

On Generic Derivations and Endomorphisms

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*joint work with Antongiulio Fornasiero

Motivations

- Robinson: The theory of fields of characteristic 0 with one derivation has a model completion, the theory DCF_0 of differentially closed fields of characteristic 0.
- Blum: Axioms for DCF_0 , i.e. K is a field of characteristic 0, and, whenever p and q are differential polynomials in one variable, with q not constant and of order strictly less than the order of p , then there exists a in K such that $p(a) = 0$ and $q(a) \neq 0$.
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Basic Definition

T is a model complete theory if not replace it with its Morleyzation.

Definition

Let T be a theory expanding the theory of fields of characteristic 0. T admits generic derivations if T^δ , i.e. T plus

$$\delta(x + y) = \delta x + \delta y, \delta(x \cdot y) = x\delta y + y\delta x.$$

has a model completion, T_g^δ .

Definition

Let T and T^* be theories in the same language L .

T^* is a model completion of T if the following hold:

- 1 If $A \models T^*$, then $A \models T$;
- 2 If $A \models T$, then there exists a $B \supset A$ such that $B \models T^*$;
- 3 If $A \models T$, $A \subset B$, $A \subset C$, where $B, C \models T^*$, then B is elementary equivalent to C over A .

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Main results

- If T is algebraically bounded, then T admits generic derivations.
- T_g^δ inherits model theoretic properties from T : stability, NIP, simplicity.
- Conditions to have elimination of imaginaries of T_g^δ .
- If T is linearly bounded, then T admits generic endomorphism.
- Theories that do not admit a generic derivation.

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Algebraically bounded field

We fix an L -structure $\mathbb{K}$ expanding a field of characteristic 0.

Definition (Van den Dries)

$\mathbb{K}$ is **algebraically bounded** if, for any formula $\phi(\bar{x}, y)$, there exist finitely many polynomials $p_1, \dots, p_m \in K[\bar{x}, y]$ such that for any $\bar{a}$, if $\phi(\bar{a}, \mathbb{K})$ is finite, then $\phi(\bar{a}, K)$ is contained in the zero set of $p_i(\bar{a}, y)$ for some i such that $p_i(\bar{a}, y)$ doesn't vanish.

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Fact

The following are equivalent:

- 1 The model theoretic algebraic closure coincide with the field theoretic algebraic closure in every elementarily extension of $\mathbb{K}$;
- 2 $\mathbb{K}$ is algebraically bounded;

Theories with generic derivations

- ACF_0 [Robinson '59, Blum '68]
- RCF [Singer '78]
- Henselian valued fields [Point et al.]
- Model complete "large" fields [Tressl '05]

Algebraically bounded fields

- Algebraically closed valued fields;
- p -adics;
- pseudo-finite fields.
- The expansion of an algebraically bounded structure by a generic predicate is still algebraically bounded;

Notations

Let L be the language of $\mathbb{K}$ and T be its theory.

Let $\bar{\delta} := \delta_1, \dots, \delta_k$. We obtain two theories:

- $T^{\bar{\delta}}$ the expansion of T saying that the δ_i are derivations which commute with each other, i. e. for every $i, j \leq k$, $\delta_i \circ \delta_j = \delta_j \circ \delta_i$.
- $T^{\bar{\delta}, nc}$ the expansion of T saying that the δ_i are derivations without any further conditions.

For convenience, we use $T_g^{\bar{\delta}, ?}$ to denote either of the model completions, both for commuting derivations and the non-commuting case.

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We denote by Γ the free commutative (or non commutative) monoid generated by $\bar{\delta}$, we can define the canonical partial order $\preceq$ given by $\beta \preceq \alpha\beta$, for all $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$.

Remark

If Γ is the free non commutative monoid generated by $\bar{\delta}$ then $\preceq$ is a well-founded partial order on Γ , but it is not a well-partial-order (i.e., there exist infinite anti-chains).

Remark

If Γ is the free commutative monoid generated by $\bar{\delta}$, with the canonical partial order $\preceq$, it is isomorphic to $\mathbb{N}^k$.

Let be $\bar{a} \in K^n$ we denote by $Jet(\bar{a}) := \langle \gamma \bar{a} : \gamma \in \Gamma \rangle$.

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Two axiomatizations

Definition

Let $X \subseteq \mathbb{K}^n$ be L -definable with parameters. X is large if $\dim(X) = n$.

Two possible axiomatizations for the model completion T_g^δ are given by T^δ and either of the following axiom schemas:

Deep

For every $Z \subseteq \mathbb{K}^{n+1}$ $L(\mathbb{K})$ -definable, if $\Pi_n(Z)$ is large, then there exists $c \in \mathbb{K}$ such that $\text{Jet}_n(c) = \langle \delta^i c : i \leq n \rangle \in Z$;

Wide

For every $W \subseteq \mathbb{K}^n \times \mathbb{K}^n$ $L(\mathbb{K})$ -definable, if $\Pi_n(W)$ is large, then there exists $\bar{c} \in \mathbb{K}^n$ such that $\langle \bar{c}, \delta \bar{c} \rangle \in W$.

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Proposition

Let T and T^* be theories in the same language L such that $T \subseteq T^*$. The following are equivalent:

- ① T^* is the model completion of T and T^* eliminates quantifiers.
- ②
 - ① For every $A \models T$, for every $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n \in T^*$, there exists $B \models T$ such that $A \subseteq B$ and $B \models \sigma_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \sigma_n$;
 - ② For every L -structures A, B, C such that $B \models T$, $C \models T^*$, and A is a common substructure, for every quantifier-free $L(A)$ -formula $\phi(x)$, and for every $b \in B$ such that $B \models \phi(b)$, there exists $c \in C$ such that $C \models \phi(c)$.

Main result

Notations:

$T_{deep}^{\delta} := T^{\delta} \cup Deep$ and $T_{wide}^{\delta} := T^{\delta} \cup Wide$

Theorem (Fornasiero and T. 2024)

The model completion T_g^{δ} of T^{δ} exists, and the theories T_{deep}^{δ} and T_{wide}^{δ} are two possible axiomatizations of T_g^{δ} .

Sketch of the proof

- $T_{wide}^{\delta} \vdash T_{deep}^{\delta}$
- We apply Criteria (2) when $T = T^{\delta}$. (1) holds for $T^* = T_{wide}^{\delta}$ and (2) holds for $T^* = T_{deep}^{\delta}$.

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Several commuting and non commuting derivations

McGrail

Axiomatized $DCF_{0,m}$. The axiomatization is complicate.
 $DCF_{0,m}$ is ω -stable, it eliminates imaginaries its models are algebraically closed field.

Moosa and Scanlon 2014

The theory of the field with non commuting derivations has model completion. Axiomatization is easier.
The theory is stable but not ω -stable.

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Theorem (Fornasiero, T. 2024)

- 1 If T is model complete then $T_g^{\bar{\delta},?}$ is the model completion of $T^{\bar{\delta},?}$.
- 2 If T eliminates quantifiers, then $T_g^{\bar{\delta},?}$ eliminates quantifiers.
- 3 For every $L^{\bar{\delta}}$ -formula $\alpha(\bar{x})$ there exists an L -formula $\beta(\bar{x})$ such that

$$T_g^{\bar{\delta},?} \models \forall \bar{x} (\alpha(\bar{x}) \leftrightarrow \beta(\text{Jet}(\bar{x}))).$$

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- 1 If T is stable, then $T_g^{\bar{\delta},?}$ is stable.
- 2 If T is NIP, then $T_g^{\bar{\delta},?}$ is NIP.

Proof

- 1 $QE + T$ is stable iff any indiscernible sequence is totally indiscernible.
- 2 $QE + T$ is dependent iff every indiscernible sequence does not alternate infinitely many times .

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- 2 $QE + T$ is dependent iff every indiscernible sequence does not alternate infinitely many times .

Theorem (Fornasiero, T. 2024)

- 1 If T is stable, then $T_g^{\bar{\delta},?}$ is stable.
- 2 If T is NIP, then $T_g^{\bar{\delta},?}$ is NIP.

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$T_g^{\bar{\delta}}$ is ω -stable iff $T = ACF_0$ and the derivations commute.

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Theorem (Fornasiero, Kaplan and Matthews)

If T is geometric and stable, then it is strongly minimal.

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T is algebraically bounded and strongly minimal iff $T = ACF_0$

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Elimination of imaginaries

Definition

T eliminates imaginaries (T has EI) if every imaginary is interdefinable with a real tuple: i.e., for every imaginary e there is a real tuple a such that $dcl^{eq}(e) = dcl^{eq}(a)$.

Conjecture 2024

Let T be algebraically bounded. Then, $T_g^{\bar{\delta},?}$ has elimination of imaginaries modulo T^{eq} .

Knew cases

ACF_0 and RCF .

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Assumption

- $\mathbb{M}$ is a structure expanding vector space.
- $M_0 = acl(\emptyset)$, L is the language of $\mathbb{M}$ expanding L_K and we assume that it contains a constant for each element of M_0 .
- T is its L -theory and we assume model complete theory.
- We consider η endomorphism of M_0 and ϕ is some endomorphism of M extending η .
- We denote by T^ϕ the L^ϕ -expansion of T saying that ϕ is an endomorphism extending η ;

Generic endomorphism

Theorem (Fornasiero, T. 2026)

- T admits generic endomorphism that we denote by T_g^ϕ
- If T has QE then T_g^ϕ .
- If T is stable then T_g^ϕ is stable.
- If T is NIP then T_g^ϕ is NIP.

No model completion

Theories with no model completion

- 1 Theories of groups; [Eklof-Sabbagh '71]
- 2 Theories of modules over certain rings; [Eklof-Sabbagh '71]
- 3 Theories of exponential fields. [Haykazyan- Kirby 2021]

No generic derivations

Theorem (Fornasiero, T. 2025)

If T expands a non trivial exponential field of characteristic 0, then T does not admit generic derivations.

Corollary

$(\mathbb{C}, \exp)$, $(\mathbb{B}, E(x))$ where $\mathbb{B}$ is a Zilber field and $(\mathbb{R}, \exp)$ do not admit generic derivations.

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Sketch of the proof

Definition

T^δ has a model companion if the class $\mathcal{E}$ of existentially closed models of T^δ is elementary, and in that case the model companion is the theory of $\mathcal{E}$.

Definition

A model $M \models T$ is existentially closed if, for every quantifier free formula $\phi(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ and all $\bar{a}$ in M , if there is an extension $M \subset B$ such that $B \models T$ and $B \models \exists \bar{x} \phi(\bar{x}, \bar{a})$ then

$$M \models \exists \bar{x} \phi(\bar{x}, \bar{a}).$$

Lemma

Let $(\mathbb{K}, \delta) \in \mathcal{E}$. Let $X \subset K^2$ be $\mathbb{K}$ -definable, and consider $\delta|_X : X \rightarrow K^2$. We have that $\delta|_X$ is a surjective iff X is Zariski dense in K^2 .

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Restricted exponential function

Theorem (Fornasiero, T. 2025)

There exists an L -definable family $(\Gamma_c : c \in I)$ of subsets of K^2 with $I = [0, 1]$, such that Γ_c is not Zariski dense in K^2 iff $c \in \mathbb{Q}$.

Corollary

Let $(\mathbb{K}, \delta) \in \mathcal{E}$. We have δ_c is surjective iff $c \notin \mathbb{Q}$.

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$(\mathbb{R}, \exp|_{[0,1]})$ does not admit generic derivations.

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Restricted sine

Assumption

$L \supseteq \{\sin x, \cos x, \pi\}$ and T expands the theory of ordered fields. Let $\mathbb{K} \models T$, and we denote by $D = [0, 2\pi) \subseteq K$, S the field $K + iK$, S^* the multiplicative group of S .

Definition

We say that $\mathbb{K}$ defines a restricted sine if $\pi > 0$, and the function $F : D \rightarrow S^*$, $x \mapsto \sin x + i \cos x$ is a group homomorphism that is not constant. We say that T defines a restricted sine if the above holds in all models of T .

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