Part II Integrable Systems, Sheet One

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1. **Gauge invariance of zero curvature equations.** Let $g = g(\tau, \rho)$ be an arbitrary nonsingular matrix. Show that the transformation

$$\widetilde{U} = gUg^{-1} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial \rho}g^{-1}, \qquad \widetilde{V} = gVg^{-1} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial \tau}g^{-1}$$

maps solutions to the zero curvature equation into new solutions: if the matrices (U, V) satisfy

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau}U(\lambda) - \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho}V(\lambda) + [U(\lambda), V(\lambda)] = 0$$

then so do $\widetilde{U}(\lambda), \widetilde{V}(\lambda)$. What is the relationship between the solutions of the associated linear problems?

2. Let $I_n, n = 0, 1, \ldots$ be the first integrals of KdV such that

$$\{I_n, I_m\} = 0.$$

Show that all equations in the KdV hierarchy

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t_n} = (-1)^n \frac{\partial}{\partial x}\frac{\delta I_n[u]}{\delta u(x)}$$

are compatible (in the sense that the partial 'time' derivatives commute). You may assume that the Poisson bracket of functionals satisfies the Jacobi identity.

3. **The nonlinear Schrödinger equation.** Consider the zero curvature representation with

$$U = \mathrm{i}\lambda \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} + \mathrm{i}\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \bar{\phi} \\ \phi & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$
$$V = 2\mathrm{i}\lambda^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} + 2\mathrm{i}\lambda \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \bar{\phi} \\ \phi & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \bar{\phi}_\rho \\ -\phi_\rho & 0 \end{bmatrix} - \mathrm{i}\begin{bmatrix} |\phi|^2 & 0 \\ 0 & -|\phi|^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

and show that complex valued function $\phi = \phi(\tau, \rho)$ satisfies the nonlinear Schrödinger equation

$$\mathrm{i}\phi_\tau + \phi_{\rho\rho} + 2|\phi|^2\phi = 0.$$

[This is another famous soliton equation which can be solved by the inverse scattering transform.]

4. **From a group action to vector fields.** Consider three one-parameter groups of transformations of $\mathbb{R}$,

$$x \to x + \varepsilon_1, \qquad x \to e^{\varepsilon_2}x, \qquad x \to \frac{x}{1 - \varepsilon_3 x},$$

and find the vector fields V_1, V_2, V_3 generating these groups. Deduce that these vector fields generate a three-parameter group of transformations

$$x \to \frac{ax + b}{cx + d}, \qquad ad - bc = 1.$$

Show that

$$[V_\alpha, V_\beta] = \sum_{\gamma=1}^{3} f_{\alpha\beta}^\gamma V_\gamma, \qquad \alpha, \beta = 1, 2, 3$$

for some constants $f_{\alpha\beta}^\gamma$ which should be determined.

5. **ODE with symmetry.** Consider a vector field

$$V = x\frac{\partial}{\partial x} - u\frac{\partial}{\partial u}$$

and find the corresponding one parameter group of transformations of $\mathbb{R}^2$. Sketch the integral curves of this vector field.

Find the invariant coordinates, i.e. functions $s(x,u), g(x,u)$ such that

$$V(s) = 1, \qquad V(g) = 0.$$

[These are not unique. Make sure that that s, g are functionally independent in a domain of $\mathbb{R}^2$ which you should specify.]

Use your results to integrate the ODE

$$x^2\frac{du}{dx} = F(xu),$$

where F is arbitrary function of one variable.

6. **Lie point symmetries of KdV.** Consider the vector fields

$$V_1 = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \quad V_2 = \frac{\partial}{\partial t}, \qquad V_3 = \frac{\partial}{\partial u} + \alpha t\frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \qquad V_4 = \beta x\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \gamma t\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \delta u\frac{\partial}{\partial u}$$

where $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta)$ are constants and find the corresponding one parameter groups of transformations of $\mathbb{R}^3$ with coordinates (x, t, u).

Find $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta)$ such that these are symmetry groups of KdV and deduce the existence of a four–parameter symmetry group.

Determine the structure constants of the corresponding Lie algebra of vector fields.

7. **Painlevé II from modified KdV.** Consider the modified KdV equation

$$v_t - 6v^2 v_x + v_{xxx} = 0.$$

Find a Lie point symmetry of this equation of the form

$$(\tilde{v}, \tilde{x}, \tilde{t}) = (c^\alpha v, c^\beta x, c^\gamma t), \qquad c \neq 0$$

for some (α, β, γ) which should be found, and find the corresponding vector field generating this group.

Consider the group invariant solution of the form

$$v(x,t) = (3t)^{-1/3} w(z), \quad \text{where} \quad z = \frac{x}{(3t)^{1/3}},$$

and obtain a third order ODE for $w(z)$. Integrate this ODE once to show that $w(z)$ satisfies the second Painlevé equation.

8. **Symmetry reduction of sine-Gordon.** Show that the transformation

$$(\tilde{\rho}, \tilde{\tau}) = (c\rho, c^{-1}\tau), \qquad c \neq 0$$

is a one–parameter symmetry of the sine-Gordon equation and find its generating vector field.

Consider the group invariant solutions of the form $\phi(\rho, \tau) = F(z)$ where $z = \rho\tau$. Substitute $w(z) = \exp(\mathrm{i}F(z))$ and demonstrate that the ODE arising from a symmetry reduction is one of the Painlevé equations.