation method to the equation yy''' - 2y'y'' = 0 of weight 3 gives the following result.

Theorem 2 The differential equation

$$n^{2}y'^{2}y^{(4)} - n(3n-1)y'y''y''' + (n-1)(2n+1)y''^{3} = 0$$

is universal with respect to $C^n(\mathbb{R})$ for n > 3.

(3.) Finally a result concerning algebraic properties of the solutions of a universal ADE is given.

Theorem 3 For any integer n > 3 the differential equation

$$ny'^{2}y^{(4)} - (3n-2)y'y''y''' + 2(n-1)y''^{3} = 0$$

is universal with respect to $C^n(\mathbb{R})$. Furthermore, every continuous function defined on the real line can be approximated uniformly by a sequence $(y_r)_{r\geq 1}$ of $C^n(\mathbb{R})$ -solutions of the ADE in such a way that every function $y = y_r$ has the following properties.

Let $0 \le k_1 < k_2 < \ldots < k_s \le n$ be integers, and let q_1, \ldots, q_s be rationals such that none of the numbers

$$y^{(k_1)}(q_1), y^{(k_2)}(q_2), \dots, y^{(k_s)}(q_s)$$
 (1)

vanishes. Then the family of numbers

1,
$$y^{(k_1)}(q_1)$$
, $y^{(k_2)}(q_2)$,..., $y^{(k_s)}(q_s)$

is linearly independent over the field of real algebraic numbers, provided that in the case of an even integer n the equations $k_1 = 0$ and $k_2 = 1$ do not occur simultaneously. Particularly all the numbers from (1) are transcendental.