

ON THE INTEGRABILITY OF A MUTHUSWAMY–CHUA SYSTEM

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In this paper we study the integrability of the Muthuswamy–Chua system

$$x' = y, \quad y' = -\frac{x}{3} + \frac{y}{2} - \frac{yz^2}{2}, \quad z' = y - \alpha z - yz.$$

For $\alpha = 0$ we characterize all its generalized rational first integrals, which contains the Darboux type first integrals. For $\alpha \neq 0$ we show that the system has no Darboux type first integrals.

1. Introduction and statement of the main results

[Muthuswamy and Chua, 2010] proposed the simplest electronic circuit producing chaotic attractors. This circuit contains a linear passive inductor, a linear passive capacitor and a nonlinear active memristor, and it can be described by the differential system

$$\begin{aligned} x' &= y, \\ y' &= -\frac{x}{3} + \frac{y}{2} - \frac{yz^2}{2}, \\ z' &= y - \alpha z - yz, \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

for any value of $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, where the prime denotes derivative with respect the variable t . Here, as in [Ginoux et al., 2010], this differential system is written in a slightly modified form because the third equation is not $z' = -y - \alpha z + yz$ as in [Muthuswamy and Chua, 2010] but rather $z' = y - \alpha z - yz$. The nonlinearity is inverted and thus the orientation of the attractor in the (x, y) plane is rotated by π . Hence there is no topological difference between these two attractors. A topological characterization of this system and its comparison with the Rössler-like attractors was given in [Ginoux et al., 2010].

We define the vector field X associated to (1) as

$$X = y \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \left(-\frac{x}{3} + \frac{y}{2} - \frac{yz^2}{2} \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + (y - \alpha z - yz) \frac{\partial}{\partial z}.$$

Let U be an open subset in \mathbb{R}^3 such that $\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus U$ has zero Lebesgue measure. We say that a non-constant real function $H = H(x, y, z): \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, is a *first integral* if $H(x(t), y(t), z(t))$ is constant for all values of a solution $(x(t), y(t), z(t))$ of X contained in U , i.e., $XH|_U = 0$.

The existence of a first integral for a differential system in \mathbb{R}^3 allows to reduce its study in one dimension. This is the main reason to look for first integrals.

Two functions $f_1(x, y, z)$ and $f_2(x, y, z)$ are said to be *independent* if their gradients are linearly independent vectors for all $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ except perhaps for a set of zero Lebesgue measure. If the vector field X has two independent first integrals H_1 and H_2 , we say that it is *completely integrable*. In this case, the orbits of X are contained in the curves $\{H_1(x, y, z) = h_1\} \cap \{H_2(x, y, z) = h_2\}$, where h_1, h_2 vary in \mathbb{R} .

We define a *generalized rational function* as the quotient of two analytic functions. The following is our main result for system (1) with $\alpha = 0$.

Theorem 1.1. *The unique generalized rational first integrals of system (1) with $\alpha = 0$ are generalized rational functions in the variable $e^x(1 - z)$.*

Theorem 1.1 is proved in Section 2.

Now we work with $\alpha \neq 0$. One of the best tools to look for first integrals is the Darboux theory of integrability. Now we shall introduce its basic notions. Let $\mathbb{C}[x, y, z]$ be the ring of all polynomials with coefficients in \mathbb{C} .

We say that $f \in \mathbb{C}[x, y, z]$ is a *Darboux polynomial* of the vector field X if there exists a polynomial $k \in \mathbb{C}[x, y, z]$ such that $Xf = kf$. The polynomial $k = k(x, y, z)$ is called the *cofactor* of f . It is easy to show that the cofactor of a Darboux polynomial of system (1) has degree at most 2. Note that we look for complex Darboux polynomials in real differential systems. The reason is that frequently the complex structure forces the existence of real first integrals, and sometimes if we only work with reals we cannot detect all the real first integrals.

If $f \in \mathbb{C}[x, y, z]$ is a Darboux polynomial, then $f(x, y, z) = 0$ is an *invariant algebraic surface* for the differential system (1), i.e. if an orbit has a point on the surface $f(x, y, z) = 0$ all the orbit is contained in it.

An *exponential factor* $F(x, y, z)$ of the vector field X is an exponential function of the form $\exp(g/h)$ with g and h coprime polynomials in $\mathbb{C}[x, y, z]$ and satisfying $XF = LF$ for some $L \in \mathbb{C}[x, y, z]$ with degree at most 2.

The exponential factors appear when some Darboux polynomial has multiplicity larger than one, for more details see [Christopher et al., 2007] and [Llibre and Zhang, 2009a].

A first integral of system (1) is called of *Darboux type* if it is a first integral of the form

$$f_1^{\lambda_1} \dots f_p^{\lambda_p} F_1^{\mu_1} \dots F_q^{\mu_q},$$

where f_1, \dots, f_p are Darboux polynomials and F_1, \dots, F_q are exponential factors.

The next theorem is the main result for system (1) with $\alpha \neq 0$, and it shows the nonexistence of first integrals of Darboux type.

Theorem 1.2. *When $\alpha \neq 0$ system (1) has no first integrals of Darboux type.*

Theorem 1.2 is proved in Section 4.

2. Proof of Theorem 1.1

To prove Theorem 1.1 we use the following result which is due to [Cong et al., 2011].

Theorem 2.1. *Assume that the differential system (1) has p as a singular point and let $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$ be the eigenvalues of the linear part of system (1) at p . Then the number of functionally independent generalized rational first integrals of system (1) is at most the dimension of the minimal vector subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 containing the set*

$$\{(k_1, k_2, k_3) \in \mathbb{Z}^3 : k_1\lambda_1 + k_2\lambda_2 + k_3\lambda_3 = 0, (k_1, k_2, k_3) \neq (0, 0, 0)\}.$$

Proof of Theorem 1.1. We consider system (1) with $\alpha = 0$, that is

$$\dot{x} = y, \quad \dot{y} = -\frac{x}{3} + \frac{y}{2} - \frac{yz^2}{2}, \quad \dot{z} = y - yz. \quad (2)$$

It is easy to check that

$$H = x + \ln(1 - z)$$

is a first integral of system (2). Therefore, $K = e^H = e^x(1 - z)$ is a generalized rational function. To conclude the proof of the theorem we shall show that system (2) has no other generalized rational first integrals. To prove this we will use Theorem

2.1. First we note that the singular points of system (2) are of the form $(0, 0, z)$ with $z \in \mathbb{R}$. We compute the eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$ of the Jacobian matrix of system (2) on these singular points and we get

$$\lambda_1 = 0, \quad \lambda_{2,3} = \frac{1}{12}(3 - 3z^2 \mp \sqrt{-39 + 9z^2(z^2 - 2)}).$$

Therefore $k_1\lambda_1 + k_2\lambda_2 + k_3\lambda_3 = 0$ is equivalent to

$$k_2(3 - 3z^2 - \sqrt{-39 + 9z^2(z^2 - 2)}) + k_3(3 - 3z^2 + \sqrt{-39 + 9z^2(z^2 - 2)}) = 0,$$

or in other words

$$\frac{k_2}{k_3} = -\frac{3 - 3z^2 + \sqrt{-39 + 9z^2(z^2 - 2)}}{3 - 3z^2 - \sqrt{-39 + 9z^2(z^2 - 2)}}. \quad (3)$$

It is clear that the left-hand side of (3) is a rational number (once that $k_2, k_3 \in \mathbb{Z}$), and that choosing z in a convenient way the right-hand side of (3) is irrational. Therefore (3) cannot hold for this convenient choice of z . Hence for this special singular point $(0, 0, z)$, the dimension of the minimal vector subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 containing the set

$$\{(k_1, k_2, k_3) \in \mathbb{Z}^3 : k_1\lambda_1 + k_2\lambda_2 + k_3\lambda_3 = 0, (k_1, k_2, k_3) \neq (0, 0, 0)\}.$$

is clearly one, generated by $(k_1, 0, 0)$. Thus it follows from Theorem 2.1 that system (2) can only have one independent generalized rational first integral, which must be a function of H . This completes the proof of the theorem. ■

3. Auxiliary results

In the proof of Theorem 1.2 we will use the the following well known result on the Darboux theory of integrability, see for instance [Dumortier et al., 2006; Chapter 8].

Theorem 3.1. *Suppose that a polynomial vector field X defined in \mathbb{R}^n of degree m admits p Darboux polynomials f_i with cofactors K_i for $i = 1, \dots, p$, and q exponential factors $F_j = \exp(g_j/h_j)$ with cofactors L_j for $j = 1, \dots, q$. If there exist $\lambda_i, \mu_j \in \mathbb{C}$ not all zero such that*

$$\sum_{i=1}^p \lambda_i K_i + \sum_{j=1}^q \mu_j L_j = 0, \quad (4)$$

then the following real (multivalued) function of Darboux type

$$f_1^{\lambda_1} \cdots f_p^{\lambda_p} F_1^{\mu_1} \cdots F_q^{\mu_q}, \quad (5)$$

substituting $f_i^{\lambda_i}$ by $|f_i|^{\lambda_i}$ if $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{R}$, is a first integral of the vector field X .

For a proof of the next result see [Llibre & Zhang, 2009a, 2009b].

Proposition 3.2. *The following statements hold.*

- (a) *If $e^{g/h}$ is an exponential factor for the polynomial differential system (1) and h is not a constant polynomial, then $h = 0$ is an invariant algebraic surface.*
- (b) *Eventually e^g can be an exponential factor, coming from the multiplicity of the infinite invariant plane.*

The proof of the next result can be found in [Christopher & Llibre, 2000].

Lemma 3.3. *Let f be a polynomial and $f = \prod_{j=1}^s f_j^{\alpha_j}$ its decomposition into irreducible factors in $\mathbb{C}[x, y, z]$. Then f is a Darboux polynomial of system (1) if and only if all the f_j are Darboux polynomials of system (1). Moreover, if K and K_j are the cofactors of f and f_j , then $K = \sum_{j=1}^s \alpha_j K_j$.*

We note that in view of Lemma 3.3 to study the Darboux polynomials of system (1) it is enough to study the irreducible ones.

4. Proof of Theorem 1.2

To prove Theorem 1.2 we first study the existence of polynomial first integrals.

Proposition 4.1. *System (1) has no polynomial first integrals.*

Proof. Let $F = F(x, y, z)$ be a polynomial first integral of system (1). Then it satisfies

$$y \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} + \left(-\frac{x}{3} + \frac{y}{2} - \frac{yz^2}{2} \right) \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} + (y - \alpha z - yz) \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} = 0. \quad (6)$$

We write F as powers in the variable z in the form $F(x, y, z) = \sum_{j=0}^n F_j(x, y)z^j$, where each F_j is a polynomial in the variables x, y . Computing the coefficient in (6) of z^{n+2} we obtain

$$-\frac{y}{2} \frac{\partial F_n}{\partial y} = 0 \quad \text{that is} \quad F_n = F_n(x).$$

Now, computing the coefficient in (6) of z^{n+1} we obtain

$$-\frac{y}{2} \frac{\partial F_{n-1}}{\partial y} = 0 \quad \text{that is} \quad F_{n-1} = F_{n-1}(x).$$

Finally, computing the coefficient in (6) of z^n we get

$$-\frac{y}{2} \frac{\partial F_{n-2}}{\partial y} + y \frac{dF_n}{dx} - (\alpha + y)nF_n = 0.$$

That is, if $n \neq 0$, $F_n = F_n(x)$ must be divisible by y , in contradiction with the fact that F_n is a polynomial in the variable x . Therefore, for $n \neq 0$ we must have $F_n = 0$. Thus, $F = F_0(x, y)$. Now, computing the coefficient in (6) of z^2 we obtain

$$-\frac{y}{2} \frac{\partial F_0}{\partial y} = 0 \quad \text{that is} \quad F_0 = F_0(x),$$

and again by (6) we obtain

$$y \frac{dF_0}{dx} = 0 \quad \text{that is} \quad F_0 = C_0 \in \mathbb{R},$$

in contradiction with the fact that F is a polynomial first integral of system (1). This concludes the proof of the proposition. \blacksquare

Now we will study the existence of Darboux polynomials with nonzero cofactor. Note that the Darboux polynomial with zero cofactor are the polynomial first integrals. We recall that a Darboux polynomial of system (1) is a nonconstant polynomial $f \in \mathbb{C}[x, y, z]$ such that

$$y \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \left(-\frac{x}{3} + \frac{y}{2} - \frac{yz^2}{2} \right) \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + (y - \alpha z - yz) \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = kf, \quad (7)$$

for some polynomial $k \in \mathbb{C}[x, y, z]$ called the cofactor. Since the degree of system (1) is tree we have that the degree of k can be at most two, that is, k is of the form

$$k = a_0 + a_1x + a_2y + a_3z + a_4x^2 + a_5xy + a_6xz + a_7y^2 + a_8yz + a_9z^2, \quad (8)$$

where $a_i \in \mathbb{C}$ for $i = 0, \dots, 9$.

Proposition 4.2. *System (1) has no Darboux polynomials with nonzero cofactor.*

Proof. Let f be a Darboux polynomial of system (1) with cofactor k given in (8). First we claim that $a_1 = a_3 = a_4 = a_5 = a_6 = a_7 = a_8 = 0$ and $a_9 = -m/2$, where m is a nonnegative integer.

Now we prove the claim. We write f as sum of its homogeneous parts as follows $f = \sum_{j=0}^n f_j(x, y, z)$,

where each f_j is a homogeneous polynomial in its variables. Without loss of generality we can assume that $f_n \neq 0$ and $n \geq 1$. Computing the terms of degree $n+2$ in (7) we have

$$-\frac{y}{2} z^2 \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial y} = (a_4x^2 + a_5xy + a_6xz + a_7y^2 + a_8yz + a_9z^2) f_n.$$

The general solution of this linear differential equation is of the form

$$f_n = K_n(x, z) \exp \left(-\frac{2a_5x}{z^2} y - \frac{2a_8}{z} y - \frac{a_7}{z^2} y^2 \right) y^{-\frac{2a_4x^2}{z^2} - \frac{2a_6x}{z}} y^{-2a_9},$$

where K_n is an arbitrary function in the variables x, z . Since f_n must be a polynomial we get that $a_4 = a_5 = a_6 = a_7 = a_8 = 0$ and $a_9 = -m/2$, where m is a nonnegative integer. Therefore

$$f_n = K_n y^m, \quad (9)$$

where $K_n = K_n(x, z)$ is an arbitrary polynomial in x, z . Now computing the terms of degree $n+1$ in (7) we obtain

$$-\frac{y}{2} z^2 \frac{\partial f_{n-1}}{\partial y} - yz \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial z} = -\frac{m}{2} z^2 f_{n-1} + (a_1x + a_2y + a_3z) f_n,$$

that is

$$-\frac{y}{2} z^2 \frac{\partial f_{n-1}}{\partial y} - yz \frac{dK_n}{dz} y^m = -\frac{m}{2} z^2 f_{n-1} + (a_1x + a_2y + a_3z) K_n y^m.$$

Solving this linear differential equation we obtain

$$f_{n-1} = K_{n-1} y^m - \frac{2y^m}{z^2} \left(a_2 K_n y + \frac{dK_n}{dz} y + (a_1x + a_3z) K_n \log y \right), \quad (10)$$

where $K_{n-1} = K_{n-1}(x, z)$ is an arbitrary function in x, z . Since f_{n-1} must be a polynomial and $K_n \neq 0$ (otherwise $f_n = 0$) we conclude that $a_1 = a_3 = 0$. Hence, the claim is proved.

Now we make the change of variables

$$x = X, \quad y = \mu^{-2}Y, \quad z = \mu^{-1}Z, \quad t = \mu^2\tau,$$

then the Muthuswamy–Chua system becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{X} &= Y, \\ \dot{Y} &= -\frac{YZ^2}{2} + \mu^2\frac{Y}{2} - \mu^4\frac{X}{3}, \\ \dot{Z} &= -YZ + \mu Y - \alpha\mu^2Z, \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where the dot denotes derivative with respect to the variable τ . Set $F(X, Y, Z) = \mu^n f(X, \mu^{-2}Y, \mu^{-1}Z)$ and $K(X, Y, Z) = \mu^2 k(X, \mu^{-2}Y, \mu^{-1}Z)$, where as we considered above n is the highest weight degree in the weight homogeneous components of f in the variables (x, y, z) with weight degrees $(0, 2, 1)$. Assume that

$$F = \sum_{i=0}^n \mu^i F_i(X, Y, Z)$$

where F_i is a weight homogenous polynomial in X, Y and Z with weight degree $n - i$ for $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$. Note that in particular

$$F_j(X, Y, Z) = \mu^n f_{n-j}(x, y, z), \quad (12)$$

for $j = 0, \dots, n$. From the definition of Darboux polynomial we have that

$$\begin{aligned} Y \sum_{i=0}^n \mu^i \frac{\partial F_i}{\partial X} + \left(-\frac{YZ^2}{2} + \mu^2\frac{Y}{2} - \mu^4\frac{X}{3} \right) \sum_{i=0}^n \mu^i \frac{\partial F_i}{\partial Y} \\ + (-YZ + \mu Y - \alpha\mu^2Z) \sum_{i=0}^n \mu^i \frac{\partial F_i}{\partial Z} = \\ \left(a_2 Y - \frac{m}{2} Z^2 + \mu^2 a_0 \right) \sum_{i=0}^n \mu^i F_i. \end{aligned}$$

Equating the terms with μ^i for $i = 0, 1$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} L[F_0] &= (a_2 Y - \frac{m}{2} Z^2) F_0, \\ L[F_1] &= (a_2 Y - \frac{m}{2} Z^2) F_1 - Y \frac{\partial F_0}{\partial Z}, \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

where L is the linear partial differential operator of the form

$$L = Y \frac{\partial}{\partial X} - \frac{1}{2} Y Z^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial Y} - Y Z \frac{\partial}{\partial Z}.$$

The characteristic equations associated to the linear partial differential operator are

$$\frac{dX}{dZ} = -\frac{Y}{YZ} = -\frac{1}{Z}, \quad \frac{dY}{dZ} = \frac{YZ^2}{2YZ} = \frac{Z}{2}.$$

This system has the general solution

$$e_1 = Ze^X \quad \text{and} \quad e_2 = Y - \frac{Z^2}{4},$$

where e_1 and e_2 are constants of integration. According to this, we introduce the change of variables

$$u = Ze^X, \quad v = Y - \frac{Z^2}{4}, \quad w = X. \quad (14)$$

Its inverse transformation is

$$Z = ue^{-w}, \quad Y = v + \frac{u^2 e^{-2w}}{4}, \quad X = w. \quad (15)$$

Under the changes (14) and (15), the first equation in (13) becomes the following ordinary differential equation (for fixed u, v):

$$\left(v + \frac{u^2 e^{-2w}}{4} \right) \frac{\partial \bar{F}_0}{\partial w} = \left(a_2 \left(v + \frac{u^2 e^{-2w}}{4} \right) - \frac{m}{2} u^2 e^{-2w} \right) \bar{F}_0,$$

where \bar{F}_0 is F_0 written in terms of u, v and w . In what follows we always use the notation \bar{G} to denote $G(x, y, z)$ written in terms of u, v, w . The last equation has the general solution

$$\bar{F}_0 = \bar{K}_0(u, v) e^{a_2 w} \left(v + \frac{u^2 e^{-2w}}{4} \right)^m,$$

where \bar{K}_0 is an arbitrary smooth function in u and v . So,

$$F_0 = \bar{F}_0 = e^{a_2 X} Y^m K_0 \left(Ze^X, Y - \frac{Z^2}{4} \right).$$

Since F_0 must be a weight homogeneous polynomial of weight-degree n , we must have $a_2 = -l$ for some nonnegative integer l and

$$F_0 = c_0 Z^l Y^m P_0 \left(Y - \frac{Z^2}{4} \right),$$

where P_0 is a polynomial in the variable $Y - Z^2/4$ and $c_0 \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$. Since the weight degree of $Y - Z^2/4$ is 2, we get that

$$F_0 = c_0 Z^l Y^m \left(Y - \frac{Z^2}{4} \right)^p, \quad l + 2m + 2p = n. \quad (16)$$

Now from (9), (12) and (16) we obtain

$$p = 0, \quad K_n = c_0 z^l \text{ and } f_n = c_0 z^l y^m, \quad F_0 = c_0 Z^l Y^m.$$

Note that from (10) we get that

$$f_{n-1} = K_{n-1} y^m - \frac{2lc_0 y^{m+1}}{z^2} (-z^l + z^{l-1}). \quad (17)$$

Now, substituting F_0 into the second equation of (13) we get that

$$L[F_1] = \left(-lY - \frac{m}{2} Z^2 \right) F_1 - c_0 l z^{l-1} y^{m+1}.$$

Using again the change of variables (14) and (15) and working as we did for F_0 we get that

$$\begin{aligned} \left(v + \frac{u^2 e^{-2w}}{4} \right) \frac{\partial \bar{F}_1}{\partial w} = \\ \left(-l \left(v + \frac{u^2 e^{-2w}}{4} \right) - \frac{m}{2} u^2 e^{-2w} \right) \bar{F}_1 \\ - c_0 l u^{l-1} e^{-(l+1)w} \left(v + \frac{u^2 e^{-2w}}{4} \right)^{m+1}. \end{aligned}$$

Integrating this equation with respect to w we get

$$F_1 = -c_0 l Y^m Z^{l-1} + e^{-lX} Y^m K_1 \left(Z e^X, Y - \frac{Z^2}{4} \right).$$

Note that since F_1 must be a polynomial of degree $n-1$, proceeding as we did for F_0 we have that

$$e^{-lX} Y^m K_1 \left(Z e^X, Y - \frac{Z^2}{4} \right) = Y^m Z^l P_1 \left(Y - \frac{Z^2}{4} \right),$$

where P_1 is a polynomial in the variable $Y - Z^2/4$. Note that F_1 has weight degree $2m+l+2q$ where q is the degree of P_1 with respect to $Y - Z^2/4$. Since F_1 has degree $2m+2l-1$ it follows that $P_1 = 0$. Thus

$$F_1 = -c_0 l Y^m Z^{l-1}.$$

Now from this equation, equations (12), (17) and the fact that $c_0 \neq 0$ we get

$$l = 0, \quad K_n = c_0, \quad f_n = c_0 y^m, \quad f_{n-1} = 0.$$

Therefore, $a_2 = 0$. Now computing the terms of degree n in (7) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{y}{2} z^2 \frac{\partial f_{n-2}}{\partial y} + m \left(-\frac{x}{3} + \frac{y}{2} \right) c_0 y^{m-1} = \\ -\frac{m}{2} z^2 f_{n-2} + a_0 c_0 y^m. \end{aligned}$$

Solving it

$$f_{n-2} = y^m K_{n-2} + \frac{c_0 y^m}{z^2} \left(\frac{2mx}{3y} + (m-2a_0) \log y \right),$$

where $K_{n-2} = K_{n-2}(x, z)$ is an arbitrary function in x, z . Since f_{n-2} must be a polynomial and $c_0 \neq 0$ we get that $m = 0$ and $a_0 = m/2 = 0$. Therefore, since $a_9 = -m/2$ we conclude that $a_i = 0$ for $i = 0, \dots, 9$ and thus $k = 0$, in contradiction with the fact that f is a Darboux polynomial with nonzero cofactor. This concludes the proof of the proposition. \blacksquare

An exponential factor of system (1) is a function $f = \exp(h/g)$ satisfying (7), where $h, g \in \mathbb{C}[x, y, z]$ are coprime polynomials.

Proposition 4.3. *The unique exponential factors, modulo constants, of system (1) are*

$$e^x, \quad e^{x^2}, \quad e^z \quad \text{and} \quad e^{z^2-4y}$$

with cofactors

$$y, \quad 2xy, \quad y-yz-\alpha z \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{4}{3}x-2y+2yz-2\alpha z^2,$$

respectively.

Proof. Let $F = \exp(g/h)$ be an exponential factor of the Muthuswamy–Chua system with cofactor L , where $g, h \in \mathbb{C}[x, y, z]$ with $(g, h) = 1$. Then from the definition of exponential factor and in view of Propositions 3.2, 4.1 and 4.2 we have that h is a constant that we can take $h = 1$. Thus $F = \exp(g)$, where $g \in \mathbb{C}[x, y, z]$. Then, g satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} y \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} + \left(-\frac{x}{3} + \frac{y}{2} - \frac{yz^2}{2} \right) \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} + \\ (y - \alpha z - yz) \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} = L, \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

where $L = a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 y + a_3 z + a_4 x^2 + a_5 xy + a_6 xz + a_7 y^2 + a_8 yz + a_9 z^2$. We write g as a polynomial in the variable z in the form

$$g(x, y, z) = \sum_{j=0}^n g_j(x, y) z^j,$$

where each g_j is a polynomial in the variables x, y . We first assume $n \geq 3$. Computing the coefficient in (18) of z^{n+2} we obtain

$$-\frac{y}{2} \frac{\partial g_n}{\partial y} = 0 \quad \text{that is} \quad g_n = g_n(x).$$

Now computing the coefficient in (18) of z^{n+1} we obtain

$$-\frac{y}{2} \frac{\partial g_{n-1}}{\partial y} = 0 \quad \text{that is} \quad g_{n-1} = g_{n-1}(x).$$

Finally, computing the coefficient in (18) of z^n we get

$$-\frac{y}{2} \frac{\partial g_{n-2}}{\partial y} + y \frac{dg_n}{dx} - (\alpha + y)ng_n = 0.$$

Then $g_n = g_n(x)$ must be divisible by y , in contradiction with the fact that g_n is a polynomial in the variable x . Therefore $n < 3$ and we write $h = g = g_0(x, y) + g_1(x, y)z + g_2(x, y)z^2$, where g_i are polynomials in x, y for $i = 0, 1, 2$. Imposing that g satisfies (18) and computing the coefficients of z^j , that we call A_j for $j = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ in (18) we get

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 &= \frac{1}{6} \left(-6a_0 - 6a_1x - 6a_4x^2 - 6a_2y - 6a_5xy - \right. \\ &\quad \left. 6a_7y^2 + 6yg_1 + (3y - 2x) \frac{\partial g_0}{\partial y} + 6y \frac{\partial g_0}{\partial x} \right), \\ A_2 &= \frac{1}{6} \left(-6a_3 - 6a_6x - 6a_8y - 6(y + \alpha)g_1 + \right. \\ &\quad \left. 12yh_2 + (3y - 2x) \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial y} + 6y \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x} \right), \\ A_3 &= \frac{1}{6} \left(-6a_9 - 12(y + \alpha)g_2 - 3y \frac{\partial g_0}{\partial y} + \right. \\ &\quad \left. (3y - 2x) \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial y} + 6y \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial x} \right), \\ A_4 &= -\frac{1}{2}y \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial y}, \\ A_5 &= -\frac{1}{2}y \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial y}. \end{aligned}$$

From conditions $A_4 = A_5 = 0$ we get that $g_1(x, y) = g_1(x)$ and $g_2(x, y) = g_2(x)$. Now the equation for A_2 becomes

$$A_2 = -6(a_3 + a_6x + \alpha g_1) - 6y \left(a_8 + g_1 - 2g_2 - \frac{dg_1}{dx} \right),$$

and setting $A_2 = 0$ we obtain

$$g_1 = -\frac{1}{\alpha}(a_3 + a_6x) \text{ and } g_2 = \frac{1}{2\alpha}(a_8\alpha + a_6 - a_3 - a_6x).$$

Furthermore, condition A_3 becomes

$$\begin{aligned} A_3 &= \frac{1}{2\alpha} (2a_3(y + \alpha) + a_6((2x - 3)y + 2(x - 1)\alpha) \\ &\quad - 2\alpha(a_9 + a_8(y + \alpha)) - y\alpha \frac{\partial g_0}{\partial y}), \end{aligned}$$

and thus, from $A_3 = 0$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} g_0 &= \frac{1}{\alpha} (y(2a_3 + a_6(2x - 3)) - 2a_8\alpha) - \\ &\quad 2\alpha(-a_3 + a_6 + a_9 - a_6x + a_8\alpha) \log y \\ &\quad + \alpha G_0(x). \end{aligned}$$

Since g_0 must be a polynomial we have

$$a_6 = 0, \quad a_3 = a_9 + a_8\alpha \quad \text{and} \quad g_0 = \frac{2a_9}{\alpha}y + G_0(x).$$

Now imposing these conditions into the relation $A_1 = 0$ we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} -2a_9x - 3(a_0 + a_1x + a_4x^2 + \\ y(a_2 + a_8 + a_5x + a_7y))\alpha + \\ 3y\alpha \frac{dG_0}{dx} = 0, \end{aligned}$$

which yields

$$\begin{aligned} G_0 &= K_0 + \frac{a_4x^3}{3y} + \frac{x}{y}(a_0 + (a_2 + a_8)y + a_7y^2) + \\ &\quad \frac{x^2}{6\alpha y}(2a_9 + 3\alpha a_1 + 3\alpha a_5y). \end{aligned}$$

Since G_0 must be a polynomial in the variable x we get

$$a_4 = 0, \quad a_0 = 0, \quad a_9 = -\frac{3}{2}a_1 \quad \text{and} \quad a_7 = 0,$$

and hence $G_0 = K_0 + (a_2 + a_8)x + a_5x^2/2$. Moreover since we are searching the exponential factors modulo constants we can set $K_0 = 0$. In summary

$$\begin{aligned} g &= \frac{2a_9}{\alpha}y + (a_2 + a_8)x + \frac{a_5}{2}x^2 + \\ &\quad \left(\frac{3a_1}{2} - a_8 \right)z + \frac{3a_1}{4}z^2 \\ &= a_2x + \frac{a_5}{2}x^2 + a_8(x - z) + \\ &\quad a_1 \left(-3y + \frac{3z}{2} + \frac{3z^2}{4} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Note that modulo multiplicative constants, the exponential factors are e^x , e^{x^2} , e^z and e^{z^2-4y} . Knowing the exponential factors we can compute easily their cofactors, obtaining the ones given in the statement of the proposition. This completes the proof of the proposition. \blacksquare

Proof of Theorem 1.2. It follows from Theorem 3.1 that the Muthuswamy–Chua system (1) has a first integral of Darboux type if and only if there exist $\lambda_i, \mu_j \in \mathbb{C}$ not all zero such that equation (4) is satisfied, where p, q are the number of Darboux polynomials and the number of exponential factors, respectively. Furthermore, K_i, L_j are the cofactors of Darboux polynomials and exponential factors, respectively. It follows from Propositions 4.1 and 4.2 that the Muthuswamy–Chua system has no Darboux polynomials, and by Proposition 4.3 we have that there are 4 cofactors of the

form $L_1 = y$, $L_2 = 2xy$, $L_3 = y - yz - \alpha z$ and $L_4 = 4x/3 - 2y + 2yz - 2\alpha z^2$. So equation (4) is equivalent to

$$\mu_1 y + 2\mu_2 xy + \mu_3 (y - yz - \alpha z) + \mu_4 \left(\frac{4}{3}x - 2y + 2yz - 2\alpha z^2 \right) = 0.$$

Solving this equation we obtain that $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = \mu_3 = \mu_4 = 0$. This completes the proof of the theorem. ■

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