

# All transcendental meromorphic solutions of the autonomous Schwarzian differential equation

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Lagrangian Multiform Theory and Pluri-Lagrangian Systems  
October 22–27, 2023

## Theorem 1 (Malmquist<sup>1</sup>, 1912)

If the differential equation

$$y' = R(z, y), \quad (1)$$

where  $R$  is a rational function in two variables, admits a *non-rational meromorphic* solution, then  $R$  is a *polynomial* and  $\deg_y(R) \leq 2$ .

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# Malmquist theorem

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- A much simpler proof was given by Yosida<sup>2</sup> in 1933 using Nevanlinna theory.

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## Theorem 2 (Malmquist-Yosida)

Let  $R(z, y)$  be *rational* in two variables. If the differential equation

$$(y')^n = R(z, y) \quad (2)$$

admits a *non-rational meromorphic* solution, then (2) reduces into

$$(y')^n = \sum_{i=0}^{2n} \alpha_i(z) y^i,$$

where at least one of the coefficients  $\alpha_i(z)$  does not vanish.

### Theorem 3 (Steinmetz<sup>3</sup>, 1978)

Let  $R(z, y)$  be rational in both of its arguments. If (2) admits a transcendental meromorphic solution, then after a suitable Möbius transformation  $y = (\alpha v + \beta)/(\gamma v + \delta)$ , (2) reduces into one of the following types

$$v' = a(z) + b(z)v + c(z)v^2$$

$$(v')^2 = a(z)(v - b(z))^2 (v - \tau_1)(v - \tau_2)$$

$$(v')^2 = a(z)(v - \tau_1)(v - \tau_2)(v - \tau_3)(v - \tau_4)$$

$$(v')^3 = a(z)(v - \tau_1)^2 (v - \tau_2)^2 (v - \tau_3)^2$$

$$(v')^4 = a(z)(v - \tau_1)^2 (v - \tau_2)^3 (v - \tau_3)^3$$

$$(v')^6 = a(z)(v - \tau_1)^3 (v - \tau_2)^4 (v - \tau_3)^5$$

where  $\tau_1, \tau_2, \tau_3, \tau_4$  are complex constants, and the coefficients  $a(z), b(z), c(z)$  are rational functions. Moreover,  $a(z) \not\equiv 0$  in the last five types.

<sup>3</sup>Steinmetz, Dissertation, Karlsruhe Univ., 1978

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- Bank and Kaufman<sup>4</sup> obtained a precise growth estimate on meromorphic solutions of (2).

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## Conjecture

If the equation

$$f'' = R(z, f, f'), \quad (3)$$

where  $R(z, f, f')$  is rational in three variables has a **non-rational meromorphic** solution, then it reduces to (after a Möbius transformation)

$$f'' = L(z, f) (f')^2 + M(z, f) f' + N(z, f), \quad (4)$$

where  $L(z, f)$ ,  $M(z, f)$ ,  $N(z, f)$  are rational in two variables.

<sup>5</sup>Liao, Su, Yang, J. Differential Equations, 2003.



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where  $L(z, f), M(z, f), N(z, f)$  are rational in two variables.

## Theorem 4 (Liao, Su, Yang<sup>5</sup>, 2003)

*The conjecture above is true if (3) possesses a meromorphic solution  $f$  of infinite order.*

<sup>5</sup>Liao, Su, Yang, J. Differential Equations, 2003.

# Difference equations (first-order)

$$f(z+1)^n = R(z, f) \quad (5)$$

- $n = 1$ , if  $f$  is of **finite order**, then  $\deg_f R = 1$ . (Yanagihara<sup>6</sup>)
- $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , if  $R(z, f) = R(f)$  and  $f$  is of **finite order**, then

$$f(z+1) = Af + B \quad \text{or} \quad f(z+1)^2 = 1 - f^2. \quad (\text{Yanagihara}^7)$$

- $\deg_f R = n$ , (5) can be reduced to one of **12** canonical equations. (Korhonen, Zhang<sup>8</sup>)
- $\deg_f R \neq n$ , (5) can be reduced to one of **16** canonical equations. (Korhonen, Zhang<sup>9</sup>)

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<sup>6</sup>Yanagihara, Funkcial. Ekvac., 1980

<sup>7</sup>Yanagihara, Pitman Res. Notes Math. Ser., 1989

<sup>8</sup>Korhonen, Zhang, Constr. Approx., 2020

<sup>9</sup>Korhonen, Zhang, Constr. Approx., 2023

# Difference equations (second order)

$$f(z+1) + f(z-1) = R(z, f(z)) \quad (6)$$

Let  $f(z)$  be an admissible meromorphic solution of (6) of **finite order**, where  $R(z, f)$  is rational in  $f$ .

- $\deg_f R = 2$  (Ablowitz, Halburd, Herbst<sup>10</sup>)

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- $\deg_f R = 2$  (Ablowitz, Halburd, Herbst<sup>10</sup>)
- (Halburd, Korhonen<sup>11</sup>) Either  $f$  satisfies a **difference Riccati equation** or equation (6) can be transformed by a linear change in  $f$  to one of the following 8 equations:

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<sup>11</sup>Halburd, Korhonen, Proc. Lond. Math. Soc., 2007

# Difference equations (second order)

$$f(z+1) + f(z) + f(z-1) = \frac{a_1 z + a_2}{f} + b_1,$$

$$f(z+1) - f(z) + f(z-1) = \frac{a_1 z + a_2}{f} + (-1)^z b_1,$$

$$f(z+1) + f(z-1) = \frac{a_1 z + a_3}{f} + a_2,$$

$$f(z+1) + f(z-1) = \frac{a_1 z + b_1}{f} + \frac{a_2}{f^2},$$

$$f(z+1) + f(z-1) = \frac{(a_1 z + b_1)f + a_2}{(-1)^{-z} - f^2},$$

$$f(z+1) + f(z-1) = \frac{(a_1 z + b_1)f + a_2}{1 - f^2},$$

$$f(z+1)f(z) + f(z)f(z-1) = p,$$

$$f(z+1)f(z) + f(z)f(z-1) = pf + q,$$

where  $p, q \in S(f)$ , and  $a_k, b_k \in S(f)$  are arbitrary finite-order periodic functions with period  $k$ .

- The **Schwarzian differential equation** is defined by

$$S(f, z)^p = R(z, f) = \frac{P(z, f)}{Q(z, f)}, \quad (7)$$

where  $p$  is a positive integer, and  $R(z, f)$  is an irreducible rational function in  $f$  with meromorphic coefficients.

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- Let  $f$  be a meromorphic function. The Schwarzian derivative of  $f$  is

$$S_f(z) = S(f, z) := \left(\frac{f''}{f'}\right)' - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{f''}{f'}\right)^2 = \frac{f'''}{f'} - \frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{f''}{f'}\right)^2. \quad (8)$$

### Theorem 5 (Ishizaki, 1997)

Suppose that the *non-autonomous* Schwarzian differential equation with  $p = 1$  admits a *transcendental meromorphic solution*  $f$  such that all meromorphic coefficients of  $R(z, f)$  are small with respect to  $f$ . Then

- $f$  satisfies a *Riccati differential equation* with small meromorphic coefficients; or



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- $f$  satisfies a *Riccati differential equation* with small meromorphic coefficients; or
- $f$  satisfies a first order algebraic differential equation

$$(f')^2 + B(z, f)f' + A(z, f) = 0 \quad (9)$$

where  $A(z, f), B(z, f)$  are polynomials in  $f$  with small meromorphic coefficients; or

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- the Schwarzian differential equation reduces to one of the following two forms:

$$S(f, z) = \frac{P(z, f)}{(f + b(z))^2}$$
$$S(f, z) = c(z)$$

where  $b(z), c(z)$  are small meromorphic functions.

# Malmquist-type result for autonomous SDE

**Theorem A.** (Ishizaki, 1991) Suppose that the **autonomous** Schwarzian differential equation (7) admits a **transcendental meromorphic solution**. Then for some Möbius transformation  $u = (af + b)/(cf + d)$ ,  $ad - bc \neq 0$ , (7) reduces into one of the following types

$$S(u, z) = c \frac{(u - \sigma_1)(u - \sigma_2)(u - \sigma_3)(u - \sigma_4)}{(u - \tau_1)(u - \tau_2)(u - \tau_3)(u - \tau_4)} \quad (10)$$

$$S(u, z)^3 = c \frac{(u - \sigma_1)^3(u - \sigma_2)^3}{(u - \tau_1)^3(u - \tau_2)^2(u - \tau_3)} \quad (11)$$

$$S(u, z)^3 = c \frac{(u - \sigma_1)^3(u - \sigma_2)^3}{(u - \tau_1)^2(u - \tau_2)^2(u - \tau_3)^2} \quad (12)$$

$$S(u, z)^2 = c \frac{(u - \sigma_1)^2(u - \sigma_2)^2}{(u - \tau_1)^2(u - \tau_2)(u - \tau_3)} \quad (13)$$

$$S(u, z) = c \frac{(u - \sigma_1)(u - \sigma_2)}{(u - \tau_1)(u - \tau_2)} \quad (14)$$

$$S(u, z) = c \quad (15)$$

where  $c \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\tau_j$  are distinct constants, and  $\sigma_j$  are constants, not necessarily distinct,  $j = 1, \dots, 4$ .

## Theorem 6 (Liao, W, Zhang, Zhao, 2023)

*All transcendental meromorphic solutions of the autonomous Schwarzian differential equation can be constructed explicitly.*

- Liao, W, Exact meromorphic solutions of Schwarzian differential equations, Math. Z., 300 (2022) 1657–1672.
- Liao, W, Zhang, Zhao, All meromorphic solutions of the autonomous Schwarzian differential equations, 2023, submitted.

## Theorem 7 (Liao, W, Zhang, Zhao, 2023)

*Any transcendental meromorphic solution of the Schwarzian differential equation*

$$S(u, z) = c \frac{(u - \sigma_1)(u - \sigma_2)}{(u - \tau_1)(u - \tau_2)}, \quad (16)$$

where  $c, \tau_j, \sigma_j \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $\tau_1 \neq \tau_2$ , *must have at least a Picard exceptional value on  $\overline{\mathbb{C}}$ .*

# All transcendental meromorphic solutions

Equations	Transcendental meromorphic solutions	Parameter values
$S(u, z) = c \frac{u^4 + \beta u^2 + \tau^2}{(u^2 - 1)(u^2 - \tau^2)}$ with $\tau \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0, \pm 1\}$ and $\beta = \frac{\tau^4 - 10\tau^2 + 1}{2(\tau^2 + 1)}$	$1 - \frac{b}{\wp - d}$	$b = -\frac{c(\tau^2 - 1)}{2(\tau^2 + 1)}$ $d = \frac{c(\tau^2 - 5)}{12(\tau^2 + 1)}$ $g_2 = \frac{c^2(\tau^4 + 14\tau^2 + 1)}{12(\tau^2 + 1)^2},$ $g_3 = -\frac{c^3(\tau^4 - 34\tau^2 + 1)}{216(\tau^2 + 1)^2}$
$S(u, z)^3 = c \frac{(u^2 + 5)^3}{(u - 4)^3(u - 3)^2 u}$	$-\frac{3c}{c - 74088\wp^3}$	$g_2 = 0$ $g_3 = c/10584$
$S(u, z)^3 = c \frac{(u^2 + 1/3)^3}{(u^3 - u)^2}$	$\frac{9(9\wp + L^2)\wp'}{2L(81\wp^2 - 9L^2\wp + L^4)}$	$g_2 = 0, g_3 = c/432$ $L^6 = -27c/64$
$S(u, z)^2 = c \frac{(u^2 + 1/4)^2}{u^2(u^2 - 1)}$	$-\frac{1}{2L} \frac{(8\wp + L^2)^2 \wp'}{\wp(64\wp^2 + L^4)}$	$g_2 = -c/36, g_3 = 0$ $L^4 = 4c/9$
$S(u, z) = c \frac{u^2 + 2}{u^2 - 1}$	$\sin(\alpha z)$	$\alpha^2 = 2c$
$S(u, z) = c$	$\gamma(e^{\alpha z})$	$\alpha^2 = -2c$

## Remark 1

- **The conclusion of Theorem A does not hold for rational solutions** of the autonomous Schwarzian differential equation. For instance, the function

$$f(z) = -\frac{3}{2(z+a)^2},$$

where  $a$  is an arbitrary constant, satisfies the equation

$$S(u, z) = u$$

but it cannot be transformed into any type of (10)-(15) via Möbius transformations.

## Theorem 8 (Liao, W, Zhang, Zhao, 2023)

*If the autonomous Schwarzian differential equation has a non-constant rational solution, then it can be transformed via Möbius transformations into one of the following forms:*

**Form 1.**

$$S_g^t = c^{t/k} g^2, \quad (17)$$

where  $t \geq 2$  is an integer, and all rational solutions are given by

$$g(z) = c'(z - z_0)^{-t},$$

where  $c'$  is a constant such that  $(1 - t^2)^t = 2^t c^{t/k} c'^2$ ;

**Form 2.**

$$S_f^3 = c^{3/k} \frac{(f - \sigma_1)^3}{(f - \tau_1)^2 (f - \tau_2)}, \quad (18)$$

where  $\tau_1 \neq \tau_2$ .



# Briot-Bouquet equation

Theorem 9 (Briot, Bouquet<sup>12</sup>, 1856)

Every meromorphic solution of the *Briot-Bouquet (BB)* equation

$$P(f, f') = 0, \quad (19)$$

where  $P$  is a polynomial in two variables, belongs to the *class W*.

- Here, *class W* consists of elliptic functions and their degenerations, i.e., functions of the form  $R(z)$  or  $R(e^{az})$ ,  $a \in \mathbb{C}$ , where  $R$  is a rational function.

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<sup>12</sup>Briot, Bouquet, Intégration des équations différentielles au moyen de fonctions elliptiques, J. École Polytechnique, 1856

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- Here, *class W* consists of elliptic functions and their degenerations, i.e., functions of the form  $R(z)$  or  $R(e^{az})$ ,  $a \in \mathbb{C}$ , where  $R$  is a rational function.
- $W$  is chosen like **Weierstrass** as he proved that these are the only meromorphic functions that satisfy an **algebraic addition theorem**

$$Q(y(z + \zeta), y(z), y(\zeta)) = 0, \quad \text{where } Q \neq 0 \text{ is a polynomial.}$$

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# Higher order Briot-Bouquet differential equations

Let  $y$  be a meromorphic solution of the **higher order BB equations**

$$P\left(y^{(k)}, y\right) = 0, \quad k \geq 2, \quad (20)$$

then

- $k = 2$ :  $y \in W$  (Picard<sup>13</sup>, 1880, Bank and Kaufman<sup>14</sup>, 1981).

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<sup>13</sup>Picard, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, 1880

<sup>14</sup>Bank, Kaufman, Math. Z., 1981

<sup>15</sup>Eremenko, Teor. Funktsii, Funk. Anal. i Prilozh., 1982

<sup>16</sup>Eremenko, TMath. Proc. Camb. Phil. Soc., 2009

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- $k \geq 3$ : the conclusion is false in general.

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- $k \geq 3$ : the conclusion is false in general.
  - $k$  is odd: non-entire  $y \in W$  (Eremenko<sup>15</sup>, 1982).
  - $k$  is even: non-entire  $y \in W$  (Eremenko, Liao, Ng<sup>16</sup>, 2009)

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<sup>13</sup>Picard, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, 1880

<sup>14</sup>Bank, Kaufman, Math. Z., 1981

<sup>15</sup>Eremenko, Teor. Funktsii, Funk. Anal. i Prilozh., 1982

<sup>16</sup>Eremenko, TMath. Proc. Camb. Phil. Soc., 2009

## Theorem 10 (Eremenko, 2006)

All meromorphic solutions of the ODE

$$aw''' + bw'' + cw + w^2/2 + A = 0, \quad a, b, c, A \in \mathbb{C} \quad (21)$$

which describes the traveling wave reduction of the *Kuramoto-Sivashinsky* equation, belong to the class  $W$ .

- Eremenko, Meromorphic traveling wave solutions of the Kuramoto-Sivashinsky equation, J. Math. Phys. Anal. Geom., 2 (2006) 3 278–286.

## Theorem 11 (Eremenko, 2006)

If an autonomous algebraic ODE

$$\sum_{\lambda \in I} a_{i_0, i_1, \dots, i_n} w^{i_0} (w')^{i_1} \cdots (w^{(n)})^{i_n} = 0, \quad (22)$$

where  $I$  consists of finite multi-indices of the form  $\lambda = (i_0, i_1, \dots, i_n)$ ,  $i_k \in \mathbb{N}$ , satisfies

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where  $I$  consists of finite multi-indices of the form  $\lambda = (i_0, i_1, \dots, i_n)$ ,  $i_k \in \mathbb{N}$ , satisfies

- i) there is only one top degree term (the degree of each term in (22) is defined as  $|\lambda| = i_0 + i_1 + \cdots + i_n$ ),
- ii) **(Finiteness property)** there are finitely many choices of Laurent series expansion around the pole  $z_0$  of  $w$  [*Fuchs indices* (= zeros of the indicial equation  $Q = 0$ , where  $Q$  is a polynomial of degree  $n$ ) cannot be nonnegative integers],

then all its meromorphic solutions belong to the class  $W$ .



# Loewy Factorizable Algebraic ODEs

- This method has been applied to many **nonintegrable** differential equations, such as the Kuramoto-Sivashinsky equation<sup>17</sup>, the real cubic Swift-Hohenberg equation<sup>18</sup>, the complex cubic-quintic Ginzburg-Landau equation<sup>19,20</sup>, etc.

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<sup>17</sup>Eremenko, J. Math. Phys. Anal. Geom., 2006

<sup>18</sup>Conte, Ng, Wong, Stud. Appl. Math., 2012

<sup>19</sup>Conte, Musette, Ng, W, Phys. Rev. E, 2022

<sup>20</sup>Conte, Musette, Ng, W, Phys. Lett. A, 2023

# Loewy Factorizable Algebraic ODEs

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- We propose to study the **Loewy Factorizable Algebraic ODEs**

$$[D - f_n(u)] \cdots [D - f_2(u)][D - f_1(u)](u - \alpha) = 0, \quad (23)$$

where  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $u = u(z)$ ,  $D = \frac{d}{dz}$ ,  $f_i(u) = a_i u + b_i$  and  $\alpha, a_i, b_i \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

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<sup>17</sup>Eremenko, J. Math. Phys. Anal. Geom., 2006

<sup>18</sup>Conte, Ng, Wong, Stud. Appl. Math., 2012

<sup>19</sup>Conte, Musette, Ng, W, Phys. Rev. E, 2022

<sup>20</sup>Conte, Musette, Ng, W, Phys. Lett. A, 2023

# Loewy Factorizable Algebraic ODEs (general case)

## Theorem 12 (Ng, W, 2019)

For all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) \in \mathbb{C}^n \setminus \Omega$ , where  $\Omega$  is the union of at most countably many hypersurfaces in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , all meromorphic solutions (if they exist) of the ODE

$$[D - (a_n u + b_n)] \cdots [D - (a_1 u + b_1)](u - \alpha) = 0, \quad (24)$$

where  $D = \frac{d}{dz}$ , belong to class  $W$ .

- Ng, W, Nonlinear Loewy factorizable algebraic ODEs and Hayman's conjecture, Israel J. Math., 229 (2019) 1–38.

# Loewy Factorizable Algebraic ODEs (second-order)

## Theorem 13 (Ng, W, 2019)

Consider the ordinary differential equation

$$[D - f_2(u)][D - f_1(u)](u - \alpha) = 0, \quad (25)$$

where  $u = u(z)$ ,  $D = \frac{d}{dz}$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $f_i(u) = a_i u + b_i$ ,  $a_i, b_i \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ .

If either  $a_1 a_2 = 0$  or  $2 - \frac{4a_1}{a_2} \notin \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6\}$ , then all nontrivial meromorphic solutions of (25) can be constructed explicitly.

## Remark 2

There *do* exist meromorphic solutions of (25) *outside* the class  $W$  for certain choices of parameters, such as

$$u_1(z) = -\frac{q_i - q_k}{2} e^{-\frac{q_i - q_k}{\lambda} z} \frac{\wp'(e^{-\frac{q_i - q_k}{\lambda} z} - \zeta_0; g_2, 0)}{\wp(e^{-\frac{q_i - q_k}{\lambda} z} - \zeta_0; g_2, 0)} + q_k, \quad g_2 \in \mathbb{C},$$

$$u_2(z) = \frac{\alpha a_1 - b_1}{2a_1} - \sqrt{\frac{\beta}{a_1}} \frac{e^{\frac{b_2 z}{2}} (c_1 J'_\nu(\zeta) + c_2 Y'_\nu(\zeta))}{(c_1 J_\nu(\zeta) + c_2 Y_\nu(\zeta))},$$

$$\zeta = \frac{2\sqrt{a_1\beta}}{b_2} e^{\frac{b_2 z}{2}},$$

$$u_3(z) = \alpha - \frac{\sqrt{2} b_1 c_0 e^{b_1 z} \tanh\left(\frac{1}{2} (\sqrt{2} c_0 e^{b_1 z} + c_1)\right)}{a_2}.$$

Thank you!