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DIFFERENTIAL GALOIS REALIZATION OF DOUBLE COVERS

by T. CRESPO & Z. HAJTO

In this paper we present an effective construction of homogeneous linear differential equations of order 2 with Galois group a double cover $2G$ of a group G equal to one of the alternating groups A_4, A_5 or the symmetric group S_4 over a differential field k of characteristic 0 with algebraically closed field of constants \mathcal{C} . It is known that, if $K|k$ is an algebraic extension of the differential field k , then the derivation of k can be extended to K in a unique way and every k -automorphism of K is a differential one. Thus a realization of a finite group G as an algebraic Galois group over k is also a realization of G as a differential Galois group. If such a group G has a faithful irreducible representation of dimension n over \mathcal{C} , then G is the Galois group of a homogeneous linear differential equation of order n over k (cf. [1], [11]). The difficulty appears when one wants to find explicitly such an equation. In [2] we gave a method of construction of a homogeneous linear differential equation with Galois group $2G$ over k , starting from a polynomial with Galois group G over k , which reduces the obtention of such a differential equation to the resolution of a system of linear (algebraic) equations. In the present paper we obtain a different method which is more effective and based on the symmetric square of a differential equation. Given a polynomial $P(X) \in k[X]$ with Galois group G and splitting field K , we give an equivalent condition in terms of a quadratic form over k for the

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existence of a homogeneous linear differential equation with Galois group $2G$ such that its Picard-Vessiot extension \tilde{K} is a solution to the Galois embedding problem associated to the field extension $K|k$ and the double cover $2G$ of G . When this condition is fulfilled, we determine explicitly all such differential equations. Our result has been announced in [3].

In the sequel, k will always denote a differential field of characteristic 0 with algebraically closed field of constants \mathcal{C} . For the basic definitions and results of differential Galois theory we refer the reader to [4], [5] and [10].

DEFINITION 1. — *Let $L(y) = 0$ be a homogeneous linear differential equation of order n over the differential field k . Let $\{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$ be a fundamental set of solutions of $L(y) = 0$. We call symmetric power of order m of $L(y) = 0$ the differential equation $L^{(m)}(y) = 0$ whose solution space is spanned by $\{y_1^{i_1} \dots y_n^{i_n} / i_1 + \dots + i_n = m\}$.*

PROPOSITION 1. — *Let k be a differential field of characteristic 0 with algebraically closed field of constants \mathcal{C} and*

$$(1) \quad L(Y) = Y'' + AY' + BY = 0$$

an irreducible differential equation over k with Galois group a double cover $2G$ of a group G not having normal subgroups of order 2. Then the symmetric square

$$(2) \quad L^{(2)}(Y) = Y''' + 3AY'' + (2A^2 + A' + 4B)Y' + (4AB + 2B')Y = 0$$

of $L(Y) = 0$ has Galois group G over k .

Proof. — Let \tilde{K} be a Picard-Vessiot extension of L and K a Picard-Vessiot extension of $L^{(2)}$ contained in \tilde{K} . Let (y_1, y_2) be a basis of the solution vector space of the equation $L(Y) = 0$ in \tilde{K} . Then $\tilde{K} = K(y_1)$ and $[K(y_1) : K] = 2$. Therefore the Galois group of the extension $K|k$ is a quotient of $2G$ by a normal subgroup of order 2, which must be equal to G as G does not contain normal subgroups of order 2. The explicit expression of the coefficients of $L^{(2)}$ in terms of the coefficients of L is obtained by computing formally the derivatives of the product uv of two solutions u, v of $L(Y) = 0$ (cf. [11], 3.2.2).

We shall use the following lemma on representations.

LEMMA 1. — *Let V be a k -vector space of dimension n and $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V)$ an irreducible representation. Let us assume that there exists some*

$s \in G$ such that $\rho(s)$ has n different eigenvalues. We consider

$$\rho^m = \overbrace{\rho \oplus \dots \oplus \rho}^m : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V^m)$$

where $V^m = \overbrace{V \oplus \dots \oplus V}^m$, and we fix monomorphisms $f_j : V \rightarrow V^m$ such that $\pi_j \circ f_j : V \rightarrow V$, where π_j is the projection on the j -component, is an isomorphism of G -modules, $1 \leq j \leq m$.

Then every invariant subspace of V^m isomorphic to V as a G -module is of the form $\langle (\sum_j a_j f_j(v_i))_{1 \leq i \leq n} \rangle$, for some $(a_1, \dots, a_m) \in k^m \setminus \{(0, \dots, 0)\}$ and (v_1, \dots, v_n) a k -basis of V .

Proof. — Let (v_1, \dots, v_n) be a k -basis of V in which $\rho(s)$ diagonalizes and let $\rho(s)(v_i) = \lambda_i v_i$. Then $(f_j(v_i))_{1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq m}$ is a basis of V^m . Let $v = \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} f_j(v_i)$. Then, if v is an eigenvector of $\rho^m(s)$ with eigenvalue λ_l , we have $\lambda_l v = \rho^m(s)(v) = \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} f_j(\rho(s)(v_i)) = \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} \lambda_i f_j(v_i)$ and so $a_{ij} = 0$ for $i \neq l$.

Let $w_l = \sum_j a_{lj} f_j(v_l)$, $1 \leq l \leq n$. We want to see that, if $\langle w_1, \dots, w_n \rangle$ is an invariant subspace for ρ^m and $v_l \mapsto w_l$ defines an isomorphism of G -modules, then the coefficients a_{lj} are independent from l . For $n = 1$, there is nothing to prove. If $n > 1$, then $\langle v_1 \rangle$ is not invariant and so, there exist some $t \in G$ and some $p > 1$ such that $\rho(t)(v_1) = \sum_l b_{l1} v_l$ with $b_{p1} \neq 0$. We have $\rho(t)(w_1) = \sum_l b_{l1} w_l = \sum_l b_{l1} (\sum_j a_{lj} f_j(v_l)) = \sum_{l,j} b_{l1} a_{lj} f_j(v_l)$ and, on the other hand, $\rho(t)(w_1) = \rho(t)(\sum_j a_{1j} f_j(v_1)) = \sum_j a_{1j} \sum_l b_{l1} f_j(v_l)$ and so $b_{p1} a_{pj} = b_{p1} a_{1j} \forall j \Rightarrow a_{pj} = a_{1j} \forall j$. By proceeding inductively, we prove that the coefficients a_{lj} do not depend on l .

Let now $P(X)$ be a polynomial over k with Galois group $G = A_4, S_4$ or A_5 and let K be its splitting field. We consider the Galois embedding problem $2G \rightarrow G \simeq \text{Gal}(K|k)$. We recall that a solution to this embedding problem is a quadratic extension \tilde{K} of K such that the extension $\tilde{K}|k$ is Galois and the epimorphism $\text{Gal}(\tilde{K}|k) \rightarrow \text{Gal}(K|k)$, given by restriction, agrees with $2G \rightarrow G$. Therefore, if the embedding problem considered is solvable and \tilde{K} is a solution to it, then $\tilde{K}|k$ is a differential field extension with differential Galois group $2G$ and so, is the Picard-Vessiot extension of an irreducible differential equation $L(Y) = Y'' + AY' + BY = 0$ with Galois group $2G$. The symmetric square $L^{(2)}(Y) = 0$ of $L(Y) = 0$ will be a differential equation with Picard-Vessiot extension $K|k$ and Galois group G . Moreover the symmetric square of the representation $\tilde{\rho} : 2G \rightarrow \text{GL}(2, \mathcal{C})$ associated to $L(Y) = 0$ factors through the representation $G \rightarrow \text{GL}(3, \mathcal{C})$ associated to $L^{(2)}(Y) = 0$.

Let $2A_4, 2A_5$ be the non trivial double covers of A_4 and A_5 , respectively, let 2^-S_4 be the double cover of S_4 in which transpositions lift to elements of order 4, 2^+S_4 the second double cover of S_4 containing $2A_4$. In the sequel G will denote one of the groups A_4, S_4, A_5 and $2G$ one of the double covers defined above. Let us remark that each of the four groups $2G$ has a faithful irreducible representation $\tilde{\rho}$ of dimension 2. In the sequel, ρ will stand for the irreducible representation of dimension 3 of G which is the symmetric square of $\tilde{\rho}$. For $G = A_4$, ρ is the only irreducible representation of dimension 3 of A_4 ; for $G = S_4$ and $2G = 2^+S_4$, ρ is the irreducible representation of dimension 3 of S_4 contained in the permutation representation of S_4 ; for $G = S_4$ and $2G = 2^-S_4$, ρ is the tensor product of the representation above by the signature; for $G = A_5$, ρ is any of the two irreducible representations of dimension 3 of A_5 (which are conjugated by $\sqrt{5} \mapsto -\sqrt{5}$).

Given a polynomial $P(X)$ over k with Galois group G and a double cover $2G$ of the group G , our aim is to give a homogeneous linear differential equation of order 2 with Galois group $2G$ and such that its Picard-Vessiot extension \tilde{K} is a solution to the embedding problem considered. To this end, we shall determine the complete family of homogeneous linear differential equations with Galois group G , Picard-Vessiot extension K and associated representation ρ and among these we shall characterize the ones which are symmetric square.

We state now our main result.

THEOREM 1. — *Let k be a differential field of characteristic 0, with algebraically closed field of constants \mathcal{C} . Let $P(X) \in k[X]$ with Galois group $G = A_4, S_4$ or A_5 , K its splitting field. Let $2G$ be a double cover of G equal to $2A_4, 2^+S_4, 2^-S_4$ or $2A_5$.*

There exist three k -vector subspaces V_1, V_2, V_3 of dimension 3 of K such that the action of G on each of them corresponds to the representation ρ and such that $V_1 + V_2 + V_3$ is a direct sum. Moreover there exists a quadratic form Q in three variables over k such that the Galois embedding problem $2G \rightarrow G \simeq \text{Gal}(K|k)$ is solvable if and only if Q represents 0 over k . Let us choose a basis $F_{ij}, 1 \leq j \leq 3$, in each V_i in such a way that $F_{ij} \mapsto F_{kj}$ defines an isomorphism of G -modules from V_i onto V_k . Then, for $(f, g, h) \in k^3 \setminus \{(0, 0, 0)\}$ such that $Q(f, g, h) = 0$, $\{fF_{1j} + gF_{2j} + hF_{3j}\}, 1 \leq j \leq 3$, is a basis of the solution space of a differential equation

$$(3) \quad Y''' + AY'' + BY' + CY = 0$$

over k having K as Picard-Vessiot extension and such that the differential equation

$$(4) \quad Y'' + \frac{A}{3}Y' + \frac{1}{4}\left(B - 2\frac{A^2}{9} - \frac{A'}{3}\right)Y = 0$$

has Galois group $2G$ over k . The coefficients A, B, C can be computed explicitly.

Proof. — Let us consider the representation of G on the k -vector space K given by the Galois action. By the normal basis theorem, this representation is the regular one and so contains ρ three times. Moreover, we can determine explicitly three k -subspaces V_1, V_2, V_3 of dimension 3 of K such that their sum $V_1 + V_2 + V_3$ is direct and such that the Galois action on $V_i, i = 1, 2, 3$, corresponds to ρ . We consider the case $G = A_4$ or S_4 and let x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 be the roots of the polynomial P in K . When $2G = 2A_4$ or 2^+S_4 , ρ is contained in the permutation representation of G on a dimension 4 vector space $\langle v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4 \rangle$ and we can take $w_1 = 3v_1 - v_2 - v_3 - v_4, w_2 = 3v_2 - v_1 - v_3 - v_4, w_3 = 3v_3 - v_1 - v_2 - v_4$ as a basis of the invariant subspace W of dimension 3. The restrictions to W of the k -morphisms $\langle v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4 \rangle \rightarrow K$ given by $v_j \mapsto x_j^i, i = 1, 2, 3$, are monomorphisms and their images are three k -subspaces V_1, V_2, V_3 with the wanted conditions. When $2G = 2^-S_4$, ρ is contained in the representation of S_4 on a dimension 4 vector space $\langle v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4 \rangle$ given by the tensor product of the permutation representation and the dimension 1 representation given by the signature and we can take $w_1 = 3v_1 - v_2 - v_3 - v_4, w_2 = 3v_2 - v_1 - v_3 - v_4, w_3 = 3v_3 - v_1 - v_2 - v_4$ as a basis of the invariant subspace W of dimension 3. The restrictions to W of the k -morphisms $\langle v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4 \rangle \rightarrow K$ given by $v_j \mapsto \sqrt{d}x_j^i, i = 1, 2, 3$, where d is the discriminant of the polynomial P , are monomorphisms and their images are three k -subspaces V_1, V_2, V_3 with the wanted conditions.

In the case $G = A_5$, ρ is contained in the third symmetric power of the permutation representation of G and we obtained explicitly in [1] an invariant subspace corresponding to ρ . From this explicit determination, we obtain V_1, V_2, V_3 considering, as above, the action of A_5 on the roots of the polynomial P , their squares and their cubes.

We want to determine the complete family of homogeneous linear differential equations of order 3 over k whose Picard-Vessiot extension is K and such that the corresponding representation of the group G is ρ . This is equivalent to determining the whole family of invariant subspaces V of dimension 3 of the G -module K such that the restriction of the Galois

action to V corresponds to ρ . By Lemma 1, each such V is generated by $\{fF_{1j} + gF_{2j} + hF_{3j}\}_{1 \leq j \leq 3}$ for F_{ij} as in the statement of the theorem and $(f, g, h) \in k^3 \setminus \{(0, 0, 0)\}$.

We impose now that (V, ρ) is the symmetric square of the faithful representation $(\tilde{V}, \tilde{\rho})$ of dimension 2 of $2G$. To this end, we use the explicit expression of $\tilde{\rho}$ given in [7]. For (v_1, v_2) a basis of \tilde{V} , we compute the representation ρ in the basis (v_1^2, v_1v_2, v_2^2) of the symmetric square $\tilde{V}^{(2)}$ of \tilde{V} and consider an isomorphism φ of G -modules from $\tilde{V}^{(2)}$ into V . We write down $\varphi(v_1^2)\varphi(v_2^2) - \varphi(v_1v_2)^2$ in the basis $\{fF_{1j} + gF_{2j} + hF_{3j}\}_{1 \leq j \leq 3}$ and observe that this expression is a homogeneous polynomial of degree 2 in f, g, h whose coefficients are invariant by the action of the group G . We obtain then that (V, ρ) is the symmetric square of $(\tilde{V}, \tilde{\rho})$ if and only if (f, g, h) satisfies an algebraic homogeneous equation $Q(f, g, h) = 0$ of degree 2 with coefficients in k . The coefficients of Q are obtained explicitly in terms of the coefficients of the polynomial P . Namely, for $P(X) = X^4 + s_2X^2 - s_3X + s_4$ with Galois group $G = A_4$ or $G = S_4$ and $2G = 2A_4$ or $2G = 2^\pm S_4$, we obtain $Q(f, g, h) = 8s_2f^2 + (16s_4 - 4s_2^2)g^2 + (8s_2^3 - 3s_2^2 - 24s_2s_4)h^2 - 24s_3fg + (32s_4 - 16s_2^2)fh + 28s_2s_3gh$; for $P(X) = X^5 + s_2X^3 - s_3X^2 + s_4X - s_5$ with Galois group $G = A_5$ and discriminant $d = D^2$ and $G = 2A_5$, we obtain $Q(f, g, h) = (24s_2^3 + 90s_3^2 - 80s_2s_4)f^2 + (24s_2^3s_3^2 + 90s_3^4 - 56s_2s_3^2s_4 - 8s_2^2s_4^2 + 32s_4^3 - 96s_2^2s_3s_5 + 320s_3s_4s_5)g^2 + (24s_2^6 + 162s_2^6s_3^2 + 96s_2^2s_3^4 - 216s_2^7s_4 - 288s_2^4s_3^2s_4 - 72s_2s_4^3s_4 + 648s_2^5s_4^2 + 216s_2^2s_3^2s_4^2 - 728s_2^3s_3^3 + 48s_2^3s_3^3 + 240s_2s_4^4 - 684s_2^5s_3s_5 - 216s_2^2s_3^3s_5 + 1356s_2^3s_3s_4s_5 + 72s_3^3s_4s_5 - 1152s_2s_3s_4^2s_5 + 570s_2^4s_5^2 + 144s_2s_3^2s_5^2 - 900s_2^2s_4s_5^2 + 810s_4^2s_5^2)h^2 - (24s_2^3s_3 + 90s_3^3 - 68s_2s_3s_4 - 60s_2^2s_5 + 200s_4s_5)fg - (24s_2^6 + 130s_3^2s_3^2 - 160s_4^2s_4 + 6s_2s_3^2s_4 + 304s_2^2s_4^2 - 160s_4^3 - 456s_2^2s_3s_5 + 30s_3s_4s_5 + 350s_2s_5^2 + 2\sqrt{5}Ds_2)fh + (24s_2^6s_3 + 130s_2^3s_3^3 - 152s_2^4s_3s_4 + 24s_2s_3^3s_4 + 292s_2^2s_3s_4^2 - 184s_3s_4^3 - 24s_2^5s_5 - 510s_2^2s_3^2s_5 + 92s_2^3s_4s_5 + 12s_2^2s_4s_5 - 20s_2s_4^2s_5 + 630s_2s_3s_5^2 - 250s_5^3 + 2\sqrt{5}Ds_5)gh$.

For $(f, g, h) \in k^3 \setminus \{(0, 0, 0)\}$ such that $Q(f, g, h) = 0$, we can compute explicitly a differential equation of order 3 with $\{fF_{1j} + gF_{2j} + hF_{3j}\}$ as a basis of the solution vector space. Taking into account the explicit expression of the symmetric square of a differential equation of order 2 given in Proposition 1, we obtain the equation with Galois group $2G$.

Remark 1. — For $G = S_4$ or A_4 , $2G = 2A_4$ or $2^\pm S_4$, we have $Q_E = \langle 1 \rangle + Q$ where Q_E denotes the quadratic trace form of the extension $E|k$, where $E = k[X]/(P(X))$ (cf [8]). We can check that, under the hypothesis $-1, 2 \in k^{*2}$, the solvability condition for the Galois embedding problem $2G \rightarrow G \simeq \text{Gal}(K|k)$ given in the statement of the

theorem is equivalent with the one given by Serre in [8] in terms of the quadratic trace form Q_E .

Remark 2. — If the transcendence degree of k over \mathcal{C} is equal to one, in particular for $k = \mathcal{C}(T)$, every quadratic form Q in three variables represents 0 over k (cf. [9] II 3.3).

Examples. — From the explicit expression of the quadratic form Q , we see that if $P(X) = X^4 - s_3X + s_4$ is a polynomial with Galois group A_4 or S_4 , or $P(X) = X^5 + s_4X - s_5$ is a polynomial with Galois group A_5 , then the corresponding quadratic form Q satisfies $Q(1, 0, 0) = 0$ and so the differential equation with solution vector space V_1 is a quadratic square. From the polynomials generating a regular extension of $\mathbb{Q}(T)$ with Galois groups A_4 , S_4 and A_5 given in [6], we obtain the following differential equations:

1. The polynomial $X^4 - \frac{1}{1+3T^2}(4X - 3)$ has Galois group A_4 over $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}(T)$. From it we obtain the equation

$$Y''' + \frac{18T}{1 + 3T^2}Y'' + \frac{115 + 729T^2}{12(1 + 3T^2)^2}Y' + \frac{27T}{4(1 + 3T^2)^2}Y = 0$$

with Galois group A_4 , which is the symmetric square of the equation

$$Y'' + \frac{6T}{1 + 3T^2}Y' + \frac{43 + 81T^2}{48(1 + 3T^2)^2}Y = 0$$

with Galois group $2A_4$.

2. The polynomial $X^4 - T(4X - 3)$ has Galois group S_4 over $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}(T)$. From it we obtain the equation

$$Y''' + \frac{3(-1 + 2T)}{2(-1 + T)T}Y'' + \frac{-27 + 128T}{144(-1 + T)T^2}Y' + \frac{3}{32(-1 + T)T^3}Y = 0$$

with Galois group S_4 , which is the symmetric square of the equation

$$Y'' + \frac{-1 + 2T}{2(-1 + T)T}Y' + \frac{-27 - 16T}{576(-1 + T)T^2}Y = 0$$

with Galois group 2^+S_4 .

From the same polynomial, we obtain the equation

$$Y''' - \frac{3}{T}Y'' + \frac{999 - 1883T + 992T^2}{144(-1 + T)^2T^2}Y' + \frac{2268 - 6459T + 6215T^2 - 2240T^3}{288(-1 + T)^3T^3}Y = 0$$

with Galois group S_4 , which is the symmetric square of the equation

$$Y'' - \frac{1}{T}Y' + \frac{567 - 1019T + 560T^2}{576(-1 + T)^2T^2}Y = 0$$

with Galois group 2^-S_4 .

3. The polynomial $X^5 - \frac{1}{1-5T^2}(5X - 4)$ has Galois group A_5 over $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}(T)$. From it we obtain the equation

$$Y''' + \frac{3(25T^2 - (8/\sqrt{5})T + 19)}{4(-1 + 5T^2)^2}Y' + \frac{-75(25T^3 + (-12/\sqrt{5})T^2 + 43T - (4/5\sqrt{5}))}{20(-1 + 5T^2)^3}Y = 0$$

with Galois group A_5 , given in [1], which is the symmetric square of the equation

$$Y'' + \frac{3(25T^2 - (8/\sqrt{5})T + 19)}{16(-1 + 5T^2)^2}Y = 0$$

with Galois group $2A_5$.

Different explicit examples obtained from polynomials with Galois group S_4 and A_5 whose corresponding quadratic form Q does not satisfy $Q(1, 0, 0) = 0$ are given in [3].

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