

We multiply the system  $Ay' + By = f(t)$  (primes indicate  $d/dt$ ) of linear differential equations, with constant coefficients, by  $R^{-1}$  and make the substitution  $y = Sz$  ( $R$  and  $S$  are invertible constant matrices), thus obtaining the system  $(R^{-1}AS)z' + (R^{-1}BS)z = R^{-1}f(t)$ . The canonical form of a matrix pair under transformations  $(A, B) \rightarrow (R^{-1}AS, R^{-1}BS)$  was obtained by Kronecker (in work on a matrix bundle; see [1], and [2] Chap. XII).

We multiply the linear differential equation system

$$A(t)y' + B(t)y = f(t) \quad (1)$$

with meromorphic coefficients, by the matrix  $R(t)^{-1}$  and make the substitution  $y = S(t)z$  [ $R(t)$  and  $S(t)$  are invertible meromorphic matrices], thus obtaining the system  $A_0(t)z' + B_0(t)z = R(t)^{-1}f(t)$ , where

$$A_0(t) = R(t)^{-1}A(t)S(t), \quad B_0(t) = R(t)^{-1}(B(t)S(t) + A(t)S'(t)). \quad (2)$$

In this work we establish the canonical form of the matrix pair  $[A(t), B(t)]$  with respect to transformations (2).

The direct sum of pairs  $[A_1(t), B_1(t)]$  and  $[A_2(t), B_2(t)]$  is defined to be the pair

$$\begin{pmatrix} A_1(t) & 0 \\ 0 & A_2(t) \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} B_1(t) & 0 \\ 0 & B_2(t) \end{pmatrix}.$$

In Sec. 1 we prove that each pair of meromorphic matrices of the same order is reduced, by the transformations (2), to direct sums of the following matrix pairs:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \\ 0 & & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \\ 0 & & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}; \quad (3)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}; \quad (4)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}; \quad (5)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ & \ddots \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} -\alpha_1 & & & -\alpha_n \\ 1 & 0 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \\ 0 & & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (6)$$

In Sec. 2, we impose conditions on  $\alpha_1 = \alpha_1(t), \dots, \alpha_n = \alpha_n(t)$ , ensuring that the direct sum over the original pair is uniquely determined.

It will follow that each system (1), after the substitution  $y = S(t)z$ , splits into subsystems with matrix pairs of the form (3)-(6). Systems with pairs (3)-(5) can be solved by differentiation. A system with a pair (6) can be reduced to a single equation  $z^{(n)} - \alpha_1(t)z^{(n-1)} + \dots + (-1)^n \alpha_n(t)z = h(t)$ .

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Translation in *Differential Equations* 25, 1989, 1201-1206 (MR1025641).

Author's remark to the English translation:

the word "bundle" must be replaced by "pencil";

the word "body" must be replaced by "skew field".

1. An Algorithm for Direct-Sum Representation. We describe how a pair  $(A, B)$  of meromorphic matrices of the same dimension (we omit  $t$ ) can be reduced, by transformations (2), to a direct sum of pairs of the form (3)-(6). The reduction method was suggested in [3, 4]. The third step of the algorithm recalls the Danilevskii method of finding coefficients of characteristic polynomials ([5], Sec. 46). The rows and columns of  $A$  and  $B$  are interpreted to be vectors over the field  $F$  of meromorphic functions.

First Step. Calculation of Direct Terms of the Form (4), (5).

We reduce a pair to the form

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \hline A_2 \end{array} \right), \quad \left( \begin{array}{c} B_1 \\ \hline B_2 \end{array} \right), \quad (7)$$

where the sector  $A_2$  is row-nonsingular (i.e., its rows are linearly independent over  $F$ ). We carry out transformations (2) conserving the 0 in (7) by applying the following operations:

- a) elementary transformations of rows of  $B_1$ ;
- b) elementary transformations of rows simultaneously in  $A_2$  and  $B_2$ ;
- c) addition of a linear combination of rows of  $B_1$  to a row of  $B_2$ ;

d) replacement of  $A_2$ ,  $B_1$ , and  $B_2$  by  $A_2S$ ,  $B_1S$ , and  $B_2S + A_2S'$ , respectively, where  $S$  is an invertible meromorphic matrix.

If, by the transformation a), we can make the first row of  $B_1$  the null vector, then we obtain from the pair a direct term of the form (4), of dimension  $1 \times 0$ .<sup>\*</sup> Removing all such terms, we obtain a pair (7) with  $B_1$  row-nonsingular. By the transformations d) and c), we make  $B_1$  equal to  $(E|0)$ , and all elements under  $E$  nonzero; then the transformation b) leads to a pair

$$\left( \begin{array}{c|c} 0 & 0 \\ \hline A_3 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & A_4 \end{array} \right), \quad \left( \begin{array}{c|c} E & 0 \\ \hline 0 & B_3 \\ \hline 0 & B_4 \end{array} \right) \quad (8)$$

with row-nonsingular  $A_3$  and  $A_4$  [identically located sectors of the matrices (8) are of the same order]. The transformation d) yields  $A_3 = (O_{mn}E)$ , and the left vertical strip of the second matrix is spoiled by the application of the transformations a) and c). By removing  $n$  direct terms of the form (5) of order  $1 \times 1$ , we obtain the pair (8) with  $A_3 = E$ .

Now consider the fragment  $\bar{A} = \left( \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ A_4 \end{array} \right)$ ,  $\bar{B} = \left( \begin{array}{c} B_3 \\ B_4 \end{array} \right)$ . A linear combination of rows of

$B_3$  can be added to a row of  $B_4$  [transformation b)]. In the pair (8), there will no longer be a null sector below  $A_3 = E$ ; we make it zero again by applying the null transformation d). There will then not be null sectors to the left of  $B_3$  and  $B_4$ ; they are made null by applying transformation c).

Hence, with the fragment  $\bar{A}$ ,  $\bar{B}$ , we can make transformations similar to a)-d); in them the only difference is that  $A_2$ ,  $B_1$ , and  $B_2$  must be replaced by  $A_4$ ,  $B_3$ , and  $B_4$ , respectively [this is true for the transformation c)].

With the fragment  $(\bar{A}, \bar{B})$  we perform the same transformations as with the whole pair; we remove the  $2 \times 1$  direct term of the form (4) and the  $2 \times 2$  terms of the form (5), and obtain the pair (see top of following page) with a row-nonsingular  $A_6$ .

<sup>\*</sup>As is customary, we admit the existence of null matrices  $O_{m,n}$ , in which the number of rows is  $m = 0$  or the number of columns is  $n = 0$ . In particular, the pairs (3) and (4) can be  $(O_{01}, O_{01})$  and  $(O_{10}, O_{10})$ , respectively. The direct sum of pairs  $(M, N)$  and  $(O_{mn}, O_{mn})$  is obtained by attributing  $m$  null rows and  $n$  null columns to  $M$  and  $N$ , respectively ( $m \geq 0, n \geq 0$ ).

$$\left( \begin{array}{c|cc} O & O & O \\ \hline E & O & O \\ \hline O & E & O \\ \hline O & O & A_0 \end{array} \right), \quad \left( \begin{array}{c|cc} E & O & O \\ \hline O & E & O \\ \hline O & O & B_5 \\ \hline O & O & B_6 \end{array} \right)$$

The same transformations are applied to the fragment  $\begin{pmatrix} O \\ A_6 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} B_5 \\ B_6 \end{pmatrix}$ .

These transformations are repeated until the dimension of E becomes  $0 \times 0$  [the dimension of E is decreased by each removal of direct terms of the form (4), (5)]. We thus obtain a matrix pair with a row-nonsingular first matrix.

Second Step. Separation of Direct Terms of the Form (3). Let (A, B) be a pair with a row-nonsingular first matrix. This pair is reduced to

$$(O | A_2), (B_1 | B_2) \tag{9}$$

with a nonsingular  $A_2$ , and the following transformations (2) with  $S = \begin{pmatrix} S_1 & S_2 \\ O & S_3 \end{pmatrix}$ , are applied, conserving the 0 in (9):

- a) elementary transformations of rows, simultaneously in  $A_2, B_1,$  and  $B_2$ ;
- b) elementary transformations of columns of  $B_1$ ;
- c) addition, to a column of  $B_2$ , of a linear combination of columns of  $B_1$ ;
- d) replacement of  $A_2$  and  $B_2$  by  $A_2 S_3$  and  $B_2 S_3 + A_2 S_3$ , respectively, where  $S_3$  is an invertible meromorphic matrix.

If, by a transformation b), we can produce a null column in  $B_1$ , then we separate a direct term of the form (3) of dimension  $0 \times 1$  from the pair. Removing all such terms, we apply a transformation a) to reduce  $B_1$  to the form  $\begin{pmatrix} -E \\ O \end{pmatrix}$ , and then transformations d) and c) to reduce the pair to

$$\left( \begin{array}{c|cc} O & E & O \\ \hline O & O & A_4 \end{array} \right), \quad \left( \begin{array}{c|cc} E & O & O \\ \hline O & B_3 & B_4 \end{array} \right)$$

with a nonsingular  $A_4$ .

Making the same transformations with the fragment  $\bar{A} = (O A_4), \bar{B} = (B_3 B_4)$ , we remove direct terms of the form (3) of dimension  $1 \times 2$  from the pair, and reduce it to

$$\left( \begin{array}{c|ccc} O & E & O & O \\ \hline O & O & E & O \\ \hline O & O & O & A_6 \end{array} \right), \quad \left( \begin{array}{c|ccc} E & O & O & O \\ \hline O & E & O & O \\ \hline O & O & B_5 & B_6 \end{array} \right)$$

with a nonsingular  $A_6$ .

The same transformations are applied to the fragment  $(O A_6), (B_5 B_6)$ .

Repeating these transformations until the dimension of E is  $0 \times 0$ , we obtain a pair with a nonsingular first matrix.

Third Step. Separation of Direct Terms of the Form (6). Suppose that there is a pair with a nonsingular first matrix. We reduce the pair to the form (E, B), and apply transformations (2) with  $R = S$  (conserving the first matrix E). Taking S to be an elementary matrix, we obtain the following set of elementary transformations with the matrix B:

- a) permutation of the i-th and j-th columns, and then permutation of the i-th and j-th rows;



$\alpha \in K$ , we have  $(v+v_1)\mathcal{B} := v\mathcal{B} + v_1\mathcal{B}$ , and  $(v\alpha)\mathcal{B} = (v\mathcal{B})\alpha^\varphi + (v\mathcal{A})\alpha^\delta$  [when  $V = W$  and  $\mathcal{A} = 1$ , a mapping  $\mathcal{B}$  is called pseudolinear ([6], Sec. 8.4); for  $\varphi = 1$  and  $\delta = 0$ , Gabriel [9] calls the set (10) a Kronecker module]. A bundle morphism  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{R}) : (V_0, W_0; \mathcal{A}_0, \mathcal{B}_0) \rightarrow (V, W; \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$  is understood to be a pair of linear mappings  $\mathcal{P} : V_0 \rightarrow V$  and  $\mathcal{R} : W_0 \rightarrow W$ , for which  $\mathcal{A}_0\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{P}\mathcal{A}$ , and  $\mathcal{B}_0\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{R}\mathcal{B}$ . Pseudolinear bundles form an Abel category with the direct sum  $\mathcal{P} \oplus \mathcal{P}_1 = (V \oplus V_1, W \oplus W_1; \mathcal{A} \oplus \mathcal{A}_1, \mathcal{B} \oplus \mathcal{B}_1)$ . Isomorphic bundles will be called equivalent.

Each bundle is equivalent to a bundle of the form

$$(K^n, K^m; \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}), \quad (11)$$

where  $K^n$  is a right space of column vectors  $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)^T$ ,  $\lambda_i \in K$ ,  $K^0 = 0$ . A bundle (11) will be identified with the pair of matrices  $(A, B)$  of dimension  $m \times n$ , whose columns are the images of the basis vectors  $e_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0)^T, \dots, e_n = (0, \dots, 0, 1)^T$ , and  $A = B = 0_{mn}$  when  $m = 0$  or  $n = 0$ . Then  $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)^T = A(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)^T$  and  $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)^T \mathcal{B} = B(\lambda_1^{\varphi}, \dots, \lambda_n^{\varphi})^T + A(\lambda_1^{\delta}, \dots, \lambda_n^{\delta})^T$ . Bundles  $(A, B)$  and  $(A_0, B_0)$  are equivalent if and only if  $A_0 = R^{-1}AS$  and  $B_0 = R^{-1}(BS^{\varphi} + AS^{\delta})$ , where  $R$  and  $S$  are nonsingular matrices [see (2)].

A skew-polynomial ring  $\Lambda = K[x; \varphi, \delta]$  ([6], Sec. 0.8) is understood to be the ring of polynomials  $K[x]$ , in which ordinary multiplication is replaced by multiplication defined as follows:  $\alpha x = x\alpha^{\varphi} + \alpha^{\delta}$ ,  $\alpha \in K$ . A polynomial  $a \in \Lambda$ ,  $a \notin K$ , is called unsplitable ([6], Sec. 3.2), if it cannot be expressed as  $a = a_1b_1 = a_2b_2$ , where the polynomials  $a_i \in K$ , and  $b_i \in K$  are mutually left-prime (i.e.,  $a_1\Lambda + a_2\Lambda = \Lambda$ ) and the sum of their degrees is equal to the degree of the polynomial  $a$ . Polynomials  $a, b \in \Lambda$  are similar ([6], Sec. 3.3), if their degrees are equal and  $au = vb$  for some  $u, v \in \Lambda$  such that  $a$  and  $v$  are mutually left-prime (it can be required that the degrees of  $u$  and  $v$  are, respectively, lower than the degrees of  $b$  and  $a$ ).

The following theorem was proved by Kronecker for  $\varphi = 1$  and  $\delta = 0$  [1] (see also [2]), and for  $\varphi \neq 1$  and  $\delta = 0$  in [7, 8].

**THEOREM.** Each pseudolinear bundle over  $K$  is equivalent to a direct sum of bundles of the form (3)-(6), uniquely determined to within a permutation of terms; the elements  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  in the bundle (6) are the coefficients of an unsplitable skew polynomial  $x^n + x^{n-1}\alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_n \in K[x; \varphi, \delta]$ , determined to within a similarity.

**Proof.** The ring of endomorphisms of a bundle  $\mathcal{P} = (V, W; \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$  with no representation as a direct sum, is local; if  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  are noninvertible endomorphisms of the bundle, then  $\varphi + \psi$  is not invertible. Suppose that  $\varphi + \psi$  is invertible; assume that  $\varphi + \psi = 1$ , let  $\varphi = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{R})$ , and let  $m$  be a positive integer such that  $\text{Im } \mathcal{P}^m = \text{Im } \mathcal{P}^{m+1}$ , and  $\text{Im } \mathcal{R}^m = \text{Im } \mathcal{R}^{m+1}$ . Then  $\mathcal{P} = (\text{Im } \mathcal{P}^m, \text{Im } \mathcal{R}^m; \mathcal{A}_1, \mathcal{B}_1) \oplus (\text{Ker } \mathcal{P}^m, \text{Ker } \mathcal{R}^m; \mathcal{A}_2, \mathcal{B}_2)$ , where  $\mathcal{A}_1$  and  $\mathcal{B}_1$  are restrictions of  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$ . The bundle  $\mathcal{P}$  cannot be expanded, and so  $\varphi^m = 0$ , and  $1 + \varphi + \dots + \varphi^{m-1} = (1 - \varphi)^{-1} = \psi^{-1}$ , and we have a contradiction.

Hence, by virtue of the Krull-Schmidt theorem for additive categories ([10], p. 31), each pseudolinear bundle is equivalent to a direct sum of nonexpandable bundles, to within an equivalence of direct terms.

The algorithms in Sec. 1 are easily converted to apply to pseudolinear bundles over a body (we assume that the rows of matrices are in the left vector space and the columns are in the right vector space).

Let  $(A, B)$  be a pseudolinear bundle over  $K$  with a singular matrix  $A$ , that is not expandable in a direct sum. The algorithm in Sec. 1 implies that this bundle is equivalent to one of the bundles (3)-(5), which cannot be expanded because they have local rings of endomorphisms ([10], p. 31), consisting of matrix pairs of the form

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & & * \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \alpha \end{pmatrix}, \quad R = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & & * \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \alpha \end{pmatrix}$$

for the bundle (3), and a matrix pair of the form  $(S^T, R^T)$  for bundles (4) and (5).

Let  $(A, B)$  be a nonexpandable pseudolinear bundle over  $K$ , with a nonsingular matrix  $A$ . It is equivalent to a bundle of the form  $(V, V; 1, \mathcal{B})$ . We follow [6] (Sec. 8.4), and convert the vector space  $V$  into a right module over the ring of skew polynomials  $\Lambda = K[x; \varphi, \delta]$ , putting

The ring  $\Lambda$  has left and right division algorithms; there is therefore a domain of principal left and principal right ideals. The module  $V$  cannot be expanded; hence  $V = v\Lambda$ , and the non-null skew polynomial  $\chi_v(x) = x^n + x^{n-1}\alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_n$  of the lowest degree, such that  $v\chi_v(x) = 0$ , is not splittable, and  $v\Lambda$  and  $w\Lambda$  are isomorphic if and only if the similar polynomials  $\chi_v(x)$  and  $\chi_w(x)$  are similar ([6], Sec. 3.2 and 3.3). In the basis  $v, v(x + \alpha_1), \dots, v(x^{n-1} + x^{n-2}\alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_{n-1})$ , the matrix of the mapping  $\mathcal{B}$  coincides with the second matrix of the bundle (6); hence  $(V, V; 1, \mathcal{B})$  is equivalent to the bundle (6). This proves the theorem.

**COROLLARY.** A linear differential-equation system  $A(t)y' + B(t)y = 0$ , with coefficients from a function field  $F$  closed under differentiation (for example the field of meromorphic functions), when multiplied by  $R(t)^{-1}$  and subject to the variable change  $y = S(t)z$  [where  $R(t)$  and  $S(t)$  are invertible matrices with elements from  $F$ ], can be split into subsystems with matrices of the form (3)-(6); the elements  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  in (6) are the coefficients of a nonsplittable skew polynomial  $\chi(x) = x^n + x^{n-1}\alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_n \in F[x; l, d/dt]$ . The subsystems with the matrices (3)-(5) are uniquely determined by the original system, and the subsystems with matrices (6) are uniquely determined by the original system to within the replacement of the skew polynomial  $\chi(x)$  by a similar polynomial.

The author takes this opportunity to thank I. O. Parasyuk for his valuable discussions of this work.

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