BÉZOUT'S THEOREM AND ALGEBRAIC
DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

BY
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The problem of determining by inspection the number of solutions of a
system of algebraic equations finds its solution in Bézout's theorem and in
important complements to that theorem obtained in recent years by van der
Waerden(2). The corresponding problem for a system of algebraic differential
equations is that of determining bounds for the numbers of arbitrary con-
stants which enter into the irreducible manifolds which the system yields.
This problem has been considered by us in two previous papers(3).

In the present paper, we study the intersections of the general solutions
of two algebraically irreducible forms A and B in the unknowns y and z. The
statement of our results depends on some definitions which we proceed to give.

Let F be a form in several unknowns. F has an order in each of its un-
knowns. The maximum of these orders will be called the order of F.

Let Σ be a non-trivial prime ideal of forms in any unknowns. Σ has a cer-
tain number q ≥ 0 of arbitrary unknowns. We shall call q the dimension of
the manifold of Σ.

By the order of an irreducible manifold ℝ of dimension zero, we mean the
order of any resolvent for the prime ideal of which ℝ is the manifold.

An irreducible manifold ℝ which is part of a manifold ℌ will be called an
irreducible component (often simply component) of ℌ if ℌ contains no irre-
ducible manifold of which ℝ is a proper part(4).

Let us return now to A and B as above, which we suppose to have the
respective orders m and n. Let the general solutions of A and B have a non-
vacuous intersection ℝ. It is a most natural conjecture that, if ℝ has one or
more reducible components of dimension zero, their orders do not exceed
m + n. This conjecture is verified below for the cases in which neither of m
and n exceeds unity. It was not without surprise that we found our conjecture
to lapse into default for larger values of the orders. We shall show how to
construct, for every n ≥ 4, a form of order n whose general solution intersects
the manifold of \( y = 0 \) in the manifold of \( y = 0, z_{2n-3} = 0 \), a manifold of order \( 2n-3 \).

**Forms of orders not exceeding unity**

1. We prove the statement made, for the cases with \( m \leq 1, n \leq 1 \), in the introduction.

   When \( m = n = 0 \), there is nothing to prove.

   Let \( m = 0, n = 1 \). Let \( \mathfrak{M} \) be a component of \( \mathfrak{M} \) of dimension zero. We consider first the intersection \( \mathfrak{M}' \) of the complete manifolds of \( A \) and \( B \). Every component of \( \mathfrak{M}' \) of dimension zero has an order not exceeding unity\(^{(6)}\). Then, by Gourin's theorem\(^{(6)}\), if \( \mathfrak{M} \) is not contained in a component of \( \mathfrak{M}' \) of dimension unity, \( \mathfrak{M} \) is of order not greater than unity.

   We have now to consider the case in which \( \mathfrak{M} \) is contained in a component \( \mathfrak{M}'' \) of \( \mathfrak{M}' \) of dimension unity. \( \mathfrak{M}'' \) is the general solution of a form \( C \). Because \( A \), which is of order zero, holds \( \mathfrak{M}'' \), \( C \) must be of order zero; this implies that \( \mathfrak{M}'' \) is the manifold of \( A \). Then \( \mathfrak{M}'' \) must be a component of the manifold of \( B \). Otherwise \( \mathfrak{M}'' \) would be contained in the general solution of \( B \) and \( \mathfrak{M} \) would not be a component of \( \mathfrak{M} \).\(^{(7)}\)

   We suppose, as we may, that \( A \) involves \( z \) effectively. As \( \mathfrak{M}'' \) is a proper part of the manifold of \( B \), \( B \) must be of order unity in \( z \). Let \( S = \partial A / \partial z \). Then some \( S'B \) has a representation\(^{(8)}\)

\[
S'B = C_0A^p + C_1A^{p_1}A_1^{q_1} + \cdots + C_rA^{p_r}A_r^{q_r}.
\]

Here \( A_1 \) is the derivative of \( A \) and, for every \( i, p_i+q_i > p \). The orders of the \( C_i \) in \( z \) and in \( y \) do not exceed 0 and 1, respectively, and no \( C_i \) is divisible by \( A \).

As \( \mathfrak{M} \) is in the intersection of \( \mathfrak{M}' \) and the general solution of \( B \), \( C_0 \) must hold \( \mathfrak{M}\)\(^{(8)}\). The manifold of the system \( C_0, A \) has components which are all of dimension zero and none of order greater than unity\(^{(8)}\). This disposes of the case of \( m = 0, n = 1 \).

Now let \( m = n = 1 \). We use \( \mathfrak{M} \) and \( \mathfrak{M}' \) as above. We take up immediately the case in which \( \mathfrak{M} \) is contained in a component \( \mathfrak{M}'' \) of \( \mathfrak{M}' \) of dimension unity; when \( \mathfrak{M} \) is not so contained, its order cannot exceed 2\(^{(9)}\). As \( \mathfrak{M} \) is a component of \( \mathfrak{M} \), \( \mathfrak{M}'' \) is not part of \( \mathfrak{M} \). Let, then, \( \mathfrak{M}'' \) fail to be contained in the general solution of \( B \). Then some other component of the manifold of \( B \), indeed the manifold of a form of order zero, contains \( \mathfrak{M}'' \) and is thus identical with \( \mathfrak{M}'' \). By the case of \( m = 0, n = 1 \), the components of the inter-

\(^{(6)}\) This is proved in J.


\(^{(7)}\) The components of \( B \) other than its general solution are manifolds of forms of order zero. See On certain points in the theory of algebraic differential equations, Amer. J. Math. vol. 60 (1938) pp. 1–43, §30. This paper will be denoted by C. P.

\(^{(9)}\) C. P. §31.

\(^{(9)}\) By J.
section of $\mathbb{M}''$ with the general solution of $B$ are of dimension zero and of order at most unity. This completes the proof.

**A Form of Order Four**

2. In what follows, $K_1$ will represent, for any form $K$, the derivative of $K$. We let

\begin{align*}
(1) & \quad A = y_1 - z_3 y^2, \\
(2) & \quad B = A^4 - y_3, \\
(3) & \quad C = y_3 A_1 - 2 y_4 A, \\
(4) & \quad F = B - y^6 C^2 = A^4 - y_3 - y^6 C^2.
\end{align*}

We use the field of all constants. Let us see first that $F$ is algebraically irreducible. If we consider the equation $F=0$ as an algebraic equation for $y_4$, we secure a function $y_4$ of two branches. Thus, if $F$ were factorable, it would have a factor of positive degree free of $y_4$. Such a factor would have to be a factor of $y_6 A^2$. As $F$ is not divisible by $y$ or by $A$, $F$ is algebraically irreducible.

Let us determine now the components of the manifold of $F$ other than the general solution.

Let $\mathfrak{R}$ be such a component. As $\partial F/\partial y_4 = 4 y_6 A C$, $\mathfrak{R}$ must be held by $yC$ or by $A$. Suppose that $A$ holds $\mathfrak{R}$. By (3) and (4), $y_3$ holds $\mathfrak{R}$. In every case then, $B$ holds $\mathfrak{R}$.

Now $B$ is the product of the four forms

\begin{align*}
E^{(j)} = y_1 - z_3 y^2 - j y_3, \quad j = \pm 1, \pm ( - 1 )^{1/2},
\end{align*}

each of which is algebraically irreducible. For what follows, it is important to know that the manifold of each $E^{(j)}$ is irreducible. From the manner in which $z_3$ figures in (5), one sees that a component of the manifold of an $E^{(j)}$ distinct from the general solution is held by $y$. Such a component, being of dimension unity\(^{(10)}\), must be the manifold of $y$. But the low power theorem\(^{(11)}\) shows that the manifold of $y$ is not a component. This proves the irreducibility of the manifolds of the $E^{(j)}$.

We have, for every $j$,

$$C = y_3 E_1^{(j)} - 2 y_4 E^{(j)}.$$ 

Referring to (4) and applying the low power theorem, we find that the manifold of each $E^{(j)}$ is a component of the manifold of $F^{(12)}$.

\(^{(10)}\) C. P. §1.

\(^{(11)}\) So we designate the theorem of C. P. §29.

\(^{(12)}\) Technically, in applying the low power theorem, we have to multiply $F$ by $y_4^2$ and to effect a reduction. Actually, on considering the proof of the low power theorem, one sees that one may dispense with this process of preparation. For instance, if one replaces $y_4$ in the coef-
Thus the manifold of $F$ has five components, the general solution and the manifolds of the $E^{(i)}$.

3. In what follows it will be proved that the intersection of the general solution of $F$ with the manifold of $y = 0$, is the manifold of the system $y = 0$, $z_8 = 0$. The latter manifold is of dimension zero and of order 5. The proof employs some general results, bearing on ideals of differential polynomials, which will now be set forth.

**Deductions from Levi's theorem on power products**

4. In what follows $P$ is a power product in $y$ and derivatives of $y$, $d$ the degree of $P$, $w$ the weight of $P$ and $p$ a positive integer.

Modifying a theorem due to Howard Levi(13), we derive the following result: If

$$d > \frac{p - 1}{2} + \left( (p - 1)w + \frac{(p - 1)^3}{4} \right)^{1/3}$$

then\(^{(14)}\)

$$P \equiv 0, \ [y^p].$$

We suppose, as we may, that $p > 1$. Let (6) be satisfied. Then

$$\begin{align*}
(p - 1)w &< d^2 - d(p - 1). \\
\end{align*}$$

Let

$$d = a(p - 1) + b$$

where $a$ and $b$ are integers such that $a \geq 0$, $0 < b \leq p - 1$. As $b(p - 1 - b) \geq 0$, (7) gives

$$\begin{align*}
(p - 1)w &< d^2 - d(p - 1) + (p - 1 - b)b. \\
\end{align*}$$

We replace $d$ in (9) by its expression in (8), finding that

$$\begin{align*}
w &< a(a - 1)(p - 1) + 2ab. \\
\end{align*}$$

By Levi's theorem, $P \equiv 0, \ [y^p]$.

We denote by $\delta(p, w)$ the second member of (6).

5. Representing $y^p$ by $u$, we prove the following result, which holds for any power product $P$ as in §4 and for any values of $d$, $w$, $p$.

$P$ has a representation as a homogeneous polynomial in $u$ and derivatives of $u$,
whose coefficients are homogeneous polynomials\(^{(14)}\) in \(y\) and derivatives of \(y\) of a common degree not greater than \(\delta(p, w)\).

If \(d \leq \delta(p, w)\), \(P\) itself is the representation sought. Otherwise, by §4, \(P\) is a linear combination of the \(u_i\) with coefficients all of degree \(d - p\) and none of weight greater than \(w\). If \(d - p \leq \delta(p, w)\), we have the desired representation. Otherwise the coefficients of the \(u_i\) will be in \([u]\). Continuing in this manner, we find \(P\) expressed as in our statement.

**Multipliers of a Form**

6. Let \(\Sigma\) be an ideal (differential) of forms in \(y\) and \(z\); \(M\) a form in \(y\) and \(z\); \(\alpha\) a non-negative number. We shall say that \(M\) admits \(\alpha\) as a multiplier with respect to \(\Sigma\) if for every \(\epsilon > 0\) there exists an integer \(n_0(\epsilon)\) such that, for every \(n > n_0(\epsilon)\),

\[
M^n = P, \quad [\Sigma]
\]

where \(P\) is a form depending on \(n\) which, arranged as a polynomial in the \(y_i\)\(^{(16)}\), contains no term of degree less than \(n(\alpha - \epsilon)\). \(P\) may be zero. If \(\alpha\) is a multiplier for \(M\) and if \(0 \leq \gamma < \alpha\), \(\gamma\) is also a multiplier.

We prove the following properties of multipliers:

(a) Let \(M\) and \(N\) admit \(\alpha\) and \(\beta\), respectively, as multipliers with respect to \(\Sigma\). Let \(\gamma = \min(\alpha, \beta)\). Then \(M + N\) admits \(\gamma\) as a multiplier.

(b) For \(M\) and \(N\) as in (a), \(MN\) admits \(\alpha + \beta\) as a multiplier.

(c) Let \(M^p\), where \(p\) is a positive integer, admit \(\alpha\) as a multiplier. Then \(M\) admits \(\alpha/p\).

(d) Let \(M\) admit \(\alpha\) as a multiplier. Then \(M_1\), the derivative of \(M\), also admits \(\alpha\).

(e) If \(M = N\), \([\Sigma]\), \(M\) and \(N\) admit the same multipliers.

Proving (a), we take an \(\epsilon > 0\). Let \(n_0(\epsilon/2)\) serve as above for both \(M\) and \(N\) with respect to \(\epsilon/2\). We consider \((M + N)^n\) for any \(n \geq 1\). Let \(R = M^a N^b\) where \(a + b = n\). If \(a\) and \(b\) both exceed \(n_0(\epsilon/2)\), we have \(R = P\), \([\Sigma]\) where no term of \(P\) is of degree less than

\[
a(\alpha - \epsilon/2) + b(\beta - \epsilon/2),
\]

which quantity is not less than \(n(\gamma - \epsilon/2)\). If \(b \leq n_0(\epsilon/2) < a\), we have \(R = P\), \([\Sigma]\) with no term of \(P\) of degree less than

\[
[n - n_0(\epsilon/2)](\alpha - \epsilon/2).
\]

This last quantity, if \(n\) is large in comparison with \(n_0(\epsilon/2)\), exceeds \(n(\alpha - \epsilon)\). The truth of (a) is now clear.

\(^{(14)}\) The coefficients of the polynomials in the \(y_i\) are rational numbers.

\(^{(16)}\) When \(P\) is thus arranged, its coefficients will be forms in \(z\). The definition of multiplier gives a special role to \(\gamma\).
The proofs of (b), (c) and (e) are trivial.

Proving (d), we take an \( \epsilon > 0 \) and, relative to \( M \), an \( n_0(\epsilon/2) \). Let \( m \) be a fixed integer which exceeds \( n_0(\epsilon/2) \). We consider an \( n > 0 \) and use \( \delta(m, n) \) as in §4. Then \( M_1^n \) is a polynomial in \( M^n \) and its derivatives with coefficients which are forms in \( M \) of degree not greater than \( \delta(m, n) \). In this expression for \( M_1^n \), every power product in \( M^n \) and its derivatives is of degree not less than

\[
q = \left[ n - \delta(m, n) \right]/m.
\]

Now, if \( n \) is large, \( \delta(m, n) \) as one sees from (6), is small in comparison with \( n \), so that \( q \) is only slightly less than \( n/m \). Each power product in \( M^n \) and its derivatives is congruent to a form whose terms have degrees in the \( y_i \) not less than \( qm(\alpha - \epsilon/2) \). If \( n \) is large, this last quantity exceeds \( n(\alpha - \epsilon) \), q.e.d.

**The form \( F \). First operation**

7. We return to \( F \) of §2, denoting the general solution of \( F \) by \( \mathfrak{M} \). We show now that a solution in \( \mathfrak{M} \) with \( y = 0 \) satisfies \( z_3 = 0 \). Later, we shall prove that every \( z \) with \( z_3 = 0 \) is admissible.

We determine first a form \( G \) which holds in \( \mathfrak{M} \) but none of the other four components.

We have by (2) and (3),

\[
AB_1 - 4A_1B = 4y^3C.
\]

Thus by (4) (first representation of \( F \)), we have, when \( F = 0 \),

\[
4y^3B^{1/2} = y^3(AB_1 - 4A_1B).
\]

Again, letting \( K = y^3C \), we have by (4), when \( F = 0 \), the relation \( B^{1/2} = K \). Thus, for \( F = 0, B \neq 0 \),

\[
B^{-1/2}B_1 = 2K_1.
\]

Substituting into (13) the expression which (14) furnishes for \( B_1 \), and simplifying, we find for \( F = 0, B \neq 0 \),

\[
4y^3 + L = 0
\]

where

\[
L = - 4y_3 y_2 A K_1 + y_4 A^2 K_1^2 - 4y_4 A_1 B.
\]

We designate the first member of (15) by \( G \). Then \( G \) holds \( \mathfrak{M} \).

8. In what follows, all multipliers will operate with respect to \( [F, G] \), the differential ideal generated by \( F \) and \( G \).

In (4), \( y_3^2 \) and \( y_4 C^2 \) contain no terms of degree less than \( 8 \) in the \( y_i \). Thus \( A^4 \) admits \( 8 \) as a multiplier so that, by (c) of §6, \( A \) admits 2. Now \( z_3 y^2 \) admits 2. By (a) of §6, \( y_3 \) admits 2. Then, by (d), every \( y_i \), with \( i \geq 1 \) admits 2. From
(3), using (a), (b), (d), we find that $C$ admits 4. Referring to (4) and using (e), we see now that $A^4$ admits 14, so that $A$ admits 3. By (3), now, $C$ admits 5 and we find from (4) that $A$ admits 4. We return to (3) and see that $C$ admits 6. Also by (4), $B$ admits 18. Finally $K$ of §7 admits 9.

By (16), $L$ admits 30. By (15), $y_3$ admits 15/7. Now $y_2 - z_4 y^2 - 2 z_4 y y_1$, which is $A_1$, admits 4. As $y_1$ admits 2, $y_3 - z_4 y^2$ admits 3. Then $y_3 - z_4 y^2 - 2 z_4 y y_1$ admits 3, so that $y_3 - z_4 y^2$ admits 3. As $y_3$ admits 15/7, $z_4 y^2$ admits 15/7.

We infer that $[F, G]$ contains a form of the type $(z_4 y^2)^m + M$ where every term of $M$ is of degree greater than $2m$ in the $y_i$. It follows from the low power theorem that a solution in $\mathbb{N}$ cannot have $y = 0$ unless $z_4 = 0$.

SECOND OPERATION

9. Let $\alpha$ be any polynomial of effective degree 4. We shall prove that $\mathbb{M}$ contains $y = 0, z = \alpha$. This will imply that every $z$ for which $z_4 = 0$ appears in $\mathbb{M}$ with $y = 0$ and our investigation of $F$ will be completed.

Representing by $c$ an arbitrary constant and by $v$ a new unknown, we put $z = \alpha$ in $F$ and then make in $F$ the substitution:

$$y = \sum_{j=1}^{6} c \alpha^j + c v.$$  \hspace{1cm} (17)

We represent by $A', A'_1, B', C', F'$ the expressions into which $A, A_1, B, C, F$ are, respectively, transformed when $z$ is replaced by $\alpha$ and $y$ by the second member of (17).

We find from (17)

$$A' = c^4 v_1 + c^3 P$$  \hspace{1cm} (18)

with $P$ a polynomial in $x, c, v$. Then we may write

$$A'_1 = c^4 v_2 + c^3 Q.$$  \hspace{1cm} (19)

In (17), the coefficient of $c^3$ is of the second degree in $x$; that of $c^4$ is of the fourth degree. We have thus

$$y_3 = c^4 \beta + \cdots; \hspace{0.5cm} y_4 = c^3 \gamma + \cdots$$  \hspace{1cm} (20)

with $\beta$ of the first degree and $\gamma$ constant. By (18), (19), (20),

$$C' = c^4 (\beta v_2 - 2 \gamma v_1) + c^6 R$$

with $R$ a polynomial in $x, c$ and the $v_i$ with $j \leq 4$. We find thus

$$F' = c^{24} [v_1^4 - \beta^8 - (\beta v_2 - 2 \gamma v_1)^2] + c^{25} T$$  \hspace{1cm} (21)

with $T$ of the type of $R$.

\hspace{1cm} (17) Subscripts of $\alpha$ indicate differentiation.
10. Let $V$ represent the coefficient of $c^{24}$ in $F'$. As $\beta \neq 0$, the differential equation $V = 0$ is effectively of the second order. Let then $v = \xi$ be a solution of $V = 0$ with

$$\xi^4 - \beta^8 \neq 0.$$  

We wish to show that $F'$ is formally annulled by a series

$$v = \xi + \phi_2 c^{\rho_2} + \phi_3 c^{\rho_3} + \cdots$$

of the following description. The $\rho_i$ are positive rational numbers, with a common denominator, which increase with their subscripts. The $\phi_i$ are analytic functions of $x$, all analytic at some point at which $\xi$ is analytic.\(^{(18)}\)

It will suffice to show that $G = F'/c^{24}$ is annulled by a series (23). If $G$ vanishes identically in $x$ and $c$ for $v = \xi$, then $v = \xi$ is an acceptable series (23). In what follows, we assume that such vanishing does not occur.

Introducing a new unknown $u_1$, we put, in $G$, $v = \xi + u_1$. Then $G$ goes over into an expression $H'$ in $x$, $c$ and $u_1$,

$$H' = a'(c) + \sum b'_i(c) u_1^0 \cdot \cdot \cdot u_1^{a_{14}}.$$  

Here $\sum$ contains the terms of $H'$ which are not free of the $u_{1,i}$ and, in $\sum$, $i$ ranges from unity to some positive integer. As to $a'(c)$ and the $b'_i(c)$, they are polynomials in $c$ with analytic functions of $x$ for coefficients. Because $\xi$ does not annul $G$ identically, $a'(c)$ is not identically zero. On the other hand, because $G$ vanishes for $v = \xi, c = 0$, the lowest power of $c$ in $a'(c)$ is positive. Because the bracketed terms in (21) contribute effectively to $\sum$ in (24), certain of the $b'_i(c)$ contain terms of power zero in $c$.

Let $\sigma'$ be the least exponent of $c$ in $a'$ and $\sigma'_i$ the least exponent of $c$ in $b'_i$. Let

$$\rho_2 = \max \frac{\sigma' - \sigma'_i}{\alpha_{0i} + \cdots + \alpha_{4i}}$$

where $i$ has the range which it has in $\sum$. As $\sigma' > 0$ and certain $\sigma'_i$ equal 0, $\rho_2 > 0$.

We now take over §§12–16 of our paper On the singular solutions of algebraic differential equations\(^{(19)}\), putting $m = 4$ in that discussion. We are brought to the series (23) for $v$.

11. We have shown, all in all, that $F$, for $z = \alpha$, is annulled by a series

$$y = c + c^3 \alpha + \cdots + c^5 \alpha_2^4 + c^6 (\alpha_2^5 + \xi) + \cdots$$

where the unwritten terms have rational exponents greater than 6. The series (25) does not annul $B$ for $z = \alpha$. Indeed,

\(^{(18)}\) One may suppose that $\phi_1 = \xi, \rho_1 = 0$.

and, because of (22), the coefficient of \( c^{24} \) in \( B' \) does not vanish for \( v = \xi \).

It follows that every form which holds \( \mathcal{M} \) vanishes for \( z = \alpha \) and for \( y \) as in (25). This means that \( y = 0, z = \alpha \) is in \( \mathcal{M} \).

**Remarks**

12. If in (1) to (4), we replace \( z_3, y_3, y_4 \) wherever they appear by \( z_{n-1}, y_{n-1}, y_n \), respectively, where \( n \geq 4 \), we obtain a form \( F \) with a general solution which intersects the manifold of \( y = 0 \) in that of \( y = 0, z_{n-3} = 0 \); the proofs require only the slightest changes.

In \( F \) of §2, if one replaces \( z_3 \) by \( z \), one obtains a form which is of the first order in \( z \) and has a general solution which intersects the manifold of \( y = 0 \) in that of \( y = 0, z_3 = 0 \). This in itself is sufficiently anomalous. However, if it is desired to secure a form \( F \) whose order in \( z \) cannot be reduced, it suffices to replace \( y_3 \) and \( y_4 \) in (2), (3), (4) by \( z y_3 \) and its derivative, respectively.