

# Assignment 1—PMATH 930

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*What's purple and commutes?  
An abelian grape.*

1. I claim that the differential ideals of  $(\mathbb{C}[t], \frac{d}{dt})$  are  $\{0\}$  and  $\mathbb{C}[t]$ .

( $\implies$ ) Suppose we are given a differential ideal  $I$  of  $(\mathbb{C}[t], \frac{d}{dt})$ ; suppose  $0 \neq f \in I$ . If  $\deg(f) > 0$  then by hypothesis  $0 \neq \frac{df}{dt} \in I$ ; so there is a non-zero element of  $I$  of degree  $\deg(f) - 1$ . Continuing inductively we may assume  $\deg(f) = 0$  (and still  $f \neq 0$ ); so  $I \supseteq (f) = \mathbb{C}[t]$ , and  $I = \mathbb{C}[t]$ .

( $\impliedby$ ) It is clear that  $\{0\}$  and  $\mathbb{C}[t]$  are differential ideals.  $\square$

2. **(Extension of rings)** I first verify the implicit claim that  $R/I$  embeds in  $S/J$  (since derivations for us require that the codomain contain the domain). Define  $\Phi: R \rightarrow S/J$  by  $r \mapsto r + J$ ; so  $\Phi$  is the composition of the quotient map  $S \rightarrow S/J$  and the inclusion  $R \rightarrow S$ , and is thus a ring homomorphism. But  $\ker(\Phi) = J \cap R = I$ ; so by the first isomorphism theorem we get that  $\text{Ran}(\Phi) \cong R/I$ , and  $R/I$  embeds in  $S/J$ .

**(Existence)** Define a map  $\delta^*: R \rightarrow S/J$  by  $\delta^*(r) = \delta(r) + J$ ; so  $\delta^* = \pi \circ \delta$  is a homomorphism of additive grapes (where  $\pi: S \rightarrow S/J$  is the quotient map). Also by hypothesis we have  $\delta^*(I) = \pi(\delta(I)) \subseteq \pi(J) = \{0 + J\}$ ; so by the universal property of quotients we get a homomorphism of additive grapes  $\delta: R/I \rightarrow S/J$  such that  $\delta(r + I) = \delta(r) + J$  for all  $r \in R$ . Also if  $r_1 + I, r_2 + I \in R$  then

$$\delta((r_1 + I)(r_2 + I)) = \delta(r_1 r_2 + I) = \delta(r_1 r_2) + J = r_1 \delta(r_2) + \delta(r_1) r_2 + J = (r_1 + I) \delta(r_2 + I) + \delta(r_1 + I) (r_2 + I)$$

(where in the last expression  $r_i + I$  is viewed as an element of  $S/J$  via the  $\Phi$  defined above). So  $\delta$  satisfies the Leibniz rule, and  $\delta$  is a derivation.

**(Uniqueness)** Given two such derivations  $\delta_1, \delta_2$  by the defining condition they're equal on all of  $R/I$ .  $\square$

3. Suppose  $V = \text{Spec}(k[X]/I)$  where  $I = (P_1, \dots, P_\ell)$  for some  $P_1, \dots, P_\ell \in k[X]$  and  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ . Let  $J \subseteq K[X, Y]$  (where  $Y = (Y_1, \dots, Y_n)$ ) be the ideal generated by  $P_j(X)$  and

$$P_j^\delta(X) + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial P_j}{\partial X_i}(X) Y_i$$

as  $j$  ranges over  $\{1, \dots, \ell\}$ . For each  $P \in I$  we can write  $P = Q_1 P_1 + \dots + Q_\ell P_\ell$  for some  $Q_1, \dots, Q_\ell \in k[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ ; then

$$P(X) = \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} Q_j(X) P_j(X) \in J$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
& P^\delta(X) + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial P}{\partial X_i}(X) Y_i \\
&= \left( \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} Q_j P_j \right)^\delta (X) + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} Q_j P_j}{\partial X_i}(X) Y_i \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} (Q_j^\delta(X) P_j(X) + Q_j(X) P_j^\delta(X)) + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \left( \frac{\partial Q_j}{\partial X_i}(X) P_j(X) + Q_j(X) \frac{\partial P_j}{\partial X_i}(X) \right) Y_i \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} Q_j^\delta(X) \underbrace{P_j(X)}_{\in J} + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \frac{\partial Q_j}{\partial X_i}(X) \underbrace{P_j(X)}_{\in J} + \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} Q_j(X) \underbrace{\left( P_j^\delta(X) + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial P_j}{\partial X_i}(X) Y_i \right)}_{\in J} \\
&\in J
\end{aligned}$$

(Here we are using the fact that  $(\cdot)^\delta$  distributes over sums and  $(Q_j P_j)^\delta = Q_j^\delta P_j + Q_j P_j^\delta$ ; the latter can be easily verified by distributing the polynomial multiplication and verifying the result for single terms.) So  $J$  contains, and is thus equal to, the ideal of  $k[X, Y]$  generated by  $P(X)$  and

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial P}{\partial X_i}(X) Y_i$$

as  $P$  ranges over  $I$ . But this is the defining ideal of  $\tau V$ ; so  $\tau V = \text{Spec}(k[X, Y]/\sqrt{J})$ , as desired.  $\square$

4. Suppose  $K$  is an existentially closed differential integral domain. Suppose  $f, g \in K\{X\}$  with  $\text{ord}(f) > \text{ord}(g)$  and  $g \neq 0$ . Let  $n = \text{ord}(f)$ ; write  $f(X) = f^*(X, \delta X, \dots, \delta^n X)$  for some  $f^* \in K[X_0, \dots, X_n]$ . Consider  $L = K(t_0, \dots, t_{n-1})^{\text{alg}}$  where the  $t_i$  are indeterminates; then  $f^*(t_0, t_1, \dots, t_{n-1}, y) \in K(t_0, \dots, t_{n-1})[y]$  is non-constant since  $\text{ord}(f) = n$ , and thus has a root in  $s \in L$ . We extend  $\delta$  to  $L$  using Corollary (4) iteratively, and declaring

$$\delta(t_i) = \begin{cases} s & \text{if } i = n-1 \\ t_{i+1} & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

But then

$$f(t_0) = f^*(t_0, \delta t_0, \dots, \delta^{n-1} t_0, \delta^n t_0) = f^*(t_0, t_1, \dots, t_{n-1}, s) = 0$$

Write  $g(X) = g^*(X, \delta X, \dots, \delta^m X)$  for  $g^* \in K[X_0, \dots, X_m]$  and  $m < n$ . Then

$$g(t_0) = g^*(t_0, \delta t_0, \dots, \delta^m t_0) = g^*(t_0, t_1, \dots, t_m) \neq 0$$

since the  $t_i$  are algebraically independent over  $K$ .

So the formula  $f(x) = 0 \wedge g(x) \neq 0$  has a realization in  $(L, \delta) \models T$  (where  $T$  is the theory of differential integral domains). So by existential closure it has a realization in  $(K, \delta)$ .  $\square$

5. I discussed this question with Wilson Poulter and Sam Kim.

Suppose  $f: K^n \rightarrow K$  is a 0-definable function; let  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ . Consider the set of  $L_\delta$ -formulas

$$\Sigma(x) = \{ f(x) \neq F(x) : F \in \mathbb{Q}\langle X \rangle \}$$

I claim that  $\Sigma$  is not a type. Indeed, for any  $L \succeq K$  and  $a \in L^n$  we have that  $y = f(a)$  defines  $\{ f(a) \}$  over  $\{ a \}$ ; so  $f(a) \in \text{dcl}(a) = \mathbb{Q}\langle a \rangle$ , and there is  $F(X) \in \mathbb{Q}\langle X \rangle$  such that  $f(a) = F(a)$ . So  $\Sigma$  isn't realized in any elementary extension, and is thus not a type. So by compactness there are  $F_0, \dots, F_{\ell-1} \in \mathbb{Q}\langle X \rangle$  such that  $f(x) \neq F_0(x) \wedge \dots \wedge f(x) \neq F_{\ell-1}(x)$  isn't realized in  $K^n$ ; i.e. for all  $a \in K^n$  we have  $f(x) \in \{ F_i(a) : i < \ell \}$ . We then let  $D_i \subseteq K^n$  be defined by

$$f(x) = F_i(x) \wedge \bigwedge_{j < i} f(x) \neq F_j(x)$$

Then the  $D_i$  partition  $K^n$  and  $f \upharpoonright D_i = F_i \upharpoonright D_i$ .  $\square$

6. I discussed this question with Wilson Poulter and Sam Kim.

I claim that  $K \models \text{DCF}_0$  is  $\kappa$ -saturated if and only if the following holds:

- (\*) Suppose  $(F, \delta) \subseteq (K, \delta)$  is a differential subfield with  $F = \mathbb{Q}\langle A \rangle$  for some  $|A| < \kappa$ ; suppose  $(L, \delta^*)$  is a differential field extension of  $(F, \delta)$  such that either
- (a)  $L$  is a finitely generated field extension of  $F$  (i.e. it takes the form  $F\langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle$  for some  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in L$ ), or
  - (b)  $L \cong F\langle X \rangle$  with  $X$  a single indeterminate.

Then the inclusion  $F \hookrightarrow K$  extends to a  $\delta$ -embedding  $L \hookrightarrow K$ . In diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (L, \delta^*) & \hookrightarrow & (K, \delta) \\ \uparrow \subseteq & \nearrow \subseteq & \\ (F, \delta) & & \end{array}$$

*Remark 1* (Comments on the above condition).

- (a) If  $\kappa > \aleph_0$  we can simplify the hypothesis on  $F$  to be simply that  $|F| < \kappa$ .
- (b) A consequence of our condition is the existence of a “differential-algebraically independent” set of size  $\kappa$ , for a suitable definition of differential-algebraic independence; I don’t believe the converse holds.
- (c) One might hope that we could get away with only requiring the condition hold for  $L = F\langle X \rangle$ ; i.e. that given any small differential subfield there is  $a \in K$  “differentially transcendental” over  $F$ . I don’t think this is sufficient: I could reduce it to showing that given any prime ideal  $I$  of  $F[X_0, \dots, X_n]$  there is  $a \in K$  such that  $I = \{f \in F[X_0, \dots, X_n] : f(a, \delta a, \dots, \delta^n a) = 0\}$ , but I couldn’t figure out how to do that. Of course one can find  $a_0, \dots, a_n$  such that  $I = \{f \in F[X_0, \dots, X_n] : f(a_0, \dots, a_n) = 0\}$  by  $\kappa$ -saturation of  $K$  as a model of ACF, but I couldn’t see how to get  $\delta a_i = a_{i+1}$ . Alternatively one can pick some realization of your type and use existential closure of  $K$  and Noetherianity of  $F[x_0, \dots, x_n]$  to get  $a \in K$  such that  $I \subseteq \{f \in F[x_0, \dots, x_n] : f(a, \delta a, \dots, \delta^n a) = 0\}$ , but I’m not seeing how the other containment should follow.

That said I don’t have a counterexample for any of this; I’m not sure how one would go about exhibiting a “large” differentially closed field omitting some type. My only thought is the omitting types theorem, but that doesn’t produce large models.

*Proof.*

( $\implies$ ) Suppose  $K$  is  $\kappa$ -saturated; suppose we have  $F, K, L$  as above.

**Case 1.** Suppose  $L = F\langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle$  for  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in L$ . Then  $\text{tp}(a_1 \cdots a_n/A)$  is a type in  $\text{DCF}_0$  over  $A$  since it’s realized in any differentially closed extension of  $L$ . Then by  $\kappa$ -saturation there are  $b_1, \dots, b_n \in K$  such that  $\text{tp}(b_1 \cdots b_n/A) = \text{tp}(a_1 \cdots a_n/A)$ ; then since  $F = \mathbb{Q}\langle A \rangle = \text{dcl}(A)$  we get that  $\text{tp}(b_1 \cdots b_n/F) = \text{tp}(a_1 \cdots a_n/F)$ . So the map  $L = F\langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle \rightarrow K$  that fixes  $F$  and maps  $a_i$  to  $b_i$  is a well-defined  $\delta$ -embedding over  $F$ , as desired.

**Case 2.** Suppose  $L \cong F\langle X \rangle$  for  $X$  a single indeterminate. Consider  $\{f(x) \neq 0 : 0 \neq f \in F\{X\}\}$ . This can be phrased as a set of formulas over  $A$ , since  $F = \text{dcl}(A)$ , and it is in fact a type: it is realized for instance in any differentially closed extension of  $F\{X\}$ . So by  $\kappa$ -saturation it is realized in  $K$ , say by  $a$ . Then  $a$  satisfies no differential polynomials over  $F$ ; so  $F\langle a \rangle \cong F\langle X \rangle$ , and the map  $F\langle X \rangle \rightarrow K$  given by  $X \mapsto a$  is a  $\delta$ -embedding over  $F$ , as desired.

( $\impliedby$ ) Suppose  $A \subseteq K$  has  $|A| < \kappa$ ; let  $F = \mathbb{Q}\langle A \rangle$ . We will show that every  $p \in S_1(F)$  is realized in  $K$ . By quantifier elimination it suffices to consider partial types consisting only of literals over  $F$ ; i.e. formulas of the form  $f(x) = 0$  and their negations, for  $f \in F\{X\}$ .

Suppose  $p(x) \vdash f(x) \neq 0$  for all non-zero  $f \in F\{X\}$ . By hypothesis we get a  $\delta$ -embedding  $F\{X\} \hookrightarrow K$  over  $F$ ; then the image of  $X$  is a realization of  $p$  by quantifier elimination. Suppose

then that  $p(x) \vdash f(x) = 0$  for some non-zero  $f \in F\{X\}$ . Take some realization  $a$  of  $p$  in some elementary extension of  $K$ .

**Claim 2.**  $F\langle a \rangle$  is a finitely generated field extension of  $F$ .

*Proof.* Pick non-zero  $f \in F\{X\}$  such that  $f(a) = 0$  and  $(\text{ord}(f), \deg(f))$  is minimal in the lexicographic order among such; note that such non-zero  $f$  exist by assumption on  $p = \text{tp}(a/F)$ . Write  $f(X) = f^*(X, \delta X, \dots, \delta^n X)$  for  $f^* \in F[X_0, \dots, X_n]$ . By minimality of  $f$  and since  $\frac{\partial f^*}{\partial X_n}$  is lesser we get that  $\frac{\partial f^*}{\partial X_n}(a, \delta a, \dots, \delta^n a) \neq 0$ . I claim that  $F\langle a \rangle = F(a, \delta a, \dots, \delta^n a)$ . To see this, we note that

$$0 = \delta(f^*(a, \delta a, \dots, \delta^n a)) = \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{\partial f^*}{\partial X_i}(a, \delta a, \dots, \delta^n a) \delta^{i+1} a + (f^*)^\delta(a, \delta a, \dots, \delta^n a)$$

so since  $\frac{\partial f^*}{\partial X_n}(a, \delta a, \dots, \delta^n a) \neq 0$  we get

$$\delta^{n+1} a = \frac{-(f^*)^\delta(a, \delta a, \dots, \delta^n a) - \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{\partial f^*}{\partial X_i}(a, \delta a, \dots, \delta^n a)}{\frac{\partial f^*}{\partial X_n}(a, \delta a, \dots, \delta^n a)}$$

We can then use the quotient rule to write  $\delta^{n+k} a$  as a rational function of  $a, \delta a, \dots, \delta^n a$  for  $k \geq 1$ , since the denominator will always be a power of  $\frac{\partial f^*}{\partial X_n}(a, \delta a, \dots, \delta^n a) \neq 0$ . So  $\delta^{n+k} a \in F(a, \delta a, \dots, \delta^n a)$  for all  $k \geq 1$ ; so  $F\{a\} = F(a, \delta a, \dots, \delta^n a)$ .  $\square$  [Claim 2](#)

Then by the hypothesis we get a  $\delta$ -embedding  $F\langle a \rangle \hookrightarrow K$  over  $F$ . Then if  $b$  is the image of  $a$  under this embedding, we get by quantifier elimination that  $p = \text{tp}(a/F) = \text{tp}(b/F)$ . So  $p$  is realized in  $K$ .  $\square$